

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT
SEPTEMBER 2023



THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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

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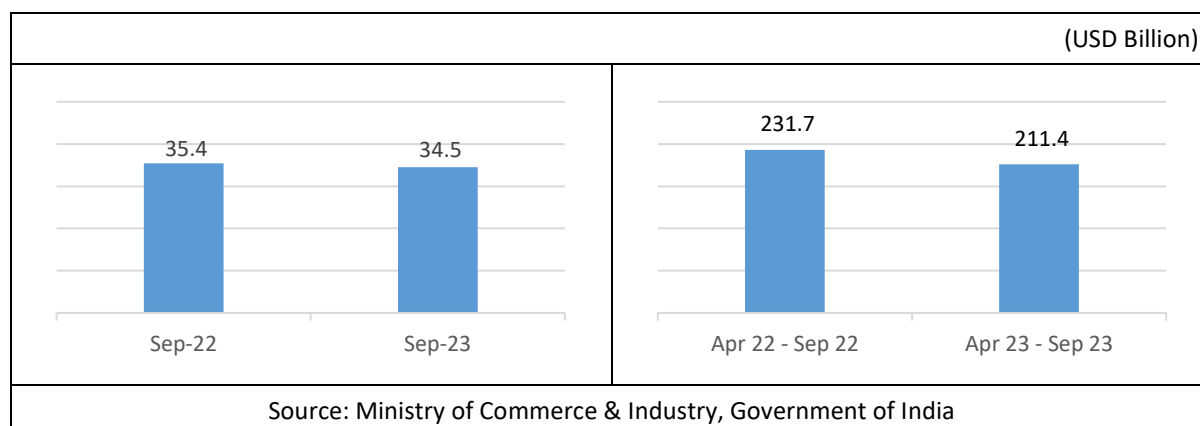
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Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of export data received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 34.5 billion in September 2023, down by 2.5% from USD 35.4 billion in September 2022. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2023 – September 2023 was USD 211.4 billion as against USD 231.7 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 8.8%.

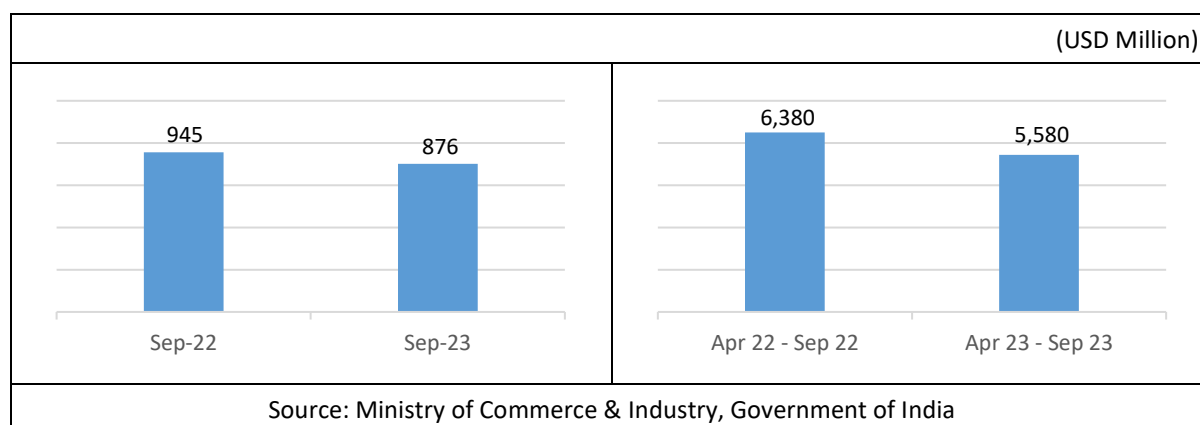
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During September 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 876 million, lower by 7.4% from USD 945 million in September 2022. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2023 – September 2023 was USD 5,580 million as against USD 6,380 million during the same period last year, registering a decline of 12.5%.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In the month of September 2023, product panels such as Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; FRP & Composites; Medical items of plastics and Human hair & related products, reported a positive growth in exports. However, panels which contributed majorly towards the decline in exports were Plastic raw materials; Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments and Miscellaneous products. The other panels which struggled to grow were Consumer & houseware products; Plastic pipes & fittings; Plastic films and sheets; Writing instruments & stationery; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; and FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin.

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

Panel	Sep-22	Sep-23	Growth	Apr 22- Sep-22	Apr 23- Sep-23	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	61.0	55.2	-9.6%	374.8	366.4	-2.2%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	23.3	19.5	-16.2%	140.1	128.0	-8.6%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	117.0	114.8	-1.8%	787.2	657.7	-16.4%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	44.7	55.1	+23.3%	298.4	342.5	+14.8%
FRP & Composites	35.3	39.0	+10.4%	226.7	226.9	+0.1%
Human hair & related products	42.9	52.2	+21.7%	332.9	347.2	+4.3%
Medical items of plastics	41.8	42.8	+2.3%	247.8	262.5	+5.9%
Miscellaneous products & items	79.6	53.2	-33.2%	498.4	398.9	-20.0%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	54.7	53.4	-2.5%	336.4	306.8	-8.8%
Plastic films & sheets	144.9	139.1	-4.0%	998.8	828.6	-17.0%
Plastic pipes & fittings	24.0	22.8	-4.9%	153.8	138.1	-10.2%
Plastic raw materials	255.2	208.5	-18.3%	1,848.7	1,445.0	-21.8%
Writing instruments & stationery	20.8	20.1	-3.4%	135.7	131.2	-3.4%
	945	876	-7.4%	6,380	5,580	-12.5%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

The performance of these product panels is influenced by a combination of domestic and global factors, including economic conditions, consumer preferences, industry trends, and trade dynamics. A more detailed analysis for each product category is provided below:

Exports of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 9.6% in September 2023. This decline was primarily due to reduced sales of Tableware and kitchenware made of plastics (HS Code 3924); Other plastic moulded suit-cases (420212); and Tooth brushes made of plastics (960321). Export of Tooth brushes in particular was low to countries in North-American and the ASEAN region.

