

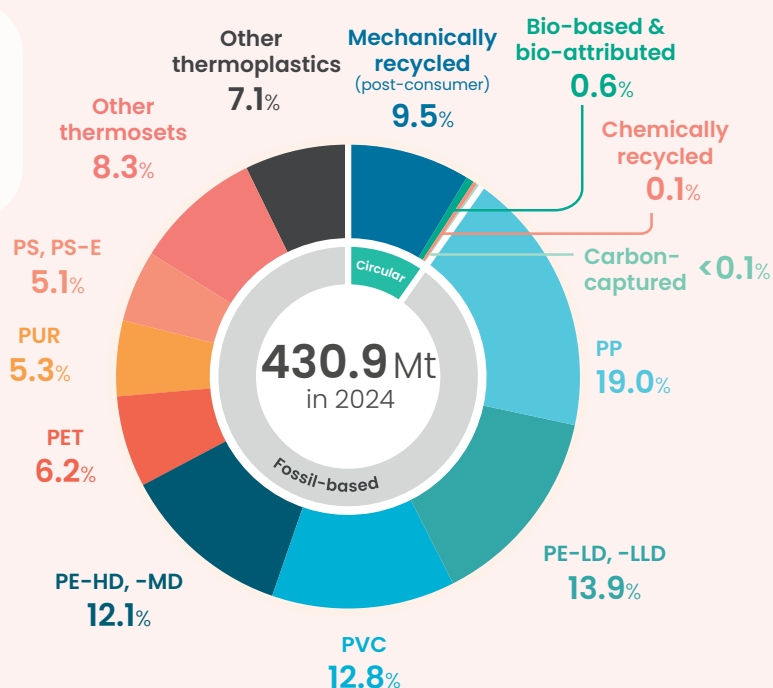
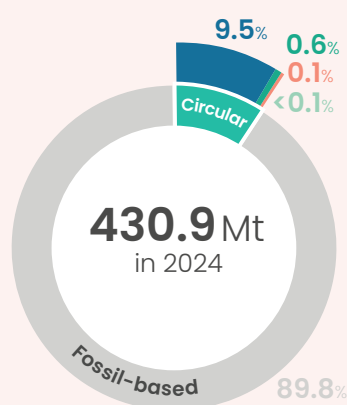
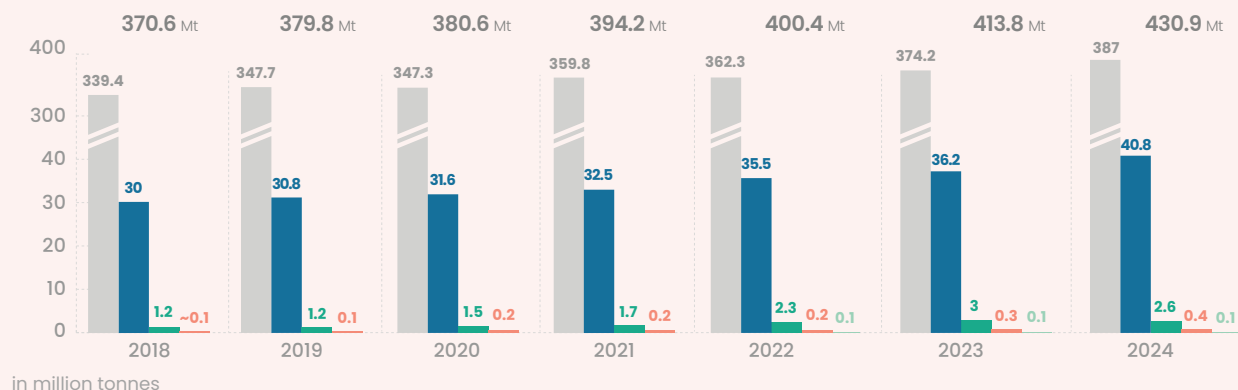
# Plastics the Fast Facts 2025

