



Meals and Soups Packaging in South Korea

September 2025

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KEY DATA FINDINGS

2024 DEVELOPMENTS

Packaging demand shifts from traditional categories such as pizza and soup to meal kits, frozen ready meals, and prepared salads
Ready meals has higher packaging demand than soup and sees growth in 2024, as these offer a complete meal rather than a lighter option
On-the-go lifestyles drive interest in self-heating meal packaging innovations

PROSPECTS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Demand for convenient meal solutions expected to drive steady growth in meals and soups packaging volumes
Smaller-sized metal food cans to attract solo households looking for affordable, shelf stable solutions

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Packaging in 2024: The big picture
2024 key trends
Smaller packs and sustainable materials drive food packaging innovation in South Korea
Recycled materials and label-free bottles lead South Korea’s sustainable beverage packaging shift in 2024
Premiumisation and sustainability redefine South Korea’s alcoholic drinks packaging
Eco-friendly and refillable packaging takes centre stage in South Korea’s beauty industry in 2024
Refillable and user-friendly packaging drives sustainable innovation in South Korea’s home care industry in 2024
Convenience and sustainability shape South Korea’s pet food packaging

PACKAGING LEGISLATION

Recyclability and recycled content mandates
Deposit return and waste reduction initiatives
Impact on industry and consumers

RECYCLING AND THE ENVIRONMENT

Mandatory recycled content targets
Design for recyclability and label-free packaging
Transparent PET bottle sorting and consumer responsibility
Table 1 - Overview of Packaging Recycling and Recovery in South Korea: 2022/2023 and Targets for 2024

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