

Old Corrugated Container Market Forecast: 3.5% CAGR Growth to \$ 42.37 Billion by 2034

The Old Corrugated Container market is witnessing substantial growth driven by increasing demand for sustainable packaging solutions.

NEW YORK , NY, UNITED STATES,
February 19, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/

-- The [Old Corrugated Container market](#) is a vital segment of the global recycling and packaging industry. OCC refers to used corrugated cardboard boxes and sheets that are collected, processed, and recycled to produce

new paper and packaging materials. OCC is one of the most widely recycled materials globally, driven by its high recyclability and the growing emphasis on sustainability and circular economy practices.



Old Corrugated Container market

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The Old Corrugated Container market is thriving, driven by recycling innovation and growing demand for sustainable packaging solutions.”

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Old Corrugated [Container](#) Market Size was estimated at 30.09(USD Billion) in 2024. The Old Corrugated Container Industry is expected to grow from 31.13(USD Billion) in 2025 to 42.37 (USD Billion) by 2034. The Old Corrugated Container Market CAGR (growth rate) is expected to be around 3.5% during the forecast period (2025 - 2034).

The OCC market is primarily fueled by the packaging industry, which relies heavily on corrugated materials for shipping, storage, and retail purposes. With the rise of e-

commerce, demand for corrugated packaging has surged, further boosting the need for OCC recycling. Additionally, increasing environmental awareness and stringent regulations on waste management have encouraged businesses and consumers to recycle OCC materials.

Prominent players in the Old Corrugated Container Market include:

Nine Dragons Paper, Pratt Industries, Oji Holdings, Mitsubishi Paper Mills, Shanying International

Holdings, WestRock, International Paper, Zhongtian Paper, Hengan International, DS Smith, GeorgiaPacific, Mondi, Cascades, Nippon Paper Industries, Smurfit Kappa

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Key factors driving the OCC market include:

- **E-commerce Growth:** The rapid expansion of online shopping has led to increased demand for corrugated packaging, creating a steady supply of OCC for recycling.
- **Sustainability Trends:** Governments and corporations are prioritizing sustainable practices, including the use of recycled materials like OCC, to reduce environmental impact.
- **Cost-Effectiveness:** Recycled OCC is a cost-effective raw material for producing new corrugated packaging compared to virgin materials.
- **Regulatory Support:** Policies promoting recycling and waste reduction, such as extended producer responsibility (EPR) and landfill bans, are driving OCC collection and recycling.

The global OCC market is expected to grow at a CAGR of 4-6% over the next five years, reaching a market size of \$50-55 billion by 2028. The Asia-Pacific region, particularly China and India, dominates the market due to high industrial activity and e-commerce growth, while North America and Europe are also significant players due to advanced recycling infrastructure and sustainability initiatives.

DROC Analysis: Old Corrugated Container (OCC) Market

Drivers:

- **E-commerce Expansion:** The booming e-commerce sector is driving demand for corrugated packaging, resulting in higher OCC generation and recycling rates.
- **Sustainability Initiatives:** Increasing awareness of environmental issues and corporate sustainability goals are encouraging the use of recycled materials like OCC.
- **Regulatory Policies:** Government regulations promoting recycling and waste reduction, such as landfill bans and recycling mandates, are boosting OCC collection and processing.
- **Cost Savings:** Using recycled OCC is more economical than virgin materials, making it an attractive option for manufacturers.

Restraints:

- **Contamination Issues:** Contamination of OCC with non-recyclable materials (e.g., food waste, plastics) can reduce the quality of recycled output and increase processing costs.
- **Fluctuating Prices:** The prices of OCC are subject to market volatility, influenced by supply-demand dynamics and global trade policies.
- **Logistical Challenges:** Efficient collection and transportation of OCC from diverse sources can

be logistically complex and costly.

Opportunities:

- **Technological Advancements:** Innovations in recycling technologies, such as advanced sorting and cleaning systems, can improve the quality and efficiency of OCC recycling.
- **Emerging Markets:** Rapid industrialization and urbanization in developing countries present significant growth opportunities for OCC collection and recycling.
- **Circular Economy Models:** Adoption of circular economy principles by businesses can create new opportunities for OCC recycling and reuse.
- **Partnerships and Collaborations:** Collaborations between governments, recyclers, and manufacturers can enhance OCC collection and processing infrastructure.

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Challenges:

- **Quality Control:** Maintaining the quality of recycled OCC is critical to its usability in high-grade applications, and contamination remains a persistent challenge.
- **Trade Restrictions:** Import-export restrictions and tariffs on recycled materials can disrupt the global OCC market.
- **Consumer Behavior:** Lack of awareness or participation in recycling programs by consumers can limit the supply of OCC for recycling.
- **Competition from Alternative Materials:** The growing use of alternative packaging materials, such as plastics and biodegradable options, may impact demand for corrugated packaging and OCC.

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