Global and European plastics production and economic indicators



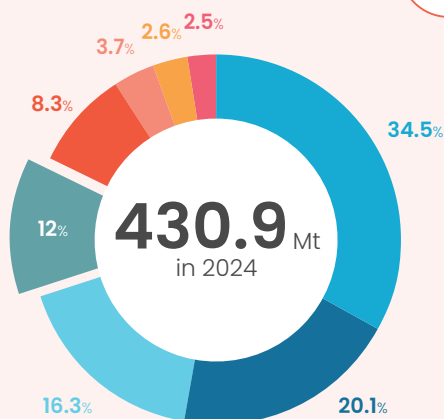
# 2024 World plastics production

## World plastics production 2018–2024 evolution

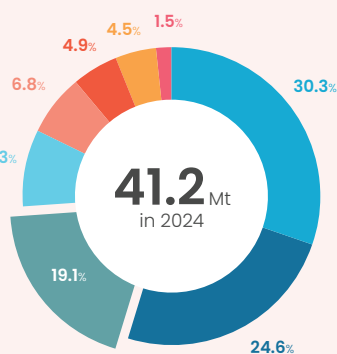


## World plastics production by regions

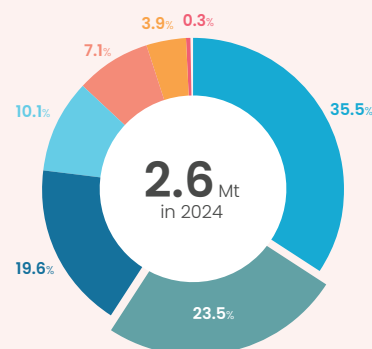
