

Food and Drink Packaging - UK - 2022

Report Price: £2195 | \$2995 | €2600

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This report looks at the following areas:

- How the food and drink packaging market has emerged from the disruption of COVID-19 but now faces difficult economic conditions.
- How companies are responding to key challenges facing the sector.
- How the sustainability and plastic replacement agenda is driving innovation across the food and drink packaging sector.
- Key market drivers and how the market is expected to develop over the next five years.

Paper and board packaging accounts for the largest share of the food packaging market and has seen its share rise from 49% in 2018 to a projected 54% in 2022. The sector is gaining market share at the expense of plastic, reflecting commitments by manufacturers, brands and supermarkets to reduce plastic packaging.

The UK food and drink packaging market is anticipated to decline by 0.7% in 2023, reflecting adverse macroeconomic conditions. However, as food and drink categories are relatively resilient in an adverse economic environment, the impact of a recession is expected to be less severe on the food and drink packaging market than on other manufacturing sectors. Packaging manufacturers will continue to grapple with higher input costs for the foreseeable future, resulting in higher selling prices.

The focus on sustainability, plastic packaging waste reduction and circularity drive market and product development. This reflects shifts in consumer sentiment towards a greater awareness of sustainability and efforts by food and drink manufacturers and retailers to improve their sustainability credentials. Legislative changes, such as the Plastic Packaging Tax, which came into force in April 2022, and forthcoming policies, most notably the Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) scheme, are further accelerating the trend towards more responsible packaging.



"The focus on sustainability, plastic packaging waste reduction and circularity drives market and product development. This reflects shifts in consumer sentiment towards a greater awareness of sustainability and efforts by food and drink manufacturers and retailers to improve their sustainability credentials."

– **Claudia Preedy, Senior B2B Analyst, 2022**

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These trends require packaging companies to work more collaboratively with customers, machinery producers, suppliers and innovators to offer more responsible, tailor-made, less complex and, where possible, closed-loop packaging solutions. The move to packaging circularity also requires increased investment and innovation in recycling infrastructure and technologies and higher consumer participation.



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