

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT

January 2026



THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

(Sponsored by Department of Commerce, Govt. of India)

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Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of export data received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

Key Findings

Plastic and allied product exports posted second consecutive monthly decline in January 2026 as the elevated tariff in USA continues to pose major challenge for Indian exporters. Also, intensifying global competition and domestic supply constraints in key product segments led to decline in plastic exports during the month

Exports of Floor Covering, Packaging items, FRP & Composites are heavily hit by drying order inflows from USA

On the other hand, shipment of Consumer & Houseware Products, FIBC, Woven Sacks and Human Hair bucked the declining trend as exporters benefited from strong demand in Europe for FIBC products and healthy order inflows for value added Human Hair from China, Viet Nam and Myanmar

Shipments of Plastic Films & Sheets and Raw Materials continued to remain sluggish as manufacturers chose to meet domestic shortage rather than focus on overseas markets

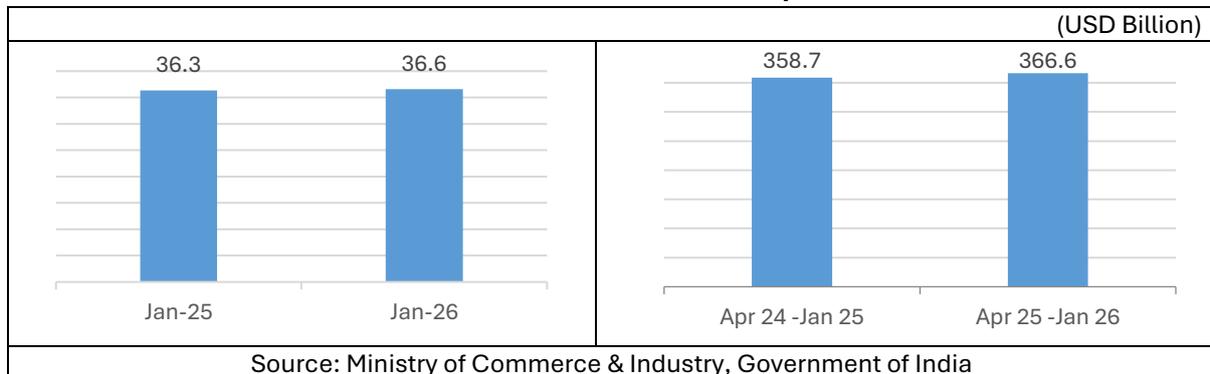
Indian exporters are facing weak demand for Writing Instruments, Cordage & Fishnets from traditional markets such as Brazil, Germany, Chile, UAE, Faroe Island and so on

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India's merchandise exports grew 0.61% to USD 36.6 billion in January 2026 from USD 36.3 billion in the year ago month led by rise in shipments of petroleum products, engineering goods, electronics, Meat, Poultry and Marine Products.

Cumulative exports during April-January 2026 posted 2.20% growth to USD 366.63 billion from the year ago period.

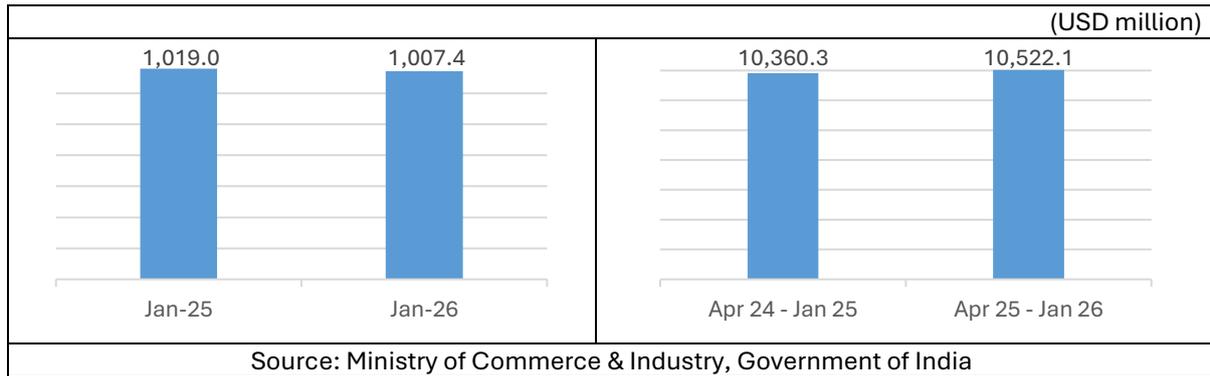
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