Total global plastics production



Global mechanically & chemically recycled (post-consumer) plastics production<sup>3</sup>



Global bio-based and bio-attributed plastics production

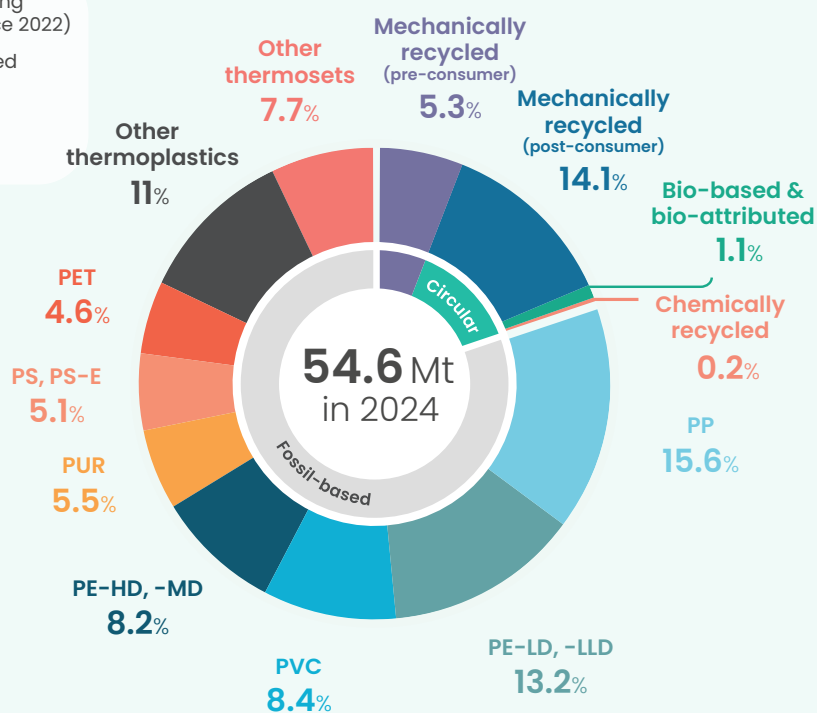
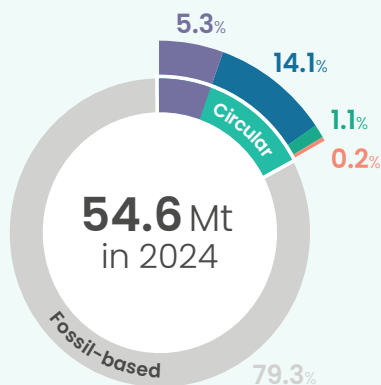
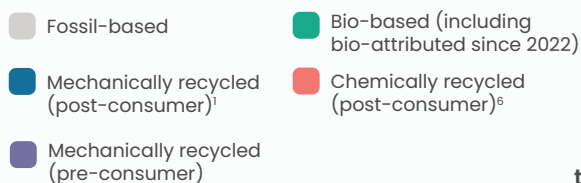
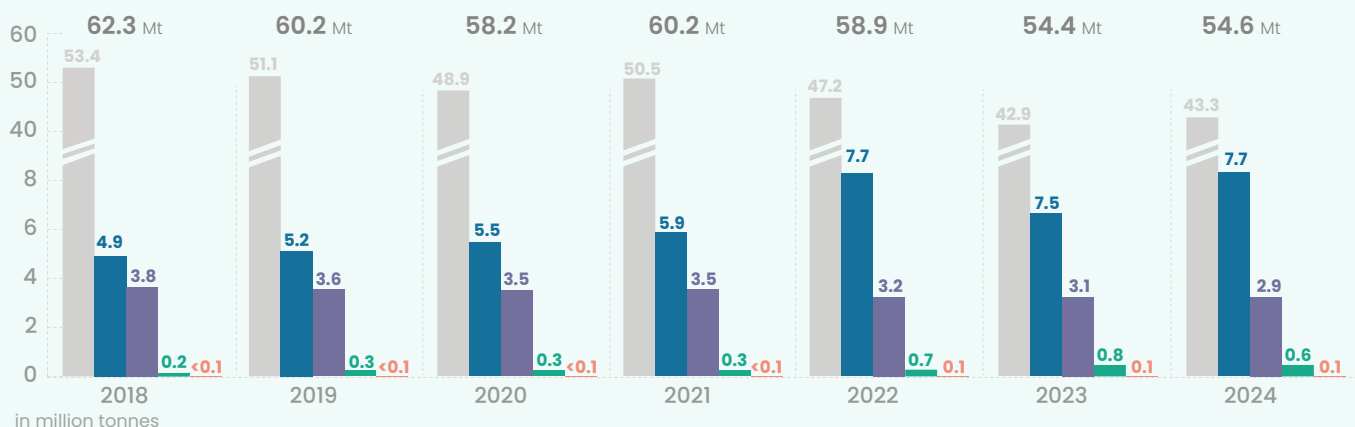


