Molded Pulp Packaging Market Size & Share Analysis - Growth Trends and Forecast (2026 - 2031)

> **Industry:** Sustainable & Biodegradable Packaging (Packaging)
> **Source:** https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/molded-pulp-packaging-market
> **Scraped Date:** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
Base Market Size	USD 5.71 billion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 5.71 billion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	4.31 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

```markdown
![Major players in Molded Pulp Packaging industry](images/chart_2.png)

![Molded Pulp Packaging Market Summary](images/chart_3.png)

![Molded Pulp Packaging Market: Market Share by Fiber Type](images/chart_4.png)

![Molded Pulp Packaging Market: Market Share by Molded Type](images/chart_5.png)

![Molded Pulp Packaging Market CAGR (%), Growth Rate by Region](images/chart_6.png)

![Molded Pulp Packaging Market](images/chart_7.png)

![Icon](images/chart_8.png)

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

![Mordor Intelligence on Facebook](images/chart_12.svg)

![Mordor Intelligence on Pinterest](images/chart_14.svg)

![Mordor Intelligence on Instagram](images/chart_15.svg)

![ESOMAR](images/chart_17.png)

![GPTW](images/chart_19.png)
```

Comprehensive Research Analysis

Overview Points List Flex 49 Share Feature End

Market OverviewStudy Period | 2020 - 2031 |
Market Size (2026) | USD 5.71 Billion |
Market Size (2031) | USD 7.05 Billion |
Growth Rate (2026 - 2031) | 4.31 % |
Fastest Growing Market | Middle East |
Largest Market | North America |
Market Concentration | Medium |
Major Players*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

Image © Mordor Intelligence. Reuse requires attribution under CC BY 4.0.

|

Market Overview

Molded Pulp Packaging Market Analysis by Mordor IntelligenceThe molded pulp packaging market size stands at USD 5.71 billion in 2026 and is projected to reach USD 7.05 billion by 2031, advancing at a 4.31% CAGR. The growth trajectory is propelled by regulatory bans on single-use plastics in more than 100 countries, retailer scorecards that now rank recyclability ahead of unit cost, and rapid e-commerce expansion that favors curbside-recyclable protective fillers. Multinational brands are aligning with the European Union’s 2030 recyclability mandate and California’s SB 54 timeline, prompting suppliers to phase out polystyrene in favor of fiber-based alternatives[1]Source: European Commission, “Packaging and Packaging Waste,” ec.europa.eu. Technology leaps, including dry-molded-fiber processes that cut cycle time from minutes to seconds, are compressing the historical cost gap with injection-molded plastics. While recycled fiber anchors price competitiveness, blended formulations that pair recycled economics with virgin-fiber performance are accelerating, and geographic hot spots such as the Middle East are drawing fresh capital as local circular-economy targets gain momentum.

Key Report Takeaways* Recycled fiber led with 70.3% molded pulp packaging market share in 2025, while blended fiber is forecast to expand at an 8.5% CAGR through 2031.
* Trays commanded 41.2% of 2025 revenue, whereas bowls and cups are projected to grow at 9.1% CAGR to 2031.
* Transfer molded technology captured 36.7% of 2025 volume, yet thermoformed molded pulp is on track for 7.24% CAGR through 2031.
* Food packaging accounted for 52.4% of demand in 2025, and healthcare and medical devices are poised to register an 8.6% CAGR.
* North America contributed 46.56% of global sales in 2025, but the Middle East is expected to record an 8.4% CAGR to 2031.

