S&P Global
Energy

Furfural

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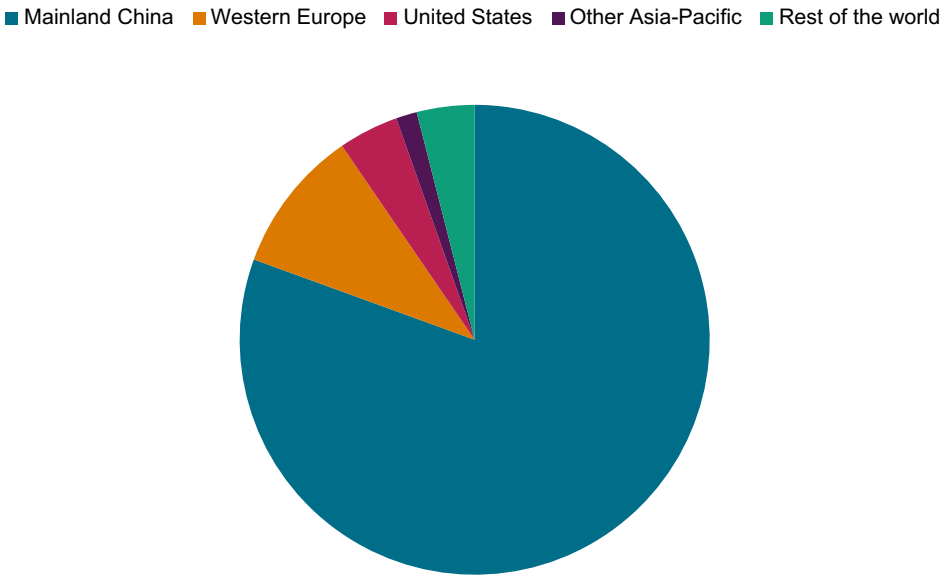
Abstract

Mainland China is the dominant player in the world furfural market. With nearly 90% of global capacity and over 80% of world consumption in 2025, mainland China will continue to drive the overall market. Mainland Chinese consumption of furfural continues to grow as a result of strong demand for furfuryl alcohol for furan resins production and increased furfuryl alcohol exports. World consumption is forecast to experience strong annual growth of about 2% during the next five years.

The furfural industry has grown rapidly in mainland China in the last 25 years, forcing out all production in the United States and most of Europe. In the 1990s, the mainland Chinese industry was composed of many small-scale furfural plants, but since the mid-1990s, the industry has tended toward an increase in the size of its plants and has pursued value-added capacity for making furfuryl alcohol. Mainland China is by far the leading global producer of metal castings, where furfuryl alcohol is used to make furan foundry binder resins. Mainland China is also a leading exporter of furfural and furfuryl alcohol.

The following pie chart shows world consumption of furfural:

World consumption of furfural — 2025



Data compiled Feb. 17, 2026.
Source: S&P Global Energy.
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Outside of mainland China, demand for furfural is relatively small, with little change expected. Other regions that may experience growth, albeit from smaller volumes, include Africa, the Middle East, and Central and Eastern Europe. Only minimal growth is expected in the United States, Central and South America, Japan and Other Asia (excluding mainland China and Japan).

Furfural is produced from agricultural wastes that contain pentosans that are then hydrolyzed to furfural and other byproducts. The most common raw materials for furfural production include corncobs, bagasse from sugarcane processing and byproduct streams from tanning and cellulosic fiber production.

Furfuryl alcohol is the dominant end use for furfural, accounting for approximately 90% of total consumption, followed by solvent applications in lubricating oils and butadiene extraction (4%), with the remainder in other applications such as chemical, pharmaceutical and flavoring intermediates.

For more detailed information, see the table of contents, shown below.

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Furfural* is the comprehensive and trusted guide for anyone seeking information on this industry. This latest report details global and regional information, including

Global summary; regional coverage

Producers with annual capacities and plant sites

Production figures and trends

Consumption and forecasts by end use application

Manufacturing processes and environmental issues

Trade – imports and exports

Key benefits

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Furfural* has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers and organizations, and leading representatives from the industry in combination with S&P Global's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence and expert insights into industry dynamics, trade and economics.

This report can help you

– Identify trends and driving forces influencing chemical markets

– Forecast and plan for future demand

– Understand the impact of competing materials

– Identify and evaluate potential customers and competitors

– Evaluate producers

– Track changing prices and trade movements

– Analyze the impact of feedstocks, regulations and other factors on chemical profitability

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