China Rest of Asia<sup>4</sup> North America EU27+3\* Middle East, Africa Central & South America Japan CIS<sup>5</sup>

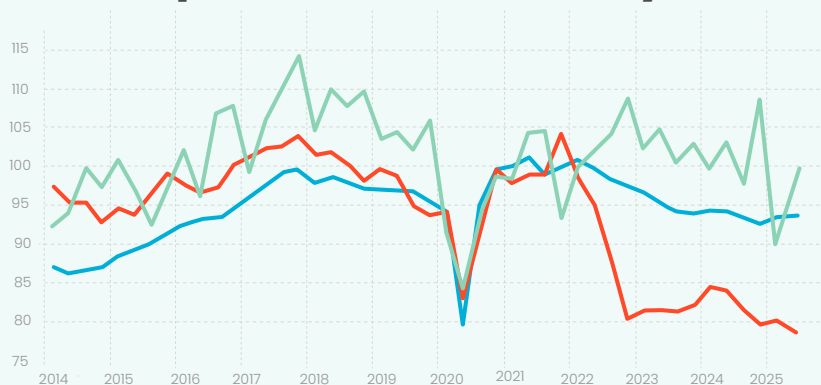
\*Mechanically recycled (pre-consumer) excluded as not available for other regions of the World

# 2024 European plastics production

## European plastics production 2018–2024 evolution



## Plastics production industry indexes in EU27



index 2021=100, seasonally adjusted, quarterly data

- Plastics and rubber machinery
- Plastics in primary forms
- Plastics products

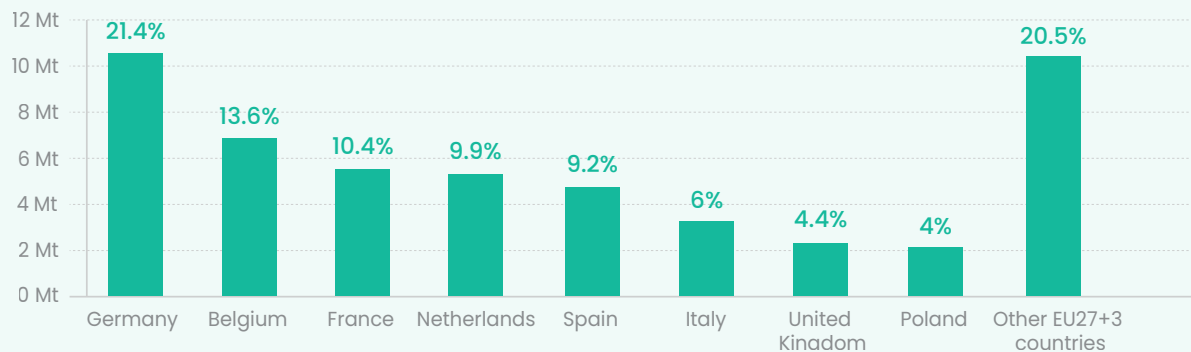
Source: Eurostat, August 2025.

Production: the official Eurostat denomination is «Manufacture of plastics in primary forms».  
Conversion: the official Eurostat denomination is «Manufacture of plastic products».

# 2024 European plastics production

## European plastics production by country

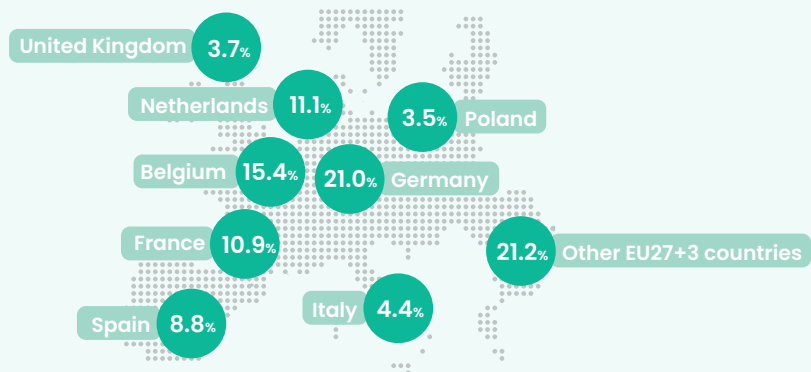
Total plastics production  
**54.6** Mt\*



\* 54.6Mt including 0.3Mt of bio-attributed plastics (which represents ~ 0.6%) that cannot be shown at country level for data availability reasons

### Fossil-based plastics production

**43.3** Mt



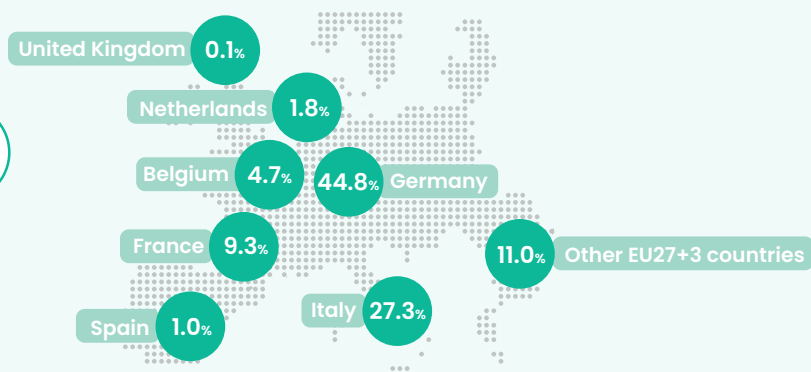
### Mechanically & chemically recycled (post-consumer) plastics production<sup>6</sup>

**7.8** Mt



### Bio-based plastics production\*

**0.3** Mt



\*Does not include bio-attributed plastics production for data availability reasons

