

IMPORTS

The Mexican plastics processing industry has traditionally relied on imported machinery and equipment. Import penetration has steadily increased, from 71 percent in 1988 to 77 percent in 1993. Total imports quadrupled from US \$88.8 million to US \$356.1 million over this five-year period. This trend is expected to continue, with imports achieving a market share of about 80 percent by 1996.

In 1991 alone, imports surged by 61 percent to US \$258.8 million, driven by a 119 percent jump in imports of molds and a 49 percent increase in machinery and equipment. Import growth was a more moderate 19 percent in 1992 and is estimated at 16 percent for 1993, based on preliminary data. Imports are projected to grow by 14 percent annually between 1994 and 1996 to reach US \$512 million.

IMPORTS OF MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT FOR PLASTICS AND RUBBER PRODUCTION TO MEXICO, 1992

	1992 US \$000s	1990-1992 Percentage Change
Machinery	196,681	69
Injection molding machines	47,539	53
Blow molding machines	36,706	49
Extruders	24,949	40
Injection machines	15,730	170
Machines for two or more operations	13,570	429
Vacuum molding machines	12,276	119
Cutting and punching machines	12,020	145
Other molding machines	3,095	-65
Granulators, mills and crushers	2,775	33
Mixers	2,266	15
Tire and tube molding and retreading	1,484	64
Other machines for plastics	24,271	143
Molds and parts	109,949	145
Parts for machinery	19,968	68
Injection/compression molds	46,414	213
Injection molds	20,155	134
Molds for tires and tubes	4,320	68
Molds for blowing containers	3,822	93
Other molds	15,270	372
Total Imports	\$ 306,630	

Source: Import statistics by Secretaría de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI), Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development.

