

Specialty Chemicals Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026 - 2031)

> **Industry:** Polymers & Sustainable Chemicals (Chemicals & Materials)
> **Source:** https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/specialty-chemicals-market
> **Scraped Date:** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
Base Market Size	USD 1.26 trillion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 1.26 trillion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	4.09 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

! [Major players in Specialty Chemicals industry] (images/chart_2.png)

! [Specialty Chemicals Market Size] (images/chart_3.png)

! [Specialty Chemicals Market Share by End-User Industry, 2025] (images/chart_4.png)

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Comprehensive Research Analysis

Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market OverviewStudy Period | 2021 - 2031 |
Market Size (2026) | USD 1.26 Trillion |
Market Size (2031) | USD 1.54 Trillion |
Growth Rate (2026 - 2031) | 4.09 % |
Fastest Growing Market | Asia Pacific |
Largest Market | Asia Pacific |
Market Concentration | Low |
Major Players*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Specialty Chemicals Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence
The Specialty Chemicals Market size is expected to increase from USD 1.21 trillion in 2025 to USD 1.26 trillion in 2026 and reach USD 1.54 trillion by 2031, growing at a CAGR of 4.09% over 2026-2031. Across the Asia-Pacific and Gulf Cooperation Council regions, a surge of infrastructure mega-projects is underway. In tandem, advanced economies are racing to boost semiconductor capacities, all while grappling with tightening standards for industrial water discharges. These developments collectively fuel a rising demand. Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 has earmarked significant investments for transportation, housing, and energy initiatives. Concurrently, the U.S. CHIPS and Science Act has pledged substantial funding towards domestic semiconductor materials, highlighting the pivotal role of sovereign policies in bolstering demand for high-purity acids, photoresists, and etchants. On another front, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in April 2024, set stringent limits on PFOA and PFOS. This move is hastening the adoption of PFAS-free coagulants, membrane bioreactors, and advanced oxidation additives in municipal utilities. Meanwhile, Brent crude prices are projected to decline. This trend is tightening margins for naphtha-based intermediates and spurring bio-feedstock initiatives at industry giants like BASF, Dow, and Evonik, all amidst a backdrop of fluctuating spot prices for propylene and ethylene. Innovators such as Oxford PV and Swift Solar are carving out premium markets for conductive silver pastes, low-temperature encapsulants, and fluorine-free surfactants, all tailored for the next generation of perovskite photovoltaics.

Key Report Takeaways* By end-user industry, agrochemicals held 19.98% of the specialty chemicals market share in 2025. Construction chemicals are advancing at a 5.5% CAGR from 2026 to 2031, the fastest among all segments.

* Asia-Pacific commanded 46.94% of global revenue in 2025 and is growing at a 4.58% CAGR through 2031.

Key Market Trends

Market Trends and Insights
Drivers Impact Analysis of Specialty Chemicals Market*
Drivers | (~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast | Geographic Relevance | Impact Timeline

Infrastructure spending boom in Asia-Pacific and GCC countries boosts construction chemicals | +1.2% | Asia-Pacific core, GCC spill-over to Middle East and Africa | Medium term (2-4 years) |

Semiconductor capacity race spurs electronic-grade chemical demand | +0.9% | North America, East Asia (South Korea, Taiwan, Japan), Europe | Long term (≥ 4 years) |

Tightening industrial-water discharge norms fuel water-treatment additives | +0.7% | Global, with early enforcement in North America and EU | Short term (≤ 2 years) |

Auto lightweighting rules escalate need for high-performance polymers | +0.6% | North America, Europe, China | Medium term (2-4 years) |

Perovskite PV scale-up creates niche for specialty conductive inks | +0.3% | Europe, China, with pilot deployments in North America | Long term (≥ 4 years) |

Source: Mordor Intelligence |

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The specialty chemicals market is fragmented. Sika's 2023 takeover of MBCC positions the Swiss firm as the frontrunner in concrete admixtures, particularly in Europe and Asia. Initiatives like BASF's renewable-naphtha program and Evonik's bio-succinic-acid line highlight how industry stalwarts are mitigating risks from fossil volatility, all while eyeing circularity premiums. Companies like Oxford PV and Swift Solar are showcasing how new downstream technologies are driving demand for upstream chemicals—such as silver pastes, barrier films, and low-therm

al budget inks—prompting major suppliers to secure these via minority stakes or long-term agreements. A surge in patent filings for fluorine-free surfactants and recyclable thermosets at EPO and USPTO signals intensifying competition for next-gen formulations.

Specialty Chemicals Industry Leaders* BASF SE

- * Dow
 - * Evonik Industries AG
 - * SABIC
 - * Clariant
 - * *Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order
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Component Component 3 Scope Of The Report Bottom

Global Specialty Chemicals Market Report ScopeSpecialty chemicals are the chemical products on which many other industries, such as construction chemicals, paints and coatings, textile chemicals, mining chemicals, plastic additives, and others, rely. The applications of specialty chemicals include boosting agricultural, construction, pharmaceutical products processing, chemical and intermediates processing, food processing and ingredients for household, coatings and paper trading, and transportation.

