

ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT

APRIL 2023



THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL

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

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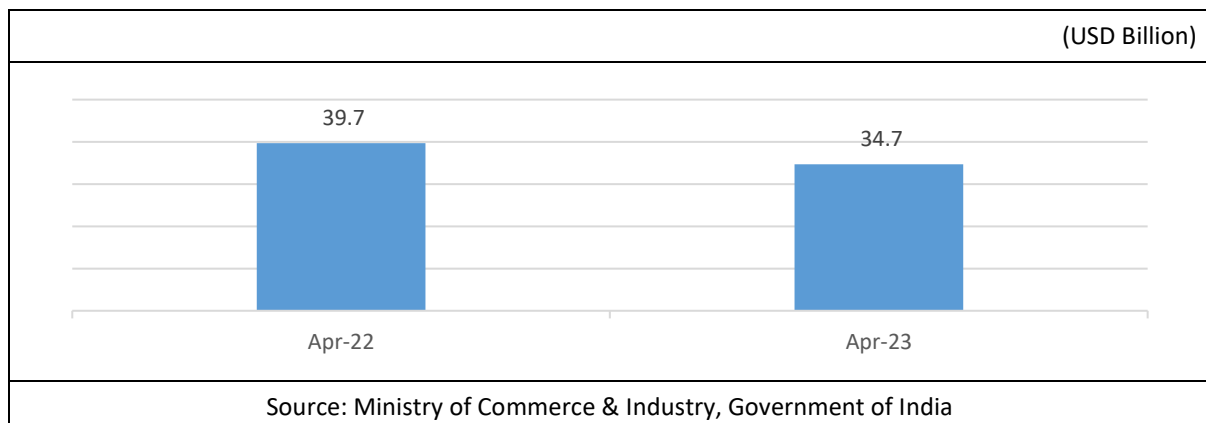
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Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of export data received from the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India.

TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 34.7 billion in April 2023, down 12.7% from USD 39.7 billion in April 2022. In the last financial year i.e. April 2022 to March 2023, India witnessed merchandise exports of USD 450.9 billion – its highest ever annual tally.

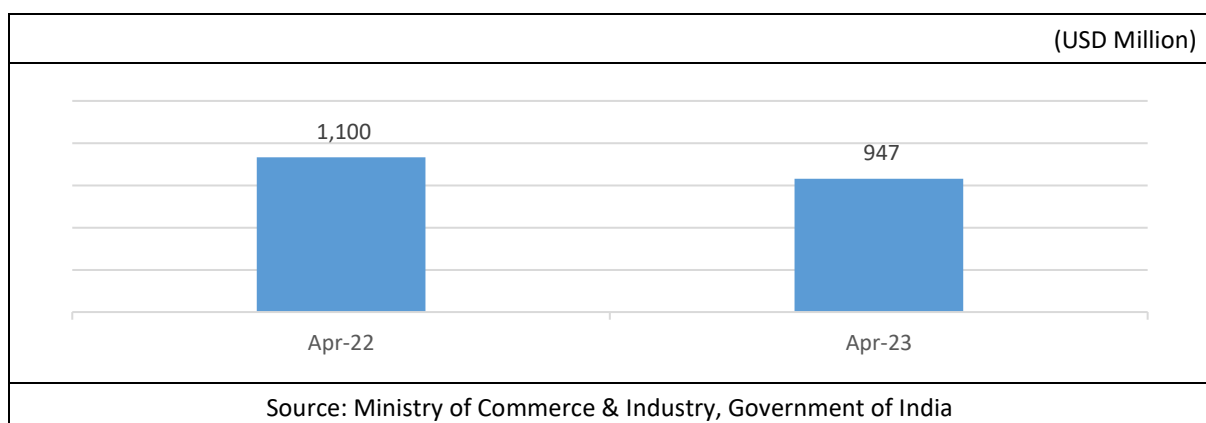
Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India



TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During April 2023, India exported plastics worth USD 947 million, down 13.9% from USD 1,100 million in April 2022. In the last financial year i.e. April 2022 to March 2023, India witnessed plastics exports of USD 12.0 billion.

Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India



PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In April 2023, almost all the product panels witnessed a decline in exports. Plastic films and sheets had the steepest fall of 26.6%, followed by FIBC, Woven sacks, Woven fabrics, Tarpaulin; Plastic pipes & fittings; Plastic raw materials; Packaging items - flexible, rigid; FRP & Composites; Writing instruments & stationery; and Consumer & houseware products – all of which reported a double-digit drop. The other panels which struggled to grow were Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments; Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates; and Miscellaneous products and items nes.

The only product panels which reported a positive growth in exports during April 2023 were, Medical items of plastics; and Human hair & related products.

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

Panel	Apr-22	Apr-23	Growth
	(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
Consumer & houseware products	69.5	62.4	-10.2%
Cordage, fishnets & monofilaments	24.1	22.0	-8.8%
FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin	141.6	105.3	-25.7%
Floorcoverings, leathercloth & laminates	55.4	51.5	-7.0%
FRP & Composites	40.9	34.9	-14.7%
Human hair & related products	53.3	67.0	+25.7%
Medical items of plastics	39.8	46.1	+15.7%
Miscellaneous products & items nes	83.9	81.0	-3.4%
Packaging items - flexible, rigid	55.6	47.2	-15.2%
Plastic films & sheets	189.5	139.2	-26.6%
Plastic pipes & fittings	27.3	22.2	-18.7%
Plastic raw materials	293.0	245.7	-16.1%
Writing instruments & stationery	26.0	22.9	-12.0%
	1,099.9	947.2	-13.9%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

Export of **Consumer & houseware products** declined by 10.2% in April 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); 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 8.8% in April 2023 due to a decline in sales of Other binder or baler twine of polyethylene or polypropylene (560749).

In case of **FIBC, woven sacks, woven fabrics, & tarpaulin**, exports in April 2023 fell by 25.7% 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 slowing demand in the international market amid economic uncertainty due to which overseas buyers are delaying their purchases.

Export of **Floor coverings, leather cloth & laminates** declined by 7.0% during April 2023 on account of lower sales of Other textile fabrics of plastics (59039090).

Export of **FRP & Composites** was down by 14.7% due to lower sales of Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s (39269099) amid slowdown and increased cost of manufacturing in Europe.

Export of **Human hair & related products** increased by 25.7% due to higher sales of Human hair unworked (050100) and Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked (67030010). Last year, human hair exports were impacted by the Zero Covid policy and regular lockdowns in China, which is India's largest export destination for Human hair.

Export of **Medical items of plastics** witnessed an increase of 15.7% in April 2023 due to improved sales of Spectacle lenses of polymers (900150); and Syringes with or without needles (90183100). India reported a record-high monthly export of USD 13.82 million worth of Spectacle lenses of polymers in April 2023.

Export of **Miscellaneous products & items nes** fell by 3.4% in April 2023 due to lower shipments of Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere specified (39269080).

Packaging items - flexible, rigid export declined by 15.2% on lower sales of Sacks and bags of polymers of ethylene (392321) and other articles for packing incl. insulated ware and aseptic bags (392390).

Plastic films & sheets export were lower by 26.6% in April 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); and Flexible sheets and films of polyethylene terephthalate (39206220). 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 two years.

Export of **Plastic pipes & fittings** contracted by 18.7% due to lower sales of Pipes and tubes of polymers of vinyl chloride (391723); and Flexible tubes and pipes with a minimum burst pressure of 27.6 MPa (391731).

Plastics raw materials export was lower by 16.1% in April 2023 due to a decline in sales of Low-density polyethylene (39011020); Polypropylene (39021000); Other polyethers (39072990); and Polyethylene terephthalate (390761, 390769) as Indian polymer producers have increased their focus on sales in the domestic market rather than export. Recently, the largest polymer producer in India announced that it had achieved its highest-ever domestic sales of polymers in the financial year 2022-23 due to increased demand in India.

Export of **Writing instruments & stationery** declined by 12.0% in April 2023 due to lower sales of office supplies and stationery (392610); and Ball point pens of plastics (96081019).

