

Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Material Type (Biodegradable Materials, Recyclable Materials, Compostable Materials, Smart Materials and Other Material Types), Packaging Type, Property, Application, End User and Geography

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Abstracts

According to Statistics MRC, the Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market is accounted for \$28.5 billion in 2026 and is expected to reach \$78.5 billion by 2034 growing at a CAGR of 13.5% during the forecast period. Next-generation packaging materials are advanced materials engineered to improve packaging performance, sustainability, functionality, and consumer convenience. These materials include biodegradable polymers, recyclable composites, smart packaging materials, active packaging systems, barrier materials, and renewable-resource-based solutions. They are designed to enhance product protection, extend shelf life, reduce environmental impact, and support circular economy objectives. Applications span food and beverage, healthcare, personal care, e-commerce, and industrial packaging sectors. Increasing regulatory pressure, consumer demand for sustainable packaging, and advancements in material science are driving innovation and commercialization of next-generation packaging materials globally.

Market Dynamics:

Driver:

Rising demand for sustainable packaging

Regulatory authorities are increasingly prioritizing environmentally responsible packaging solutions that reduce waste and minimize environmental impact. Packaging manufacturers are investing in innovative materials that support recyclability, reusability, and resource efficiency across product lifecycles. Growing awareness of plastic pollution and sustainability challenges is encouraging industries to transition toward eco-friendly alternatives. Retailers and consumer goods companies are adopting sustainable packaging strategies to strengthen brand value and meet evolving customer expectations. Regulatory initiatives promoting circular economy practices are further accelerating the shift toward advanced packaging materials.

Restraint:

Limited packaging infrastructure compatibility

Advanced packaging materials require specialized processing, recycling, or disposal systems that may not be widely available across existing infrastructure networks. Manufacturers often face challenges when integrating new materials into established production and packaging operations. Incompatibility with conventional machinery can increase operational costs and require additional capital investments. Recycling facilities may also lack the capabilities needed to effectively process certain innovative packaging materials. These limitations can slow adoption among companies seeking seamless implementation of sustainable alternatives. As a result, infrastructure-related barriers continue to influence market growth.

Opportunity:

Development of biodegradable packaging solutions

Increasing environmental concerns are driving demand for packaging materials capable of decomposing naturally without generating long-term waste. Innovations in bio-based polymers, plant-derived materials, and compostable packaging technologies are expanding commercial possibilities across various industries. Food and beverage, healthcare, personal care, and e-commerce sectors are actively exploring biodegradable alternatives to traditional packaging materials. Advances in material science are improving the durability, functionality, and performance of biodegradable solutions. Governments and environmental organizations are also encouraging the adoption of sustainable packaging technologies through supportive policies and initiatives.

Threat:

Competition from conventional packaging materials

Traditional packaging materials such as standard plastics, paper products, and metal containers continue to benefit from established supply chains and large-scale manufacturing capabilities. These conventional materials are often available at lower costs and are supported by mature processing infrastructure. Businesses may hesitate to transition to advanced packaging alternatives if economic advantages remain uncertain. Performance expectations regarding durability, shelf life, and product protection can also favor conventional options in some applications. Market participants must continually demonstrate the environmental and economic value of next-generation materials to encourage broader adoption.

Covid-19 Impact:

The COVID-19 pandemic had a mixed impact on the Next-Generation Packaging Materials market. Initially, supply chain disruptions and manufacturing slowdowns affected production activities and material availability across the packaging industry. However, the rapid growth of e-commerce, food delivery services, and healthcare packaging generated increased demand for packaging solutions during the pandemic period. Businesses also became more focused on sustainability and resilient supply chains as consumer awareness regarding environmental issues continued to grow. Packaging manufacturers accelerated innovation efforts to meet changing market requirements and regulatory expectations. Demand for recyclable, hygienic, and environmentally friendly packaging materials increased across several industries.

The recyclable materials segment is expected to be the largest during the forecast period

The recyclable materials segment is expected to account for the largest market share during the forecast period as recyclability has become a central objective within global sustainability and waste reduction initiatives. Recyclable packaging materials help organizations reduce environmental impact while supporting circular economy goals and regulatory compliance requirements. Industries such as food and beverage, consumer goods, healthcare, and retail are increasingly incorporating recyclable materials into their packaging strategies. Growing consumer preference for environmentally responsible products is further encouraging adoption. Continuous improvements in recycling technologies are enhancing the effectiveness and

commercial viability of recyclable packaging solutions.

