

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Disposables (Single-Use) Packaging - Market Share Analysis, Industry Trends & Statistics, Growth Forecasts (2026 - 2031)

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Report description:

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Disposables (Single-Use) Packaging Market Analysis

The United Arab Emirates disposables packaging market is expected to grow from USD 1.47 billion in 2025 to USD 1.52 billion in 2026 and is forecast to reach USD 1.79 billion by 2031 at 3.36% CAGR over 2026-2031. This outlook reflects a pivot from high-volume, low-value products toward value-optimized formats that comply with the federal single-use restrictions taking effect in January 2026. Tourism recovery, the e-commerce boom, and quick-service restaurant (QSR) proliferation support baseline demand, while the upcoming world-scale polylactic-acid (PLA) complex encourages a shift to biobased materials. Direct food-service distributors still dominate volumes, yet online webstores win share as small operators favor digital procurement. Competitive intensity rises as ADNOC's acquisition of Nova Chemicals reconfigures polyolefin feedstock availability, testing smaller converters that lack supply leverage.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) Disposables (Single-Use) Packaging Market Trends and Insights

Growth of Online Food-Delivery Platforms

Talabat's IPO raised USD 2 billion in 2024, based on a gross merchandise value of USD 8.7 billion, underscoring how aggregator economics multiply order frequencies and drive demand for lightweight, stackable containers that boost courier load factors. Hotels are increasingly outsourcing in-room dining to these platforms, linking travel recovery expected to reach 29.2 million visitors in 2024, to incremental packaging volumes. Merchant contracts now stipulate sustainable formats, allowing aggregators

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to accelerate material transitions across thousands of restaurants simultaneously.

Expansion of Quick-Service and Coffee Chains

More than 13,000 restaurants operated in Dubai in 2024, reflecting a 4.9% hospitality-sector uptick that standardizes packaging SKUs across franchised outlets. Coffee chains adopt premium cup systems with advanced closures to preserve beverage temperature during delivery, while QSR operators prefer containers that stack efficiently in warming cabinets, reinforcing bulk demand for rigid paperboard and molded-fiber trays.

Escalating Raw-Material Price Volatility

Wait times at Jebel Ali Port increased from 54 to 65 hours in 2024, exposing converters to freight delays that inflate resin and pulp costs. Currency swings against supplier currencies further undermine margin stability for small converters that lack hedging tools.

Other drivers and restraints analyzed in the detailed report include:

Tourism Rebound and Mega-Events (Dubai Expo Legacy, COP-28) Government Ban Timeline for Selected Single-Use Plastics Limited Industrial Composting and Recycling Infrastructure

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

Segment Analysis

Cups captured 25.45% of the United Arab Emirates' disposable packaging market share in 2025, riding the surge in coffee culture. In contrast, plates and bowls are forecast to grow at a 3.78% CAGR, driven by delivery-driven menu diversification. The cups segment benefits from specialized barrier coatings that resist delamination during hot filling, while plates adopt molded-fiber substrates that are attractive to regulators. Emirates Airlines' expansion of its vegan meal service to 450,000 servings in 2024 demonstrates how innovative cuisine formats drive demand for tamper-evident lids and compartmentalized trays.

Boxes and cartons, integral to temperature-controlled e-commerce meal kits, see steady orders, and lids exhibit R and D focus as operators request leak-proof profiles. Clamshells are being replaced by hinged fiber designs to meet plastic-ban compliance. Bags transition to kraft or reusable textiles after the 2024 plastic bag ban, while condiment cups sustain incremental growth tied to the portion control of ghost kitchens.

QSR brands held 39.10% of the United Arab Emirates' disposables packaging market size in 2025 through standardized SKUs and rapid turnover; however, coffee and snack outlets are slated for a 3.96% CAGR amid rising per-capita visits, approaching three dining occasions per week. Coffee concepts demand dual-wall hot cups and secure lids that prevent spills in ride-hailing vehicles, prompting suppliers to refine closure geometries.

Full-service restaurants now integrate takeaway into workflows, seeking dual-purpose designs that transition from table to delivery without leakage. Retailers expand their grab-and-go ranges, boosting demand for windowed cartons, while institutional catering favors bulk formats that can be reheated. Hospitality and events remain cyclical but represent premium margins where eco-labels influence procurement.

The United Arab Emirates Disposables (Single-Use) Packaging Market is Segmented by Product Type (Containers, Trays, Plates, Boxes, Cups, Lids, Clamshells, Bags, Others), End-User (QSR, Full-Service, Coffee Outlets, Retail, Institutional, Hospitality), Material (Paper, Plastics, Bioplastics, Foil, Bagasse), Distribution (Direct, Wholesale, E-Commerce, Gpos) and Country. The Market Forecasts

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are Provided in Terms of Value (USD).

List of Companies Covered in this Report:

Al Bayader International LLC Hotpack Packaging LLC Falcon Pack Industries LLC Huhtamaki Flexibles UAE (Huhtamaki Oyj) Detpak (Detmold Group) Pty Ltd Jebel Pack LLC Gulf East Paper and Plastic Inds LLC Precision Plastic Products Co LLC Panache International FZ LLC A1 Plastic Industry LLC Prestige Packing Industry LLC Cristal Plastic Industrial LLC International Food Services LLC Richoos General Trading and Packaging Inds LLC Superior Pack UAE LLC Back To Nature Packaging LLC Veolia Middle East Recycling LLC Borouge PLC Emirates Flight Catering Co LLC dnata Catering and Retail Ltd Deliveroo PLC (UAE entity) RECAPP by Veolia (Thrift Plan LLC) Tetra Pak Arabia Ltd

Additional Benefits:

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

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