Plastic and allied products exports declined 1.1% in January 2026 to USD 1,007.4 million from USD 1019.0 million in the year ago month. Cumulative exports during April 2025 -January 2026 posted 1.6% growth to USD 10,522.1 million from USD 10,360.3 million in the year ago period led by growth in shipment of FIBC, Woven Sacks, Consumer & Houseware Products, Packaging items and so on.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

January 2026 witnessed 1.1% decline in shipment of plastics and related products because of sharp fall in export of Films & Sheets, Raw Materials, Packaging Items, Floor Coverings, Cordage & Fishnets and so on.

However, there was growth in shipment of Consumer & Houseware Products, FIBC & Woven Sacks, Human Hair and Miscellaneous Products.

Exhibit 3: Panel-wise % growth in plastics export from India

Panel	Jan -25	Jan -26	Growth	Apr 24- Jan -25	Apr 25- Jan -26	Growth
	USD million		%	USD million		%
Consumer & houseware products	70.1	73.9	+5.3%	650.7	729.2	+12.1%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	23.6	22.0	-6.7%	252.1	231.2	-8.3%
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	145.8	150.9	+3.5%	1,294.3	1,504.3	+16.2%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	63.8	56.3	-11.7%	636.2	570.3	-10.4%
FRP & Composites	40.8	35.3	-13.6%	427.3	407.3	-4.7%
Human hair & related products	55.7	85.7	+53.8%	627.9	771.7	+22.9%
Medical items of plastics	44.2	40.0	-9.4%	459.1	455.7	-0.7%
Miscellaneous products and items nes	56.5	81.0	+43.3%	564.9	733.6	+29.9%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	59.2	53.7	-9.2%	568.0	580.4	+2.2%
Plastic films and sheets	154.9	148.4	-4.2%	1,684.4	1,576.3	-6.4%
Plastic pipes & fittings	25.9	24.7	-4.7%	277.8	261.6	-5.8%
Plastic raw materials	259.3	218.7	-15.7%	2,687.2	2,502.1	-6.9%
Writing instruments & stationery	19.2	16.8	-12.6%	230.5	198.6	-13.8%
Total	1,019.0	1,007.4	-1.1%	10,360.3	10,522.1	+1.6%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Shipment of **Consumer & Houseware Products** rose 5.3% led by strong demand for Builders' ware (HS 39259090) in USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia, UK and other prominent markets. Exporters also benefitted from robust order inflows for Headgear (HS 65061090) in Bangladesh, Nepal, USA, UAE and other traditional markets.

Export of **Cordage, Fishnets & Monofilaments** declined 6.7% led by fall in sales of Cordage (HS 56074900) to Netherland, UAE, Chile and other markets. There was also lower demand for Madeup Fishnets (HS 56081190) in Faroe Island, UK, USA and other countries.

Shipment of **FIBC, Woven Sacks and Woven Fabrics** posted 3.5% growth as exporters benefitted from rise in demand for FIBC (HS 63053200) in European countries such as the Netherland, Spain, Germany, UK and also in USA. There was also rise in demand for Sacks and Bags (HS 63053300) in USA and UAE.

Export of **Floor Covering, Leather Cloth and Laminates** declined 11.7% because of contraction in demand in USA, Canada and other key markets. There was also lower order inflows for Other PVC products (HS 39181090) in USA, UAE, Saudi Arabia and other markets.

