

Industry Sector Profile

Printing and Packaging Industry

There are approximately one hundred and sixty three (163) “established”¹ firms in the local Printing and Packaging Industry (PPI). This excludes plastic manufacturers who do not produce packaging products.

The one hundred and sixty three (163) firms are broken down as follows:

- 121 firms in the printing industry
- 40 firms in the plastic packaging industry and
- 2 others in glass and cans

Structure of the PPI

The Printing Industry:

The Printing Industry comprises:-

- I. Commercial: printers of bill books, letterheads, call cards, annual reports, flyers, brochures and other stationery items. They also include roto-printers producing books and/or newspapers.
- II. Labels and Packaging materials: Flexo and gravure printers on outer packaging and labels.

The Printing Industry is characterized by cottage type operations with over fifty percent (50%) of the enterprises classified as micro or small. The Government Printery is in the process of updating its list of registered printers. These are the firms allowed duty free concession on raw materials. In comparison, the Plastic packaging Industry has over seventy-seven percent (77%) of the firms in the medium to large categories.

The Packaging Industry

Paper and Board Packaging

Corrugated boxes have the largest market share of the Paper and Board Packaging Industry, there being one major industry player.

¹ defined as: firms listed in the Yellow pages and that are VAT registered.

Folding cartons represent the second largest segment of the paper and board packaging industry and have five (5) major players. The fast food industry is its major consumer and it is expected to continue on its growth path.

Plastic Packaging

The sub-sector represents the largest number of firms in the entire packaging industry. It is expected to grow in volume and value. Flexible packaging is forecasted to out perform the other types of packaging, as form-fill-seal applications become more common among manufacturers and contract packagers.

Metal packaging

There is one player in the local industry. There are options in product solutions in the adult beverage market and the use of new material for peel opening instead of the pull ring.

Glass

There is a single manufacturer of glass in Trinidad and Tobago. The possibility exists for expansion of sales to the alcoholic beverage and food segment market over the next three years.

Performance

Table 1 Selected Indicators for the Printing and Packaging Industry

		1998/1999	2001/2000	2002/2003
Employment		4,370	4,678	4,646
Imports	TT\$ bn	1.070	1.090	1.190
Exports	TT\$ bn	0.251	0.338	0.375
Size of the market	TT\$ bn	1.321	1.428	1.565
Output growth		-	3.50%	1%
Contribution to GDP		2.30%	3%	3.50%

Opportunities

- Access to markets, technology and network with multinationals;
- Technology upgrades lead to improved plant efficiency and better profit margins;
- Plastic recycling opportunities
- Potential Joint Ventures and strategic alliances to increase market opportunities.