Polyester Tire Cord Fabrics - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2026 - 2031)

Market Report | 2026-01-16 | 120 pages | Mordor Intelligence

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Report description:

Polyester Tire Cord Fabrics Market Analysis

Polyester Tire Cord Fabrics Market size in 2026 is estimated at 754.7 kilotons, growing from 2025 value of 732.37 kilotons with 2031 projections showing 877.26 kilotons, growing at 3.05% CAGR over 2026-2031. Rising radial-tire penetration across Asia-Pacific, the accelerating shift to high-modulus low-shrinkage (HMLS) yarns, and expanding electric-vehicle (EV) output underpin this steady headline growth. Hyosung's and Kolon's near-full plant utilization, along with chronic PTA/MEG price swings, and the tightening of EU and U.S. formaldehyde rules are reshaping cost structures and competitive strategies. Supply is tilting toward integrated producers with recycled-PET capability, while smaller converters focus on formaldehyde-free bonding to secure regulatory clearance. Regional demand hot spots include India's surging truck radial conversion and Vietnam's export-oriented passenger-tire cluster, each lifting HMLS polyester volumes despite bias-tire contraction elsewhere.

Global Polyester Tire Cord Fabrics Market Trends and Insights

Surging Radial-Tire Penetration in Asia-Pacific

In 2024, passenger cars in the Asia-Pacific region widely adopted radial tires, marking a significant increase from previous years. This shift was largely driven by Chinese and Indian OEMs adapting to fuel-economy regulations that penalized bias designs in rolling-resistance tests. Radial tires, requiring more polyester cord than their bias counterparts to manage heightened inflation pressures, have consequently boosted demand for High Modulus Low Shrinkage (HMLS) polyester, even as bias tire volumes

decline. In the Middle East, greenfield tire projects have committed exclusively to radial lines, ensuring a long-term increase in polyester consumption. While commercial vehicle fleets in ASEAN nations have been slow to adopt, surging diesel prices are making a compelling case for the total cost of ownership in favor of radial tires. This trend positions the polyester tire cord fabrics market to steadily benefit from late adopters in developing regions.

Rapid OEM Shift to HMLS Yarns and PCI Elimination

Tire manufacturers are shifting from standard-tenacity polyester to HMLS grades. These new grades allow for carcass-ply cuts that reduce weight. The lower thermal shrinkage of HMLS yarns also supports production lines that skip post-cure inflation (PCI), cutting plant energy use and shortening cycle times. Bridgestone and Michelin have piloted PCI-free lines, but widespread rollout hinges on scaling modified RFL chemistries that control scrap rates. Combined, higher-tenacity yarns and PCI elimination improve cost per tire and sustainability metrics, reinforcing OEM preference for HMLS polyester.

Volatile PTA/MEG Feedstock Prices

Brent crude prices heavily influence PTA and MEG, which together account for nearly 70% of polyester costs, causing converter margins to fluctuate within months. In 2024, Asian PTA spot prices experienced significant changes, disrupting budgets for non-integrated converters. While integrated players like Hyosung mitigate this volatility using captive monomers, smaller firms find themselves renegotiating quarterly with OEMs, leading to stalled expansion plans and reduced research and development spending.

Other drivers and restraints analyzed in the detailed report include:

Accelerating EV Production Demanding Low-Rolling-Resistance CarcassesOEM Sustainability Mandates for Recycled/Bio-Based PET CordsFormaldehyde Restrictions and Performance Limits in Premium Tires

For complete list of drivers and restraints, kindly check the Table Of Contents.

Segment Analysis

Radial designs represented 57.31% of 2025 demand and are expected to grow at 4.05% to 2031, outpacing the growth of bias output, thereby increasing the size of the polyester tire cord fabrics market for this segment. Radials run 15-20 C cooler at cruising speed, enabling EV platforms to manage battery-induced heat loads without adding extra weight to the carcass. Bias tires continue to dominate in agricultural and off-road niches, yet their lower upfront price fails to offset the higher fuel consumption on the road. In China, passenger cars have seen radial adoption surpassing a significant level. Meanwhile, by 2024, commercial vehicles reached a notable penetration rate. Each of these transitions has led to an increase in cord usage per tire, attributed to heightened inflation pressure. This shift stands as the most significant volume driver for the growth of the polyester tire cord fabrics market.

Bias volumes are contracting in mature economies but growing in sub-Saharan Africa, where repairability is prioritized over total cost. Even so, the global bias share continues to shrink as Middle East greenfield plants specify radial-only lines. Hankook's iON tire combines chemically recycled HMLS yarn with steel belts to strike a balance between sustainability and strength, demonstrating how hybrid constructions can reduce the radial premium in long-haul applications. Such innovations sustain radial growth while preventing the displacement of polyester by aramid in mainstream speed ratings.

The Polyester Tire Cord Fabrics Market Report is Segmented by Tire Type (Radial Tire and Bias Tire), Application (Passenger Cars, Commercial Vehicles, and Other Applications), and Geography (Asia-Pacific, North America, Europe, South America, and

Middle-East and Africa). The Market Forecasts are Provided in Terms of Volume (Tons).

Geography Analysis

Asia-Pacific contributed 49.07% of global volume in 2025 and is expanding at 3.95% to 2031. This growth is largely driven by China's passenger-tire plants operating at high capacity and India emerging as a major car market. Kolon's recent investment in Vietnam aims to boost the plant's capacity, aligning with the demands of industry giants like Kumho, Sailun, and Bridgestone. Vietnam's passenger tire exports and its annual consumption of polyester cord underscore the market's significance for polyester tire cord fabrics.

North America and Europe together represent a notable share of the global volume but are experiencing slower growth. This stagnation is attributed to plateauing vehicle miles and extended tread life. In response to the EU's formaldehyde caps, there's a noticeable shift towards formaldehyde-free adhesives, with Cokoon leading the charge. Reflecting a trend of supply-chain regionalization, Kumho is eyeing a greenfield site in Europe to align with USMCA's rules of origin. Meanwhile, Continental's ambition for sustainable polyester is pushing local converters to authenticate their recycled content, complicating the landscape but simultaneously raising entry barriers in the polyester tire cord fabrics market.

South America, the Middle East, and Africa collectively hold a significant market share, with steady growth. Pirelli has established a facility in Saudi Arabia, while Morocco's Sentury factory is set to contribute additional tire production. This surge in production is expected to meet the demand for HMLS cord. In 2024, Turkey's Kordsa unveiled a polyester yarn line, strategically catering to nearby OEMs. Although Brazil's tire production is on the mend, the country struggles with insufficient domestic cord capacity, resulting in a reliance on imports from Taiwan's Formosa Taffeta. Such inter-regional dynamics highlight how localized shortages can amplify the polyester tire cord fabrics market, even in regions with modest tire production.

List of Companies Covered in this Report:

Bekaert Century Enka Limited CORDENKA GmbH & Co. KG Far Eastern New Century Corporation Firestone Fibers & Textiles FORMOSA TAFFETA CO., LTD. HYOSUNG Indorama Ventures Public Company Limited Jiangsu Taiji Industry New Materials Co., Ltd. Junma Group Kolon Industries Inc. KORDARNA Plus a.s. Kordsa Teknik Tekstil A.S. Madura Industrial Textiles Ltd. Shandong Helon Polytex Chemical Fibre SRF Limited TEIJIN FRONTIER(U.S.A.),INC. TORAY INDUSTRIES,INC. Zhejiang Hailide New Material Co., Ltd.

Additional Benefits:

The market estimate (ME) sheet in Excel format
3 months of analyst support

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