

Polylactic Acid Market by Grade (Thermoforming Grade, Injection Molding Grade, Extrusion Grade, Blow Molding Grade), Application (Rigid Thermoforms, Films & Sheets, Bottles), End-use Industry (Packaging, Consumer Goods, Agricultural, Textile, Bio-Medical), Raw Material (Sugarcane, Corn starch, Cassava, Sugarbeet), and Region - Global Forecast to 2030

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Report description:

The global PLA market is expected to increase from USD 2.01 billion in 2025 to USD 4.51 billion by 2030, translating into a CAGR of 17.5% over the forecast period. Much of this growth can be attributed to increasing demand for compostable packaging in the food and beverage sector, along with the rise of new large-scale industrial PLA production plants, particularly in the Asia Pacific, Europe, and North America regions. Additionally, ongoing developments of PLA that are heat-resistant or can be chemically recycled are opening up broader market opportunities for applications in automotive, electronics, and durable goods. The market outlook remains positive, supported by investments in bio-refineries, diversification of feedstocks, and commitments by brands to develop sustainable packaging. Emerging applications in the biomedical device market, composites, and low-carbon manufacturing systems will also present long-term growth opportunities perspective.

<https://www.marketsandmarkets.com/Images/polylactic-acid-pla-market-Overview.webp>

"Films & Sheets to Be Second Fastest-Growing Segment in the PLA Market"

The films and sheets application area is expected to be the second-fastest growing segment in the PLA market. PLA films are used in various applications, including flexible food packaging, agricultural mulch films, personal care wrappers, and different labeling

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uses due to their excellent transparency, sealability, and, for some applications, biodegradability. Within this market segment, it has become easier to adopt PLA-based film as a replacement because of the global shift away from traditional multilayer plastic films and the increasing demand for certified compostable packaging products. Projects that have supported global initiatives in compostable packaging show a rising use of PLA-based films in waiting-to-laminate, thermo-sealing, coating applications, and other segments actively pursuing sustainability products.

"Extrusion grade to be second fastest-growing segment in PLA market"

The extrusion grade PLA segment was the second fastest-growing segment in the PLA market in 2024, due to the increased demand for bio-based sheets, films, and profiles in packaging, construction, and consumer applications. PLA is considered a viable alternative to conventional polymers, in both rigid and flexible approaches, given that PLA can utilize standard extrusion equipment, improvements in thermal resistance, and mechanical stability. The extrusion segment is further advancing due to its increased use as a viable alternative for clamshell containers, blister packs, laminated materials, and other packaging products, especially where formability, clarity, and compostability are necessary. As the food packaging and industrial sheets market shifted toward more sustainable materials, the extrusion grade PLA segment offers inexpensive alternatives, while also offering large-scale, efficient processing, and reducing the overall impact on the environment. Other innovations, such as co-extrusion and multilayer PLA structures, will help increase the segment's footprint internationally.

"The corn starch segment was the second fastest-growing segment of PLA market in 2024."

The corn starch segment was the second-fastest growing source of PLA raw material in 2024, following sugarcane. Corn starch remains the most prominent and readily available feedstock for the fermentation of lactic acid, especially in North America, Europe, and China. It benefits from a strong supply chain, competitive prices, and high fermentable sugar content, making it attractive for large-scale PLA production. Growth in corn-based PLA is supported by increasing consumer and regulatory demand for biodegradable packaging and agricultural films, particularly in developed markets with well-established corn processing infrastructure. Additionally, ongoing research into fermenting non-GMO field corn and developing more carbon-efficient production methods will likely enhance perceptions of sustainability and improve marketing prospects for corn starch.

