

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

> ****Industry:**** Flexible & Barrier Packaging (Packaging)
> ****Source:**** https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/retort-packaging-market(https://www.mordorintelligence.com/industry-reports/retort-packaging-market)
> ****Scraped Date:**** 2026-09-17

Executive Market Summary

Market Metric	Details
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Base Market Size	USD 6.13 billion
Projected Forecast (2031)	USD 6.13 billion
Growth Rate (CAGR)	5.82 %
Largest Market Region	N/A
Fastest-Growing Region	N/A

Market Visualizations & Infographics

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

![Retort Packaging Market (2026 - 2031)](images/chart_3.png)

![Retort Packaging Market: Market Share by Product Type](images/chart_4.png)

![Retort Packaging Market: Market Share by Packaging Format](images/chart_5.png)

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

![Retort Packaging Market Concentration](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 Overview

Study Period
|
2020 - 2031
|

Market Size (2026)
|
USD 6.13 Billion
|

Market Size (2031)
|
USD 8.14 Billion
|

Growth Rate (2026 - 2031)
|
5.82 %
|

Fastest Growing Market
|
Middle East and Africa
|

Largest Market
|

Asia Pacific
|

Market Concentration
|

Low
|

Major Players

*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Market Overview

Retort Packaging Market Analysis by Mordor Intelligence

The retort packaging market size is expected to grow from USD 5.85 billion in 2025 to USD 6.13 billion in 2026 and is forecast to reach USD 8.14 billion by 2031 at a 5.82% CAGR over 2026-2031. Urban migration in Asia-Pacific, regulatory pressure for recycle-ready mono-material laminates in Europe and North America, and premiumization trends in pet food are reshaping adoption patterns. Quick-service restaurants and last-mile e-commerce networks favor lightweight formats that reduce freight costs, while food processors in the Middle East and Africa are installing AI-enabled autoclaves that shorten cycle times and support halal-certified batch production. Backward integration by major converters is strengthening raw-material security, and patent activity in laser-scored easy-peel lids signals ongoing functional upgrades that enhance consumer convenience.

Key Report Takeaways

- * By product type, pouches led with 54.32% of the Retort packaging market share in 2025, while trays are forecast to post the fastest 6.12% CAGR to 2031.
- * By material, plastic held 58.82% of 2025 revenue, whereas paperboard is advancing at a 6.65% CAGR through 2031.
- * By packaging format, flexible solutions commanded 68.43% of the Retort packaging market share in 2025, and rigid containers are expanding at a 6.48% CAGR driven by pharmaceutical demand.
- * By end-user, food accounted for 56.31% of 2025 sales and is projected to grow at a 6.56% CAGR to 2031.
- * By geography, Asia-Pacific generated 40.23% of 2025 revenue, while the Middle East and Africa is the fastest-growing region with a 7.21% CAGR to 2031.

Key Market Trends

Global Retort Packaging Market Trends and Insights

Drivers Impact Analysis*

Driver 1

(~) % Impact on CAGR Forecast |

Geographic Relevance I

Impact Timeline I

Growing Demand for Lightweight and Compact Packaging

1

+1.2%

Global, with concentration in North America and Asia-Pacific e-commerce corridors

Medium term (2-4 years)

Rapid Adoption of Shelf-Stable Ready-to-Eat Meals

|

+1.5%

Asia-Pacific core, spillover to Middle East and Africa

Short term (≤ 2 years)

Surge in E-Commerce Driving Lightweight Parcel Formats

|

+1.0%

|

Global, led by North America and Europe urban centers

|

Short term (≤ 2 years)

|

Regulatory Push for Recycle-Ready Mono-Material Laminates

|

+0.9%

|

Europe and North America, early adoption in Australia

Long term (≥ 4 years)

Growth of Pet Food in Retort-Compatible Formats

|

+0.8%

North America and Europe premium segments, expanding to Asia-Pacific

Medium term (2-4 years)

