

Cheese Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026 - 2031)

> ****Industry:**** Dairy, Snacks & Confectionery (Food & Beverage)

> ****Source:**** [<https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/cheese-market>]

> ****Scraped Date:**** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
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Base Market Size	USD 171.89 billion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 171.89 billion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	4.97 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

![Major players in Cheese industry](images/chart_2.png)

![Cheese Market Size](images/chart_3.png)

![Cheese Market Share by Type, 2025](images/chart_4.png)

![Cheese Market Share by Format, 2025](images/chart_5.png)

![Cheese Market Growth Rate by Region](images/chart_6.png)

![Cheese Market Concentration](images/chart_7.png)

![footer background image](images/chart_10.png)

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![ESOMAR](images/chart_17.png)

![GPTW](images/chart_19.png)

Comprehensive Research Analysis

Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market OverviewStudy Period | 2021 - 2031 |

Market Size (2026) | USD 171.89 Billion |

Market Size (2031) | USD 219.07 Billion |

Growth Rate (2026 - 2031) | 4.97 % |

Fastest Growing Market | Asia-Pacific |

Largest Market | Europe |

Market Concentration | Low |

Major Players*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Cheese Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence The cheese market size is projected to expand from USD 164.95 billion in 2025 and USD 171.89 billion in 2026 to USD 219.07 billion by 2031, registering a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 4.97% between 2026 to 2031. This growth highlights the steady expansion of the market. Factors such as robust urbanization, increasing disposable incomes, and changing protein preferences, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region, are driving consumption beyond traditional cooking uses to include on-the-go snacking, premium entertaining, and convenience-focused foodservice menus. Innovations in formats, such as sliced, shredded, and baked cheese snacks, have enhanced portion control for restaurants, improved shelf appeal in retail settings, and reduced labor requirements in institutional kitchens. Additionally, sustainability efforts are directing investments toward low-emission feed additives, carbon-neutral processing methods, and fiber-based packaging that minimizes plastic usage while maintaining shelf life. The competitive landscape remains intense, as no single player holds pricing power. Multinational corporations, regional cooperatives, and artisanal producers are focusing on differentiation through provenance, technology, or cost leadership to achieve balanced growth in both volume and value within the global cheese market.

Key Report Takeaways* By type, natural cheese captured 73.03% of the global cheese market share in 2025, whereas processed cheese is forecast to expand at a 5.24% CAGR through 2031.

* By milk source, cow milk dominated with 53.01% contribution to the global cheese market size in 2025, while goat milk cheese is set to advance at a 6.34% CAGR to 2031.

* By format, blocks and wheels accounted for 27.54% of the global cheese market size in 2025, yet sliced cheese leads growth at a 6.34% CAGR through 2031.

* By distribution channel, retail held 63.53% of the global cheese market share in 2025, while foodservice is rising fastest at a 5.61% CAGR to 2031.

* By geography, Europe led revenue with a 27.32% share of the global cheese market in 2025, but Asia-Pacific is expanding at the highest 6.89% CAGR through 2031.

Key Market Trends

Market Trends and Insights Drivers Impact Analysis of Cheese Market* Driver | (~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast | Geographic Relevance | Impact Timeline |
Growth in cheese varieties and specialty types | +1.2% | Global, with premium segments in North America and Europe | Medium term (2-4 years) |
Sustainability concerns influencing demand for eco-friendly cheese products | +0.8% | Europe and North America, spillover to Asia-Pacific | Long term (≥ 4 years) |
Popularity of ready-to-eat and convenience foods | +1.5% | Global, strongest in Asia-Pacific and North America | Short term (≤ 2 years) |
Advancements in cheese ripening and flavor enhancement technology | +0.6% | Europe and North America, technology transfer to emerging markets | Medium term (2-4 years) |
Premiumization trend boosting demand for aged and artisanal cheeses | +1.0% | North America, Europe, and affluent Asia-Pacific urban centers | Medium term (2-4 years) |
Increasing product visibility through new formats | +0.7% | Global, with rapid adoption in foodservice channels | Short term (≤ 2 years) |
Source: Mordor Intelligence |

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The global cheese market is highly fragmented, with multinational corporations, regional cooperatives, and artisanal producers competing across various price and quality segments. Large-scale players, including Groupe Lactalis, The Kraft He

inz Company, and Arla Foods amba, leverage vertical integration and multi-country operations to achieve cost efficiencies. However, these companies face challenges in replicating the authenticity and storytelling that drive the premiumization of smaller, terroir-focused brands.

