

Eco Fibers

Market Scenario and Competitive Landscape

A CURA DI

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Introduction and Methodology

“Market Scenario” is a customized and organized analysis to gather information about target markets and competitive landscape in a particular sector.

“Market Scenario” provides relevant information to identify and analyze market needs, market size and competition in the fields of interest of the customer. A technology or a product developed by the customer can be characterized according to the sectors and potentiality of application, target market, competitive advantages and potential partners of the technology. The analysis is performed with the application of technology and business intelligence tools. The research in the information providers is usually based on the use of keywords or by thematic area, according to the specific topic of interest.

The results of the assessment are data about the target or global market potential, market value and applicability of the technologies or products developed by the customer, the trends of the market of interest, the segmentation of the market (e.g., by application, geography or indication), the supply chain and the competitive advantages of products or technologies, the key players active in the market of interest and the possible direct or indirect competitors of the customer.

Context

This report provides an overview of the **eco fibers market**, with reference to the trend and dynamics in the period 2022 – 2027, to the market segmentations by type, by application and by region and to the competitive landscape in the field.

1 Eco Fibers

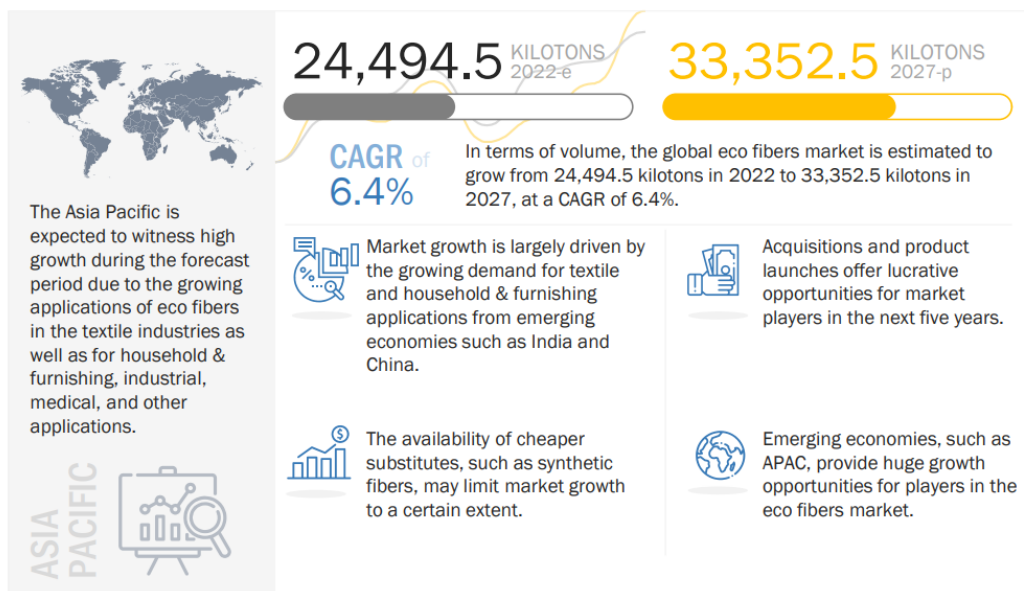
Eco fibers are sustainable fibers manufactured using any organic material, a combination of organic or natural materials, or recycled materials with minimal environmental damage. Eco fibers are fibers that are cultivated, processed, and manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner under stringent environmental standards and limits. Eco fibers mainly constitute organic, recycled, and regenerated fibers such as organic cotton fibers, recycled polyester, recycled nylon, viscose, and lyocell.

These fibers are used in the clothing & textile, medical, chemical, power, oil & gas, home & furnishing, fashion & apparel, and packaging industries. In the organic fibers segment, **organic cotton** fibers are the most widely used due to their similar properties (strength, moisture-retaining capacity, and comfort) to non-organic cotton fibers. In the recycled fibers segment, **recycled polyester** is the preferred fiber, mainly used to manufacture household materials, clothing, and apparel. **Viscose and lyocell** in the regenerated fibers category are ideal for producing automotive accessories, apparel, protective clothing, and medical fixtures. In recent years, the popularity of eco fibers has grown, mainly to preserve the environment from further damage and to improve the supply chain of various industrial processes to make them less harmful to the environment.