"Middle East & Africa to be second fastest-growing regional market for PLA"

The Middle East & Africa is anticipated to be the second fastest-growing regional PLA market in 2024. Growth is being driven by increasing awareness of plastic pollution, adoption of bio-based packaging alternatives, and the region's push toward sustainable development goals (SDGs). Governments in the Middle East & Africa are introducing legislation to reduce single-use plastics, and multinational FMCG companies operating in the region are shifting to PLA-based materials for their sustainability pledges. Additionally, the expansion of food packaging, consumer goods, and agriculture sectors across Gulf nations, South Africa, and North African countries provides a promising foundation for PLA adoption. The region also offers cost-competitive access to biomass resources and is attracting foreign direct investment in green technology and bio-based industries, further fueling its PLA market growth.

By Company Type: Tier 1: 23%, Tier 2: 42%, and Tier 3: 35%

By Designation: C-level Executives: 20%, Directors: 30%, and Other Designations: 50%

By Region: North America: 20%, Europe: 10%, Asia Pacific: 40%, South America: 10%, and Middle East & Africa 20%

Notes: Other designations include sales, marketing, and product managers.

Tier 1: >USD 1 Billion; Tier 2: USD 500 million-1 Billion; and Tier 3: <USD 500 million

Companies Covered: NatureWorks LLC (US), TotalEnergies Corbion (Netherlands), BASF SE (Germany), COFCO (China), Futerro (Belgium), Danimer Scientific (US), TORAY INDUSTRIES, INC. (Japan), Evonik Industries (Germany), Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation (Japan), and UNITIKA LTD. (Japan) are covered in the report.

The study includes an in-depth competitive analysis of these key players in the PLA market, with their company profiles, recent developments, and key market strategies.

Research Coverage

This research report categorizes the PLA market based on grade (thermoforming grade, injection molding grade, extrusion grade, blow molding grade), application (rigid thermoforms, films & sheets, bottles), end-use industry (packaging, consumer goods,

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agricultural, textile, bio-medical), raw material (sugarcane, corn starch, cassava, sugarbeet), and region (Asia Pacific, North America, Europe, South America, Middle East & Africa). The report's scope includes detailed information on the drivers, restraints, challenges, and opportunities impacting the growth of the PLA market. A comprehensive analysis of key industry players provides insights into their business overview, products offered, and key strategies such as partnerships, agreements, product launches, expansions, and acquisitions related to the PLA market. Additionally, this report features a competitive analysis of emerging startups in the PLA industry ecosystem.

Reasons to Buy the Report

The report will provide market leaders and new entrants with estimates of revenue figures for the overall PLA market and its subsegments. This report will help stakeholders understand the competitive landscape, gain better insights into positioning their businesses, and develop appropriate go-to-market strategies. It will also help stakeholders understand the market's pulse and offer information on key drivers, restraints, and challenges opportunities.

The report provides insights into the following points:

- Assessment of primary drivers (changing consumer preference toward eco-friendly plastic products, Increasing use in packaging and compostable bag applications, government focus on green procurement policies and regulations, technological advancements in fermentation and polymerization techniques for PLA production) restraints (higher prices of PLA than conventional plastics and limited performance in high-temperature and high-impact applications), opportunities (development of new end-use applications, High growth potential in emerging economies of Asia Pacific, versatility of PLA in multiple sectors such as 3D printing, agriculture, and textiles), and challenges (lower thermal stability and mechanical performance compared to traditional plastics, competition from other biodegradable or recycled plastics and High production costs and complexity in scaling up).
- Product Development/Innovation: Detailed insights into upcoming technologies, research & development activities, and product & service launches in the PLA market.
- Market Development: Comprehensive information about profitable markets-the report analyzes the PLA market across varied regions.
- Market Diversification: Exhaustive information about new products & services, untapped geographies, recent developments, and investments in the PLA market.
- Competitive Assessment: In-depth assessment of market shares, growth strategies, and service offerings of leading players such as NatureWorks LLC (US), TotalEnergies Corbion (Netherlands) , BASF SE (Germany), COFCO (China), Futerra (Belgium), Danimer Scientific (US), TORAY INDUSTRIES, INC. (Japan), Evonik Industries (Germany), Mitsubishi Chemical Group Corporation (Japan), and UNITIKA LTD. (Japan)

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