

Korea's Paper Cup Market Poised for Robust Growth, Projected to Double by 2035

Korea's paper cup market is set to reach \$744.7M by 2035, driven by sustainability and growing on-the-go beverage demand.

NEW YORK, DE, UNITED STATES, October 15, 2025 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The [paper cup market in Korea](#) is entering a transformative phase, with estimated demand projected at USD 387.7 million in 2025 and expected to reach USD 744.7 million by 2035. This represents a robust compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 6.7%, signaling significant opportunities for manufacturers seeking to capitalize on evolving consumer behaviors and sustainability trends.

Urbanization, the rise of café culture, and increasing adoption of takeout and food delivery services are driving consistent demand for disposable beverage containers. With consumers prioritizing convenience and hygiene, paper cups have emerged as a practical, eco-friendly solution that aligns with both lifestyle and environmental expectations.



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Industry insights highlight growth strategies and sustainability opportunities for manufacturers in Korea's paper cup market.”

Ismail Sutaria

Segment Leadership: 8 Oz Cups and Paperboard Material

The 8 Oz paper cup segment dominates the Korean market, accounting for 36.5% of the capacity/wall type category. Its popularity stems from its suitability for standard beverage servings, efficient material use, and cost-effective production processes. Manufacturers benefit from standardized designs that streamline operations while meeting consumer needs for durability, thermal

insulation, and functional design.

In terms of materials, paperboard is the leading choice, representing 41.2% of the market. Its versatility, structural integrity, and compatibility with printing and branding make it the preferred material for manufacturers and commercial establishments alike. High-quality paperboard supports hot and cold beverages, enabling brands to maintain both performance and aesthetic standards while complying with sustainability and hygiene regulations.

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Coatings Segment Driving Performance

Polyethylene (PE) coatings account for 47.3% of the market, offering water resistance and durability critical to maintaining cup integrity. These coatings support efficient production and consistent quality, providing confidence for both manufacturers and end-users. Ongoing research into environmentally friendly alternatives ensures that PE-coated cups remain a core solution while aligning with growing regulatory and sustainability requirements.

Sustainability and Innovation Fuel Market Growth

Eco-conscious consumption is reshaping the paper cup market in Korea. Biodegradable and recyclable options are gaining traction, driven by rising environmental awareness and government regulations aimed at reducing single-use plastics. Businesses increasingly adopt sustainable practices, creating opportunities for manufacturers to innovate in materials, coatings, and production processes.

Advances in manufacturing technology have also enabled higher-quality products at lower costs. Paperboard sourcing, recycled fibers, and optimized coating methods provide manufacturers with avenues to differentiate products while meeting both commercial and regulatory standards.

On-the-Go Culture Boosts Demand

Korea's fast-paced lifestyle has led to unprecedented demand for convenient beverage solutions. Coffee consumption per capita ranks among the highest globally, and the growth of café chains and convenience stores reinforces the need for disposable cups. Paper cups are now the preferred choice for on-the-go consumption, offering practicality without compromising on product quality.

Traditional customs also play a role, particularly the prevalence of hot beverages like tea and coffee. As cafés and fast-food outlets expand across urban regions, the standardized 8 Oz and paperboard segments continue to dominate. Manufacturers positioned to meet these evolving

demands are set to achieve sustained revenue growth.

Regional Insights: South Gyeongsang Leads Production

South Gyeongsang province serves as a significant manufacturing hub for paper cups, supporting both domestic consumption and exports. Local companies, ranging from small enterprises to large-scale manufacturers, are investing in technology, production efficiency, and sustainable practices to maintain competitive advantage.

Other key regions, including North Jeolla, South Jeolla, and Jeju, contribute to market growth, reflecting the industry's widespread geographic footprint. Manufacturers operating in these regions benefit from robust supply chains, local expertise, and access to expanding markets.

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Competitive Landscape and Strategic Opportunities

The Korean paper cup industry features both established players and emerging brands, creating a dynamic competitive environment. Leading manufacturers such as Dong Hwa Industry Co., Ltd., Kumho Paper Cup Co., Ltd., DongBang Co., Ltd., Daesung Paper Cup Co., Ltd., Woosung Paper Co., Ltd., Hwaseung Industries Co., Ltd., and Hwasung Paper Co., Ltd., leverage technology, quality, and strategic partnerships to maintain market leadership.

Emerging companies entering the market are finding opportunities in sustainability, design innovation, and strategic alliances. By focusing on efficiency, eco-friendly materials, and evolving consumer trends, manufacturers can gain significant exposure and strengthen market positioning.

Future Outlook for Manufacturers

The paper cup market in Korea is poised for long-term growth, with opportunities across segments, materials, and coatings. Increasing consumer preference for eco-friendly solutions, coupled with technological advancements in manufacturing and product innovation, ensures a favorable environment for manufacturers.

Strategic investments in production efficiency, sustainability, and distribution will be key to capturing market share. Companies able to align their operations with on-the-go consumption trends, regulatory compliance, and environmental responsibility are positioned to thrive. With a projected market value of USD 744.7 million by 2035, Korea's paper cup industry offers a compelling growth trajectory for manufacturers seeking to expand and innovate.

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