

Printing Inks Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends, Opportunity, and Forecast, Segmented By Type (Digital, Lithographic inks, Flexographic inks, Rotogravure inks, Screen inks, Others), By Application (Coating, Flexible Film, Flexible Paper, Tags & Labels, Corrugated Box, Others), By Market Segment (Offset / Commercial, Digital, Packaging, Publication, Screen Graphics, Screen Industrial, Others), By Region & Competition, 2021-2031F

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Abstracts

The Global Printing Inks Market is projected to expand from USD 28.25 Billion in 2025 to USD 41.48 Billion by 2031, achieving a CAGR of 6.61%. These inks, composed of mixtures involving pigments, binders, solvents, and additives, are essential for transferring text and images onto substrates like paper, plastic, and metal. The market is primarily propelled by the continuous growth of the packaging sector, especially within the food, beverage, and e-commerce industries. This expansion is supported by the critical role inks play in product branding, protective coating, and information labeling, ensuring steady demand even as other printing segments experience fluctuations.

Demonstrating the sector's resilience, the European Printing Ink Association reported that packaging ink sales increased by 4.7% to 510,000 tonnes in 2024. Despite this growth, the market faces significant hurdles related to raw material price volatility. Unpredictable shifts in the costs of essential chemical inputs and instability within the supply chain can severely impact profit margins and generate pricing uncertainties that hinder broader market development.

Market Driver

The global packaging and labeling sector acts as the primary driver for the printing inks market, balancing the structural decline seen in traditional publication industries. As consumer goods manufacturers prioritize product differentiation and shelf visibility, demand for high-performance packaging inks—especially for corrugated and flexible formats—has increased significantly. This trend is reflected in corporate results; according to the 'Sakata INX Corp' report in Ink World Magazine, February 2025, the company reached sales of \$1.56 billion in 2024, largely fueled by strong packaging ink sales throughout the Americas and Southeast Asia. This performance highlights the logistics and retail industries' critical reliance on advanced ink technologies for information delivery and branding.

Concurrently, the market is being transformed by growing regulatory and consumer pressure for bio-based and eco-friendly ink solutions. Stricter environmental mandates and the transition toward circular economy models are driving manufacturers to lower their carbon footprints and reformulate products. Highlighting this shift, Sun Chemical's '15th Annual Sustainability Report' from December 2025 indicates the company has met 86% of its 2030 emissions reduction goals, supported by the creation of recycle-ready and biorenewable inks. However, legacy segments still face volume challenges; the British Coatings Federation's 'Annual Handbook and Membership Directory 2025/26' from June 2025 noted that total UK printing ink sales fell by 2% in 2024, emphasizing the divergent paths of the publication and packaging categories.

Market Challenge

Supply chain instability and raw material price volatility represent major obstacles to the consistent expansion of the global printing inks market. Manufacturers depend heavily on chemical inputs like solvents, resins, and pigments, which are frequently petrochemical derivatives subject to erratic pricing tied to global oil markets. When input costs rise unexpectedly, producers must either absorb the expense, damaging their profit margins, or pass the costs to clients, which often suppresses demand in price-sensitive areas. This uncertainty stifles capital investment and complicates inventory management, creating a fragile environment that can offset growth in high-demand segments.

The tangible impact of these economic pressures is clear in recent industrial performance metrics. According to the Verband der deutschen Lack- und Druckfarbenindustrie (VdL), combined sales volumes for the printing inks and coatings

sector fell by 4% to 1.4 million tonnes in 2024 due to this difficult economic landscape. This contraction illustrates how persistent cost instability can physically limit market output and restrict broader industry growth, despite the underlying demand within the packaging sector.

Market Trends

The adoption of energy-curing and UV-LED technologies is transforming the global printing industry by enabling production on heat-sensitive substrates and offering superior energy efficiency. Unlike conventional drying methods, these systems use light-emitting diodes to cure inks instantly, eliminating volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions and significantly reducing energy consumption. This shift is vital for narrow-web converters aiming to comply with strict environmental regulations while maintaining high-speed throughput. The sector's momentum is evident in financial results; Ink World Magazine's February 2025 'Siegwerk' report noted the company's sales grew by nearly 10% to ?1.301 billion in 2024, driven by strategic expansion in high-performance packaging ink markets.

At the same time, the rise of inkjet and digital inks for variable data applications is reshaping supply chains by allowing for rapid prototyping and short-run customization. Brand owners are increasingly utilizing these agile printing solutions to execute targeted marketing campaigns and lower inventory costs associated with analogue printing plates. This technological pivot has generated substantial profitability for material suppliers optimizing their digital portfolios. For instance, Ink World Magazine's August 2024 article on 'DIC Reports Consolidated 1H 2024 Financial Results' highlighted that DIC Corporation's Packaging & Graphic segment saw operating income rise by 96.4% to ?16.3 billion, a performance directly driven by sharply increasing sales of jet inks used in digital printing.