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

HS Code	Description	Apr-22	Apr-23	Growth
		(USD Mn)	(USD Mn)	(%)
63053200	Flexible intermediate bulk containers	86.0	61.8	-28.2%
90011000	Optical fibres, optical fibre bundles and cables	48.7	54.8	+12.5%
39076190	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	44.5	34.7	-21.9%
67030010	Human hair, dressed, thinned, bleached or otherwise worked	40.5	45.6	+12.7%
39269099	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Other	40.3	34.5	-14.4%
39232990	Other sacks and bags, incl. cones, of plastics	40.8	33.6	-17.6%
39021000	Polypropylene, in primary forms	34.9	27.4	-21.5%
48239019	Decorative laminates	23.2	23.6	+1.8%
39202020	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Flexible, plain	32.0	21.2	-33.8%
39269080	Articles of plastics and articles of other materials of heading 3901 to 3914, n.e.s: Polypropylene articles, not elsewhere	23.4	16.2	-30.6%
39206220	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate: Flexible, plain	24.2	17.4	-28.2%
39232100	Sacks and bags, incl. cones, of polymers of ethylene	20.0	14.9	-25.3%
39069090	Other acrylic polymers, in primary forms	18.2	13.4	-26.5%
39076990	Polyethylene terephthalate: Other primary form	22.7	14.4	-36.6%
39239090	Articles for the conveyance or packaging of goods, of plastics: Other	15.6	13.6	-13.1%
05010010	Human hair, unworked; whether or not washed or scoured	11.5	19.8	+72.6%
39202090	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polymers of ethylene: Other	15.4	12.0	-22.0%
39046100	Polytetrafluoroethylene, in primary forms	11.8	10.6	-10.3%
90015000	Spectacle lenses of materials other than glass	11.0	13.8	+25.8%
96081019	Ball-point pens	12.1	11.3	-6.6%
90183930	Cannulae	11.9	12.6	+6.3%
39011090	Polyethylene with a specific gravity of < 0,94, in primary forms: Other	10.2	9.7	-4.9%
59039090	Textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with plastics other than polyvinyl chloride or polyurethane: Other	16.9	12.2	-27.9%
56074900	Twine, cordage, ropes and cables of polyethylene or polypropylene	11.5	9.2	-20.2%
39219099	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	10.3	8.7	-15.4%
39046990	Other fluoro-polymers of vinyl chloride or of other halogenated olefins, in primary forms	4.8	8.5	+75.5%
96032100	Tooth brushes	8.3	8.0	-4.2%
39219094	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, metallised	11.1	8.0	-28.1%
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	12.0	8.1	-32.6%

HS Code	Description	Apr-22	Apr-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	9.3	6.7	-27.2%
39073010	Epoxy resins	7.4	4.7	-36.2%
39206290	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyethylene terephthalate, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	9.4	5.7	-40.0%
39129090	Other cellulose and chemical derivatives thereof, n.e.s., in primary forms	7.0	8.1	+15.2%
39241090	Other tableware and kitchenware, of plastics	7.9	7.3	-8.1%
39095000	Polyurethanes, in primary forms	8.1	6.6	-18.9%
39199090	Self-adhesive plates, sheets, film, foil, tape, strip and other flat shapes, of plastics, whether or not in rolls > 20 cm wide: Other	8.5	7.4	-12.5%
39140020	Ion-exchangers based on polymers of heading 3901 to 3913, in primary forms	6.0	6.3	+5.4%
39014010	Linear low-density polyethylene	8.8	10.4	+18.2%
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	6.7	5.2	-22.2%
39219096	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of plastics, reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Flexible, laminated	8.2	5.2	-37.1%
39119090	Other polysulphides, polysulphones and other polymers and prepolymers produced by chemical synthesis, n.e.s., in primary forms	8.8	8.0	-8.8%
59031090	Other textile fabrics impregnated, coated, covered or laminated with polyvinyl chloride	6.7	5.9	-12.6%
39235010	Stoppers, lids, caps and other closures, of plastics	5.9	5.6	-5.1%
39100090	Silicones in primary forms: Other	7.2	5.0	-30.8%
39249090	Other household articles and toilet articles, of plastics	5.4	5.4	+0.7%
39172390	Rigid tubes, pipes and hoses, and fittings therefor, of polymers of vinyl chloride: Other	7.4	5.8	-21.7%
39201019	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular plastics, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	7.6	6.4	-16.3%
39206929	Plates, sheets, film, foil and strip, of non-cellular polyesters, not reinforced, laminated, supported or similarly combined with other materials: Other	8.1	4.8	-41.1%
39019000	Other ethylene-alpha-olefin copolymers, having a specific gravity of less than 0.94	5.6	4.6	-17.4%
39011020	Low density polyethylene	9.5	1.9	-80.2%

Source: Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Government of India

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