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Food Pathogen Testing Market- Global Industry Size, Share, Trends, Opportunity and Forecast Segmented By Type (Salmonella, E. coli, Listeria, Others), By Food Type (Meat & Poultry, Dairy Products, Processed Food, Fruits & Vegetables, Others), By Technology (Rapid Technology v/s Traditional Technology), By Region & Competition, 2021-2031F

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Abstracts

The Global Food Pathogen Testing Market is projected to expand from USD 15.42 Billion in 2025 to USD 24.91 Billion by 2031, registering a CAGR of 8.32%. This sector involves the analytical processes employed to detect and identify harmful microorganisms, such as bacteria, viruses, and parasites, within food products to prevent foodborne illnesses. The market's growth is largely underpinned by increasingly strict international food safety regulations, a rising frequency of contamination outbreaks, and the complexities of global supply chains that demand rigorous quality assurance. For instance, the European Food Safety Authority reported in 2024 that confirmed human cases of salmonellosis in the European Union rose by approximately 17% compared to the prior year, highlighting the critical necessity for robust detection frameworks.

However, a major obstacle hindering market progress is the substantial capital investment required for advanced diagnostic technologies and the high operational costs associated with running accredited testing laboratories. This financial burden often prevents smaller food manufacturers from adopting rapid, high-sensitivity testing solutions, thereby creating a barrier to the industry-wide implementation of state-of-the-art pathogen screening protocols.

Market Driver

The escalating global incidence of foodborne illness outbreaks acts as a primary catalyst for the Global Food Pathogen Testing Market, compelling manufacturers to implement rigorous screening protocols. As pathogens like Listeria and Salmonella become more prevalent and resilient, the industry is transitioning from reactive measures to proactive environmental monitoring to safeguard public health and brand reputation. The severity of this issue is intensifying, with significant health impacts driving the demand for rapid diagnostic solutions; according to the U.S. PIRG Education Fund's 'Food for Thought 2025' report released in February 2025, hospitalizations linked to foodborne illnesses in the United States more than doubled in 2024 compared to the previous year, underscoring the urgent need for effective pathogen detection frameworks.

Furthermore, the enforcement of stringent international food safety regulations propels market growth by mandating compliance with strict testing standards throughout the supply chain. Regulatory bodies are increasingly enforcing traceability and hygiene rules that require verifiable proof of pathogen absence, necessitating the use of advanced detection technologies. According to the Food Standards Agency's 'Consolidated Annual Report and Accounts 2023/24' from January 2025, the incidents response unit handled 1,837 food and feed incidents, demonstrating the high volume of regulatory alerts that testing regimes must address. This regulatory pressure is reflected in enforcement actions, with Food Safety News reporting in January 2025 that recalls specifically due to food pathogens reached 127 in 2024, highlighting the critical role of testing in ensuring compliance.

Market Challenge

The substantial capital investment and high operational costs associated with maintaining accredited testing facilities present a direct obstacle to the growth of the Global Food Pathogen Testing Market. Advanced diagnostic technologies, such as rapid molecular testing systems, require significant upfront expenditure and specialized personnel, creating a financial barrier that is often insurmountable for small and medium-sized food manufacturers. This economic burden compels a large segment of the industry to depend on older, less expensive testing methods or minimal outsourcing, which stifles the widespread adoption of modern detection systems and limits the market?s potential revenue expansion.

The reluctance to invest in new compliance technologies is evident in recent industry sentiment regarding financial pressures. According to the Food and Drink Federation, in 2024, 52% of manufacturers cited upcoming regulation as a leading barrier to future investment, highlighting the financial strain companies face when balancing regulatory compliance with profitability. As manufacturers grapple with these tightening budget constraints, the capacity to procure expensive testing instrumentation is severely reduced, directly hampering the market's trajectory towards universal rapid testing implementation.

Market Trends

A strategic shift toward outsourcing testing to accredited commercial laboratories is rapidly reshaping the market as manufacturers seek to mitigate the substantial capital burden of maintaining in-house diagnostic facilities. Rather than investing in expensive, rapidly evolving instrumentation and specialized personnel, food producers are increasingly contracting external providers to ensure regulatory compliance and operational efficiency. This structural transition allows companies to convert fixed laboratory costs into variable expenses while gaining immediate access to advanced detection capabilities that would be cost-prohibitive to implement internally; according to SGS SA's '2025 Half Year Results' in July 2025, the company's food division delivered double-digit organic growth, a performance directly attributed to the accelerating global demand for outsourced safety and nutritional testing services.

Simultaneously, the adoption of Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) and Next-Generation Sequencing (NGS) is revolutionizing pathogen detection by enabling precise source tracking and strain identification. Unlike traditional culture methods, these genomic technologies provide detailed DNA fingerprints that allow regulatory bodies and industry stakeholders to link sporadic illness cases to specific contaminated products with unprecedented accuracy. This capability is fostering the development of extensive international pathogen databases, transforming how outbreaks are investigated and contained by facilitating real-time data comparison across borders; according to the U.S. Food and Drug Administration's 'GenomeTrakr Fast Facts' update in December 2025, the network has successfully sequenced more than 1.7 million pathogen isolates to date, underscoring the massive scale at which this technology is being integrated into global food safety surveillance frameworks.

Key Market Players

Eurofins Scientific SE

SGS S.A.

Thermo Fisher Scientific Inc.

Bio-Rad Laboratories, Inc.

Neogen Corporation

Intertek Group plc

Bureau Veritas S.A.

bioMerieux S.A.

Merck KGaA

3M Company

Report Scope

In this report, the Global Food Pathogen Testing Market has been segmented into the following categories, in addition to the industry trends which have also been detailed below:

Food Pathogen Testing Market, By Type

Salmonella

E. coli

Listeria

Others

Food Pathogen Testing Market, By Food Type

Meat & Poultry

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Dairy Products

Processed Food

Fruits & Vegetables

Others

Food Pathogen Testing Market, By Technology

Rapid Technology

Traditional Technology

Food Pathogen Testing Market, By Region

North America

United States

Canada

Mexico

Europe

France

United Kingdom

Italy

Germany

Spain

Asia Pacific

China

India

Japan

Australia

South Korea

South America

Brazil

Argentina

Colombia

Middle East & Africa

South Africa

Saudi Arabia

UAE

Competitive Landscape

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies present in the Global Food Pathogen Testing Market.

Available Customizations:

Global Food Pathogen Testing Market report with the given market data, TechSci Research offers customizations according to a company's specific needs. The following customization options are available for the report:

Company Information

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Detailed analysis and profiling of additional market players (up to five).

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