1.1 Global Market and Market Dynamics

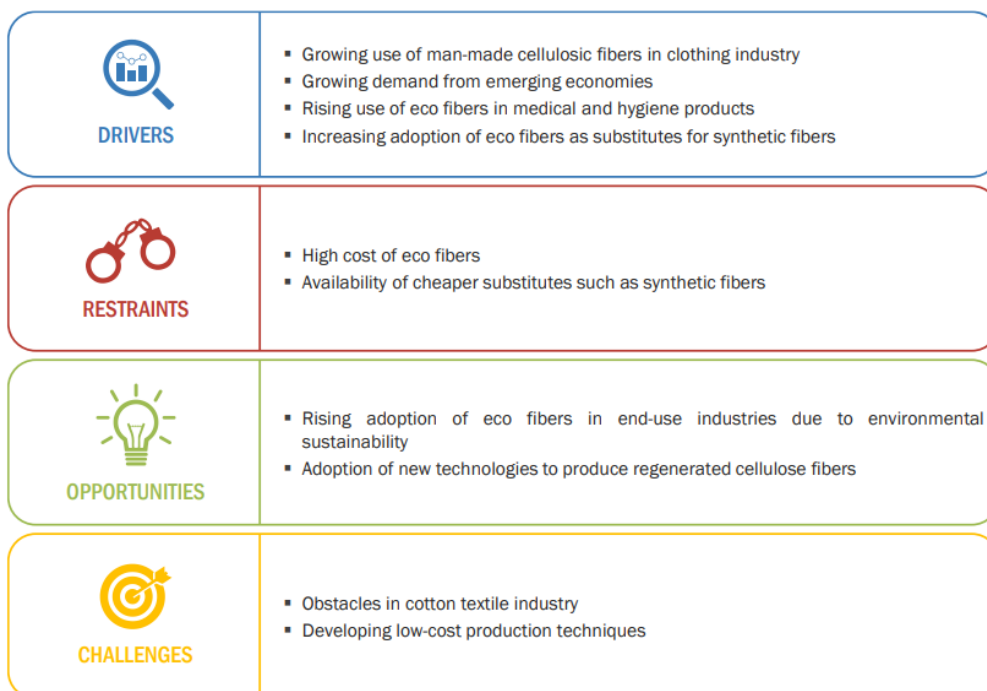
In terms of value, the **global market for eco fibers** is projected to reach USD 78,361.3 million by 2027, at a Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of 8.5% during the forecast period. The market growth in Kilotons is reported in the following Figure.

Figure 1. Global Eco Fibers Market in the Period 2022 - 2027



The increasing demand from emerging economies, growing disposable incomes, and increasing environmental awareness, sustainability, and conservation are the key **driving** factors of the eco fibers market globally (Figure 2). On the other hand, the availability of low-cost substitutes such as virgin polyester and the high cost & maintenance associated with these fibers are some of the **limiting** factors for the market. In addition, the lack of technical knowledge and expertise about these fibers is a major **challenge** in the eco fibers market.

Figure 2. Drivers, Restraints, Opportunities and Challenges in Eco Fibers Market



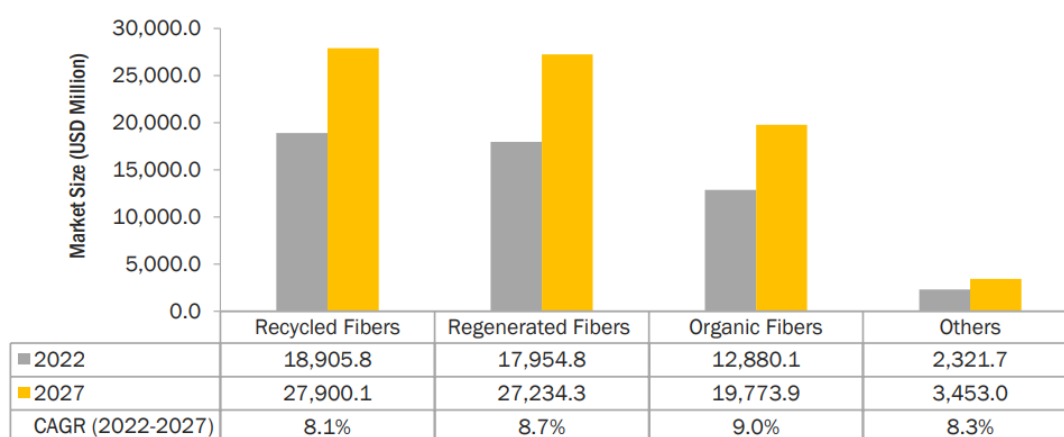
1.2 Market Segmentation by Type

Eco fibers are a niche but fast-growing market segment in the fibers industry. These materials are equally effective at accomplishing any task as synthetic fibers but are more eco-friendly. Eco fibers can be classified into the following types: **organic, regenerated, recycled and other fibers** (regenerated protein fibers and related fibers) (Figure 3).

