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Printing Ink Catalyst Market - Global Industry Size, Share, Trends, Opportunity, and Forecast, Segmented By Type (Solvent-Based, Water-Based), By End User (Polyester Fibres, Nylon Fibres, Acrylic Fibres, Polyurethane Film, Polypropylene Film, Others), By Region & Competition, 2021-2031F

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Abstracts

The Global Printing Ink Catalyst Market is anticipated to expand from USD 1.05 billion in 2025 to USD 1.35 billion by 2031, reflecting a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.28%. These catalysts are specialized chemical additives integrated into ink mixtures to speed up essential processes such as curing and drying. By doing so, they improve print quality, durability, and adhesion without being permanently changed themselves. This market expansion is largely fueled by the growing international packaging sector, which is driven by surging e-commerce activities and heightened consumer appetite for packaged products. Additional growth is stimulated by ongoing progress in digital printing methods that demand unique ink formulations, alongside an increasing need for sustainable and high-efficiency ink alternatives.

The European Printing Ink Association's 2024 annual report highlights this upward trajectory, noting that European sales of packaging inks—which heavily rely on these catalysts—experienced a 4.7% volume boost to 510,000 tons and a 1.6% value increase to €2.2 billion compared to the prior year. However, a major hurdle restricting broader market growth is the tightening of environmental laws, specifically those targeting volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions. These strict regulations force manufacturers to make significant financial commitments toward reformulating their products to ensure compliance.

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Market Driver

The escalating demand within the packaging sector serves as a major catalyst for the global printing ink catalyst market, driven by the rising production and consumption of packaged merchandise. In packaging ink mixtures, catalysts play an indispensable role in achieving fast drying and curing times, which are vital for maintaining high-speed manufacturing and ensuring excellent print quality across various packaging materials. The surge in flexible packaging, spurred by convenience and e-commerce growth, requires inks that bond securely and cure rapidly. The China Printing Technology Association's January 2026 report, 'China Printing Packaging Market Outlook 2025-2026,' noted that the Chinese market for packaging printing inks reached USD 840.98 million in 2024. Such robust growth directly amplifies the need for specialized catalysts that empower these inks to satisfy rigorous standards for visual appeal, food safety, and long-lasting durability.

Furthermore, the proliferation of digital printing technologies is a pivotal driver, creating a strong need for sophisticated catalyst systems tailored to digital inks. Methods such as electrophotography and inkjet printing provide advantages like rapid market delivery, tailored designs, and smaller print batches, which are highly prized in commercial printing, labeling, and packaging. These techniques require inks with specific flow characteristics and swift curing abilities, depending heavily on catalysts to achieve superior image clarity and overall effectiveness. Validating this trend, the China Printing Technology Association reported in January 2026 that the global digital packaging printing market grew significantly from its USD 30.2 billion valuation in 2024. Highlighting the market's intricate nature, EuPIA revealed that over one million distinct ink formulations were utilized throughout Europe in 2025, emphasizing an ongoing demand for highly customized catalyst formulations.

Market Challenge

The tightening of environmental guidelines, especially those restricting volatile organic compound (VOC) emissions, poses a substantial obstacle to the expansion of the Global Printing Ink Catalyst Market. Such strict rules force ink producers to commit heavy financial resources toward complying with legal standards and reformulating their products. Consequently, this shifts the demand away from traditional catalyst technologies and forces the industry to engineer specialized substitutes that align with stricter ecological criteria while maintaining optimal printing performance.

The ongoing push to lower VOC levels is accelerating a transition toward inks with

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alternative chemical makeups, including bio-centric and water-based options, which consequently demand novel or modified catalysts. In April 2025, the National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers (NAPIM) reported that inks certified through their Bio-Renewable Content Program featured at least 60% bio-renewable materials, highlighting a profound shift in formulation standards. Adapting to this transformation requires exhaustive research and development to create compatible catalysts, which results in extended innovation timelines and elevated expenses for manufacturers. Ultimately, these regulatory pressures foster a challenging landscape that hinders the growth of standard catalyst products and steers the market toward more expensive, highly specialized alternatives.

Market Trends

A prominent movement transforming the Global Printing Ink Catalyst Market is the heightened emphasis on developing sustainable catalyst mixtures. This shift is primarily motivated by rigorous environmental policies and a surging preference for green printing methods that leverage renewable materials and drastically cut volatile organic compound emissions. In response, catalyst creators are busily engineering alternatives compatible with water-based and bio-based systems to support ecologically sound ink products. Highlighting this industry-wide dedication, Sun Chemical's 15th Sustainability Report from December 2025 indicated that the firm had reached 86% of its 2030 greenhouse gas reduction goal, illustrating a profound financial commitment to innovating cleaner products.

An additional major trend is the progression of catalysts tailored for modern curing technologies, notably those optimized for rapid, energy-saving methods like electron beam and UV LED curing. These specific catalysts are indispensable for achieving instantaneous ink drying, thereby boosting manufacturing efficiency and enabling printing applications on various heat-sensitive materials. Progress in this domain simultaneously bolsters the continuous growth of digital printing, where dependable and swift curing is mandatory for maximizing production speeds and preserving image accuracy. The sector's enthusiastic participation in these technological strides was highlighted at the National Association of Printing Ink Manufacturers' 2025 Annual Convention and Technical Conference, which brought together over 175 professionals to explore the latest breakthroughs in coatings, printing inks, and sophisticated curing techniques.

Key Market Players

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BASF SE

Evonik Industries AG

Arkema S.A.

Dow Inc.

DIC Corporation

Sun Chemical Corporation

Toyo Ink SC Holdings Co., Ltd.

Siegwerk Druckfarben AG & Co. KGaA

ALTANA AG

Dainichiseika Color & Chemicals Mfg. Co., Ltd.

Report Scope

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

Printing Ink Catalyst Market, By Type

Solvent-Based

Water-Based

Printing Ink Catalyst Market, By End User

Polyester Fibres

Nylon Fibres

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- Acrylic Fibres
- Polyurethane Film
- Polypropylene Film
- Others

Printing Ink Catalyst Market, By Region

- North America
  - United States
  - Canada
  - Mexico
- Europe
  - France
  - United Kingdom
  - Italy
  - Germany
  - Spain
- Asia Pacific
  - China
  - India
  - Japan
  - Australia

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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 Ink Catalyst Market.

Available Customizations:

Global Printing Ink Catalyst 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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