

**ANALYSIS OF INDIA'S PLASTICS EXPORT**  
**SEPTEMBER 2019**



**THE PLASTICS EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL**

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

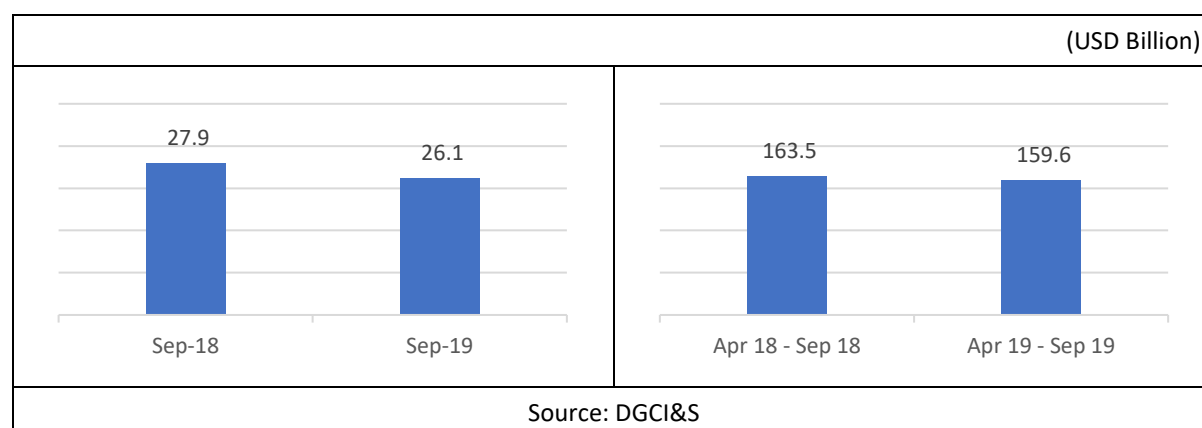
Crystal Tower, Ground Floor  
Gundivali Road No. 3, Off Sir M. V. Road  
Andheri East, Mumbai  
Maharashtra 400 069, INDIA  
Tel: +91-22-26833951  
E-mail: [office@plexconcil.org](mailto:office@plexconcil.org)

Disclaimer: This report has been prepared on the basis of principal commodity level data sourced from the Directorate General of Commercial Intelligence and Statistics (DGCI&S) on October 30, 2019

## TREND IN OVERALL EXPORTS

India reported merchandise exports of USD 26.1 billion in September 2019, down 6.4% from USD 27.9 billion in September 2018. Cumulative value of merchandise exports during April 2019 – September 2019 was USD 159.6 billion as against USD 163.5 billion during the same period last year, reflecting a decline of 2.4%.

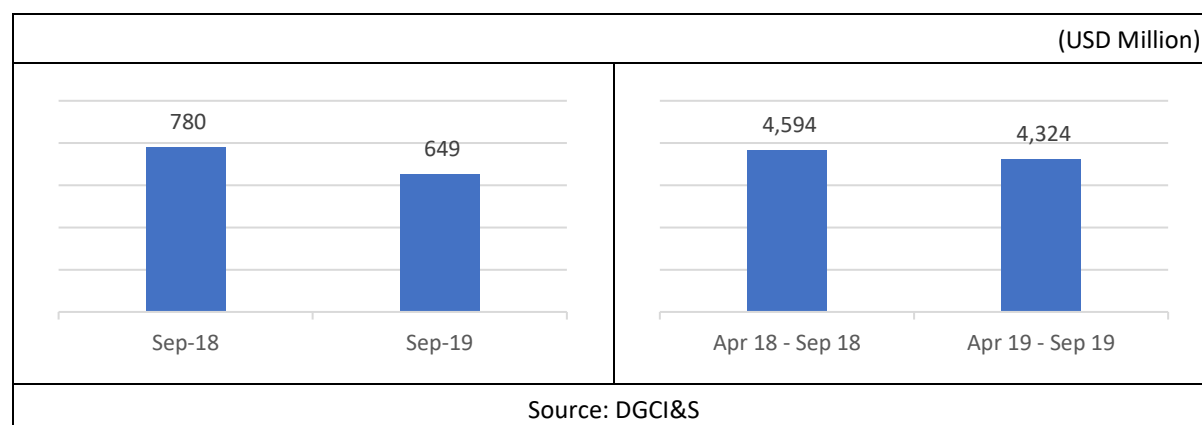
**Exhibit 1: Trend in overall merchandise exports from India**



## TREND IN PLASTICS EXPORT

During September 2019, India exported plastics worth USD 649 million, down 16.8% from USD 780 million in September 2018. Cumulative value of plastics export during April 2019 – September 2019 was USD 4,324 million as against USD 4,594 million during the same period last year, registering a negative growth of 5.9%.