Export of **FRP and Composites** fell 13.6% because Indian exporters are losing export orders in USA, which is the prominent market for certain FRP Products (HS 39269099) because of the high US tariff.

Shipment of **Human Hair & Related Products** grew 53.8% led by increase in demand for value added Human Hair (HS 67030010) in China, Viet Nam and Myanmar. Also, there was growth in sales of Raw Human Hair (HS 05010010) in Myanmar and Bangladesh.

Export of **Medical Items of Plastics** declined 9.4% as there was weak demand for most of the products in USA, France, Brazil and other markets. Specifically, there was weak order inflows for Blood Transfusion Apparatus including Containers (HS 90189032) in Belgium, Mexico, South Africa and other markets. There was also lower sales of Spectacles, Goggles and other items (HS 90049090) in UK and Canada. Export of Spectacle Lenses (HS 90015000) was also lower in UAE and USA.

Shipment of **Miscellaneous Products & Items n.e.s.** posted 43.3% growth as exporters received high order inflows for Optical Fibres, Bundles and Cables (HS 90011000) from USA, China and Germany. Shipment of other Plastic products (HS 90019090) also witnessed strong growth in USA and Japan. Also, Canada, Germany and Bangladesh increased sourcing of PVC Belt Conveyor (HS 39269010) from India.

Export of **Packaging Items – Flexible and Rigid** declined 9.2% because of lower sales of Conveyance or Packaging articles (HS 39239090) to Nepal, Bangladesh, Mexico and other markets. Also, demand for Polyethylene Sacks and Bags (HS 39232100) declined in USA because of high tariff.

Export of **Plastic Films & Sheets** fell 4.2% because of contraction in demand for Self-Adhesive Plates (HS 39199090) in USA, UK, Spain and South Africa. There was also lower shipment of PET Plates and Sheets (HS 39206220) to USA, Netherland, Spain and South Korea. Exporters are also facing weak demand for Other Plates and Sheets (HS 39219099) in USA, South Africa and Canada.

Shipment of **Plastic Pipes & Fittings** fell 4.7% because exporters faced contraction in demand for Other Tubes and Pipes (HS 39173990) in France, Saudi Arabia and Spain. There was also lower sales of Rigid Tubes, Pipes and Hoses (HS 39172990) from USA, Iraq and Saudi Arabia.

Export of **Plastic Raw Materials** declined 15.7% because exporters witnessed slowdown in demand for Polypropylene (HS 39021000) in Viet Nam, Thailand, Bangladesh and South Africa. There was also decline in demand for Polyethylene Terephthalate (PET) (HS 39076190) in Saudi

Arabia, Iraq, UAE, Japan and other key markets. Also, there is weak order inflows for Polyethylene (HS 39012000) from Bangladesh, Viet Nam, China and UAE.

Shipment of **Writing Instruments & Stationery** declined 12.6% because of lower export of Liquid Ink Ball Point Pens (HS 96081019) in UAE, Saudi Arabia, Nepal, Iraq and other markets. Also, demand for Felt-Tipped and other Porous Tipped Pens and Markers (HS 96082000) was weak in USA, UK, UAE, Brazil and other countries.

