

Chemical Tankers Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends, Opportunity, and Forecast, Segmented By Product Type (Organic Chemicals, Inorganic Chemicals, Vegetable Oils & Fats and Others), By Fleet Type (IMO Type 1, IMO Type 2 and IMO Type 3), By Fleet Material (Stainless Steel and Coated), By Region and Competition, 2020-2030F

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Abstracts

Market Overview

Chemical Tankers Market was valued at USD 34.01 billion in 2024 and is expected to reach USD 42.41 Billion by 2030 with a CAGR of 3.93%. Chemical tankers are specialized cargo vessels designed for the bulk transportation of liquid chemicals. These tankers are segmented based on size, type of fleet (IMO Type 1, 2, or 3), and the nature of chemicals they carry ranging from hazardous substances to vegetable oils and organic chemicals. Due to the sensitive and often hazardous nature of their cargo, chemical tankers are subject to stringent international safety and environmental regulations, including those enforced by the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Compliance encompasses vessel design, cargo containment systems, operational procedures, and specialized crew training.

The demand for chemical tankers continues to grow, primarily driven by the global increase in chemical production and international trade. The surge in consumption of organic and specialty chemicals used in industries such as pharmaceuticals, agrochemicals, and personal care has necessitated the deployment of technologically advanced tankers with sophisticated cargo handling systems and coating technologies to prevent contamination and corrosion. The evolution of shale gas, particularly in North

America, has been instrumental in driving the production of petrochemicals, further influencing the demand for chemical tanker shipping. Fleet operators are responding by investing in new-build vessels equipped with cutting-edge safety systems, automated cargo control, and energy-efficient designs to enhance profitability and environmental compliance.

Increased global trade in edible oils, animal fats, and bio-based chemicals spurred by changing consumer preferences for healthier and sustainable food products is also propelling market growth. As hygiene and food safety standards tighten, there is a rising emphasis on specialized tank cleaning procedures and coatings that ensure purity during cargo transitions. Favorable charter rates and anticipated growth in maritime trade, especially in emerging economies in Asia Pacific and the Middle East, further underpin the positive outlook for the chemical tanker market. The sector is poised to benefit from innovations in digital fleet management, real-time cargo monitoring, and predictive maintenance technologies, aimed at optimizing fleet performance and minimizing downtime. The chemical tanker market is positioned for steady growth, fueled by increased chemical output, evolving global trade patterns, technological innovation, and heightened environmental and safety standards.

Key Market Drivers

Stringent Food Safety and Pharma Transport Standards Driving Demand for Chemical Tankers

The global demand for chemical tankers is significantly driven by the rising need to transport food-grade and pharmaceutical-grade liquids under stringent safety and hygiene regulations. As international standards tighten, especially in North America and Europe, chemical tanker operators are under increasing pressure to upgrade their fleets to comply with specific sanitary requirements for transporting edible oils, food additives, and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs). Food-grade liquids such as vegetable oils (palm, soybean, sunflower), glucose syrup, lactic acid, and sorbitol require meticulously clean tanks to prevent contamination and preserve the product's integrity during transit. Similarly, pharma-related liquids including solvents, glycerin, and intermediates are sensitive to temperature, light, and impurities. Regulatory bodies such as the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), European Food Safety Authority (EFSA), and WHO enforce strict guidelines around the cleanliness, traceability, and temperature control of containers used in their transport. India's pharmaceutical sector is experiencing robust growth, currently valued at approximately USD 55 billion. By 2030, the market is projected to expand to USD 120–130 billion, marking a 2.2 to 2.4 times increase in less

than a decade. Long-term forecasts suggest the sector could reach USD 450 billion by 2047, reflecting its strong and sustained growth trajectory. Globally, the pharmaceutical industry is valued at around USD 1.6 trillion, with India contributing approximately 3% to 3.5% of the total market share. This rising contribution underscores India's evolving role as a key global hub for pharmaceutical production and export, particularly in bulk chemicals and active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs).

