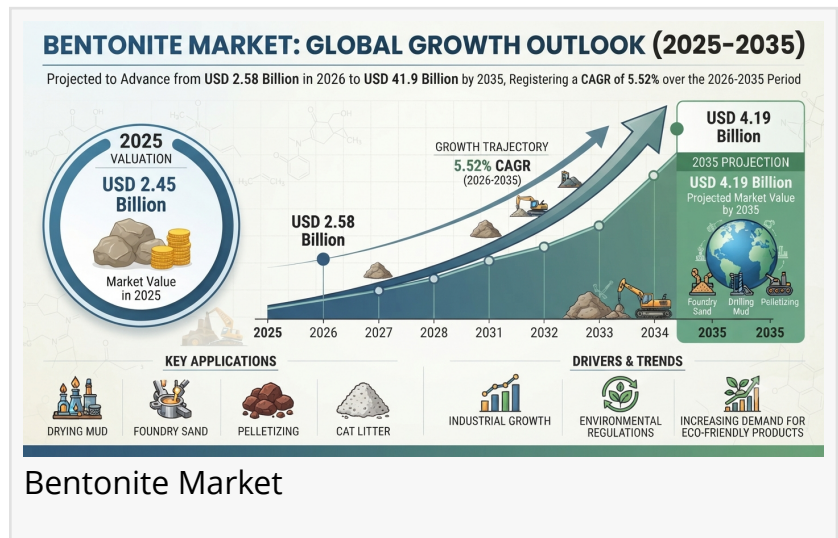


Bentonite Market: From \$2.45 Billion (2025) to \$4.19 Billion (2035), 5.52% Growth

NEW YORK, NY, UNITED STATES,
September 10, 2026 /

EINPresswire.com/ -- The global [Bentonite Market](#) is witnessing steady growth as demand increases across construction, oil and gas, metallurgy, infrastructure, water treatment, agriculture, and consumer applications. Bentonite is a naturally occurring clay mineral known for its exceptional swelling, adsorption, viscosity, sealing, and binding properties, making it an important material across a diverse range of industries.



According to the latest analysis by Market Research Future, the global Bentonite Market was valued at approximately USD 2.45 billion in 2025 and is projected to increase from USD 2.58 billion in 2026 to USD 4.19 billion by 2035, expanding at a 5.52% CAGR during 2026–2035.

The market is being supported by infrastructure development, tunneling projects, oil and gas drilling, [iron ore](#) pelletizing, foundry applications, pet-care products, and growing environmental applications.

Bentonite Market Overview

Bentonite is primarily composed of smectite minerals, particularly montmorillonite. Its ability to absorb water and expand makes it particularly valuable for applications requiring sealing, binding, suspension, and adsorption.

The two major commercial grades are sodium bentonite and calcium bentonite, while organically modified and specialty grades are increasingly being developed for higher-value applications.

The industry is also moving beyond conventional mined and processed clay toward soda-ash activated, polymer-enhanced, and organically modified bentonite products designed to deliver improved rheological and functional performance.

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Key Factors Driving Market Growth

Infrastructure and Tunneling Development

Infrastructure investment is one of the most important growth drivers for bentonite.

Bentonite is widely used in slurry-wall construction, diaphragm walls, tunneling, horizontal directional drilling, foundation engineering, and other civil-engineering applications. Its swelling and sealing characteristics allow it to stabilize excavated areas and control groundwater movement.

Increasing investment in metros, railways, underground transportation, bridges, water infrastructure, and urban development is therefore creating new demand for high-performance bentonite.

Market Research Future identifies civil engineering as the fastest-growing application, with an estimated CAGR of 6.62% through 2035.

Growth in Oil and Gas Drilling

Bentonite remains an important component of water-based drilling muds.

Drilling fluids use bentonite to increase viscosity, suspend drilled cuttings, stabilize boreholes, and control fluid loss. Consequently, exploration and production activity directly affects demand for API-grade sodium bentonite.

According to Market Research Future, drilling muds accounted for 26.4% of application revenue in 2025, making them the largest application segment.

Although drilling demand can be cyclical, ongoing horizontal drilling and oil and gas activity in North America and the Middle East provide an important market base.

