

There are only nine major manufacturers of plastics machinery in Mexico. The most important being Fabricación de Máquinas, S.A. (FAMA) (injection molding machines); Mecánica de Oriente (injection); Vulcano (manual injectors and blow molders); PRIPSA (peripheral equipment); Bentel Spacher (extrusion); I.T.I.S.A. (extrusion); Fregotherm McQuay (chillers) and Friomold (molds).

Until recently Leeson held an important share of the injection molding machinery produced locally. However Leeson, operating under license of Negri Bossi Italy closed its plant in Mexico because of low productivity, and production cost factors coupled with outdated technology. There are some other 110 manufacturers of molds. These are mostly small cottage industry operations which do not produce sophisticated molds.

As a result of Mexico opening its doors to imports and reduction of import duties it is estimated that by 1992 close to 90% of the total market will be of imported origin while local production will supply primarily spare parts and molds.

PROSPECTS

Machinery with best import sales prospects include:

blow molding	calendering
lamination	sealing
rotational molding	metalizing
foaming	electroplating
compression	decorating
thermoforming	finishing machines
coating	

Another important factor which should be kept in mind is that while the industry has made substantial equipment purchases abroad; due to the recent and current economic situation, many firms have tapered off their new equipment purchases which are considered too costly. As a result the industry is in the market for spare parts and molding accessories. Molds will have an excellent growth potential considering using existing machinery more efficiently, as well as screws to adapt the existing machines to other resins. It is in these areas that higher growth is expected.