

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT

MARCH 2023



THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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

Dynasty Business Park, B Wing, Unit 2

JB Nagar, Andheri Kurla Road

Andheri East, Mumbai

Maharashtra 400 059, INDIA

Tel: +91-22-40170000

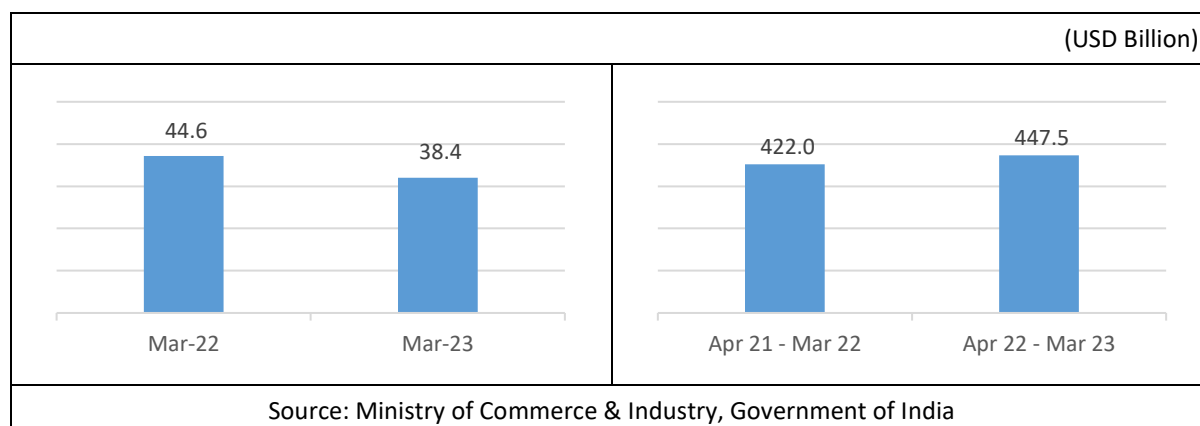
E-mail: office@plexconcil.org

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

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 38.4 billion in March 2023, down by 13.9% from USD 44.6 billion in March 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2022 – March 2023 was USD 447.5 billion as against USD 422.0 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a growth of 6.0%.

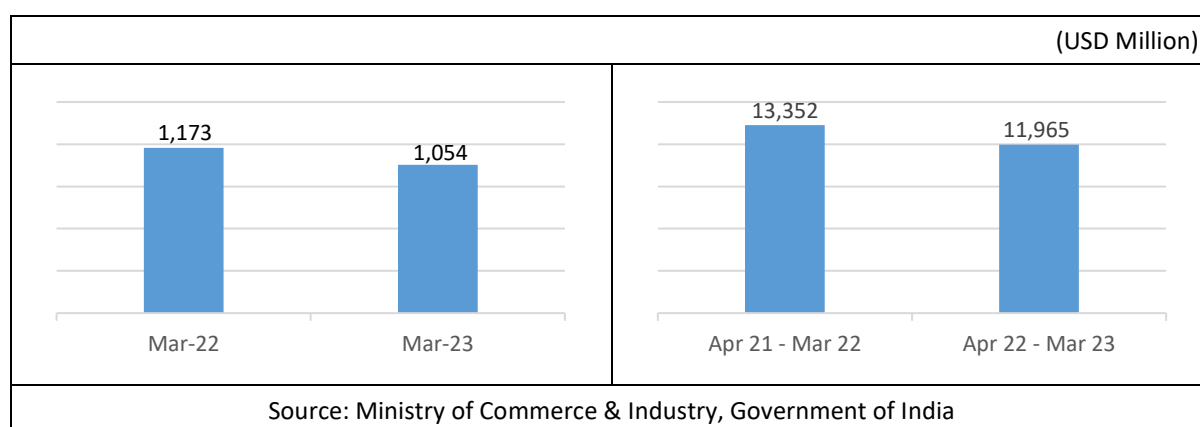
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During March 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 1,054 million, lower by 10.2% from USD 1,173 million in March 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2022 – March 2023 was USD 11,965 million as against USD 13,352 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 10.4%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In March 2023, most of the product panels, namely, Plastic raw materials; FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin; Plastic films & sheets; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; Consumer & houseware products; FRP & Composites; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; Plastic pipes & fittings; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; and Miscellaneous products and reported lower exports.

However, product panels like: Medical items of plastics; Writing instruments & stationery; and Human hair & related products reported a positive growth in exports.