The intelligent packaging segment is expected to have the highest CAGR during the forecast period

Over the forecast period, the intelligent packaging segment is predicted to witness the highest growth rate due to increasing demand for enhanced product monitoring, traceability, and consumer engagement capabilities. Intelligent packaging technologies incorporate features such as sensors, indicators, RFID tags, and smart labels that provide real-time information about product conditions and supply chain status. These solutions help improve inventory management, product authentication, and quality assurance processes. Industries are increasingly adopting intelligent packaging to strengthen transparency and optimize logistics operations. Advancements in digital technologies and connected packaging systems are expanding the range of available applications. Consumer demand for greater product information and safety is further supporting adoption.

Region with largest share:

During the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is expected to hold the largest market share owing to growing adoption of sustainable packaging solutions. Countries such as China, India, Japan, and South Korea are witnessing increasing demand for innovative packaging materials across food, beverage, healthcare, and e-commerce sectors. Rapid urbanization and rising consumer awareness regarding environmental sustainability are encouraging the use of advanced packaging technologies. Governments across the region are implementing regulations aimed at reducing packaging waste and promoting recyclable materials. Strong industrial production capabilities and large-scale packaging operations further support market growth. Significant investments in packaging innovation and material development continue to strengthen regional leadership.

Region with highest CAGR:

Over the forecast period, the Asia Pacific region is anticipated to exhibit the highest CAGR driven by growing investments in advanced packaging technologies. Rising demand for environmentally friendly packaging solutions is encouraging manufacturers to develop innovative material alternatives. Expanding e-commerce activities and changing consumer preferences are creating additional opportunities for next-generation packaging adoption. Governments are promoting circular economy practices

and supporting sustainable manufacturing through various regulatory measures. Packaging companies are investing heavily in research and development to improve material performance and environmental compatibility. The region's strong economic growth and expanding middle-class population further support packaging demand.

Key players in the market

Some of the key players in Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market include Amcor plc, Berry Global Group, Inc., Mondi plc, Smurfit Westrock plc, Huhtamäki Oyj, Sealed Air Corporation, Sonoco Products Company, DS Smith Plc, Stora Enso Oyj, UPM-Kymmene Corporation, BASF SE, Dow Inc., SABIC, Arkema S.A. and Covestro AG.

Key Developments:

In June 2026, Mondi plc announced a massive technical collaboration with 15 original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) ahead of the Interpack exhibition to demonstrate live, high-speed processing of its next-generation functional barrier papers and mono-material plastic films. This mechanical validation optimizes ultra-high-barrier papers like the 're/cycle FunctionalBarrier Paper Ultimate' directly on standard Form-Fill-Seal (FFS) lines, providing food and household brand owners with a scalable, machine-optimized alternative to traditional aluminum foil multi-layers.

In March 2026, Amcor plc introduced its 'Magic One' all-plastic airless dispenser alongside advanced mono-polyethylene (PE) AmPrima flow-wrap structures to target the international beauty and wellness packaging sectors. This materials rollout delivers high-barrier product protection through completely recyclable, mono-material formats that easily replace difficult-to-recycle multi-material laminates, enabling global consumer brands to incorporate up to 50 percent post-consumer recycled (PCR) resin without compromising structural line speeds or packaging cosmetics.

Material Types Covered:

Biodegradable Materials

Recyclable Materials

Compostable Materials

Smart Materials

Other Material Types

Packaging Types Covered:

Flexible Packaging

Rigid Packaging

Semi-Rigid Packaging

Protective Packaging

Other Packaging Types

Properties Covered:

Barrier Performance

Lightweight Design

Active Packaging

Intelligent Packaging

Other Properties

Applications Covered:

Food Packaging

Beverage Packaging

Healthcare Packaging

Personal Care Packaging

Other Applications

End Users Covered:

Food Companies

Beverage Companies

Healthcare Companies

Personal Care Companies

Other End Users

Regions Covered:

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

United Kingdom

Germany

France

Italy

Spain

Netherlands

Belgium

Sweden

Switzerland

Poland

Rest of Europe

Asia Pacific

China

Japan

India

South Korea

Australia

Indonesia

Thailand

Malaysia

Singapore

Vietnam

Rest of Asia Pacific

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Chile

Peru

Rest of South America

Rest of the World (RoW)

Middle East

Saudi Arabia

United Arab Emirates

Qatar

Israel

Rest of Middle East

Africa

South Africa

Egypt

Morocco

Rest of Africa

What our report offers:

Market share assessments for the regional and country-level segments

Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market Forecasts to 2034 – Global Analysis By Material Type (Biodegradable...