Regenerated fibers can be best described as fibers created artificially by using the building blocks provided by nature. Recycled fibers are fibers manufactured from post-consumer or post-industrial waste through eco-friendly processes. Awareness about environmental conservation and stringent government regulations are the major factors supporting the growth of the market for recycled fibers at the global level. Regenerated fibers accounted for the second-largest share of the market in 2022.

In terms of value, **recycled fibers** accounted for the largest share of the eco fibers market in 2022.

Figure 3. Eco Fibers Market, by Type, in the Period 2022 - 2027



Organic fibers are fiber materials that are grown and manufactured in an environmentally friendly manner. The source of these fibers can be both plant-derived and animal-derived. Organic fibers are used in manufacturing textiles, which include baby & children's wear, men's & women's wear, intimate wear/underwear, sportswear, and bathroom & bedroom products. The major organic fibers include organic **cotton**, organic hemp and organic wool. Organic cotton fiber production prohibits the use of toxic and persistent synthetic agrichemicals and emphasizes the use of eco-friendly industrial techniques for manufacturing fiber yarn. Fibers made from organic cotton have similar properties to their non-organic counterparts, such as natural cotton.

Organic hemp fibers are manufactured from **hemp** plants, which are grown in a similar eco-friendly fashion as organic cotton plants. First, the hemp plant is cut, and then a process called retting is executed, which separates the long fiber material from the rest of the stalk. After this, the fiber is sent to a processing plant where fiber separation and bundling are accomplished. Organic hemp fiber production is mainly done in the US as the soil texture and conditions are appropriate for the cultivation of this particular plant.

Organic **wool** fibers are animal fibers provided by farm cattle breeds such as sheep, alpacas, and llamas. These animals are fed only natural and organically grown pastures and no artificial or genetically modified substances. Woolen fiber manufacturing processes involve shearing, which means shaving the wool from the animal, then grading & sorting, cleaning & scouring, carding, spinning, weaving and finishing.

Recycled eco fibers are mainly of two types: recycled **polyester** and **nylon**. Recycled fibers are generally made from post-consumer and post-industrial wastes, mainly plastics. Post-consumer wastes include polyester left from the consumer chain of plastic bottles (PET bottles) and polyester or nylon clothing. The conversion methods used are mechanical recycling and chemical recycling. Mechanical recycling involves melting the waste and then re-extruding it into yarns. This is the lowest energy method and has minimal impact on the environment. Chemical recycling involves de-polymerization and then re-polymerization of waste materials effectively into virgin fibers. This process consumes more energy and is expensive but provides fewer impurities.

Recycled **polyester** is manufactured using previously used polyester items, which mainly include PET bottles and polyester clothing. The benefits of recycling polyester come from the reduced energy consumption to produce the final fiber, reduced dependence on crude oil, and the diversion of wastes from landfills. Recycled **nylon** is manufactured in the same manner as recycled polyester. Recycled nylon comes from post-industrial waste fiber and yarn collected from spinning and then processing into reusable fibers.

Regenerated fibers, sometimes also known as man-made fibers, are manufactured using natural building blocks, such as protein or cellulose. Regenerated fibers derived from cellulose are lyocell, viscose, and modal. A regenerated fiber is essentially a natural fiber that has been converted by wet-chemical processing that allows for the production of continuous filaments, which are then spun into fibers. Viscose and lyocell are the two major regenerated fibers considered in this study, as they are the most used fibers in this category.

Viscose is a cellulosic fiber derived from wood pulp through the viscose process. The process involves grounding the cellulose and treating it with caustic soda. The cellulose is then aged, after which the ripening process is done, wherein carbon disulfide is added. This process leads to the formation of cellulose xanthate. After this, the solution is pumped through a spinneret containing a number of holes into a dilute sulfuric acid bath, where the cellulose is regenerated as fine filaments. Viscose has good moisture-retaining properties along with heat resistivity and biodegradability. Therefore, it is used in several end-use industries, including textile, automotive, home & furnishings, agriculture, and personal hygiene product manufacturing.

