

# AFH Tissue: Global Business Dynamic and Demand

September 2021

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### INTRODUCTION

Scope

Key findings

## MARKET OVERVIEW

Asia Pacific and North America lead AFH tissue's path to recovery
Uneven global recovery in 2021, with China outpacing the rest
Speed of economic recovery shapes spending potential and value growth
Asia Pacific to become the largest regional market in 2026
Emerging markets see slowing growth in consumer spending
Developing markets offer significant growth potential
Toilet paper drives consumption, while paper towels lead recovery
Cleaning and waste efficiency at the centre of product improvements
Wipers forecast more moderate growth following pandemic surge
Disinfecting efficacy dominates wet wipes innovations

## OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

Opportunities and challenges through the lens of institutional channels AFH tissue's recovery largely hinges on horeca channel spending Hotels and catering will be the fastest growing area of spending Asian consumers to increase their already high savings ratio Emerging middle class and digital-enabled elderly generate new spending Young consumers have notable spending strength Population aged 65+ years dominates the top income band Safety, ease and authenticity remain highly favoured travel features Longing for travel brightens long-term spending prospects Widespread travel bans and restrictions dim near-term outlook Global travel and migration remain heavily disrupted by COVID-19 Pace of recovery for inbound trips and travel spending varies by country Remote work practice saps business travel...

...but energises the "workcation" boom

Space reconfiguration caters to new mobile workers

Long road back for global foodservice

Full-service restaurant traffic faces a difficult climb

Proliferating "delivery-first" models replace many AFH meal occasions

Delivery usage reinforces grocers' and restaurants' "meal solution" role

"Kitchen as a service" a reality as ghost kitchens, virtual brands expand

Opt-in and anti-waste policies foster a circular food economy

Workplaces and stores reopening aids business and public recovery

In-store traffic decline demands space rethinking

E-learning and health wariness reduce physical school attendance

China and US continue to dominate global education industry

Healthcare channel gains via returning visits and ageing trend

Pandemic era ushers in accelerated adoption of automation

E-commerce growth fuels automated fulfilment infrastructure

UV-C disinfecting robots and self-cleaning gadgets cut costs and labour

Automation evolution increases need for specialised wipes

## SUSTAINABILITY RECKONING

Northern Europe and Canada lead global sustainability ranking Environmental Sustainability Index: Developed/developing divergence The circular economy is key to making sustainability affordable Circularity is strongly evident in packaging preferences Pro-green movements in retail offers a foretaste of AFH shift

Travel industry's reckoning with sustainability charges green thinking

The path to sustainable AFH tissue

Responsible material sourcing lays the foundation for sustainable journey

Energy-efficient manufacturing curbs invisible waste

Waste-efficient product design and usage tracking on the rise

Kimberly Clark Professional: transitioning towards sustainable packaging

### STRATEGIC RECOMMENDATIONS

Key takeaways

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