The specialty chemicals market is segmented based on the end-user industry and geography. By End-User Industry, the market is segmented into paints and coatings, catalysts, construction chemicals, cosmetic chemicals, dyes, inks, and pigments, electronic chemicals, water treatment chemicals, food additives, agrochemicals, industrial and institutional cleaners, lubricant additives, mining chemicals, oilfield chemicals, adhesives and sealants, plastic additives, rubber processing chemicals, specialty polymers, and textile chemicals. The report also covers the market size and forecasts in 17 countries across major regions. For each segment, market sizing and forecasts have been done on the basis of revenue (USD).

By End-User IndustryPaints and Coatings | Market Dynamics |

- | | Application | Architectural |
- | | Automotive |
- | | Industrial |
- | | Wood |
- | | Other Applications |

Catalysts | Market Dynamics |

- | | Function | Chemical Synthesis Catalysts |
- | | Petroleum Refining Catalysts |
- | | Polymerization Catalysts |

Construction Chemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Commercial |
- | | Industrial |
- | | Infrastructure |
- | | Residential |
- | | Public Space |

Cosmetic Chemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Hair Care |
- | | Skin Care |
- | | Oral Care |
- | | Personal Hygiene |
- | | Other Applications |

Dyes, Inks, and Pigments | Market Dynamics |

- | Type | Inks |
- | | Dyes |
- | | Organic Pigments |
- | | Inorganic Pigments |

Electronic Chemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Semiconductors and Integrated Circuits |
- | | Printed Circuit Boards |

Water Treatment Chemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Flocculants |
- | | Coagulants |
- | | Biocides and Disinfectants |
- | | Defoamers and Defoaming Agents |
- | | pH Adjusters and Softeners |
- | | Other Functions |

Food Additives | Market Dynamics |

- | | Natural Additives |
- | | Synthetic Additives |

Agrochemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Fertilizers |
- | | Herbicide |
- | | Fungicide |
- | | Insecticide |
- | | Nematicide |
- | | Molluscicide |
- | | Other Crop Protection Chemicals |

Industrial and Institutional Cleaners | Market Dynamics |

- | | General Purpose Cleaners |
- | | Disinfectants and Sanitizers |
- | | Laundry Care Products |
- | | Vehicle Wash Products |

Lubricant Additives | Market Dynamics |

- | Product Type | Dispersants and Emulsifiers |
- | | Detergents |
- | | Oxidation Inhibitors |
- | | Extreme-pressure Additives and Anti-wear Additives |
- | | Viscosity Index Modifiers |
- | | Friction Modifiers |
- | | Corrosion Inhibitors |
- | | Other Product Types |

Mining Chemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Flotation Chemicals |
- | | Extraction Chemicals |
- | | Grinding Aids |

Oilfield Chemicals | Market Dynamics |

- | | Biocide |
- | | Corrosion and Scale Inhibitor |
- | | Demulsifier |
- | | Polymer |
- | | Surfactant |
- | | Other Chemical Types |

Adhesives and Sealants | Market Dynamics |

- | Technology | Water-borne Adhesives |
- | | Solvent-borne Adhesives |
- | | Hot-melt Adhesives |
- | | Reactive Adhesives |
- | | Other Adhesives |
- | | Sealants |

Plastic Additives | Market Dynamics |

- | | Plastic Type | Polyethylene (PE) |
- | | Polystyrene (PS) |
- | | Polypropylene (PP) |
- | | Polyamide (PA) |
- | | Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) |
- | | Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) |
- | | Polycarbonate (PC) |
- | | Other Plastic Types |
- Rubber Processing Chemicals | Market Dynamics |
- | | Tire |
- | | Non-tire |
- Specialty Polymers | Market Dynamics |
- Textile Chemicals | Market Dynamics |
- | | Coating and Sizing Chemicals |
- | | Colorants and Auxiliaries |
- | | Finishing Agents |
- | | Desizing Agents |
- | | Other Application |

Segmentation Accordion Item

- By GeographyAsia-Pacific | China |
- | India |
- | Japan |
- | South Korea |
- | ASEAN Countries |
- | Rest of Asia-Pacific |
- North America | United States |
- | Canada |
- | Mexico |
- Europe | Germany |
- | United Kingdom |
- | Italy |
- | France |
- | Spain |
- | Rest of Europe |
- South America | Brazil |
- | Argentina |
- | Rest of South America |
- Middle-East and Africa | Saudi Arabia |
- | South Africa |
- | Rest of Middle-East and Africa |

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the forecast value of the specialty chemicals market by 2031?

The market is expected to reach USD 1.54 trillion, based on a 4.09% CAGR between 2026 and 2031, from USD 1.26 trillion in 2026.

Which segment is growing fastest through 2031?

Construction chemicals, advancing at a 5.50% CAGR as infrastructure spending accelerates in the Asia-Pacific and the GCC.

Which region holds the largest revenue share?

Asia-Pacific, with 46.94% of global specialty chemicals revenue in 2025.

What regulatory trend is shaping water-treatment chemicals?

The U.S. EPA's 4 ppt limit on PFAS compounds in drinking water is forcing utilities to adopt PFAS-free coagulants and advanced oxidation processes.

Why are VOC rules critical for formulators?

EU and California regulations cap VOC content in architectural coatings below 50 g/L, accelerating the shift to waterborne and UV-curable chemistries.