Exhibit 4: Details of % change seen in top 50 items of export

Code	Description	Apr 24- Jan-25	Apr 25- Jan-26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers, for the packing of goods, of synthetic or man-made textile materials	766.5	912.9	+19.1%
'67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked; wool, other animal hair or other textile materials, prepared for use in making wigs or the like (excl. natural plaits of human hair, whether or not washed and degreased, but not otherwise processed): Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or	475.5	534.6	+12.4%
'39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	421.3	401.2	-4.8%
'39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other	397.6	454.6	+14.3%
'39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	325.2	224.7	-30.9%
'39076190	Other primary form	272.4	208.0	-23.6%
'48239019	Paper, paperboard, cellulose wadding and webs of cellulose fibres, in strips or rolls of a width <= 36 cm, in rectangular or square sheets, of which no side > 36 cm in the unfolded state, or cut to shape other than rectangular or square, and articles of paper pulp, paper, cellulose wadding or webs of cellulose fibres, n.e.s.: Decorative laminates	264.3	299.0	+13.1%
'90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (excl. made-up of individually sheathed fibres of heading 8544)	251.5	429.1	+70.6%
'39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular poly"ethylene terephthalate", not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of poly"methyl methacrylate", self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	221.8	160.3	-27.7%
'39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles , not elsewhere	215.9	189.3	-12.3%
'39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. poly"methyl methacrylate"): Other	208.7	201.4	-3.5%
'39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing,	198.8	164.3	-17.3%

Code	Description	Apr 24- Jan-25	Apr 25- Jan-26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
	unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain			
'59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than poly"vinyl chloride" or polyurethane (excl. tyre cord fabric of high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, polyesters or viscose rayon; wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with plastic; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of plastics): Other	184.0	128.5	-30.1%
'39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	183.5	166.8	-9.1%
'39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics (excl. boxes, cases, crates and similar articles; sacks and bags, incl. cones; carboys, bottles, flasks and similar articles; spools, spindles, bobbins and similar supports; stoppers, lids, caps and other closures): Other	173.9	180.2	+3.6%
'05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	148.7	233.7	+57.2%
'39014010	Linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	163.9	91.4	-44.2%
'39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	137.6	129.5	-5.9%
'90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	132.2	134.1	+1.4%
'90183930	Needles, catheters, cannulae and the like, used in medical, surgical, dental or veterinary sciences (excl. syringes, tubular metal needles and needles for sutures): Cannulae	123.1	138.1	+12.2%
'39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms	123.4	99.1	-19.7%
'39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	118.2	104.4	-11.6%
'96081019	Ball-point pens (detailed label not available)	112.3	104.4	-7.0%
'39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide (excl. floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	106.4	94.1	-11.5%
'56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene, whether or not plaited or braided and whether or not impregnated, coated, covered or sheathed with rubber or plastics (excl. binder or baler twine)	108.1	96.8	-10.5%
'39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	106.4	113.2	+6.4%

Code	Description	Apr 24- Jan-25	Apr 25- Jan-26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'54072090	Woven fabrics of strip or the like, of synthetic filament, incl. monofilament of >= 67 decitex and with a cross sectional dimension of <= 1 mm: Other	105.3	99.9	-5.2%
'39076990	Other primary form	101.1	104.6	+3.4%
'39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms (excl. cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates and cellulose ethers): Other	96.5	116.4	+20.7%
'39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , metallised	97.5	87.7	-10.0%
'39181090	Floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings "in rolls with a width of >= 45 cm, consisting of a layer of plastic fixed permanently on a backing of any material other than paper, the face side of which is grained, embossed, coloured, design-printed or otherwise decorated", of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	93.0	49.9	-46.3%
'39046990	Fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms (excl. polytetrafluoroethylene): Other	86.3	82.5	-4.3%
'39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	85.7	82.0	-4.3%
'39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes (excl. polycarbonates, polyethylene terephthalate and other unsaturated polyesters, self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings in heading 3918): Other	81.2	91.3	+12.4%
'39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular poly"ethylene terephthalate", not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of poly"methyl methacrylate", self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	77.5	67.3	-13.2%
'39072990	Other polyethers n.e.s	75.5	60.8	-19.4%
'39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms: Ion exchangers of polymerisation or	72.0	73.2	+1.6%
'39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	71.1	72.4	+1.7%
'39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, not worked or only surface-worked, or only cut to rectangular, incl. square, shapes (excl. polycarbonates, polyethylene terephthalate and other unsaturated polyesters, self-	70.5	68.8	-2.3%