Lyocell is an eco-friendly fiber widely used in the apparel market; it is made from naturally occurring cellulose from sources such as eucalyptus, spruce or bamboo. Lyocell fibers have high strength, low shrinkage rate, and good moisture absorbance. It is similar to rayon as both are obtained from the eucalyptus tree. The trees are grown on sustainably run farms certified by the Forest Stewardship Council (FSC). Wood pulp is processed in a non-toxic organic solvent solution, which is reclaimed and recycled in a closed-loop spinning process that conserves energy and water.

Modal is a modified version of rayon, a regenerated cellulosic fiber. It is also called a high wet modulus and high breaking strength regenerated cellulosic fiber, which indicates the strength of the fiber and refers to the ability of the fiber to hold up the wet content when liquid is present on the fiber's surface. Modal fibers are produced through a similar process as viscose-regenerated cellulose fibers. However, the cellulose is derived from the beechwood tree in the modal regenerated production process. Modal fibers are mainly used in the textile industry to produce protective clothing, home textiles, fashion apparel and sportswear products.

Other fibers in the eco fibers market are regenerated **protein fibers** and other related fibers. Regenerated fibers derived from protein sources are called azlons, and sources include soy, corn, and milk. Currently, the commercial-scale production of protein-regenerated cellulose fibers is very limited. However, recent advancements in biotechnology, rising environmental awareness of using biodegradable fibers, increasing availability of low-cost biofuel coproducts, and the distinct qualities of regenerated protein fibers are factors that are driving their demand in several applications.

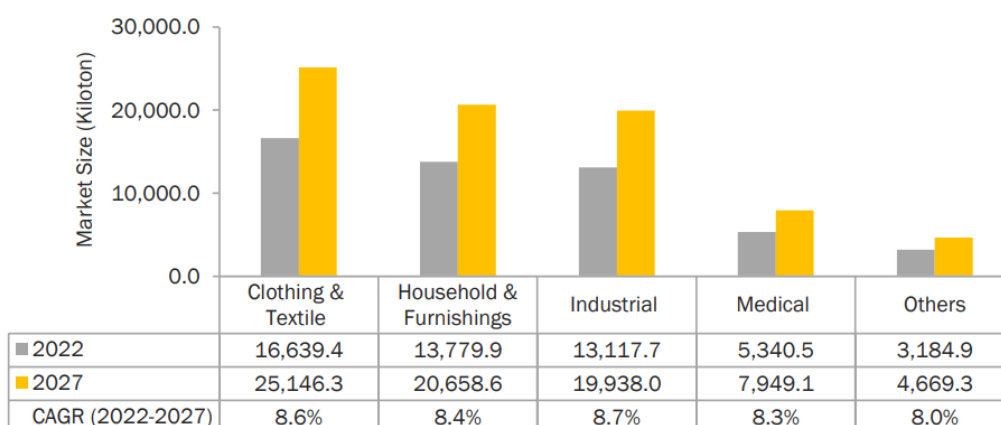
1.3 Market Segmentation by Application

Eco fibers are used in several applications such as: **clothing & textile**, **household & furnishings**, **industrial and medical** (Figure 4). The growth in the application of eco fibers is due to the rise in awareness about the benefits of using these fibers and their similar properties to non-organic fibers apart from being eco-friendly. Sustainable **fashion** is now becoming a trend in the apparel industry. In the **household** application of the eco fibers market, the uses range from bed sheets to curtains. **Industrial** applications include manufacturing flame and chemical-resistant suits for the chemical and energy sectors. In **medical** applications, eco fibers manufacture protective gowns, gloves, and masks.

The **clothing & textile** segment dominates the global eco fibers market in 2022. The demand for regenerated cellulose in the clothing & textile industry is expected to rise due to the increased per capita spending, growing population, changing lifestyles, surging demand for eco-friendly fabrics, and thriving textile industry in emerging countries. There is an increasing demand for eco fibers in the Asia Pacific due to various regional textile manufacturers, such as Raymond Ltd., Bombay Rayon Fashions Ltd., Shenzhou International Group, and Texhong Textile Group.

The **industrial** application segment is projected to be the fastest-growing segment, in terms of value, at a CAGR of 8.7% between 2022 and 2027.

