

Pakistan Current Printing & Packaging Industry - Overview

Honorable guests, esteemed colleagues, and fellow industry professionals,

Assalamualaikum and good morning!

Today, I'm truly honored to represent PAPGAI (Pakistan Association of Printing and Graphic Arts Industry)—an industry that has been a cornerstone of Pakistan's economic development and industrial growth for decades.

Founded in 1959 and registered with the Ministry of Commerce, Government of Pakistan, PAPGAI is not just a historic institution but also a founding member of the **Federation of Asia Print. Since its inception, we've championed the advancement of Pakistan's printing and packaging industry, guiding it from humble beginnings to the dynamic, technology-driven sector it is today.

A Journey of Growth

Our industry started with modest roots, primarily focused on textbook printing and basic packaging. But as Pakistan's industrialization gained momentum, so did the demand for innovative packaging solutions—especially from the food, textile, and pharmaceutical sectors. Today, we stand as a thriving industry with immense potential, serving a population of 248 million (the fifth largest in the world).

The printing and graphic arts sector in Pakistan is diverse, comprising large, medium, and small enterprises. While Karachi and Lahore remain the key hubs, our industry produces everything from books, magazines, and newspapers to packaging materials, contributing over \$5.5 billion to the economy.

Technology & Innovation

Offset printing dominates the market, with 70-80% of presses being single-color machines, while advanced four-color or higher machines make up 5-10%.

- The flexible packaging industry supports critical sectors like food & beverage, agriculture, textiles, and chemicals, meeting both domestic and international demand. Our products are exported to Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia, boosting Pakistan's GDP.

Investing in the Future: Human Resource Development

With printing and packaging being the

second-largest employment generator in Pakistan, PAPGAI has partnered with NAVTTC (National Vocational and Technical Training Commission) to develop qualifications from Level 1 to Level 5 (Diploma). We run three institutes in Karachi and one in Lahore, with an impressive 95% employment rate for graduates within our member organizations.

Now, we're taking the next step: launching Bachelor's and Master's programs in Printing Technology. To make this a success, we seek technical support from AsiaPrint member countries and propose a student exchange program to foster cross-border learning and skill development.

Raw Materials & Sustainability

Our industry relies heavily on paper, board, inks, and chemicals. Fortunately, Pakistan has a strong local paper and board manufacturing base, producing 2 million tons annually and film manufacturing capacity is around 1 million tons primarily in Punjab and Karachi.

Under PAPGAI, we also organize PRINT-PAK—Pakistan's premier printing exhibition—held in Lahore and Karachi since 1990. The last event in September 2022* saw major participation from local and International manufacturers, importers, and converters.

The Road Ahead

With per capita paper consumption at 8 kg and flexible packaging at 4.5 kg, there's tremendous growth potential, especially with rising industrial packaging needs and increased education spending.

Our vision To embrace digital printing, eco-friendly packaging, and expanded exports, ensuring sustainability and innovation drive our future.

A Strong Partnership with China

None of this would be possible without our pivotal relationship with China. Their expertise in technology and manufacturing has been invaluable, and collaborations like China Print 2025 will further strengthen our ties. Together, we can innovate, grow, and thrive.

Thank you, and let's continue shaping the future of printing and packaging together



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