Code	Description	Apr 24- Jan-25	Apr 25- Jan-26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
	adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings in heading 3918): Other			
'39204900	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918)	68.4	69.1	+1.0%
'96032100	Tooth brushes, incl. dental-plate brushes	63.8	76.2	+19.5%
'39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	65.3	67.3	+3.1%
'59031090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with poly"vinyl chloride" (excl. wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with poly"vinyl chloride"; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing and a top layer or covering of poly"vinyl chloride"): Other	62.6	66.8	+6.7%
'39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , laminated	62.2	71.5	+14.9%
'39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other	62.9	72.7	+15.6%
'39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics: Caps and closures for bottles	61.8	59.8	-3.2%
'39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	59.3	77.4	+30.5%
'39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	59.6	64.1	+7.4%
'39076930	PET flake (chip)	55.6	57.0	+2.4%
'39241010	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Insulated ware	57.5	67.2	+16.7%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Exhibit 5: Reasons for major decline in plastic products exports

HS Code	Description	Apr 24- Jan 25	Apr 25- Jan 26	Reasons for decline
		(USD Mn)		
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	325.2	224.7	<p>Exports have declined because exporters are wary of sending consignments to Bangladesh amidst political instability in that country.</p> <p>Also, India remains a net importer of this product due to a shortfall in domestic supply, and outward shipments have declined as exporters prioritise meeting strong local demand.</p>
39014010	Linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	163.9	91.4	<p>Shipments have fallen because of slowdown in export orders from China, Viet Nam, Bangladesh and UAE, which are top markets for this product.</p> <p>Also, there is domestic shortage of this raw material, which is reflected in rising import of this product in recent months. Therefore, exporters have chosen to meet local demand rather than catering to overseas market.</p>
39076190	Other primary form	272.4	208.0	<p>Exports have fallen because Indian suppliers are facing stiff competition in Saudi Arabia and UAE from local producers in these markets.</p>
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular poly"ethylene terephthalate", not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. those of poly"methyl methacrylate", self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	221.8	160.3	<p>Decline in order inflows from prominent markets such as USA, Mexico, and Spain is the major reason for fall in shipments.</p> <p>High tariff in USA and emerging non-tariff barrier in Mexico have affected shipments to these countries.</p> <p>Suppliers have also reduced exposure to Bangladesh amidst political risks.</p> <p>Exporters have reduced shipments to Belgium, Germany and South Africa due to high freight cost.</p>
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than poly"vinyl chloride" or polyurethane (excl. tyre cord fabric of high tenacity yarn of nylon or other polyamides, polyesters or viscose rayon; wall coverings of textile materials impregnated or covered with plastic; floor coverings consisting of a textile backing	184.0	128.5	<p>Shipments took a major hit because of the punitive tariff in USA, which accounts for 83% of India's exports.</p>

HS Code	Description	Apr 24- Jan 25	Apr 25- Jan 26	Reasons for decline
		(USD Mn)		
	and a top layer or covering of plastics): Other			
39181090	Floor coverings, whether or not self-adhesive, in rolls or in the form of tiles, and wall or ceiling coverings "in rolls with a width of >= 45 cm, consisting of a layer of plastic fixed permanently on a backing of any material other than paper, the face side of which is grained, embossed, coloured, design-printed or otherwise decorated", of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	93.0	49.9	Exports have fallen drastically because of the punitive US tariff; USA is the single largest market for this product, accounting for 77% of exports of this product. Exporters are also facing weak order inflows from UAE and Saudi Arabia, which are other major markets for this product.
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials, without backing, unworked or merely surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Flexible , plain	198.8	164.3	Exports have fallen because of tariff and non-tariff barriers in USA and Mexico, which are the leading markets for this product. High freight cost and intensifying competition in Spain and UAE also weakened shipments to these traditional markets.

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India, Plexconcil Research

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