Figure 4. Eco Fibers Market, by Application, in the Period 2022 - 2027



Other applications include construction and leisure applications

Clothing & textile is a major application for the eco fibers market. Eco fibers are becoming the most popular fibers used in the clothing and apparel industry for properties similar to non-organic fibers. The two main functions of eco fibers are that they provide strength and comfort to the clothing. Major fibers used in the clothing & textile application are organic cotton fibers, recycled fibers (polyester and nylon), and regenerated fibers (viscose and lyocell). Among these, organic fibers are the most preferred fibers for clothing as they provide an optimum level of comfort and are best suited for maintaining a person's health and well-being as they are grown in an eco-friendly manner without the use of harmful pesticides or insecticides. Variations in fibers are also implemented to provide strength and color consistency to the fabric manufactured, such as recycled cotton fibers along with rPET and cotton fibers and virgin acrylic fibers. Organic cotton fibers produce clothing such as intimate wear, under wear, and shirts, while recycled polyester produces fleeces, jackets, and sportswear. Regenerated fibers, such as viscose, are used in the nonwoven industry and designer wears.

The growth of the apparel industry depends on consumer demand patterns. Also, the growing population, increasing disposable income, and changing fashion trends support the industry's growth. The **US** and **China** are the two countries

controlling the apparel market and collectively accounted for more than half of the total market share, in terms of value, in 2021. The demand for garments is high in various European countries, such as Russia, Germany, and the UK.

Eco fibers are used in the **household** textile industry in products such as bed sheets, curtains, carpets, and furniture accessories. Eco fibers are becoming an important part of the household textiles market due to the greater acceptance from end users and the eco-friendly nature of these fibers. Household textiles can be further classified into bed textiles, bath textiles, rugs, living room textiles, and kitchen & dining textiles. **Organic cotton** fibers are used in bath and kitchen textiles such as hand towels, bath towels, and robes. **Recycled polyester** manufactures bed textiles such as bed sheets, pillow covers, and furniture accessories. **Recycled nylon** is used in the production of carpets and curtains. Viscose finds its use in the household textile industry as a coating fiber in embroidery and trimmings. **Viscose** fiber is used for lining and furnishing as it provides a staple for towels and tablecloths.

Eco fibers are used in **industrial** applications such as flame-resistant clothing, ropes, shoes, automotive parts, solar panels, and labels. Eco fibers used in industrial applications are lyocell, recycled nylon, recycled polyester, viscose, and organic cotton. Flame-retardant protective clothing manufactured from **organic cotton** fibers is accepted in civilian and military applications such as fire-resistant suits and gloves. Organic cotton fibers are also used in producing shoes & boots, sleeping bags, boat covers, woven bags, and wiping & polishing cloths.

Recycled nylon fiber is used as plastic fasteners and other machinery in the electronics industry for its nonconductivity and heat resistance properties. Recycled nylon fiber is also used in cookware, such as in the production of spatulas, slotted spoons, turners, forks, tongs, and brushes. Woven recycled nylon fibers are also used in the manufacturing of parachutes due to their properties, such as elasticity, strength, resistance to mildew, and availability.

Recycled polyester fibers are used in the solar energy sector to manufacture solar films and reflectors. Additionally, recycled polyester fibers manufacture labels, tape substrates, and laminations.

Lyocell, a major regenerated fiber, is used in manufacturing foam materials, knitwear, outer materials, and laces required in the shoe industry. It is also used in the production of twines and ropes. Lyocell is also used as a reinforcement fiber in producing plastic parts. In the automotive industry, lyocell is used in applications such as seat covers, battery separators, carpets, and plastic parts. **Viscose** is used in the food packaging industry as food casings for processed foods.