AI-Enabled Retort Process Optimization Reducing Downtime

|

+0.4%
|

North America and Europe manufacturing hubs, pilot deployments in China
|

Long term (≥ 4 years)
|

Source: Mordor Intelligence
|

Competitive Landscape

Competitive Landscape

The retort packaging industry is fragmented, with players including Amcor, Sealed Air, Mondi, Sonoco, Constantia Flexibles, and Others. Competitive intensity is rising as Tier-1 players integrate backward into barrier-film extrusion to secure a supply of high-barrier nylon and aluminum foil, a vertical-integration strategy that Amcor pursued with its 2025 acquisition of a European film-coating line for USD 87 million. Patent activity is concentrating on laser-scored easy-peel retort lids and mono-material laminate structures, with Sealed Air filing 14 patents in 2025 related to polypropylene-based barrier coatings that enable recyclable retort pouches to survive 121°C sterilization cycles. White-space opportunities exist in pharmaceutical retort packaging, where stringent validation requirements and low volumes deter generalist converters, and in emerging markets where mid-sized food processors lack access to turnkey retort lines priced below USD 500,000.

Emerging disruptors include Southeast Asian machinery OEMs offering rotary retort autoclaves at 30% discounts to Western equipment, enabling regional food processors in Vietnam and Indonesia to enter the retort packaging market without prohibitive capital outlays. Technology is differentiating competitors, with AI-enabled process-control systems that adjust retort temperature and pressure in real time based on pouch-thickness variation, reducing over-processing and preserving sensory quality.

Mondi's 2025 sustainability report highlighted its closed-loop water system for retort-line cleaning, which cut water consumption by 40% and positioned the company favorably with food brands facing Scope 3 emissions-reduction targets. Compliance with ISO 15378 for pharmaceutical packaging and BRC Global Standard for Packaging Materials is becoming table stakes, and converters lacking these certifications are losing bids to qualified competitors even when pricing is competitive.

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Tetra Pak Group

*

Huhtamäki Oyj

*

Proampac LLC

*

Amcor plc

*

Constantia Flexibles Group GmbH

*

*Disclaimer: Major Players sorted in no particular order

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Scope Methodology P Space

For this methodology, the retort packaging market covers packaging formats and materials that can safely withstand retort heat and pressure for shelf-stable products, and it is sized in value terms across flexible and rigid packs used by end users.

Scope exclusions: It excludes non-retort packaging used only for chilled or frozen distribution, and it also excludes retort processing equipment and services.

Segmentation Container

*

By Product Type

*

Pouches

*

Cartons

*

Trays

*

Other Product Types

*

By Material

*
Plastic

*
Polypropylene

*
Polyethylene

*
Other Plastics

*
Aluminum Foil

*
Paperboard

*
By Packaging Format

*
Flexible

*
Rigid

*
By End-User Industry

*
Food

*
Beverage

*
Pet Food

*
Pharmaceutical

*
Other End-User Industries

*
By Geography

*
North America

*
United States

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Canada

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Mexico

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South America

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Brazil

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Argentina

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Rest of South America

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Europe

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United Kingdom

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Germany

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France

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Italy

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Spain

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Rest of Europe

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Asia-Pacific

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China

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Japan

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India

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South Korea

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Australia

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Rest of Asia-Pacific

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Middle East and Africa

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Middle East

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Saudi Arabia

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United Arab Emirates

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Turkey

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Rest of Middle East

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Africa

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South Africa

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Egypt

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Rest of Africa

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the projected value of the retort packaging market in 2031?

The market is expected to reach USD 8.14 billion by 2031, rising from USD 6.13 billion in 2026 at a 5.82% CAGR.

Which product format shows the fastest growth?

Retort trays lead with a 6.12% CAGR through 2031 as quick-service restaurants an

d meal-kit firms favor single-serve, microwave-safe formats.

Why is paperboard gaining momentum for retort applications?

Paperboard retort trays, expanding at a 6.65% CAGR, help brands meet Extended Producer Responsibility goals by offering fiber-based, recyclable solutions.

Which region is the fastest growing for retort packaging?

The Middle East and Africa market is expanding at a 7.21% CAGR, buoyed by Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030 food-security drive and UAE logistics hubs.

What capital barrier limits new entrants?

A full retort line can cost USD 1.3 million - 1.9 million, and emerging-market lending rates near 10%–14% extend payback periods beyond 5 years.

How are recyclability challenges being addressed?

Converters are commercializing mono-material polypropylene pouches that survive 121 °C sterilization and are certified as mechanically recyclable.