**Exhibit 2: Trend in plastics export by India**



- Plastics formed 2.71% of India's overall merchandise exports in April 2019 – September 2019
- India exported plastics to 209 countries in April 2019 – September 2019
- United States, China and United Arab Emirates were the top three buyers of plastics from India in April 2019 – September 2019

## PLASTICS EXPORT, BY PANEL

In September 2019, plastic raw materials witnessed year-on-year decline of 33.0%; followed by optical items (-19.2%); stationery/office/school supply (-9.7%); and moulded & extruded goods (-8.2%). Product categories that reported positive growth include human hair products (+29.5%); other plastic items (+12.1%); plastic sheet, film, plates etc (+3.5%); and packaging materials (+2.7%).

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

| Panel                           | Sep-18        | Sep-19        | Growth        | Apr 18-Sep 18   | Apr 19-Sep 19   | Growth       |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                 | (USD Mn)      | (USD Mn)      | (%)           | (USD Mn)        | (USD Mn)        | (%)          |
| Plastic raw materials           | 387.32        | 259.33        | -33.0%        | 2,235.47        | 1,804.27        | -19.3%       |
| Plastic sheet, film, plates etc | 116.89        | 120.93        | 3.5%          | 733.06          | 755.41          | 3.0%         |
| Moulded & extruded goods        | 100.46        | 92.22         | -8.2%         | 551.88          | 634.63          | 15.0%        |
| Packaging materials             | 72.74         | 74.70         | 2.7%          | 418.85          | 426.30          | 1.8%         |
| Optical items (incl. lens etc)  | 39.67         | 32.06         | -19.2%        | 239.22          | 231.72          | -3.1%        |
| Other plastic items             | 28.60         | 32.07         | 12.1%         | 183.43          | 221.78          | 20.9%        |
| Human hair, products thereof    | 16.74         | 21.67         | 29.5%         | 107.06          | 131.73          | 23.0%        |
| Stationery/Office/School Supply | 17.93         | 16.19         | -9.7%         | 125.29          | 117.72          | -6.0%        |
|                                 | <b>780.35</b> | <b>649.17</b> | <b>-16.8%</b> | <b>4,594.26</b> | <b>4,323.55</b> | <b>-5.9%</b> |

Note: Plastics are segregated under eight panels by DGCI&S

Source: DGCI&S

Some of the products which witnessed a huge decline in exports from India were:

- Within plastics raw materials, exports of Linear low-density polyethylene (HS code 39011010) were down 64.5% yoy to USD 20.4 million in September 2019 due to lower sales to China, Indonesia and Viet Nam. Likewise, exports of Polyethylene terephthalate having a viscosity number of 78 ml/g or higher (HS code 39076100) fell 35.6% yoy to USD 55.5 million in September 2019 due to lower sales to Uruguay and Algeria. India's exports of Polypropylene (HS code 39021000) witnessed a negative growth of 36.9% yoy to USD 36.7 million in September 2019 due to lower sales to Viet Nam, Italy and Nepal. Even exports of Polyethylene having a specific gravity of 0.94 or more (HS code 39012000) was down 37.6% yoy to USD 29.8 million in September 2019 due to lower sales to China.
- Among value-added plastics products, export of optical items (incl. lens etc) from India was lower due to a decline in export of optical fibers, optical fibre bundles and cables (HS code 90011000), down 32.4% yoy to USD 16.8 million in September 2019 to countries like France and Russian Federation. In addition, export of moulded & extruded goods was impacted as most of the major destinations, barring the United States, bought lesser of these products from India. India's exports of stationery/office/school supplies was hurt by lower sales to Nepal, Ukraine, Saudi Arabia, and France.

## PLASTICS EXPORT, BY REGION

India's plastics export in September 2019 was negative across all territories including, ASEAN + 2 (-34.0% year-on-year); Latin America & Caribbean (-30.1%); North-East Asia (-22.5%); Commonwealth of Independent States (-19.8%); European Union (-19.6%); Africa (-13.3%); South Asia (-11.4%); Middle East (-7.5%); and North America (-6.0%).