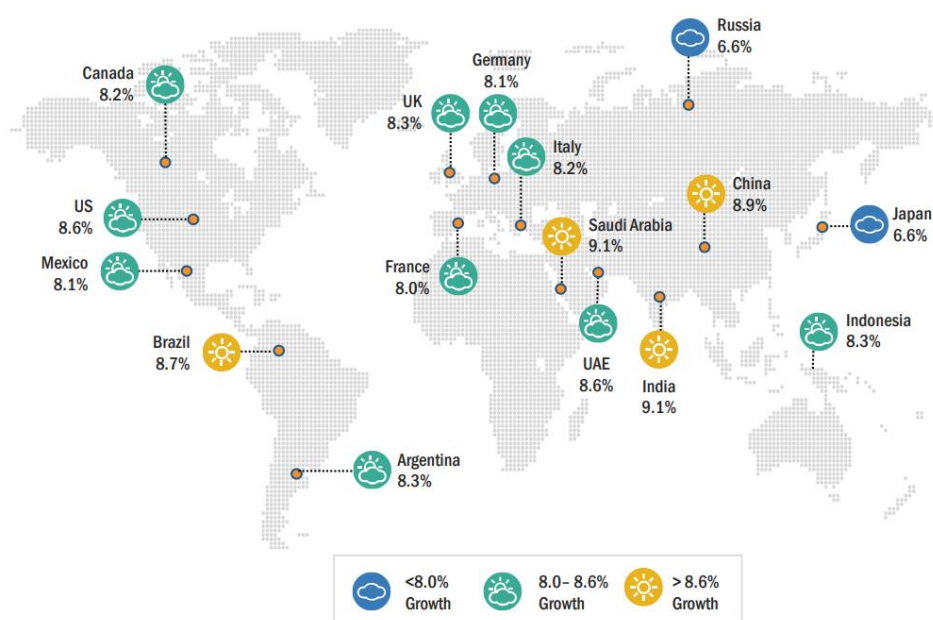
Eco fibers play an important role in **medical** applications, as they are produced from eco-friendly techniques and have similar properties to their non-organic counterparts. Eco fibers used in medical applications are organic cotton, recycled polyester, and viscose. **Organic cotton** fibers produce swabs, bandages, and surgical protective clothing. **Recycled polyester** is used to manufacture surgical instruments, device control cables, tubing, cannulae, and films. It is also used to manufacture packaging cases, syringe pump components, dental instruments, miniature scalpel blade holders, melt blown for liquid filtration applications, and high-temperature caps. Besides this, recycled polyester fibers are also being considered in tissue engineering for properties such as good thermal conductivity, high strength, high modulus, and recyclable nature. **Viscose** finds its major application in the medical sector in producing artificial kidneys. It is also used to make medical stitch thread through a chemical treatment process.

The **other applications** of eco fibers are in the **construction and leisure industries**. In the construction industry, eco fibers are used to construct light structural walls, insulation materials, floor & wall coverings, geotextiles, and thatch roofing. Eco fibers are gaining acceptance in construction due to their strength, insect resistivity, flame resistivity, and waterproofing properties. In the leisure industry, eco fibers produce fishing rods, audio components and bicycles.

1.4 Market Segmentation by Region

The eco fibers market is segmented into five regions: **North America, Asia Pacific, Europe, the Middle East & Africa, and South America** (Figure 5). Growing fashion trends among the youth and an inclination toward online shopping will boost the fabrics industry, increasing the demand for eco fibers in the **Asia Pacific**. The growing fashion-driven population will drive the **North American** and **European** markets. The North American and European eco fibers markets are projected to register CAGRs of 8.5% and 8.3%, respectively, in terms of value, between 2022 and 2027. Stringent government regulations in Europe and North America are a significant challenge to market growth. The sustainable properties of eco fibers and their increasing demand in end-user industries, such as fabrics, automotive, and agriculture, are expected to drive the market for eco fibers.

Figure 5. Eco Fibers Market, by Region and CAGRs, in the Period 2022 - 2027



Note: CAGRs given in the above figure are for the market between 2022 and 2027 in terms of value.

1.4.1 Focus on: Europe

Europe is the third-largest consumer of eco fibers in the world. Fabric is the largest application of eco fibers in Europe, and the trend is estimated to remain the same during the forecast period. The growing fabric and automotive industries are also estimated to increase the demand for eco fibers.

The **clothing & textile** application segment accounted for 31.7%, in terms of value, of the overall market in Europe in 2021. Eco fibers are widely used in the region owing to their various uses. This segment is also projected to record the highest rate during the forecast period. The textile & apparel offers growth opportunities for fibers. The consumption of eco fibers is expected to increase owing to the increased demand from existing and emerging applications.

The focus on designing fuel-efficient vehicles with low CO₂ emissions boosts the demand for eco fibers. Using eco fibers helps reduce a vehicle's weight with synthetic fiber and other fiber components. Also, the demand for eco fibers increases as the EV market gains traction. Technological advancements are estimated to drive demand for eco fibers in the textile and automotive industries.

The **European market segmentations by country, by type and by application** are reported in the following Tables.