Key Market Players

DIC Corporation

Flint Group

Sakata INX

Siegwerk

Toyo Ink Group

hubergroup

ALTANA

Fujifilm

SICPA

T&K Toka

Report Scope

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

Printing Inks Market, By Type

Digital

Lithographic inks

Flexographic inks

Rotogravure inks

Screen inks

Others

Printing Inks Market, By Application

Coating

Flexible Film

Flexible Paper

Tags & Labels

Corrugated Box

Others

Printing Inks Market, By Market Segment

Offset / Commercial

Digital

Packaging

Publication

Screen Graphics

Screen Industrial

Others

Printing Inks 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 Printing Inks Market.

Available Customizations:

Global Printing Inks 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

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

Contents

1. PRODUCT OVERVIEW

- 1.1. Market Definition
- 1.2. Scope of the Market
 - 1.2.1. Markets Covered
 - 1.2.2. Years Considered for Study
 - 1.2.3. Key Market Segmentations

2. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

- 2.1. Objective of the Study
- 2.2. Baseline Methodology
- 2.3. Key Industry Partners
- 2.4. Major Association and Secondary Sources
- 2.5. Forecasting Methodology
- 2.6. Data Triangulation & Validation
- 2.7. Assumptions and Limitations

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 3.1. Overview of the Market
- 3.2. Overview of Key Market Segmentations
- 3.3. Overview of Key Market Players
- 3.4. Overview of Key Regions/Countries
- 3.5. Overview of Market Drivers, Challenges, Trends

4. VOICE OF CUSTOMER

5. GLOBAL PRINTING INKS MARKET OUTLOOK

- 5.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 5.1.1. By Value
- 5.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 5.2.1. By Type (Digital, Lithographic inks, Flexographic inks, Rotogravure inks, Screen inks, Others)
 - 5.2.2. By Application (Coating, Flexible Film, Flexible Paper, Tags & Labels, Corrugated Box, Others)

5.2.3. By Market Segment (Offset / Commercial, Digital, Packaging, Publication, Screen Graphics, Screen Industrial, Others)

5.2.4. By Region

5.2.5. By Company (2025)

5.3. Market Map

6. NORTH AMERICA PRINTING INKS MARKET OUTLOOK

6.1. Market Size & Forecast

6.1.1. By Value

6.2. Market Share & Forecast

6.2.1. By Type

6.2.2. By Application

6.2.3. By Market Segment

6.2.4. By Country

6.3. North America: Country Analysis

6.3.1. United States Printing Inks Market Outlook

6.3.1.1. Market Size & Forecast

6.3.1.1.1. By Value

6.3.1.2. Market Share & Forecast

6.3.1.2.1. By Type

6.3.1.2.2. By Application

6.3.1.2.3. By Market Segment

6.3.2. Canada Printing Inks Market Outlook

6.3.2.1. Market Size & Forecast

6.3.2.1.1. By Value

6.3.2.2. Market Share & Forecast

6.3.2.2.1. By Type

6.3.2.2.2. By Application

6.3.2.2.3. By Market Segment

6.3.3. Mexico Printing Inks Market Outlook

6.3.3.1. Market Size & Forecast

6.3.3.1.1. By Value

6.3.3.2. Market Share & Forecast

6.3.3.2.1. By Type

6.3.3.2.2. By Application

6.3.3.2.3. By Market Segment

7. EUROPE PRINTING INKS MARKET OUTLOOK

- 7.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 7.1.1. By Value
- 7.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.2.1. By Type
 - 7.2.2. By Application
 - 7.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 7.2.4. By Country
- 7.3. Europe: Country Analysis
 - 7.3.1. Germany Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 7.3.1.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 7.3.1.1.1. By Value
 - 7.3.1.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.3.1.2.1. By Type
 - 7.3.1.2.2. By Application
 - 7.3.1.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 7.3.2. France Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 7.3.2.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 7.3.2.1.1. By Value
 - 7.3.2.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.3.2.2.1. By Type
 - 7.3.2.2.2. By Application
 - 7.3.2.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 7.3.3. United Kingdom Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 7.3.3.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 7.3.3.1.1. By Value
 - 7.3.3.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.3.3.2.1. By Type
 - 7.3.3.2.2. By Application
 - 7.3.3.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 7.3.4. Italy Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 7.3.4.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 7.3.4.1.1. By Value
 - 7.3.4.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.3.4.2.1. By Type
 - 7.3.4.2.2. By Application
 - 7.3.4.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 7.3.5. Spain Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 7.3.5.1. Market Size & Forecast

- 7.3.5.1.1. By Value
- 7.3.5.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 7.3.5.2.1. By Type
 - 7.3.5.2.2. By Application
 - 7.3.5.2.3. By Market Segment