Key Market Trends

Market Trends and InsightsDrivers Impact Analysis of Molded Pulp Packaging Market*

Driver	(~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast	Geographic Relevance	Impact Timeline
Regulatory bans on single-use plastics	+1.8%	Global, strongest in EU, North America, select Asia-Pacific	Medium term (2-4 years)
Corporate net-zero and plastic-neutral goals	+1.2%	Global, concentrated in North America and Europe	Medium term (2-4 years)
Cost advantage versus EPS and thermoformed	+0.7%	Global, especially South America and Asia-Pacific	Short term (≤ 2 years)
E-commerce demand for curbside-recyclable fillers	+0.9%	North America, Europe, Asia-Pacific e-commerce hubs	Short term (≤ 2 years)
Line-speed gains from dry-formed technology	+0.6%	North America and Europe first, spill-over to Asia-Pacific	Long term (≥ 4 years)
PFAS-free legislation in foodservice	+1.0%	North America and Europe, emerging in Asia-Pacific	Medium term (2-4 years)

Source: Mordor Intelligence |

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The molded pulp packaging market retains moderate fragmentation; the top five suppliers hold roughly 35-40% of capacity, leaving space for regional specialists and technology entrants. Vertical integration dominates strategic agendas, evidenced by paper-trading acquisitions that shelter converters from recycled-fiber price swings. Capital outlays in North America and Europe are automating high-spe ed lines and consolidating regional egg-carton capacity, while cross-border deals in Asia-Pacific expand manufacturing footprints.

Technology licensing accelerates time-to-market for disruptive processes. Dry-molded-fiber lines installed in the United States, Sweden, and Malaysia slash cycle times, achieving near parity with thermoforming and opening premium categories such as cosmetics caps and coffee lids. Healthcare-grade trays remain a white-space opportunity; converters that pair virgin fiber with PFAS-free coatings and ISO-certified sterile-barrier performance can command premium margins.

Consolidation in broader packaging signals that scale is becoming a prerequisite. Multibillion-dollar mergers in containerboard and plastic packaging tighten feedstock control and broaden product portfolios, positioning conglomerates to bundle molded pulp with folding cartons or flexible films in integrated bids. Niche innovators continue to address color separation, energy-efficient hot-pressing, and digital printing, ensuring that the competitive landscape evolves on both volume and technology fronts.

Molded Pulp Packaging Industry Leaders* Brødrene Hartmann A/S

* Huhtamaki Oyj

* UFP Technologies, Inc.

* Sabert Corporation

* Sonoco Products Company

* *Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order
Image © Mordor Intelligence. Reuse requires attribution under CC BY 4.0.

Scope Methodology P Space

This market covers molded pulp packaging products made from fiber pulp that are formed into rigid or semi-rigid protective and food contact shapes, and sold as finished packaging items across major end uses.

Scope exclusions: Excluded from this sizing are loose fill cellulose, plain bagasse dinnerware, and un-molded fiber pads that are not formed into molded packaging.

Segmentation Container

* By Fiber Type* Recycled Fiber
* Virgin Fiber
* Blended Fiber

* By Product Type* Trays
* Bowls and Cups
* Clamshells
* Plates
* Containers and Lids
* Other Product Types

* By Molded Type* Thick Wall
* Transfer Molded
* Thermoformed
* Processed / Slim Wall

* By End-User Industry* Food Packaging
* Foodservice
* Consumer Electronics

* Healthcare and Medical Devices
* Industrial Goods
* Personal Care and Cosmetics
* Other End-User Industries

* By Geography* North America* United States
* Canada
* Mexico

* Europe* Germany
* United Kingdom
* France
* Italy
* Spain
* Russia
* Rest of Europe

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

* Middle East* Saudi Arabia
* United Arab Emirates
* Turkey
* Rest of Middle East

* Africa* South Africa
* Nigeria
* Rest of Africa

* South America* Brazil
* Argentina
* Rest of South America

Frequently Asked Questions

How large is the molded pulp packaging market in 2026?

The molded pulp packaging market size is USD 5.71 billion and is forecast to reach USD 7.05 billion by 2031.

Which end-user sector is growing fastest for molded pulp?

Healthcare and medical devices lead with an anticipated 8.6% CAGR thanks to sterile-barrier requirements and PFAS bans.

What technology is disrupting molded-pulp production cycles?

Dry-molded-fiber lines cut forming times from minutes to seconds, narrowing the cost gap with injection-molded plastics.

Which geography is projected to expand most rapidly?

The Middle East is forecast to register an 8.4% CAGR to 2031, propelled by Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 and UAE circular-economy policies.