The expansion of India's pharmaceutical exports and the need for temperature-controlled logistics and bulk liquid transport are contributing significantly to increased demand for specialized chemical tankers and refrigerated supply chain infrastructure worldwide. To meet these standards, chemical tankers transporting such sensitive cargoes must be equipped with specialized features. These include epoxy-coated or zinc-coated tanks, inert gas systems to prevent oxidation, deepwell pumps to ensure residue-free discharge, and automated tank cleaning systems. Some tankers are also certified with Kosher or Halal compliance for certain food-grade shipments. The pharmaceutical industry's rapid expansion especially post-COVID-19 has amplified the global movement of bulk chemicals used in drug manufacturing. Countries such as India and China, which are key API producers, are exporting increasing volumes to regulated markets like the U.S. and Europe. These trade flows require dedicated chemical tanker fleets that are certified for pharma-grade transport and are capable of maintaining precise temperature control and product integrity.

Consumer awareness about food hygiene and product quality is rising, prompting companies to opt for cleaner, certified transport solutions. This has increased demand for high-specification IMO Type II and Type III tankers. As the global food and pharmaceutical supply chains expand, the demand for chemical tankers equipped to handle sanitary, safe, and compliant transport of sensitive liquid cargo will continue to grow, making it a key growth driver for the chemical tanker shipping market.

Key Market Challenges

Volatility in Oil Prices and Energy Transition

The global chemical tankers market is a vital component of the logistics network that ensures the safe and efficient transportation of chemicals, petroleum products, and industrial gases across the world's seas and oceans. One of the enduring challenges faced by the global chemical tankers market is the unpredictable nature of oil prices. The chemical tanker industry is closely linked to the energy sector, as it transports various petroleum products such as crude oil, refined products, and petrochemical

feedstocks. Sudden shifts in oil prices can impact production and consumption patterns, directly affecting the demand for chemical tanker transportation.

Volatile oil prices can impact the profitability of chemical tanker operators. Rapid increases in fuel costs can erode profit margins, especially when freight rates are not adjusted immediately to account for the rise in operational expenses. As economies shift toward renewable energy sources and electric mobility, the demand for traditional petroleum products may decrease. This could impact the demand for chemical tankers transporting fossil fuels. The energy transition drives the need for new chemicals and alternative feedstocks, such as bio-based materials and renewable chemicals. Chemical tankers will need to adapt to carry these emerging products safely and efficiently.

Key Market Trends

Eco-Friendly Operations and Green Technologies

To prevent the introduction of invasive species through ballast water, chemical tanker operators are investing in ballast water treatment systems. These systems remove or neutralize harmful organisms, ensuring that only clean water is discharged back into the sea. Scrubber technology allows vessels to reduce sulfur emissions by washing exhaust gases before they are released into the atmosphere.

As sulfur emissions regulations become more stringent, scrubbers offer a viable solution for compliance. Incorporating energy-efficient designs, such as hull optimizations and advanced propulsion systems, chemical tankers can reduce fuel consumption and emissions. These innovations enhance vessel performance while simultaneously lowering operational costs. Moreover, some chemical tanker operators are exploring the integration of renewable energy sources, such as solar panels and wind turbines, to supplement onboard power generation. These technologies contribute to reduced reliance on fossil fuels and minimize emissions during operation.

Key Market Players

Mol Chemical Tankers Pte. Ltd.

Nordic Tankers A/S

Wilma International Ltd.

Misc Berhad

Team Tankers International Ltd.

Iino Kaiun Kaisha, Ltd.

Laurine Maritime

Aurora Tankers Management Pte. Ltd.

Tokio Marine Asia Pte. Ltd.

PT Berlian LAju Tanker Tbk

Report Scope:

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

Chemical Tankers Market, By Product Type:

Organic Chemicals

Inorganic Chemicals

Vegetable Oils & Fats

Others

Chemical Tankers Market, By Fleet Type:

IMO Type 1

IMO Type 2

IMO Type 3

Chemical Tankers Market, By Fleet Material:

Stainless Steel

Coated

Chemical Tankers Market, By Region:

Asia Pacific

North America

Europe

Middle East & Africa

South America

Competitive Landscape

Company Profiles: Detailed analysis of the major companies present in the Global Chemical Tankers Market.

Available Customizations:

Global Chemical Tankers 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).

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