Table 1. Europe: Eco Fibers Market, by Country, 2020–2027 (USD Million)

Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	CAGR (2022–2027)
Germany	1,920.6	2,582.8	2,951.2	3,201.8	3,463.3	3,738.5	4,035.7	4,355.7	8.1%
UK	824.9	1,100.7	1,246.6	1,354.4	1,467.5	1,587.0	1,716.2	1,856.0	8.3%
France	1,289.2	1,721.3	1,958.0	2,122.1	2,293.5	2,474.0	2,668.7	2,878.2	8.0%
Italy	1,370.0	1,840.0	2,102.0	2,283.5	2,473.1	2,672.9	2,889.1	3,123.3	8.2%
Russia	619.1	802.1	870.4	930.7	992.8	1,057.3	1,126.2	1,199.7	6.6%
Rest of Europe	2,551.3	3,407.1	3,880.3	4,238.2	4,618.0	5,023.6	5,464.9	5,944.8	8.9%
Total	8,575.0	11,454.1	13,008.4	14,130.8	15,308.1	16,553.3	17,900.8	19,357.8	8.3%

Table 2. Europe Eco Fibers Market, by Type, 2020–2027 (USD Million)

Type	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	CAGR (2022–2027)
Organic Fibers	2,632.2	3,633.6	4,139.6	4,475.6	4,857.7	5,294.3	5,794.5	6,367.2	9.0%
Recycled Fibers	4,034.6	5,156.8	5,834.3	6,291.4	6,784.5	7,316.5	7,890.4	8,509.6	7.8%
Regenerated Fibers	1,377.0	2,004.1	2,286.0	2,553.8	2,789.4	2,994.1	3,189.6	3,370.4	8.1%
Others	531.2	659.6	748.6	810.0	876.5	948.4	1,026.3	1,110.6	8.2%
Total	8,575.0	11,454.1	13,008.4	14,130.8	15,308.1	16,553.3	17,900.8	19,357.8	8.3%

Table 3. Europe: Eco Fibers Market, by Application, 2020–2027 (USD Million)

Application	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	CAGR (2022–2027)
Clothing & Textile	2,724.6	3,637.8	4,130.6	4,489.3	4,865.5	5,263.3	5,693.4	6,158.2	8.3%
Household & Furnishings	2,224.7	2,967.1	3,364.0	3,650.5	3,950.6	4,267.7	4,610.6	4,981.1	8.2%
Industrial	2,157.6	2,885.5	3,280.7	3,572.4	3,879.5	4,205.4	4,559.2	4,942.8	8.5%
Medical	861.7	1,156.4	1,319.4	1,430.4	1,546.5	1,669.1	1,801.5	1,944.4	8.1%
Others	606.4	807.3	913.6	988.2	1,066.1	1,147.9	1,236.2	1,331.2	7.8%
Total	8,575.0	11,454.1	13,008.4	14,130.8	15,308.1	16,553.3	17,900.8	19,357.8	8.3%

According to Euromonitor, **Germany** comprises a 17% market share of the retail EU apparel market. Germany's textile and apparel market is growing owing to rising economic growth, consumer preference toward EU apparel brands, a growing population, and increasing intra-trade in apparel brands. Fabric is the primary end-use industry of eco fibers due to its softness, luster, strength, and moisture-resistant properties.

According to a report by Germany Trade and Invest, Germany ranks first in Europe in terms of sales and production of automobiles. It accounts for a 25% share of all manufactured passenger cars and approximately 20% of all new vehicle registrations in the region. The country produces 37% premium cars all over the world. Due to the rising lifestyles and increase in consumer purchasing power, the premium car segment is expected to grow.

The fabric, automotive, and footwear industries are driving the demand for eco fibers in the **UK**. The growing textiles & apparel industry is expected to boost the eco fibers market in the country. According to the UK Fashion & Textile Association, the UK fashion and textile manufacturing sector produces USD 10.91 billion worth of products ranging from designer creations seen at leading catwalks to fabrics used in the medical, defense, and transport industries. Factors such as economic growth, increased consumer spending, rising competition among manufacturers, and consumer preference for sustainability and quality are expected to further drive the demand for eco fibers.

According to Eurostat, the automotive industry is one of the major industries in the UK, accounting for 13% of the country's total exports in 2021. The country houses over 2,500 automotive component providers and 30 automobile manufacturers. To meet the government's emission targets, vehicle manufacturers are moving toward components made up of eco fibers. The European Commission set targets for manufacturers to reduce CO₂ emissions by 15% for cars and vans by 2025, and 37.5% for cars and 31% for vans by 2030. Hence, manufacturers must focus on designing lightweight vehicles to drive the eco fibers market during the forecast period.