# 2024 European plastics trade

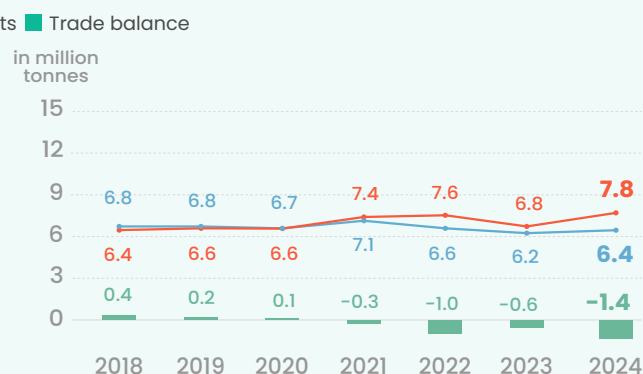
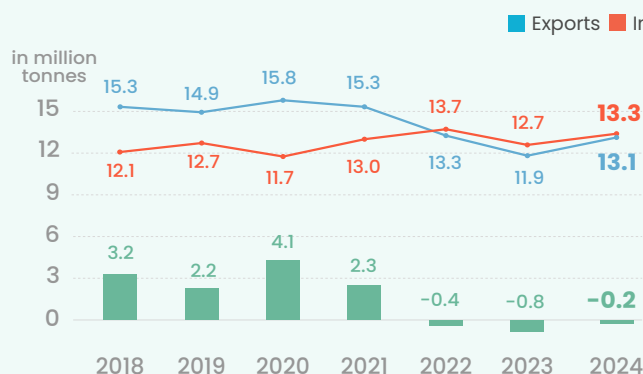
## EU trade balance in tonnage

Total EU27 trade balance

**-1.6 Mt**

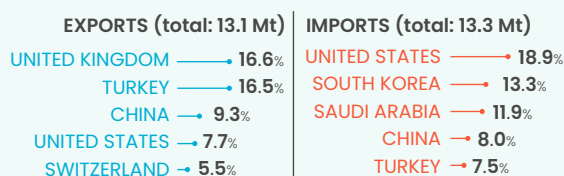
### PLASTICS PRODUCTION EXTRA-EU27

### PLASTICS CONVERSION EXTRA-EU27

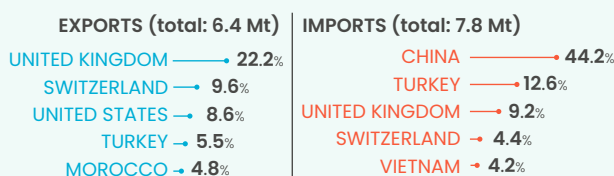


## Extra-EU27 top trade partners in tonnage

### PLASTICS PRODUCTION EXTRA-EU27



### PLASTICS CONVERSION EXTRA-EU27



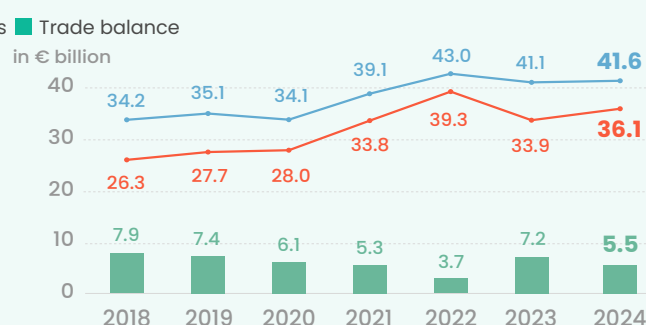
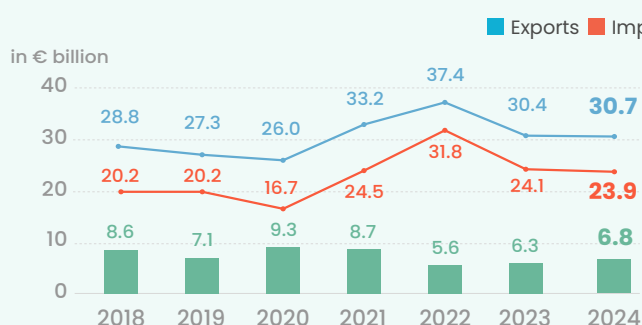
## EU trade balance in value

