IMPORTS

Imports have played a critical role in this growing market. Polypropylene was not produced in Mexico until 1991. Polyethylene, engineering resins and specialty products have also been key imports. Between 1981 and 1987, imports fell from 312,180 tons to 228,000 tons, decreasing import penetration from 32 percent to 20 percent by volume. Mexico's trade liberalization policies, beginning in 1988, led to sharp increases in imports of resins, and they have continued to grow. In 1992, imports increased by 19.9 percent to 581,700 tons, representing 31.3 percent of domestic consumption by volume.

IMPORTS OF PLASTIC RESINS AND MATERIALS BY MEXICO, 1992

	1992 (US $ 000)	Percentage change 1990-1992
Low density polyethylene (LDPE)	67,747	132.6
High density polyethylene (HDPE)	104,451	-3.1
Other ethylene polymers	13,023	69.2
Polypropylene	85,304	-25.7
Polyisobutilene	4,065	-25
Other propylene polymers	22,332	75.1
Polystyrene	17,701	89.4
SAN	1,507	77.1
ABS	4,877	10
Other styrene polymers	7,829	5
Polyvinyl chloride	16,353	84
Other vinyl chloride polymers	10,812	10.9
Vinyl acetate polymers	4,505	246.8
Polyvinyl alcohol	8,336	108.4
Other vinyl polymers	20,416	95.6
Polymethyl metarcrilate	5,549	34.9
Other acrylic polymers	50,883	74.1
Polyacetales	4,304	175.7
Other polyester resins	15,748	172.9
Epoxy resins	17,066	22.9
Polycarbonates	7,243	93.9
Alkyd resins	416	-37.1
Polyethylene terephtalate	9,493	1667.8
Other unsaturated polyester	2,154	289.5
Other polyester resins	19,047	86.5
Polyamides	10,709	96.6
Urea resins	1,263	374.8
Melamine resins	3,422	78
Other amine resins	507	21.6
Phenol resins	5,565	130.4
Polyurethane	8,167	15.6
Silicone	21,176	53.8
Other petroleum resins	9,290	23.5
Cellulose acetate	4,127	15.8
Cellulose nitrate	13,113	22.8
Cellulose ethers	15,002	45.8
Other cellulose	3,921	33.8
Alginic acid	2,264	27
Other natural polymers	8,270	16.8
Ionic interchangers	10,560	152.4
TOTAL	**638,517**	

Source: Secretaria de Comercio y Fomento Industrial (SECOFI), Secretariat of Commerce and Industrial Development.