

EXPANSION OF THE RESINS MARKET

'000s TONNES

	1990	1992	1994
Installed capacity	1,570	2,145	2,250
Production	1,250	1,600	1,670
Imports	400	570	650
Exports	240	360	320
Apparent consumption	1,410	1,810	2,000

Source: Asociación Nacional de las Industrias del Plástico (ANIPAC), National Association of the Plastics Industry. 1995 Annual Report.

Mexico's apparent consumption of plastic resins grew by 42 percent between 1990 and 1994, and was estimated at 2 million tonnes in the latter year. The market will contract in 1995 because of the economic crisis that followed the December 1994 devaluation of the peso. The construction industry, in particular, was hard hit by this crisis and the demand for plastics products has fallen in other industries as well. The larger Mexican plastics producers are attempting to maintain production by exporting. This should help maintain the demand for raw materials to some extent, since the finished products are eventually exported for hard currency. The large multinationals are continuing to expand their production, and some of them will take over parts of *Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX)*, the national oil company. New plants under construction by Shell, Eastman and Celanese are not expected to begin production until mid-1996 at the earliest.

The most recent estimates of apparent consumption of individual resins are for 1992. In that year, low-density polyethylene (LDPE) was the most commonly used resin, followed by high-density polyethylene (HDPE), polyvinyl chloride, polypropylene and polystyrene.

CONSUMPTION OF PLASTIC RESINS, 1992

'000 TONNES

Product	Production	Imports	Exports	Consumption
Low-density polyethylene (LDPE)	354.8	70.2	7.4	417.6
High-density polyethylene (HDPE)	220.1	143.5	66.6	297.0
Polyvinyl chloride	407.2	26.1	201.4	231.9
Polypropylene	111.7	111.2	30.9	192.0
Polystyrene	115.6	42.3	8.6	149.3
Acrylic	81.4	25.4	10.3	96.5
Urea resins	67.5	2.0	0.6	68.9

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