

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT

April 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

India's plastics exports registered a growth of 11.6% in April 2026, marking the first monthly expansion in the past five months. The growth was partly driven by the shipment of consignments that had been delayed in the previous month due to disruptions in shipping services amidst West Asia crisis.

A sharp increase in the prices of key plastic raw materials led to higher export prices of finished products, thereby contributing to an increase in export values.

Depreciation of Indian rupee (which declined around 5% since the onset of Iran-US conflict) has also helped boost cost competitiveness of Indian exporters

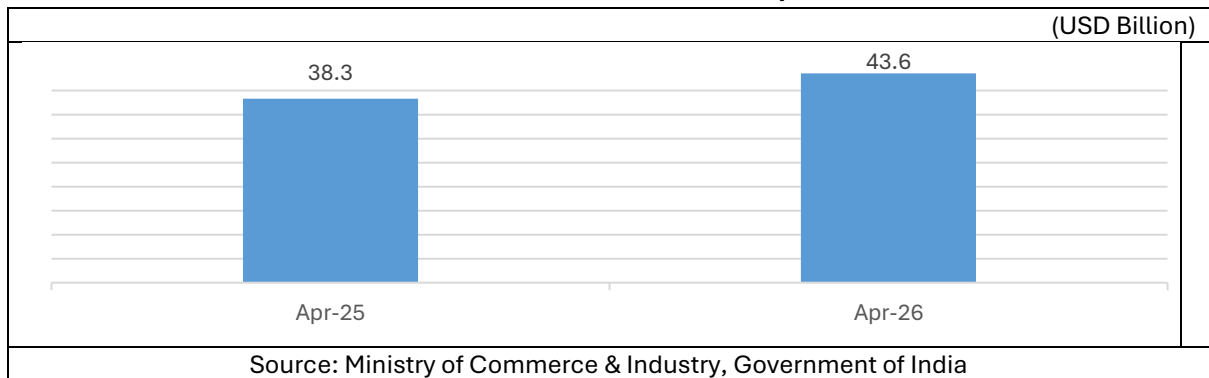
Preliminary data shows exports to UK, Japan, Spain, Poland and some African countries have posted growth in April 2026

On the other hand, shipments to UAE, Saudi Arabia and other West Asian markets declined

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India's merchandise exports posted 13.8% growth to USD 43.6 billion in April 2026 from USD 38.3 billion in the year ago month driven by rise in shipment of petroleum products, electronic goods, pharmaceuticals, plastics, meat, dairy, oilseeds and certain other agro products.

Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

India's plastics and allied product exports posted 11.6% growth to USD 1092.7 million in April 2026 from USD 979.0 million in the year ago month led by rise in shipment of raw materials, films & sheets, Human Hair, Packaging items and so on.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

As mentioned earlier, shipment of Raw Materials, Human Hair, Films & Sheets and Packaging products led the growth in overall plastic exports in April 2026.

Rise in export of Consumer & Houseware products, Miscellaneous products and Writing Instruments also contributed to overall growth in shipments.

At the same time, there was notable decline in shipment of FIBC, Woven Sacks, Floor Coverings, FRP & Composites, Cordage & Fishnets, Medical Devices and Pipes & Tubes.

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

Panel	Apr -25	Apr -26	Growth
	USD million		%
Consumer & houseware products	70.3	71.7	+1.9%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	22.3	22.0	-1.3%
FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin	135.0	133.5	-1.1%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	57.8	50.8	-12.1%
FRP & Composites	40.0	38.4	-4.1%
Human hair & related products	51.6	83.1	+61.0%
Medical items of plastics	46.1	46.0	-0.2%
Miscellaneous products and items nes	58.7	88.3	+50.5%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	53.7	54.5	+1.4%
Plastic films and sheets	158.0	202.5	+28.2%
Plastic pipes & fittings	25.6	24.6	-4.0%
Plastic raw materials	238.4	253.6	+6.4%
Writing instruments & stationery	21.6	23.9	+10.6%
Total	979.0	1,092.7	+11.6%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & Houseware Products** posted 1.9% growth supported by the dispatch of orders that had been delayed in March due to shipping disruptions. Specifically, there was growth in shipment of Tableware & Kitchenware (HS 39241010), Travel Bags (HS 42029200), Sun glasses (HS '90041000) and so on.

Shipment of **Cordage, Fishnets & Monofilaments** fell 1.3% because of slowdown in order inflows for Polyethylene or Polypropylene Cordage (HS 56074900). There was also subdued demand for Madeup Fishing nets (HS 56081190) in key markets.

Export of **FIBC, Woven Sacks and Woven Fabrics** witnessed 1.1% decline because of production disruption due to acute shortage of raw materials. Since the onset of the Middle East crisis, PVC resin prices have risen 25%–75%, depending on the grade, while prices of several other raw materials have risen by Rs. 20,000–33,000 per metric tonne.