**Exhibit 4: Region-wise trend in plastics export by India**

| Region                          | Sep-18        | Sep-19        | Growth        | Apr 18-Sep 18   | Apr 19-Sep 19   | Growth       |
|---------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|                                 | (USD Mn)      | (USD Mn)      | (%)           | (USD Mn)        | (USD Mn)        | (%)          |
| European Union (EU)             | 152.36        | 122.53        | -19.6%        | 918.40          | 847.68          | -7.7%        |
| North America                   | 110.36        | 103.75        | -6.0%         | 618.56          | 687.42          | 11.1%        |
| Middle East                     | 109.63        | 101.44        | -7.5%         | 711.29          | 679.80          | -4.4%        |
| North-East Asia                 | 128.81        | 99.83         | -22.5%        | 658.33          | 651.40          | -1.1%        |
| Africa                          | 88.53         | 76.79         | -13.3%        | 569.19          | 525.03          | -7.8%        |
| South Asia                      | 66.26         | 58.72         | -11.4%        | 426.97          | 385.23          | -9.8%        |
| ASEAN + 2                       | 71.95         | 47.48         | -34.0%        | 368.62          | 298.23          | -19.1%       |
| Latin America & Caribbean (LAC) | 38.69         | 27.03         | -30.1%        | 254.05          | 179.20          | -29.5%       |
| CIS                             | 10.71         | 8.59          | -19.8%        | 46.23           | 54.20           | 17.2%        |
| Others                          | 3.05          | 3.01          | -1.4%         | 22.61           | 15.37           | -32.0%       |
|                                 | <b>780.35</b> | <b>649.17</b> | <b>-16.8%</b> | <b>4,594.26</b> | <b>4,323.55</b> | <b>-5.9%</b> |

Source: DGCI&S

It is important to mention that India's plastics exports have been negatively affected due to strained trade relations between India and Pakistan since the start of the year. India's plastics exports to Pakistan have fallen down 91.3% yoy to USD 1.0 million in September 2019. During 2018-19, India's plastics exports of Pakistan were valued at USD 165.46 million and chiefly comprised of Plastics raw materials and Woven sacks/FIBCs.

## PLASTICS EXPORT, BY DESTINATION COUNTRY

During September 2019, five out of the top 25 destination countries recorded year-on-year growth in plastics export from India. Exports to Saudi Arabia witnessed a high growth rate of 24.5% during the period.

On a cumulative basis, during April 2019 – September 2019, seven out of the top 25 destination countries recorded year-on-year growth in plastics export from India. Exports to South Africa, Saudi Arabia and Canada, witnessed high growth rates ranging between 18-40%, during the above period.

**Exhibit 5: Top 25 destinations of plastics exported by India**

| Country              | Sep-18   | Sep-19   | Growth | Apr 18-Sep 18 | Apr 19-Sep 19 | Growth |
|----------------------|----------|----------|--------|---------------|---------------|--------|
|                      | (USD Mn) | (USD Mn) | (%)    | (USD Mn)      | (USD Mn)      | (%)    |
| China                | 109.88   | 83.87    | -23.7% | 537.78        | 532.69        | -0.9%  |
| United States        | 88.36    | 86.26    | -2.4%  | 500.15        | 569.07        | 13.8%  |
| United Arab Emirates | 36.24    | 34.09    | -5.9%  | 223.14        | 234.96        | 5.3%   |
| Italy                | 26.80    | 20.01    | -25.3% | 187.52        | 144.77        | -22.8% |
| Germany              | 27.78    | 25.47    | -8.3%  | 162.54        | 153.47        | -5.6%  |
| Bangladesh           | 22.99    | 22.70    | -1.3%  | 169.49        | 139.66        | -17.6% |
| Turkey               | 16.40    | 18.64    | 13.7%  | 146.92        | 109.54        | -25.4% |
| United Kingdom       | 23.04    | 19.55    | -15.1% | 128.28        | 134.38        | 4.8%   |
| Nepal                | 21.05    | 22.03    | 4.6%   | 116.98        | 131.00        | 12.0%  |
| Vietnam              | 22.85    | 8.39     | -63.3% | 105.45        | 68.94         | -34.6% |
| France               | 16.21    | 9.96     | -38.5% | 92.03         | 89.09         | -3.2%  |
| Indonesia            | 18.38    | 9.71     | -47.2% | 87.36         | 50.89         | -41.7% |
| Egypt                | 14.14    | 8.18     | -42.1% | 83.22         | 51.54         | -38.1% |
| Belgium              | 10.48    | 7.60     | -27.5% | 66.80         | 58.36         | -12.6% |
| Japan                | 10.79    | 8.84     | -18.0% | 68.11         | 55.74         | -18.2% |
| Nigeria              | 11.98    | 10.28    | -14.2% | 82.79         | 56.44         | -31.8% |
| Pakistan             | 8.59     | 1.01     | -88.2% | 61.58         | 41.08         | -33.3% |
| South Africa         | 9.95     | 10.40    | 4.6%   | 56.43         | 77.48         | 37.3%  |
| Israel               | 14.86    | 10.36    | -30.3% | 63.98         | 55.80         | -12.8% |
| Mexico               | 12.39    | 7.90     | -36.2% | 66.50         | 56.83         | -14.5% |
| Kenya                | 7.42     | 9.15     | 23.4%  | 65.32         | 64.83         | -0.7%  |
| Spain                | 11.92    | 7.86     | -34.1% | 62.23         | 56.10         | -9.8%  |
| Sri Lanka            | 11.12    | 8.72     | -21.6% | 58.70         | 49.51         | -15.7% |
| Canada               | 9.61     | 9.59     | -0.2%  | 51.91         | 61.52         | 18.5%  |
| Saudi Arabia         | 8.02     | 9.98     | 24.5%  | 46.17         | 60.04         | 30.0%  |