Iron Ore Pelletizing and Steel Production

Bentonite is widely used as a binder during iron ore pellet production.

As steel manufacturers invest in technologies associated with lower-carbon steelmaking, including direct reduced iron, pellet quality and chemistry requirements are becoming increasingly important.

This is creating opportunities for specialized bentonite grades that provide effective binding while minimizing undesirable mineral impurities.

The continued expansion of pelletizing capacity, particularly in Asia-Pacific and South America, is

therefore expected to support long-term bentonite consumption.

Expansion of Foundry Applications

Bentonite is an important binder in green-sand casting.

Foundries combine bentonite with sand and water to create molds capable of retaining their shape during metal casting. Automotive, machinery, industrial equipment, and other metal-producing industries therefore contribute to demand for foundry-grade bentonite.

The continued expansion of manufacturing capacity in Asia-Pacific is expected to support this segment.

Growing Demand for Cat Litter

Another significant application is pet-care products, particularly clumping cat litter.

Sodium bentonite's high swelling capacity enables it to absorb liquids and form compact clumps, making it convenient for consumers.

Growing pet ownership and increasing consumer spending on pet-care products are supporting demand for absorbent bentonite grades. The application also provides an important outlet for material that may not meet the tighter specifications required for drilling or pharmaceutical applications.

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Regional Market Outlook

Asia-Pacific

Asia-Pacific is the leading regional market, accounting for approximately 41.4% of global revenue in 2025. It is also projected to remain the fastest-growing regional market, with a forecast CAGR of approximately 6.23% through 2035.

Rapid urbanization, infrastructure development, construction activity, steel production, tunneling projects, and industrial expansion are major contributors to regional demand.

China and India remain particularly important markets, while Southeast Asian economies are creating additional opportunities through investments in transportation, ports, water infrastructure, and urban development.

North America

North America represented approximately 23.8% of global market revenue in 2025.

The region benefits from substantial bentonite reserves, particularly in Wyoming and Montana,

as well as established demand from oil and gas drilling, construction, foundries, and pet-care applications.

The United States remains an important producer and consumer of high-quality sodium bentonite.

Europe

Europe accounted for approximately 21.5% of the market in 2025.

Demand is supported by tunneling, infrastructure modernization, environmental containment, foundry applications, and specialty mineral products.

Environmental regulations and the increasing emphasis on sustainable construction and waste management are also creating opportunities for engineered bentonite solutions.

Middle East & Africa

The Middle East and Africa region represents an emerging growth market, particularly because of oil and gas activity, infrastructure investment, construction, and environmental applications.

Market Research Future expects the region to grow at approximately 5.71% CAGR, making it one of the faster-growing regional markets through 2035.

Competitive Landscape

The global bentonite industry includes major mineral producers, processors, and specialty-material manufacturers.

Key companies identified in the Market Research Future report include:

Minerals Technologies Inc.

Imerys

Clariant AG

Wyo-Ben Inc.

Ashapura Group

Bentonite Performance Minerals LLC

Competition is increasingly focused on more than simply mineral reserves. Product consistency, processing technology, logistics, technical support, certification, and specialized formulations are becoming important differentiators.

Companies that can convert conventional bentonite into application-specific products are positioned to capture greater value from the market.

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Challenges Facing the Bentonite Market

Despite positive growth prospects, the market faces several challenges.

Mining and Permitting Constraints

Bentonite is a mined mineral, meaning production is dependent on access to suitable deposits and regulatory approvals. Mine permitting, environmental requirements, land rehabilitation, and community considerations can limit the speed at which new capacity is developed.

Transportation Costs

Bentonite is a relatively bulk commodity, making transportation an important component of delivered cost.

Long-distance transportation can significantly affect profitability, encouraging suppliers to locate processing facilities close to mines and major customers.

Competition from Alternative Materials

Synthetic polymers and alternative mineral binders can substitute for bentonite in certain applications.

Although bentonite remains attractive because of its cost and functional properties, manufacturers must continue developing higher-performance grades to maintain their position in technically demanding applications.

Energy Costs

Drying and activation processes can require significant energy. Volatility in natural gas and electricity prices can therefore affect processing costs and margins, particularly for producers operating energy-intensive facilities.

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