Total EU27 trade balance

**€12.3 bn**

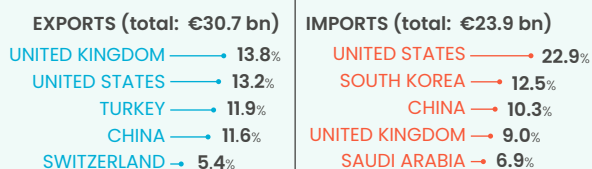
### PLASTICS PRODUCTION EXTRA-EU27

### PLASTICS CONVERSION EXTRA-EU27

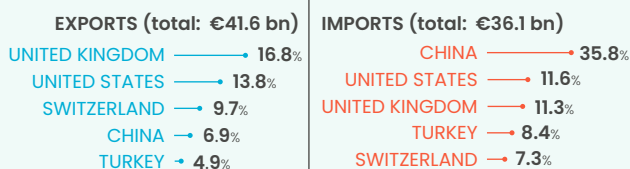


## Extra-EU top trade partners in value

### PLASTICS PRODUCTION EXTRA-EU27



### PLASTICS CONVERSION EXTRA-EU27



Source: Eurostat, March 2025.

Production: the official Eurostat denomination is «Manufacture of plastics in primary forms».  
Conversion: the official Eurostat denomination is «Manufacture of plastic products».

# 2024 European key figures



**~1.5 M**  
Employees



**~50,650**  
Companies



**€12.3 bn**  
Trade balance  
in value



**~€ 398 bn**  
Turnover<sup>7</sup>



**15.4%**  
Circular plastics  
share in production<sup>8</sup>



**-1.6 Mt**  
Trade balance  
in tonnage



**54.6 Mt**  
Plastics production



**12%**  
Europe's share of global  
plastics production

1. Data developed for 2018; data for following years are based on estimations and statistical projections.
2. Chemically recycled plastics production is estimated at 0.37 Mt, based on available data, with the fuel-use exempt mass balance attribution rule. This method includes secondary chemicals which can be used for the production of plastics and other materials.
3. For data availability reasons, mechanically and chemically recycled plastics cannot be shown separately. Chemically recycled plastics represent a small share of the total post-consumer recycled plastics.
4. Includes Asian countries (except China & Japan), Oceania, Turkey and Ukraine.
5. Commonwealth of Independent States : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.
6. Chemically recycled plastics production is estimated at -0.11 Mt, based on available data, with the fuel-use exempt mass balance attribution rule. This method includes secondary chemicals which can be used for the production of plastics and other materials.
7. Eurostat data has been revised which causes significant change in the 2022 and 2023 turnovers. Eurostat revised turnover data is: €457bn in 2022 and €410bn in 2023
8. This number excludes pre-consumer recycled plastics production (pre-consumer recycled plastics means recycled plastics from waste arising from the plastics production and converting processes). The "Plastics Transition" roadmap defines 'circular plastics' as an overarching term including post-consumer recycled plastics, plastics from bio-based feedstock, and from carbon-capture, excluding pre-consumer.

"Plastics the Fast Facts" 2025 shows 2024 preliminary global and European plastics production data. It also provides 2024 European plastics industry's key economic figures, trade balance and top trade partners.

For a more complete and in-depth analysis of the plastics circular economy in Europe, please refer to Plastics Europe's biennial "Circular Economy for Plastics – A European Analysis" reports.

**Sources:** Conversio Market & Strategy GmbH and nova-Institut. Structural data of the European plastics industry are 2024 Plastics Europe estimations based on 2022 Eurostat official data, production and price indices. Plastics the Fast Facts data are rounded preliminary estimations.

**Scope:** World or EU27+3 (Norway, Switzerland, and United Kingdom), unless specified otherwise. Polymers that are not used in the conversion of plastic parts and products are not included (i.e. quantities used for adhesives, sealants, coatings, paints, varnishes, textiles, waterproofing, or within the production of cosmetics, medicines or chemical processes). PVC-, PO- and PU-fibers are included, whereas PA, PET-, PBT-fibers, or acrylic polyesters are not included.

**Note:** Plastics Europe is adapting its datasets on a continuous basis, to offer the best available data that can help to address today's sustainability challenges. This means that historical data sometimes needs to be adapted retrospectively, in function of new scope and definitions, as well as new data availability.