

life-span of nine to ten years. The machinery and equipment presently used in Mexico is still, in many instances, technologically outdated and in some cases even obsolete, accounting for its reduced productivity. In the new export-oriented industry, new products need to be introduced, new materials used, quality improved and, in general, efficiency increased, in order to supply domestic demand and international markets with a competitive edge. This is no time to stay behind and the plastics industry is no exception. Imported state of the art technology will continue to be crucial to the growth and development of the Mexican plastics industry.

3.1.2 Imports

The plastics industry has traditionally relied predominantly on imported machinery and equipment, which accounts for an average 70% to 80% of the market. Due to the extraordinary increase of imports in the past few years, the import market share has steadily increased since 1988 to the present 80%. In the years to come, since imports are expected to grow at a faster rate than local production, the imported share of the market is expected to continue increasing and to reach 82.6% by 1994.

Total Mexican imports of plastics production machinery were valued at \$88.8 million in 1988, including machinery and equipment for the transformation of plastics and rubber, parts thereof and moulds. In 1989, imports grew 48% and another 23.3% in 1990. In 1991, an additional 13% increase is anticipated and imports are expected to grow 10% annually between 1991 and 1994 to reach \$243.7 million by the latter year.

TABLE 2
MEXICAN IMPORTS OF PLASTICS AND RUBBER
PRODUCTION MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT

	1988	1989	1990
Injection moulding machines	13,330	30,083	37,137
Extruders	14,859	18,796	17,816
Blow moulding machines	12,521	16,212	24,621
Vacuum moulding machines	653	3,509	6,155
Tyre & tube moulding & retreading	1,036	468	907
Cutting & punching machines	1,272	2,617	4,904
Granulators, mills & crushers	751	1,557	2,085
Mixers	1,071	2,491	1,976
Machines with 2 or more functions	690	1,856	2,605
Painting, pigmenting & joining	359	918	242
Other machines for plastics	19,185	14,550	18,601
Parts for machinery & equipment	8,326	11,708	13,646
Moulds for plastics & rubber	14,754	23,887	31,309
TOTAL IMPORTS	88,807	128,652	162,004

Source: Import statistics by SECOFI