Strategic recommendations for the new entrants

Covers Market data for the years 2023, 2024, 2025, 2026, 2027, 2028, 2030, 2032 and 2034

Market Trends (Drivers, Constraints, Opportunities, Threats, Challenges, Investment Opportunities, and recommendations)

Strategic recommendations in key business segments based on the market estimations

Competitive landscaping mapping the key common trends

Company profiling with detailed strategies, financials, and recent developments

Supply chain trends mapping the latest technological advancements

Free Customization Offerings:

All the customers of this report will be entitled to receive one of the following free customization options:

Company Profiling

Comprehensive profiling of additional market players (up to 3)

SWOT Analysis of key players (up to 3)

Regional Segmentation

Market estimations, Forecasts and CAGR of any prominent country as per the client's interest (Note: Depends on feasibility check)

Competitive Benchmarking

Benchmarking of key players based on product portfolio, geographical presence, and strategic alliances

Contents

1 EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Market Snapshot and Key Highlights
- 1.2 Growth Drivers, Challenges, and Opportunities
- 1.3 Competitive Landscape Overview
- 1.4 Strategic Insights and Recommendations

2 RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

- 2.1 Study Objectives and Scope
- 2.2 Stakeholder Analysis
- 2.3 Research Assumptions and Limitations
- 2.4 Research Methodology
 - 2.4.1 Data Collection (Primary and Secondary)
 - 2.4.2 Data Modeling and Estimation Techniques
 - 2.4.3 Data Validation and Triangulation
 - 2.4.4 Analytical and Forecasting Approach

3 MARKET DYNAMICS AND TREND ANALYSIS

- 3.1 Market Definition and Structure
- 3.2 Key Market Drivers
- 3.3 Market Restraints and Challenges
- 3.4 Growth Opportunities and Investment Hotspots
- 3.5 Industry Threats and Risk Assessment
- 3.6 Technology and Innovation Landscape
- 3.7 Emerging and High-Growth Markets
- 3.8 Regulatory and Policy Environment
- 3.9 Impact of COVID-19 and Recovery Outlook

4 COMPETITIVE AND STRATEGIC ASSESSMENT

- 4.1 Porter's Five Forces Analysis
 - 4.1.1 Supplier Bargaining Power
 - 4.1.2 Buyer Bargaining Power
 - 4.1.3 Threat of Substitutes
 - 4.1.4 Threat of New Entrants

- 4.1.5 Competitive Rivalry
- 4.2 Market Share Analysis of Key Players
- 4.3 Product Benchmarking and Performance Comparison

5 GLOBAL NEXT-GENERATION PACKAGING MATERIALS MARKET, BY MATERIAL TYPE

- 5.1 Biodegradable Materials
- 5.2 Recyclable Materials
- 5.3 Compostable Materials
- 5.4 Smart Materials
- 5.5 Other Material Types

6 GLOBAL NEXT-GENERATION PACKAGING MATERIALS MARKET, BY PACKAGING TYPE

- 6.1 Flexible Packaging
- 6.2 Rigid Packaging
- 6.3 Semi-Rigid Packaging
- 6.4 Protective Packaging
- 6.5 Other Packaging Types

7 GLOBAL NEXT-GENERATION PACKAGING MATERIALS MARKET, BY PROPERTY

- 7.1 Barrier Performance
- 7.2 Lightweight Design
- 7.3 Active Packaging
- 7.4 Intelligent Packaging
- 7.5 Other Properties

8 GLOBAL NEXT-GENERATION PACKAGING MATERIALS MARKET, BY APPLICATION

- 8.1 Food Packaging
- 8.2 Beverage Packaging
- 8.3 Healthcare Packaging
- 8.4 Personal Care Packaging
- 8.5 Other Applications

9 GLOBAL NEXT-GENERATION PACKAGING MATERIALS MARKET, BY END USER

- 9.1 Food Companies
- 9.2 Beverage Companies
- 9.3 Healthcare Companies
- 9.4 Personal Care Companies
- 9.5 Other End Users