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

| Panel | Mar-22 | Mar-23 | Growth | Apr 21- Mar-22 | Apr 22- Mar-23 | Growth |
|---|----------------|----------------|---------------|-------------------|-------------------|---------------|
| | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) |
| Consumer & houseware products | 79.6 | 71.6 | -10.1% | 816.1 | 752.5 | -7.8% |
| Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments | 29.6 | 25.3 | -14.6% | 279.2 | 272.49 | -2.4% |
| FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin | 144.9 | 110.7 | -23.6% | 1,688.2 | 1405.41 | -16.8% |
| Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates | 63.5 | 57.2 | -9.9% | 635.2 | 579.85 | -8.7% |
| FRP & Composites | 44.3 | 38.0 | -14.4% | 457.6 | 425.14 | -7.1% |
| Human hair & related products | 45.9 | 75.9 | +65.4% | 770.3 | 683.85 | -11.2% |
| Medical items of plastics | 40.5 | 44.1 | +8.9% | 417.4 | 492.78 | +18.0% |
| Miscellaneous products & items nes | 95.0 | 89.1 | -6.3% | 889.9 | 1031.89 | +16.0% |
| Packaging items - flexible, rigid | 60.0 | 51.9 | -13.5% | 623.8 | 624.67 | +0.1% |
| Plastic films & sheets | 187.7 | 154.6 | -17.6% | 2,034.4 | 1818.12 | -10.6% |
| Plastic pipes & fittings | 29.3 | 23.4 | -20.2% | 289.1 | 290.41 | +0.5% |
| Plastic raw materials | 329.0 | 287.0 | -12.7% | 4,232.9 | 3320.91 | -21.5% |
| Writing instruments & stationery | 23.9 | 25.0 | +4.9% | 217.5 | 266.91 | +22.7% |
| | 1,173.2 | 1,053.7 | -10.2% | 13,351.6 | 11,964.9 | -10.4% |

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 10.1% in March 2023 on account of lower sales of Tableware and kitchenware of plastics (HS code 392410); Other household articles of plastics (392490); Hand bags and shopping bags of plastics (420222); Jewellery box and similar box of plastics (420232); and Safety headgear (650610). Exports of Toys of plastics (95030030) has been showing a significant decline since May 2022 due to change in the HS code of Toys of plastics resulting in failure to capture the correct value of its exports from India.

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments exports were lower by 14.6% in March 2023 due to a decline in sales of Other binder or baler twine of polyethylene or polypropylene (560749); and Made up fishing nets (560811).

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in March 2023 fell by 23.6% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Sacks and bags of plastics (39232990); and Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532). Exports of Flexible intermediate bulk

containers from India had hit a thirty-month low in February 2023. Indian exporters have also mentioned about a decline in price realisations for these products in the international market and competition from Türkiye.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 9.9% during March 2023 on account of lower sales of PVC floor coverings (391810); Decorative laminates (482390); and Other textile fabrics of plastics (59039090). Indian exporters have mentioned about removal of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) in the EU since January 2023.

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 14.4% due to lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099).

Export of **Human hair & related products** increased by 65.4% due to higher sales of Human hair unworked (050100) and Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (67030010). The high growth rate achieved in March 2023 is an effect of low base of export in March 2022. It may be noted that export of Human hair unworked was placed under restricted category by the Directorate General of Foreign Trade in the last week of January 2022.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** witnessed an increase of 8.9% in March 2023 due to higher sales of Spectacle lenses of polymers (900150); and Catheters (90183910).

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** fell by 6.3% in March 2023 due to lower shipments of Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere specified (39269080).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export declined by 13.5% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321).

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 17.6% in March 2023 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (391910); Rigid and flexible sheets of polymers of propylene (392020); Flexible sheets and films of polyethylene terephthalate (39206220) and Flexible & metallised sheets and films of plastics (39219094). Apparently, plastic films & sheets manufacturers in India have slashed production amid sluggish global demand and high inventory. This product segment is also facing headwinds as several new lines have been operationalized both in the BOPP and BOPET segments in the last 1.5 years.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 20.2% due to lower sales of Pipes and tubes of polymers of vinyl chloride (391723); Other tubes and pipes (391732) and Fittings (391740).

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 12.7% in March 2023 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769) from India. It may be noted that the prices of Polyethylene terephthalate in India have been on an upswing since January 2023 which may have resulted in shift in focus from exports to domestic sales.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** witnessed an increase of 4.9% in March 2023 due to higher sales of Ball point pens of plastics (960810). This product segment has had a fantastic year in 2022-23.

