

PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES OF REGISTERED PLASTICS COMPANIES, 1994

Products	Percentage
Film and bags	14.5
Clean plastic packaging	11.8
Household goods	9.1
Moulded parts and packaging	8.2
Footwear	7.8
Toys	6.3
Building plastics	5.7
Decorative laminates	5.3
Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) products	5.1
Shapes and tubes	4.9
Other products	21.3

Source: Asociación Nacional de las Industrias del Plástico (ANIPAC), National Association of the Plastics Industry.

Many Mexican-owned companies are seeking partnerships or joint ventures with foreign firms to improve their competitiveness. They seek technical assistance and capital, and in exchange offer access to the local market. Mexican company officials interviewed for this profile suggested that joint ventures are a way of ensuring that they meet the quality standards of the partner's market. They also believe that low labour costs in Mexico create opportunities for co-production arrangements.

The pending privatization of 61 petrochemical plants owned by *Petróleos Mexicanos (PEMEX)*, the national oil company, is causing a realignment of supplier-customer relationships. The largest firms are interested in buying *PEMEX* plants as a means of vertical or horizontal integration. Smaller companies are looking for new suppliers, because of a concern that competitors may buy key elements of *PEMEX*.

PRODUCTION TECHNIQUES

Injection and extrusion moulding are the most widely-used production techniques, because of their versatility. Blowing is becoming increasingly common, as advanced packaging products become more popular. Blowing is required because of the increased use of some new plastics and resins such as polyethylene terephthalate (PET).