

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT

May 2023



THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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

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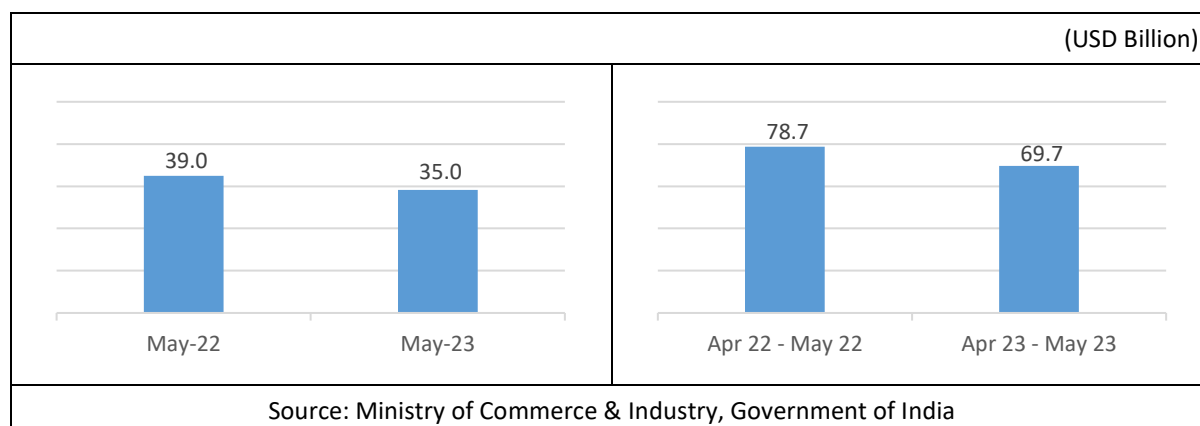
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Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of export data received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 35.0 billion in May 2023, down by 10.3% from USD 39.0 billion in May 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2023 – May 2023 was USD 69.7 billion as against USD 78.7 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 11.4%.

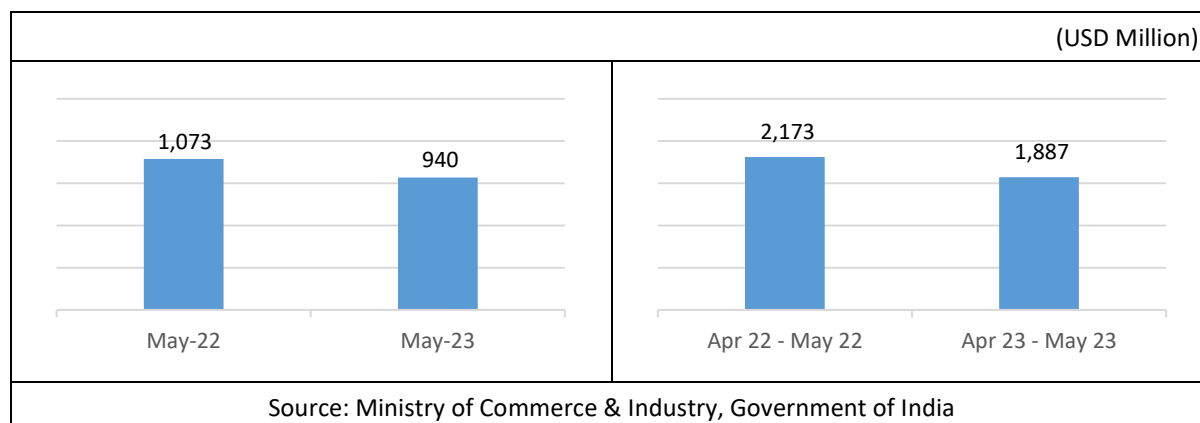
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During May 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 940 million, lower by 12.4% from USD 1,073 million in May 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – May 2023 was USD 1,887 million as against USD 2,173 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 13.1%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In May 2023, almost all the product panels witnessed a decline in exports. Plastic films and sheets once again had the steepest fall of 25.4%, followed by Plastic raw materials; FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; and Miscellaneous products and items nes – all of which reported a double-digit decline. The other panels which struggled to grow were FRP & Composites; Consumer & houseware products; Plastic pipes & fittings; Medical items of plastics; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates and Writing instruments & stationery.

Product panels which reported a growth in exports during May 2023 were Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; and Human hair & related products.