Exports of **Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments** experienced a significant decline of 16.2% in September 2023 due to reduced sales of Monofilaments (39169090) and Made-up fishing nets of nylon (560811) to countries in the North American region.

In September 2023, the export of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin** showed resilience with only a slight decline of 1.8%. Indian exporters of Flexible intermediate bulk

containers (630532) continue to mention about slow demand in the international markets, especially Europe and North America; along with lower price realisations. To counter this, FIBC manufacturers are exploring alternative export destinations including South Korea and Japan to mitigate the impact of declining sales in these key markets.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** surged by 23.3% during September 2023 on account of higher sales of Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics (590390).

Export of **FRP & Composites** was up by 10.4% on account of higher sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099). This export sector had faced challenges due to the economic downturn and elevated manufacturing costs in Europe, but it has now rebounded with increased sales.

Export of **Human hair & related products** were up by 21.7% due to higher sales of Human hair, dressed, thinned and bleached (67030010). However, this positive growth was on account of a low export base in September 2022.

Medical items of plastics continued to perform well and its exports were up by 2.3% in September 2023 due to increase in sales of Spectacle lenses (900150) and Cannulae (90183930). The demand for these specific medical products contributed to the positive export figures in this category.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** fell by 33.2% in September 2023 due to lower shipments of Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables (90011000) to certain countries in Europe and North America.

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export slightly dipped by 2.5% on account of lower sales of Boxes, cases, crates and similar articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods of plastics (392310) and Aseptic bags of plastics (39239020). Notably, the United States of America served as the major export destination for both of these products.

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 4.0% in September 2023 due to a slide in sales of Sheets and films of polymers of propylene (392020); Sheets and films of PVC (392049) and Flexible metallised sheets and films (39219094). However, Indian exporters of plastic films and sheets informed that the export market has begun to show signs of improvement at the fag-end of June 2023 quarter, with demand for the BOPP starting to recover.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 4.9% due to lower sales of rigid tubes and pipes of polymers of ethylene (39172110), flexible tubes and pipes of plastic (39173100) and other flexible tubes and pipes of plastic (39173290). However, it's worth noting that the exports of pipes and fittings are also showing signs of improvement, indicating potential recovery and resilience in this product segment.

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 18.3% in September 2023 due to a decline in sales of Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769). India is among the top-5 exporters of Polyethylene terephthalate resin in the world. The major export destination for this product

has been Europe wherein, the removal of GSP status for India has had a substantial impact on our exports.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** dropped by 3.4% in September 2023 due to a slight decline in sales of office and school supplies (392610).

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

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- Sep 22	Apr 23- Sep 23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	479.0	390.7	-18.4%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	318.6	238.3	-25.2%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	375.6	182.5	-51.4%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	247.9	259.0	+4.5%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	222.5	223.7	+0.5%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	231.7	206.4	-10.9%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	194.0	165.9	-14.5%
48239019	Decorative laminates	145.1	149.2	+2.8%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	155.2	99.6	-35.8%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	121.4	102.1	-15.9%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	111.4	96.9	-13.0%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	115.5	100.2	-13.2%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	105.5	100.0	-5.2%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	143.2	74.8	-47.8%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	96.7	92.2	-4.6%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	76.1	79.8	+4.8%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Other	89.4	73.1	-18.2%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	78.8	62.2	-21.1%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	71.3	85.7	+20.2%
96081019	Ball-point pens	69.9	68.4	-2.0%
90183930	Cannulae	69.3	67.0	-3.3%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	63.7	53.6	-15.8%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	63.4	93.0	+46.8%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	64.0	56.1	-12.3%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	58.7	57.9	-1.3%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	45.5	42.7	-6.1%
96032100	Tooth brushes	48.7	42.0	-13.7%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, metallised	57.6	38.2	-33.7%
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	58.1	47.5	-18.3%

HS Code	Description	Apr 22- Sep 22	Apr 23- Sep 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	50.3	46.9	-6.6%
39073010	Epoxy resins	54.1	28.9	-46.7%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	45.6	35.1	-23.0%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	45.5	49.7	+9.3%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	46.9	48.1	+2.5%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	46.1	39.7	-13.8%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	48.4	52.5	+8.6%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	43.6	39.1	-10.4%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene	38.5	44.7	+16.1%
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	41.9	39.0	-6.9%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	46.1	31.7	-31.2%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms	38.5	49.5	+28.4%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	37.8	36.9	-2.4%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	36.7	32.9	-10.2%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	39.4	26.8	-32.1%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles, of plastics	35.4	35.5	+0.4%
39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	36.4	34.6	-5.0%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	32.1	33.8	+5.4%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	36.2	28.3	-21.9%
39019000	Other ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	36.9	28.5	-22.7%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	58.9	14.4	-75.6%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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