

In terms of volume, the materials most commonly used are low density polyethylene (30%), high density polyethylene (16%), PVC (11%), polypropylene (8%) and polystyrene (7%). The highest growth rates during 1990 and 1991 have been in polyethylene terephthalate (40% during the two years), polypropylene (35%), polycarbonates (15%), low density polyethylene (12%), urea resins (12%), ABS (10%), polyamid (10%) and alkyd resins (10%).

The following table shows the growth in total apparent consumption of plastics between 1981 and 1991.

TABLE 6
GROWTH IN APPARENT CONSUMPTION BY TYPE OF RESIN
 (% annual growth)

PLASTIC	81-85	85-89	87-89	90-91
Low density polyethylene	3.7	2.5	13.5	6.0
High density polyethylene	4.1	13.5	18.5	3.0
Polyvinyl chloride	2.0	(2.2)	3.3	3.0
Polypropylene	(2.8)	4.4	2.2	17.5
Polystyrene	(3.1)	2.3	0.6	(3.5)
Urea formaldehyde	10.8	7.8	5.6	6.0
Polyurethane	(15.0)	7.9	18.4	0
Unsaturated polyester	(1.1)	3.5	3.5	2
Phenol formaldehyde	2.4	(0.8)	6.1	(10)
Expoxy resins	(3.5)	22.5	52.0	0
Melamine formaldehyde	(12.3)	25.2	41.8	(5.0)
Polymethyl methacrylate	1.5	6.1	4.0	3.0
ABS	4.8	(1.6)	8.9	5.0
Polyethylene teraphthalate	-	-	34.9	20.0
Polyamide	12.5	13.8	20.6	5.0
Polyoxymethylene	(6.2)	11.0	5.8	6.5
Polycarbonate	(10.6)	1.7	21.2	2.5

Source: IMPI

3.2.2 Imports

Imports have played an important role in this growing market, in particular those of polypropylene, which is not yet produced in Mexico, and polyethylene, as well as engineering resins and specialty products. During the 1981-1987 period, imports lost ground before locally produced resins and materials. Imports decreased from 312,180 tons to 228,000 tons, decreasing their relative participation in total apparent consumption from 32% to 20% in terms of volume. However, in response to Mexico's liberalization policies, imports have grown starting in 1988 and have done so since. In 1989, they grew 26%, representing 26% of supply and in 1991, they are estimated to represent 27%.

Total imports amounted to \$423.9 million in 1990, representing 33.5% of total consumption in terms of value and 24.8% in terms

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