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

| HS Code | Description | Apr 21- Mar-22 | Apr 22- Mar-23 | Growth |
|----------|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) |
| 63053200 | Flexible intermediate bulk containers | 999.6 | 861.1 | -13.9% |
| 39076190 | Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form | 763.2 | 590.4 | -22.6% |
| 39021000 | Polypropylene, in primary forms | 662.5 | 364.2 | -45.0% |
| 67030010 | Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked | 595.5 | 498.6 | -16.3% |
| 39232990 | Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics | 504.1 | 411.2 | -18.4% |
| 90011000 | Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables | 469.0 | 703.0 | +49.9% |
| 39269099 | Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other | 450.5 | 417.3 | -7.4% |
| 39202020 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain | 330.3 | 251.8 | -23.8% |
| 39076990 | Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form | 297.6 | 196.9 | -33.9% |
| 39269080 | Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere | 293.2 | 212.2 | -27.6% |
| 48239019 | Decorative laminates | 272.7 | 286.0 | +4.9% |
| 39069090 | Acrylic polymers, in primary forms (excl. polymethyl methacrylate): Other | 267.0 | 203.3 | -23.9% |
| 39014010 | Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes less than 95 % by weight of the total polymer content | 258.8 | 83.6 | -67.7% |
| 39206220 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain | 258.7 | 211.1 | -18.4% |
| 39232100 | Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene | 222.3 | 205.8 | -7.4% |
| 39012000 | Polyethylene with a specific gravity of >= 0,94, in primary forms | 204.0 | 53.7 | -73.7% |
| 59039090 | Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other | 182.1 | 121.4 | -33.4% |
| 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: Other | 179.5 | 153.4 | -14.5% |
| 39239090 | Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other | 174.7 | 174.2 | -0.3% |
| 39046100 | Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms | 163.6 | 152.6 | -6.7% |
| 05010010 | Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured | 149.1 | 169.2 | +13.5% |
| 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 | 131.5 | 99.1 | -24.6% |
| 56074900 | Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene | 127.1 | 118.1 | -7.1% |
| 90015000 | Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass | 126.1 | 146.3 | +16.1% |
| 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: Other | 125.0 | 111.7 | -10.6% |

| HS Code | Description | Apr 21- Mar-22 | Apr 22- Mar-23 | Growth |
|----------|--|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) |
| 39073010 | Epoxide resins, in primary forms: Epoxy resins | 117.0 | 95.1 | -18.7% |
| 39206290 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene 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: Other | 113.4 | 95.1 | -16.2% |
| 90183930 | Cannulae | 111.4 | 138.7 | +24.5% |
| 96081019 | Ball-point pens | 109.1 | 140.1 | +28.5% |
| 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: Flexible, metallised | 105.8 | 99.1 | -6.3% |
| 39199090 | Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other | 102.4 | 88.1 | -14.0% |
| 95030030 | Toys of plastics | 99.9 | 14.4 | -85.6% |
| 39241090 | Tableware and kitchenware, of plastics: Other | 98.0 | 90.2 | -8.0% |
| 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: Other | 93.3 | 95.3 | +2.1% |
| 96032100 | Tooth brushes | 92.0 | 99.7 | +8.3% |
| 39011090 | Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other | 89.2 | 124.3 | +39.4% |
| 39011010 | Linear low-density polyethylene (LLDPE), in which ethylene monomer unit contributes 95% or more by weight of the total polymer content | 87.8 | 50.7 | -42.3% |
| 39219096 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated | 87.0 | 80.0 | -8.0% |
| 39095000 | Polyurethanes, in primary forms | 80.7 | 89.7 | +11.1% |
| 39119090 | Polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other | 78.1 | 77.5 | -0.8% |
| 39140020 | Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms | 75.8 | 85.3 | +12.5% |
| 39129090 | Cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms: Other | 75.6 | 92.0 | +21.7% |
| 39241010 | Insulated tableware and kitchenware of plastics | 75.4 | 60.4 | -19.9% |
| 39204900 | Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of vinyl chloride, containing by weight < 6% of plasticisers | 72.5 | 83.2 | +14.7% |
| 59031090 | Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride: Other | 71.9 | 75.2 | +4.7% |
| 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 | 71.3 | 64.8 | -9.1% |

| HS Code | Description | Apr 21- Mar-22 | Apr 22- Mar-23 | Growth |
|----------|---|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
| | | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%) |
| | otherwise decorated, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other | | | |
| 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: Other | 70.1 | 65.6 | -6.4% |
| 39235010 | Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics | 70.0 | 68.6 | -1.9% |
| 39191000 | Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, in rolls <= 20 cm wide | 69.6 | 50.8 | -27.0% |
| 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: Other | 66.9 | 65.8 | -1.7% |

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

----- End of report -----