

2018 has been a difficult year for many LED manufacturers. Key factors included a market glut (oversupply), and the trade war started with China by US President Donald Trump caused demand to slump. This caused lower-than-expected business performance for LED makers in general. Still, LED package revenue in 2018 reached USD \$18bn.

LEDinside Research Director Roger Chu says revenue rankings for the top ten LED packaging manufacturers did not change by much from 2017: Nichia, Osram and Lumileds continued to be the top three, while Taiwan's Everlight and Lite-On and China's MLS and NationStar stayed on the list. Judging by the revenue scale of each company, only Seoul Semiconductor performed better among the top ten. Other manufacturers generally had flat or declining revenues. The ranked list for 2018 looks like this (via LEDinside, April 2019):

- No 1: Nichia
- No 2: Osram Opto Semiconductor
- No 3: Lumileds
- No 4: Seoul Semiconductor
- No 5: MLS
- No 6: Samsung
- No 7: Everlight
- No 8: Cree
- No 9: Nationstar
- No 10: Lite-On

Analyses show the main reason for falling price pressure was overall oversupply in the industry, which further dragged supplier revenues down. LEDinside observes that China's inland cities have provided all sorts of subsidies to attract investments from LED packaging suppliers, leading to a wave of expansion in production capacity. Many LED packaging suppliers made large price reductions upon expansion, and even fought eagerly for orders from first-tier manufacturers to consume idle capacity. This led to explosive revenue growth for many second-tier LED manufacturers, but revenue stagnation for major first-tier manufacturers. LEDinside predicts overall LED packaging revenue to hit USD \$19.9bn, an 8.2% growth YoY over 2018.