Sub-sector: Packaging

An increased interest in the environment, coupled with concern over the ease of disposal, ability to recycled, and waste of packaging materials is a powerful growth driver for the packaging sub-sector. Packaging includes performance textiles used for the manufacturing of bags and sacks using woven polypropylene fiber. An important segment is FIBCs (flexible intermediate bulk containers), which are used to handle materials such as powdered, and granular materials ranging from fertilizer, sand, cement, sugar, and flour.¹

The food industry is also a major driver of the packaging sub-sector. Nonwoven materials and knitted structures are used in developing various wrappings for the packaged foods industry. Meats, vegetables, fruits, coffee, and tea are supplied in some type of packaging material. An additional component of the packaging sub-sector includes textile reinforcement for tapes and envelopes.

North Carolina Companies Competing in the Packaging Sub-sector

PERFORMANCE TEXTILE SECTORS

Number of companies: 60
Number of counties: 25
Cluster configuration: Guilford, Wake, Mecklenburg
Sales $ (estimated): $749,670,067
Employees: 3621
Products (sample): Absorbent paper, paperboard cartons, paper tubes, packaging supplies

The packaging sub-sector ranks seventh and eighth in terms of the number of companies competing and estimated sales, respectively when compared to the North Carolina performance industry sub-sectors. Increased environmental concerns are a growth driver for this sub-sector. Recommendations for this sub-sector include developing packaging products, which meet environmental regulations.