Competitive strategies vary significantly by segment. In the commodity cheese segment, companies prioritize procurement efficiency and maximizing capacity utilization. Conversely, specialty cheese varieties focus on differentiation through provenance, aging techniques, and sensory attributes, enabling them to command price premiums of 40% to 60%. Emerging opportunities are evident in plant-based cheese alternatives and hybrid products combining dairy and non-dairy ingredients. However, these segments remain in the early stages of development and face challenges related to taste and texture, which hinder their mainstream adoption.

Technological advancements are reshaping the cheese market. Leading companies are adopting precision fermentation to reduce aging times and implementing blockchain-based traceability systems to enhance food safety. For instance, Fonterra Co-operative Group Limited's 2025 pilot project in Thailand demonstrated that end-to-end supply chain visibility could reduce recall costs by 60%. Additionally, disruptors such as direct-to-consumer artisanal brands are bypassing traditional distribution channels to capture margins through e-commerce. Regional cooperatives in emerging markets are scaling production to compete with multinational players on price. Innovation in cheese-ripening technology is accelerating, as evidenced by an 18% year-over-year increase in patent filings in 2025, with European and North American applicants leading the way. Regulatory compliance is also becoming a critical differentiator. Producers implementing robust traceability systems and obtaining certifications such as ISO 22000 are gaining preferential access to export markets and institutional buyers.

Cheese Industry Leaders* Groupe Lactalis SA

- * FrieslandCampina NV

- * Arla Foods amba

- * Fonterra Co-operative Group Ltd

- * Saputo Inc.

- * *Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Scope Methodology P Space

For this study, the cheese market covers revenue earned from the sale of dairy-based cheese (natural and processed) across retail, food service, and industrial channels, with values captured at ex-factory prices in USD.

Scope exclusions: This sizing does not count plant-based cheese analogs, whey powders, or standalone cheese-ingredient blends.

Segmentation Container

- * By Type* Natural Cheese* Mozzarella

- * Feta

- * Ricotta

- * Cottage

- * Cream

- * Parmesan

- * Others

- * Processed Cheese

- * By Milk Source* Cow
- * Goat
- * Buffalo
- * Others

- * By Format* Blocks/Wheels
- * Slices
- * Shredded and Grated
- * Spreads
- * Cubes and Sticks
- * Others

- * By Distribution Channel* Foodservice (HoReCa)
- * Retail* Supermarkets and Hypermarkets
- * Convenience Stores
- * Specialist Retailers
- * Online Retail
- * Others

- * By Geography* North America* United States
- * Canada
- * Mexico
- * Rest of North America

- * Europe* Germany
- * United Kingdom
- * Italy
- * France
- * Spain
- * Netherlands
- * Poland
- * Belgium
- * Sweden
- * Rest of Europe

- * Asia-Pacific* China
- * India
- * Japan
- * Australia
- * Indonesia
- * South Korea
- * Thailand
- * Singapore
- * Rest of Asia-Pacific

- * South America* Brazil
- * Argentina
- * Colombia
- * Chile
- * Peru
- * Rest of South America

- * Middle East and Africa* South Africa
- * Saudi Arabia
- * United Arab Emirates
- * Nigeria
- * Egypt
- * Morocco
- * Turkey
- * Rest of Middle East and Africa

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the current value of the global cheese market?

The global cheese market size stands at USD 171.89 billion in 2026.

How fast will the market grow through 2031?

The global cheese market is forecast to expand at a 4.97% CAGR, reaching USD 219.07 billion by 2031.

Which cheese type holds the largest share?

Natural cheese leads with 73.03% of global cheese market share as of 2025.

Which region is growing the fastest?

Asia-Pacific is projected to post a 6.89% CAGR through 2031, the highest regional growth rate.

What channel is expanding more quickly—retail or foodservice?

What channel is expanding more quickly - retail or foodservice?