consumption of plastic resins reached 1.9 million tons in 1992, up from 1.4 million tons in 1990. Total consumption is projected at US $1.9 billion in 1996.

The types of resins available in Mexico continue to be limited, partly because they are not produced locally and partly because firms exporting to Mexico do not usually offer their full product lines. Plastic processors have expressed considerable interest in exploring new materials and finding new applications. Engineering resins, usually produced in low volume and at higher cost than commodity resins, are particularly sought after in Mexico. These are mainly imported because their sales volumes in Mexico are too low to justify the technologically-advanced production processes involved. Engineering resins used in Mexico include ABS, PET, polycarbonate, polyacetal resins, nylon, fluoropolymers, polyamide, polyesters, polyurethanes, epoxy resins, unsaturated polyester, alloys and blends. These are areas of particular opportunity for Canadian companies interested in marketing in Mexico. Additives for plastics are also an important market opportunity. Mexico relies entirely on imports, but foreign suppliers of these products have not marketed their products aggressively.

Several companies, mostly multinational firms, are investing significant amounts in new plastic processing plants in Mexico in order to supply the local market and take advantage of export opportunities that will open as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

Consumption of Plastic Resins in Mexico, 1992 (000 tons)

Product	Production	Imports	Exports	Consumption	Import percentage
Low density polyethylene	354.8	70.2	7.4	417.6	16.8
High density polyethylene	220.1	143.5	66.6	297	48.3
Polyvinyl chloride	407.2	26.1	201.4	231.9	11.3
Polypropylene	111.7	111.2	30.9	192	57.9
Polystyrene	115.6	42.3	8.6	149.3	28.3
Acrylic	81.4	25.4	10.3	96.5	26.3
Urea resins	67.5	2	0.6	68.9	2.9
Alkyd resins	64	0.4	0.4	64	0.6
Polyvinyl acetate emulsions	46.1	6	2.8	49.3	12.2
Polyesters	34.8	17.3	7.4	44.7	38.7
Polyurethanes	33.6	5.9	0.2	39.3	15
ABS and SAN	44.3	13.4	19	38.7	34.6
Polyethylene terephtalate	27.2	6.7	4.7	29.2	22.9
Phenolic resins	17.5	5.6	0.4	22.7	24.7
Epoxy resins	1.8	11.3	3.6	9.5	118.9
Linear LDPE	0	8.9	0	8.9	100
Melamine resins	5	1.7	0.1	6.6	25.8
Ionic interchange	2.2	3	0.2	5	60
Polyamides	1.4	3.2	0	4.6	69.6
Maleic resins	4	0.1	1.3	2.8	3.6
Tar esters	3.5	0.2	0.9	2.8	7.1
Fumaric and furanic resins	2.4	0	0	2.4	0
Other	20.1	77.2	15	82.3	93.8
TOTALS	**1666.2**	**581.6**	**381.8**	**1866**	**31.3**

Source: *Comisión Petroquímica Mexicana*, Mexican Petrochemicals Commission.