Export of **Floor Covering, Leather Cloth and Laminates** contracted 12.1% because of intensifying competition from Viet Nam, China and other countries. Also, high raw material prices and shipping cost led to loss of competitive advantage for Indian producers. Specifically, there was a sharp decline in export of Floor Covering (HS 39181090, HS 39181010).

Export of **FRP and Composites** declined 4.1% because of slowdown in orders for Other Plastic Articles (HS 39269099). Also, shipping disruption to middle eastern countries such as UAE has also led to fall in exports during the month.

Shipment of **Human Hair & Related Products** grew 61.0% led by 56% growth in export of value added Human Hair (HS 67030010). There was also strong growth in export of raw human hair (HS 05010010) to various markets. India received encouraging export orders from Singapore, Brazil, Bhutan, Poland and other countries.

Export of **Medical Items of Plastics** recorded a marginal decline of 0.2% because of high freight cost and production disruption due to skyrocketing raw material prices. Export of Spectacle Lenses (HS 90015000), Other Lenses (HS 90049090) and Syringes (HS 90183100) posted decline.

On the other hand, export of Needles, Catheters, Cannulae and similar medical devices (HS 90183930) registered growth in shipments.

Miscellaneous plastic products and items (n.e.s.) recorded a robust export growth of 50.5%, supported by strong demand for Optical Fibres, Optical Fibre Bundles and Cables (HS 90011000) across key international markets. Exports of the product category increased significantly from USD 23.1 million in April 2025 to USD 58.6 million in April 2026, reflecting healthy order inflows and sustained investments in telecommunications and digital connectivity infrastructure worldwide.

Exports of **Packaging Items – Flexible and Rigid** registered a marginal growth of 1.4%, supported by improved demand for Articles for the Conveyance or Packaging of Goods, of Plastics (HS 39239090). Exports of the product category increased by 12.1%, rising from USD 16.3 million to USD 18.3 million, reflecting steady recovery in order inflows and improved demand conditions in the global packaging and logistics sectors

Export of **Plastic Films and Sheets** recorded a robust growth of 28.2%, recovering strongly after witnessing a decline of 13.2% in the previous month (March 2026). Exports of Films and Sheets of Non-Cellular Polymers of Ethylene (HS 39202020) registered a significant increase of 67.9%, rising from USD 19.4 million in April 2025 to USD 32.5 million in April 2026. Strong export momentum was also witnessed in Films and Sheets of Polyethylene Terephthalate (HS 39206290), supported by healthy order inflows from packaging, industrial and consumer goods sectors.

Exports of **Plastic Pipes and Fittings** declined by 4.0% led by fall in shipments of Flexible Tubes (HS 39173990) and Rigid Tubes (HS 39172190). The segment continued to face logistical and demand-related challenges in key international markets; however, signs of stabilization were visible in select product categories. Exports of Pipe and Fittings of Polymers of Vinyl Chloride (HS

39172390), Fittings such as joints, elbows and flanges of plastics for tubes, pipes and hoses (HS 39173100), and Other Flexible Tubes (HS 39172110) registered sizeable growth.

Plastic Raw Material exports registered a growth of 6.4% led by sharp rise in the price of key raw materials and strong demand in key markets. Particularly, there was growth in shipments to Ukraine, France, New Zealand, Colombia and several African countries. Exports of key raw materials to Oman grew despite tension in the West Asian region.

Export momentum was supported by improved demand and recovery in select product categories, particularly Acrylic Polymers (HS 39069090), Epoxy Resins (HS 39073010), and Polyethylene (HS 39011090), which recorded marginal growth during the period.

Exports of **Writing Instruments and Stationery** registered a robust growth of 10.6%, recovering strongly from the decline of 2.5% recorded in the previous month (March 2026). The improvement in export performance was driven by stronger demand across key international markets and improved order inflows in major product categories. Exports of Office or School Supplies, of Plastics (HS 39261099) witnessed significant growth during the month, supported by steady demand from the education, office supplies and consumer stationery segments.

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

Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers, for the packing of goods, of synthetic or man-made textile materials	80.5	80.3	-0.3%
'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	37.8	58.8	55.6%
'90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (excl. made-up of individually sheathed fibres of heading 8544)	23.1	58.6	153.6%
'39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other (Note that this HS Code has been removed from this financial year)	41.4	-	-100.0%
'39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s.: Other	39.6	38.0	-4.1%
'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	23.5	26.2	11.4%
'05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	13.5	24.0	78.7%
'39069090	Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. poly"methyl methacrylate"): Other	17.9	25.1	40.3%
'39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	23.0	13.9	-39.7%

Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'39076190	Other primary form	23.0	17.7	-22.8%
'39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles , not elsewhere	23.0	17.1	-25.9%
'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; sppols, spindles, bobbins and similar supports; stoppers, lids, caps and other closures): Other	16.3	18.3	12.1%
'39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	16.9	15.5	-8.2%
'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	19.7	25.6	29.6%
'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	19.4	32.5	67.9%
'90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	14.1	13.1	-6.7%
'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	12.9	15.7	22.0%
'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	13.4	14.3	7.3%
'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	17.2	13.9	-19.3%
'39129090	Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms (excl. cellulose acetates, cellulose nitrates and cellulose ethers): Other	10.8	11.5	6.4%
'39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	11.4	11.7	2.6%
'96081019	Ball-point pens (detailed label not available)	9.4	9.6	2.3%
'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	11.9	11.2	-6.5%

Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
	cut into squares or rectangles (excl. of cellular plastic; self-adhesive products, floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other			
'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	9.6	13.2	36.7%
'39076990	Other primary form	10.2	12.4	22.4%
'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	7.5	10.3	37.8%
'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)	9.5	8.6	-9.0%
'39012000	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms	6.4	5.6	-12.2%
'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	9.1	9.2	1.2%
'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	9.4	13.0	39.0%
'39046990	Fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms (excl. polytetrafluoroethylene): Other	9.0	9.4	4.9%
'39014010	Linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content	7.7	9.9	29.4%
'39073010	Epoxide resins, in primary forms: Epoxy resins	7.7	13.9	79.1%
'39241090	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other	9.1	6.7	-26.8%
'96032100	Tooth brushes, incl. dental-plate brushes	7.8	7.7	-1.9%
'39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	7.0	13.1	88.3%
'39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms: Ion exchangers of polymerisation or	4.4	7.7	74.9%
'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	5.9	10.6	78.7%

Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
	surface-worked or merely cut into squares or rectangles (excl. self-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings of heading 3918): Other			
'39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	6.1	6.3	3.4%
'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-adhesive products, and floor, wall and ceiling coverings in heading 3918): Other	5.7	6.0	6.2%
'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	6.6	9.0	36.1%
'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)	6.0	7.9	31.4%
'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	6.7	6.3	-6.2%
'39241010	Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Insulated ware	5.4	6.9	28.2%
'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	6.9	12.2	78.4%
'39259090	Building elements for the manufacture of floors, walls, partition walls, ceilings, roofs, etc., of plastic; gutters and accessories of plastic; railings, fences and similar barriers, of plastic; large shelves, for assembly and permanent installation in shops, workshops, etc., of plastic; architectural ornaments, e.g. friezes, of plastic; fittings and similar products for permanent mounting on buildings, of plastic: Other	4.6	4.9	7.2%
'39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	6.8	3.0	-55.6%

Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Growth
		Values in USD Mn		(%)
'39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	4.7	5.3	14.3%
'39249090	Household articles and toilet articles, of plastics (excl. tableware, kitchenware, baths, shower-baths, wash-basins, bidets, lavatory pans, seats and covers, flushing cisterns and similar sanitary ware): Other	6.7	6.2	-8.2%
'39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics: Caps and closures for bottles	5.6	6.0	7.9%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Exhibit 5: Reasons for major decline in plastic products exports

HS Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Reasons for decline
		(USD Mn)		
'39232990	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics (excl. those of polymers of ethylene): Other	41.4	0.0	Export data is showing 'nil' because of removal of this HS Code and introduction of two new HS codes in this place, viz. HS 39232991 and HS 39232999 from the current financial year; Exports under these two new HS Codes stood at USD 36.16 million in April 2026, lower than USD 41.4 million in the year ago month because of demand slowdown in the US market.
'39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	23.0	13.9	Exports have declined because of acute shortage of this raw material after the onset of the West Asia crisis. According to industry sources, polymer prices have risen 50-60% since end of February 2026 and Indian industry is facing immense shortfall of critical raw materials.
'39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s.: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	23.0	17.1	Exports have declined as Indian exporters continue to face challenges in regaining market share in the US, the largest market for this product. Although the punitive tariff imposed in August 2025 was withdrawn under the interim trade deal, US buyers have shifted to alternative suppliers during the intervening period, making market recovery difficult.
'39076190	Other primary form	23.0	17.7	Exports declined nearly 23% because of domestic shortage of this raw material and sharp rise in prices, which led to slowdown in export orders.
'39119090	Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other	6.8	3.0	Exports have declined due to a shortage of supply in the domestic market, prompting manufacturers to prioritize domestic sales over exports.

HS Code	Description	Apr 25	Apr 26	Reasons for decline
		(USD Mn)		
'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	17.2	13.9	Exports have declined nearly 20% due to disruptions in shipping services to West Asia amid the fragile ceasefire situation. Shipments to the UAE, which accounts for around 20% of total exports and which is the second-largest market for this product, have been impacted by logistical delays, vessel schedule disruptions, and elevated freight costs, adversely affecting export volumes.

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

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