France is the third-largest economy in Europe. Significant applications of eco fibers in the country are automotive and fabric. France is the third-largest producer of textiles in Europe, after Germany and Italy. According to Euromonitor, the country accounted for 10% of the total market share in the EU apparel & textile industry. The technical textile market, which accounts for 30% of the total textile production in France, is also expected to increase sales volumes by approximately 3% in 2022. Rising awareness, a rise in the population's purchasing power, the presence of several big brand fashion manufacturers, and an increasing number of fashion-driven people are driving the eco fibers market.

Automotive is the largest application of eco fibers, which witnessed a significant increase in demand and high sales. According to the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (OICA), the total number of motor vehicles (including cars and commercial vehicles) produced in the country was around 1,351,308, which witnessed a growth of 3% from the previous year. The French government also invested USD 4 billion in the automotive industry to produce EVs. This growth in the automotive industry will also propel the market for eco fibers.

According to the IMF, **Italy's** GDP was USD 2.4 trillion in 2021. The country witnessed economic growth of 6.5% in 2021. This increases the consumption of eco fibers in various end-use industries, mainly textile and automotive. The textile industry in Italy is one of the major contributors to the country's GDP. Italy is both a consumer of apparel as well as textiles. The Italian textile industry contributes around 6.7% of the global textile and clothing trade. The highly fashion-driven population, presence of big fashion brands, rising government efforts to expand "made in Italy" brands in the textile industry, and the rising trend of online shopping are the key factors driving Italy's year-on-year fashion growth industry. According to Euromonitor, Italy accounted for 9% of the total EU apparel retail market in 2021. The growing textile and apparel industry will increase the country's demand for eco fibers.

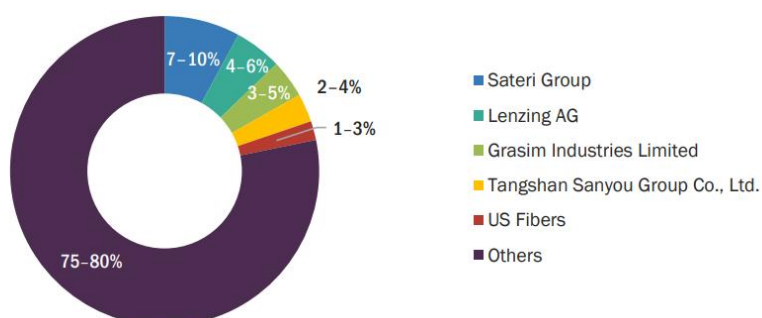
The automotive industry is the main end-use industry of eco fibers in Italy. According to a report by the International Trade and Administration, Italy's automotive industry is a key market. In 2021, the Italian automotive industry produced 7.95 million units of vehicles and sold 1.7 million units of vehicles. The automotive industry accounts for an 11% share of all industrial turnover in Italy and contributes 6.2% to the GDP. Thus, the rising production of vehicles is expected to drive the demand for eco fibers.

The **Rest of Europe** includes Turkey, Spain, and other countries. Governments in these economies focus on developing their industrial sectors. The development of high-end industries is leading to the growth of the market in the Rest of Europe. The market in the Rest of Europe is expected to grow at the highest rate during the forecast period in the textiles & apparel application due to the higher demand after the COVID-19 pandemic and the presence of major manufacturing companies in the region.

1.5 Competitive Landscape

The eco fibers market is niche and competitive, with a large number of global as well as regional and local players. The **key players** in this market are: Lenzing AG (Austria), Grasim Industries Limited (India), Tangshan Group (US), Sateri Group (China) and US Fibers (US) (Figure 6).

Figure 6. Market Share of Key Players, 2021



The only European player mapped in the market is [Lenzing](#) (Austria), a producer and supplier of cellulose fiber, pulp, and polymer products. Its portfolio includes several products, such as wood-based viscose, modal, lyocell, and filament yarns, suitable for textile, industrial, and nonwoven applications. The company markets its products under the brand name TENCEL (lyocell and modal), VEOCEL (lyocell) and LENZING (viscose).

2 Sources

MarketsandMarkets Knowledge Store - Multisectoral database that collects market research reports in various technological fields and designed to process some information interactively. More than 1,200 market reports are published each year (<https://www.mnmks.com/>). The information presented are contained in the report “*Eco Fibers Market – Forecast to 2027*”, published in October 2022.

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