Note: Top 25 destinations based on 2018-19 plastic exports by India

Source: DGCI&S

India exported plastics to 186 countries in September 2019 as compared to 184 countries in September 2018.

**Exhibit 6: Panels with details of % growth seen in top 10 export destinations**

| Panel                           | Country              | Apr 18-<br>Sep 18 | Apr 19-<br>Sep 19 | Growth |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
|                                 |                      | (USD Mn)          | (USD Mn)          | (%)    |
| Plastic raw materials           | China                | 439.75            | 402.43            | -8.5%  |
|                                 | Italy                | 133.28            | 85.35             | -36.0% |
|                                 | Turkey               | 125.44            | 94.40             | -24.7% |
|                                 | Bangladesh           | 121.46            | 91.96             | -24.3% |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 106.40            | 86.41             | -18.8% |
|                                 | United States        | 87.56             | 71.49             | -18.4% |
|                                 | Vietnam              | 93.51             | 57.35             | -38.7% |
|                                 | Nepal                | 71.37             | 82.11             | 15.0%  |
|                                 | Indonesia            | 70.04             | 32.28             | -53.9% |
|                                 | Pakistan             | 56.77             | 37.84             | -33.4% |
| Plastic sheet, film, plates etc | United States        | 114.78            | 136.77            | 19.2%  |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 30.06             | 33.11             | 10.1%  |
|                                 | Germany              | 37.42             | 36.27             | -3.1%  |
|                                 | South Africa         | 33.63             | 35.35             | 5.1%   |
|                                 | Nigeria              | 36.66             | 18.04             | -50.8% |
|                                 | Italy                | 25.58             | 24.62             | -3.7%  |
|                                 | United Kingdom       | 23.67             | 28.16             | 19.0%  |
|                                 | Bangladesh           | 22.29             | 17.05             | -23.5% |
|                                 | Mexico               | 22.82             | 19.93             | -12.7% |
|                                 | Spain                | 18.44             | 19.69             | 6.8%   |
| Moulded & extruded goods        | United States        | 124.31            | 181.42            | 45.9%  |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 33.78             | 51.56             | 52.6%  |
|                                 | United Kingdom       | 27.97             | 29.66             | 6.0%   |
|                                 | Germany              | 28.20             | 24.68             | -12.5% |
|                                 | Canada               | 23.28             | 31.01             | 33.2%  |
|                                 | Sri Lanka            | 12.52             | 6.48              | -48.3% |
|                                 | Spain                | 12.14             | 10.12             | -16.7% |
|                                 | Nigeria              | 9.72              | 10.05             | 3.3%   |
|                                 | Saudi Arabia         | 7.61              | 11.59             | 52.3%  |
|                                 | Brazil               | 9.02              | 12.46             | 38.1%  |
| Packaging materials             | United States        | 77.76             | 90.87             | 16.9%  |
|                                 | United Kingdom       | 35.74             | 32.59             | -8.8%  |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 21.50             | 24.95             | 16.0%  |
|                                 | Netherland           | 16.05             | 14.60             | -9.1%  |
|                                 | Germany              | 12.92             | 10.40             | -19.5% |
|                                 | Belgium              | 11.76             | 4.78              | -59.3% |
|                                 | France               | 10.61             | 9.20              | -13.3% |
|                                 | Spain                | 9.02              | 9.07              | 0.6%   |
|                                 | Djibouti             | 8.41              | 8.19              | -2.5%  |
|                                 | Nepal                | 8.13              | 7.19              | -11.6% |

Note: Top 10 destinations based on India's 2018-19 exports under the eight plastic product panels