8. ASIA PACIFIC PRINTING INKS MARKET OUTLOOK

- 8.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 8.1.1. By Value
- 8.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 8.2.1. By Type
 - 8.2.2. By Application
 - 8.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 8.2.4. By Country
- 8.3. Asia Pacific: Country Analysis
 - 8.3.1. China Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 8.3.1.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 8.3.1.1.1. By Value
 - 8.3.1.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 8.3.1.2.1. By Type
 - 8.3.1.2.2. By Application
 - 8.3.1.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 8.3.2. India Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 8.3.2.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 8.3.2.1.1. By Value
 - 8.3.2.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 8.3.2.2.1. By Type
 - 8.3.2.2.2. By Application
 - 8.3.2.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 8.3.3. Japan Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 8.3.3.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 8.3.3.1.1. By Value
 - 8.3.3.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 8.3.3.2.1. By Type
 - 8.3.3.2.2. By Application
 - 8.3.3.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 8.3.4. South Korea Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 8.3.4.1. Market Size & Forecast

- 8.3.4.1.1. By Value
- 8.3.4.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 8.3.4.2.1. By Type
 - 8.3.4.2.2. By Application
 - 8.3.4.2.3. By Market Segment
- 8.3.5. Australia Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 8.3.5.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 8.3.5.1.1. By Value
 - 8.3.5.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 8.3.5.2.1. By Type
 - 8.3.5.2.2. By Application
 - 8.3.5.2.3. By Market Segment

9. MIDDLE EAST & AFRICA PRINTING INKS MARKET OUTLOOK

- 9.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 9.1.1. By Value
- 9.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 9.2.1. By Type
 - 9.2.2. By Application
 - 9.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 9.2.4. By Country
- 9.3. Middle East & Africa: Country Analysis
 - 9.3.1. Saudi Arabia Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 9.3.1.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 9.3.1.1.1. By Value
 - 9.3.1.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 9.3.1.2.1. By Type
 - 9.3.1.2.2. By Application
 - 9.3.1.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 9.3.2. UAE Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 9.3.2.1. Market Size & Forecast
 - 9.3.2.1.1. By Value
 - 9.3.2.2. Market Share & Forecast
 - 9.3.2.2.1. By Type
 - 9.3.2.2.2. By Application
 - 9.3.2.2.3. By Market Segment
 - 9.3.3. South Africa Printing Inks Market Outlook
 - 9.3.3.1. Market Size & Forecast

9.3.3.1.1. By Value

9.3.3.2. Market Share & Forecast

9.3.3.2.1. By Type

9.3.3.2.2. By Application

9.3.3.2.3. By Market Segment

10. SOUTH AMERICA PRINTING INKS MARKET OUTLOOK

10.1. Market Size & Forecast

10.1.1. By Value

10.2. Market Share & Forecast

10.2.1. By Type

10.2.2. By Application

10.2.3. By Market Segment

10.2.4. By Country

10.3. South America: Country Analysis

10.3.1. Brazil Printing Inks Market Outlook

10.3.1.1. Market Size & Forecast

10.3.1.1.1. By Value

10.3.1.2. Market Share & Forecast

10.3.1.2.1. By Type

10.3.1.2.2. By Application

10.3.1.2.3. By Market Segment

10.3.2. Colombia Printing Inks Market Outlook

10.3.2.1. Market Size & Forecast

10.3.2.1.1. By Value

10.3.2.2. Market Share & Forecast

10.3.2.2.1. By Type

10.3.2.2.2. By Application

10.3.2.2.3. By Market Segment

10.3.3. Argentina Printing Inks Market Outlook

10.3.3.1. Market Size & Forecast

10.3.3.1.1. By Value

10.3.3.2. Market Share & Forecast

10.3.3.2.1. By Type

10.3.3.2.2. By Application

10.3.3.2.3. By Market Segment

11. MARKET DYNAMICS

- 11.1. Drivers
- 11.2. Challenges

12. MARKET TRENDS & DEVELOPMENTS

- 12.1. Merger & Acquisition (If Any)
- 12.2. Product Launches (If Any)
- 12.3. Recent Developments

13. GLOBAL PRINTING INKS MARKET: SWOT ANALYSIS

14. PORTER'S FIVE FORCES ANALYSIS

- 14.1. Competition in the Industry
- 14.2. Potential of New Entrants
- 14.3. Power of Suppliers
- 14.4. Power of Customers
- 14.5. Threat of Substitute Products

15. COMPETITIVE LANDSCAPE

- 15.1. DIC Corporation
 - 15.1.1. Business Overview
 - 15.1.2. Products & Services
 - 15.1.3. Recent Developments
 - 15.1.4. Key Personnel
 - 15.1.5. SWOT Analysis
- 15.2. Flint Group
- 15.3. Sakata INX
- 15.4. Siegwerk
- 15.5. Toyo Ink Group
- 15.6. hubergroup
- 15.7. ALTANA
- 15.8. Fujifilm
- 15.9. SICPA
- 15.10. T&K Toka

16. STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

17. ABOUT US & DISCLAIMER

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