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

Panel	May-22	May-23	Growth	Apr 22- May-22	Apr 23- May-23	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	60.5	58.2	-3.9%	130.1	120.6	-7.3%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	22.9	23.1	+1.0%	46.9	45.1	-4.0%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	131.9	100.9	-23.5%	273.6	206.2	-24.6%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	54.8	53.5	-2.3%	110.2	105.1	-4.6%
FRP & Composites	38.4	35.3	-8.1%	79.3	70.2	-11.5%
Human hair & related products	59.1	62.2	+5.4%	112.3	129.2	+15.0%
Medical items of plastics	42.7	41.2	-3.4%	82.5	87.3	+5.8%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	87.4	77.7	-11.1%	171.3	158.7	-7.4%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	55.0	48.5	-11.9%	110.6	95.6	-13.6%
Plastic films & sheets	182.5	136.1	-25.4%	372.1	275.3	-26.0%
Plastic pipes & fittings	25.1	23.2	-7.6%	52.4	45.4	-13.4%
Plastic raw materials	289.4	257.0	-11.2%	582.3	502.8	-13.7%
Writing instruments & stationery	23.0	22.8	-1.1%	49.0	45.6	-6.9%
	1,072.7	939.7	-12.4%	2,172.6	1,886.9	-13.1%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 3.9% in May 2023 on account of lower sales of Hygienic or toilet articles of plastics (HS Code 39249010); and Other boxes of plastics (42023290) to the United States of America.

Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments exports were up by 1.0% in May 2023 due to increase in sales of Other made-up fishing nets of materials other than nylon (56081190) to Canada, Chile, and the United Kingdom. This product had reported its highest-ever monthly export of USD 5.01 million for India in March 2023.

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in May 2023 fell by 23.5% as Indian exporters reported a decline in sales of Sacks and bags of plastics (39232990); and Flexible intermediate bulk containers (630532). Indian exporters continue to mention about slowing demand in the international market, especially in Europe and North America.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 2.3% during May 2023 on account of lower sales of Other floor coverings of (39181090) and Decorative laminates (48239019).

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 8.1% on account of lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099) due to the economic downturn as well as elevated manufacturing cost in Europe. Removal of Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) from EU has also negatively impacted export of plastics from India.

Export of **Human hair & related products** increased by 5.4% due to higher sales of Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (67030010) and Wigs (67041100). The export of Wigs worth USD 2.68 million during May 2023 is interesting because such a high value export of Wigs has never taken place from India.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** were down of 3.4% in May 2023 due to lower sales of Syringes with or without needles (90183100) and Cannulae (90183930). India generally exports these two products to countries in Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** fell by 11.1% in May 2023 due to lower shipments of Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere specified (39269080) to the United States of America.

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export declined by 11.9% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321) to the United States of America.

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 25.4% in May 2023 due to a slide in sales of Self-adhesive sheets and films of plastics (3919); Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (392020); Sheets and films of polyethylene terephthalate (392062); and Flexible & laminated sheets and films of other plastics (39219096). The plastic films & sheets segment is under stress and 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 two years.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 7.6% due to lower sales of almost all types of plastic pipes & fittings. Exports of plastic pipes & fittings have been low this year on account of reduction in product prices.

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 11.2% in May 2023 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769). Apparently, the prices of polyethylene terephthalate cooled-off quite a bit during May 2023 and have been passed on to the overseas buyers. India is among the top-5 exporters of Polyethylene terephthalate resin in the world.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** declined by 1.1% in May 2023 due to lower sales of Felt-tipped and other porous-tipped pens and markers (960820) to the United States of America.

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- May 22	Apr 23- May 23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	164.4	123.2	-25.1%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	102.6	108.2	+5.5%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	100.3	67.6	-32.6%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	81.0	91.4	+12.8%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	77.8	69.4	-10.8%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	80.8	62.8	-22.2%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	67.2	66.6	-0.9%
48239019	Decorative laminates	48.3	47.7	-1.3%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	65.3	39.8	-39.0%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	46.6	31.6	-32.3%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	43.7	32.1	-26.5%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	39.1	29.1	-25.6%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	36.3	25.6	-29.6%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	44.6	32.3	-27.5%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	31.8	28.8	-9.4%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	26.7	33.0	+23.4%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Other	34.0	25.0	-26.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	23.1	22.0	-5.0%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	23.6	26.5	+12.2%
96081019	Ball-point pens	22.7	22.6	-0.4%
90183930	Cannulae	23.3	22.9	-1.8%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	20.4	19.9	-2.6%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	30.6	25.9	-15.6%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	21.6	18.1	-16.1%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	18.6	17.5	-5.8%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	11.2	15.8	+41.0%
96032100	Tooth brushes	16.4	15.7	-3.7%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, metallised	21.4	15.9	-25.5%
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	22.8	16.3	-28.7%

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- May 22	Apr 23- May 23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
39206919	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	18.3	13.6	-25.7%
39073010	Epoxy resins	18.3	10.8	-41.2%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	19.9	10.5	-47.0%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	13.8	16.0	+16.3%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	15.6	15.0	-3.6%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	16.7	13.5	-19.4%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	19.8	15.7	-20.4%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	11.4	12.3	+7.6%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene	14.6	13.8	-5.7%
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	13.2	11.8	-10.5%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	17.0	9.2	-45.7%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms	15.4	14.9	-3.2%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	13.3	13.0	-2.6%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	12.1	11.5	-4.6%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	13.1	9.2	-30.2%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles, of plastics	11.2	11.7	+3.7%
39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	12.9	10.6	-17.7%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	13.7	12.3	-9.7%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	11.8	8.5	-27.6%
39019000	Other ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	10.4	10.0	-3.4%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	17.4	5.5	-68.3%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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