Source: DGCI&S

| Panel                           | Country              | Apr 18-<br>Sep 18 | Apr 19-<br>Sep 19 | Growth |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------|
|                                 |                      | (USD Mn)          | (USD Mn)          | (%)    |
| Optical items (incl. lens etc)  | France               | 57.41             | 61.21             | 6.6%   |
|                                 | Germany              | 25.86             | 24.29             | -6.1%  |
|                                 | United Kingdom       | 20.35             | 20.94             | 2.9%   |
|                                 | United States        | 15.09             | 5.22              | -65.4% |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 6.86              | 10.16             | 48.1%  |
|                                 | Netherland           | 10.56             | 11.94             | 13.1%  |
|                                 | Poland               | 9.61              | 10.23             | 6.4%   |
|                                 | Italy                | 4.85              | 11.67             | 140.5% |
|                                 | Russia               | 4.83              | 5.77              | 19.5%  |
|                                 | Israel               | 3.84              | 4.67              | 21.6%  |
| Other plastic items             | United States        | 42.27             | 45.44             | 7.5%   |
|                                 | Belgium              | 18.29             | 12.77             | -30.2% |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 15.57             | 21.02             | 35.0%  |
|                                 | South Africa         | 4.67              | 18.62             | 298.7% |
|                                 | United Kingdom       | 4.74              | 8.72              | 84.0%  |
|                                 | Italy                | 6.25              | 7.87              | 25.9%  |
|                                 | Germany              | 5.93              | 8.24              | 39.0%  |
|                                 | Poland               | 3.66              | 4.43              | 21.2%  |
|                                 | Nepal                | 4.68              | 4.87              | 4.0%   |
|                                 | Saudi Arabia         | 4.15              | 4.81              | 15.7%  |
| Human hair, products thereof    | China                | 58.83             | 89.39             | 51.9%  |
|                                 | Myanmar              | 10.79             | 5.07              | -53.0% |
|                                 | United States        | 7.81              | 7.81              | 0.0%   |
|                                 | Tunisia              | 5.48              | 6.81              | 24.3%  |
|                                 | Hong Kong            | 4.28              | 6.16              | 43.7%  |
|                                 | Bangladesh           | 3.35              | 2.74              | -18.4% |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 2.83              | 1.82              | -35.6% |
|                                 | Vietnam              | 1.41              | 2.14              | 51.8%  |
|                                 | Indonesia            | 1.90              | 1.10              | -42.1% |
|                                 | Italy                | 1.96              | 1.32              | -32.8% |
| Stationery/Office/School Supply | United States        | 30.58             | 30.05             | -1.7%  |
|                                 | United Arab Emirates | 6.14              | 5.94              | -3.3%  |
|                                 | United Kingdom       | 7.52              | 6.13              | -18.5% |
|                                 | Thailand             | 5.89              | 5.13              | -12.8% |
|                                 | Algeria              | 2.73              | 3.86              | 41.3%  |
|                                 | Bangladesh           | 2.80              | 3.39              | 20.8%  |
|                                 | Germany              | 2.94              | 2.68              | -8.7%  |
|                                 | Mexico               | 2.59              | 1.77              | -31.6% |
|                                 | Latvia               | 2.73              | 1.44              | -47.2% |
|                                 | Nepal                | 2.88              | 2.56              | -11.2% |

Note: Top 10 destinations based on India's 2018-19 exports under the eight plastic product panels

Source: DGCI&S

## ANNEXURE-I

### Trend in overall exports by India

| Month     | 2018-19       | 2019-20       | Growth       |
|-----------|---------------|---------------|--------------|
|           | (USD Bn)      | (USD Bn)      | (%)          |
| April     | 25.95         | 26.07         | 0.5%         |
| May       | 28.78         | 30.01         | 4.3%         |
| June      | 27.15         | 25.01         | -7.9%        |
| July      | 25.89         | 26.32         | 1.7%         |
| August    | 27.87         | 26.13         | -6.3%        |
| September | 27.90         | 26.11         | -6.4%        |
|           | <b>163.54</b> | <b>159.65</b> | <b>-2.4%</b> |

Source: DGCI&S

## ANNEXURE-II

### Trend in plastics export by India

| Month     | 2018-19         | 2019-20         | Growth       |
|-----------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
|           | (USD Mn)        | (USD Mn)        | (%)          |
| April     | 742.66          | 702.53          | -5.4%        |
| May       | 741.65          | 830.55          | 12.0%        |
| June      | 769.08          | 732.57          | -4.7%        |
| July      | 730.46          | 709.33          | -2.9%        |
| August    | 830.05          | 699.40          | -15.7%       |
| September | 780.35          | 649.17          | -16.8%       |
|           | <b>4,594.26</b> | <b>4,323.55</b> | <b>-5.9%</b> |

Source: DGCI&S

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