10 GLOBAL NEXT-GENERATION PACKAGING MATERIALS MARKET, BY GEOGRAPHY

- 10.1 North America
 - 10.1.1 United States
 - 10.1.2 Canada
 - 10.1.3 Mexico
- 10.2 Europe
 - 10.2.1 United Kingdom
 - 10.2.2 Germany
 - 10.2.3 France
 - 10.2.4 Italy
 - 10.2.5 Spain
 - 10.2.6 Netherlands
 - 10.2.7 Belgium
 - 10.2.8 Sweden
 - 10.2.9 Switzerland
 - 10.2.10 Poland
 - 10.2.11 Rest of Europe
- 10.3 Asia Pacific
 - 10.3.1 China
 - 10.3.2 Japan
 - 10.3.3 India
 - 10.3.4 South Korea
 - 10.3.5 Australia
 - 10.3.6 Indonesia
 - 10.3.7 Thailand
 - 10.3.8 Malaysia
 - 10.3.9 Singapore

- 10.3.10 Vietnam
- 10.3.11 Rest of Asia Pacific
- 10.4 South America
 - 10.4.1 Brazil
 - 10.4.2 Argentina
 - 10.4.3 Colombia
 - 10.4.4 Chile
 - 10.4.5 Peru
 - 10.4.6 Rest of South America
- 10.5 Rest of the World (RoW)
 - 10.5.1 Middle East
 - 10.5.1.1 Saudi Arabia
 - 10.5.1.2 United Arab Emirates
 - 10.5.1.3 Qatar
 - 10.5.1.4 Israel
 - 10.5.1.5 Rest of Middle East
 - 10.5.2 Africa
 - 10.5.2.1 South Africa
 - 10.5.2.2 Egypt
 - 10.5.2.3 Morocco
 - 10.5.2.4 Rest of Africa

11 STRATEGIC MARKET INTELLIGENCE

- 11.1 Industry Value Network and Supply Chain Assessment
- 11.2 White-Space and Opportunity Mapping
- 11.3 Product Evolution and Market Life Cycle Analysis
- 11.4 Channel, Distributor, and Go-to-Market Assessment

12 INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS AND STRATEGIC INITIATIVES

- 12.1 Mergers and Acquisitions
- 12.2 Partnerships, Alliances, and Joint Ventures
- 12.3 New Product Launches and Certifications
- 12.4 Capacity Expansion and Investments
- 12.5 Other Strategic Initiatives

13 COMPANY PROFILES

- 13.1 Amcor plc
- 13.2 Berry Global Group, Inc.
- 13.3 Mondi plc
- 13.4 Smurfit Westrock plc
- 13.5 Huhtamäki Oyj
- 13.6 Sealed Air Corporation
- 13.7 Sonoco Products Company
- 13.8 DS Smith Plc
- 13.9 Stora Enso Oyj
- 13.10 UPM-Kymmene Corporation
- 13.11 BASF SE
- 13.12 Dow Inc.
- 13.13 SABIC
- 13.14 Arkema S.A.
- 13.15 Covestro AG

List Of Tables

LIST OF TABLES

Table 1 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market Outlook, By Region (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 2 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Material Type (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 3 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Biodegradable Materials (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 4 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Recyclable Materials (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 5 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Compostable Materials (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 6 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Smart Materials (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 7 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Other Material Types (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 8 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Packaging Type (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 9 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Flexible Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 10 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Rigid Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 11 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Semi-Rigid Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 12 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Protective Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 13 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Other Packaging Types (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 14 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Property (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 15 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Barrier Performance (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 16 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Lightweight Design (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 17 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Active Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 18 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Intelligent Packaging

(2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 19 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Other Properties

(2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 20 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Application

(2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 21 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Food Packaging

(2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 22 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Beverage Packaging

(2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 23 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Healthcare Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 24 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Personal Care Packaging (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 25 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Other Applications (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 26 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By End User (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 27 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Food Companies (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 28 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Beverage Companies (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 29 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Healthcare Companies (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 30 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Personal Care Companies (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Table 31 Global Next-Generation Packaging Materials Market, By Other End Users (2023–2034) (\$MN)

Note: Tables for North America, Europe, APAC, South America, and Rest of the World (RoW) are also represented in the same manner as above.

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