



The plastics industry represents processors and manufacturers of machinery, molds, and raw materials and together amount for the third largest manufacturing industry in the United States. Plastics play a vital role in the delivery of a myriad of products that enhance every aspect of our lives including automotive, health and medical, construction and recreation. In 2007, the U.S. plastics industry accounted for more than \$374 billion dollars in annual shipments and directly employed more than 1.1 million people in over 17,600 facilities.

Industry Wide Key Statistics, 2007

	Employees (thousands)	Annual Payroll (millions)	Value Added (millions)	Value of Industrial Shipments (millions)	New Capital Expenditures (millions)
Manufacturing	808	32,995	121,469	271,278	8,277
Captives*	243	9283	29,595	63,089	1,927
Wholesale	32	1,688	n/a	39,545	n/a
TOTAL INDUSTRY	1,083	43,966	151,064	373,912	10,204

Trends in the Plastics Industry

- Employment in the plastics industry is declining. There are 322,700 fewer employees since 2002, a 30% decrease. The number of establishments has also declined by 13%.
- The value of industrial shipments increased by 17% since 2002.
- Meanwhile, the cost of materials in the plastics industry, excluding wholesale trade, increased over \$45 billion since 2002, an escalation of over 25%.
- The total value added in the plastics industry, excluding wholesale trade, increased by \$19.8 billion since 2002, a total increase of 13%.
- Annual payroll in the plastics industry has declined by over \$4 billion, or 9%, since 2002.
- New capital expenditures in the plastics industry, excluding wholesale trade, declined by \$2 billion, or 21%, since 2002.

* plastics manufacturers and establishments engaged in plastics processing activities

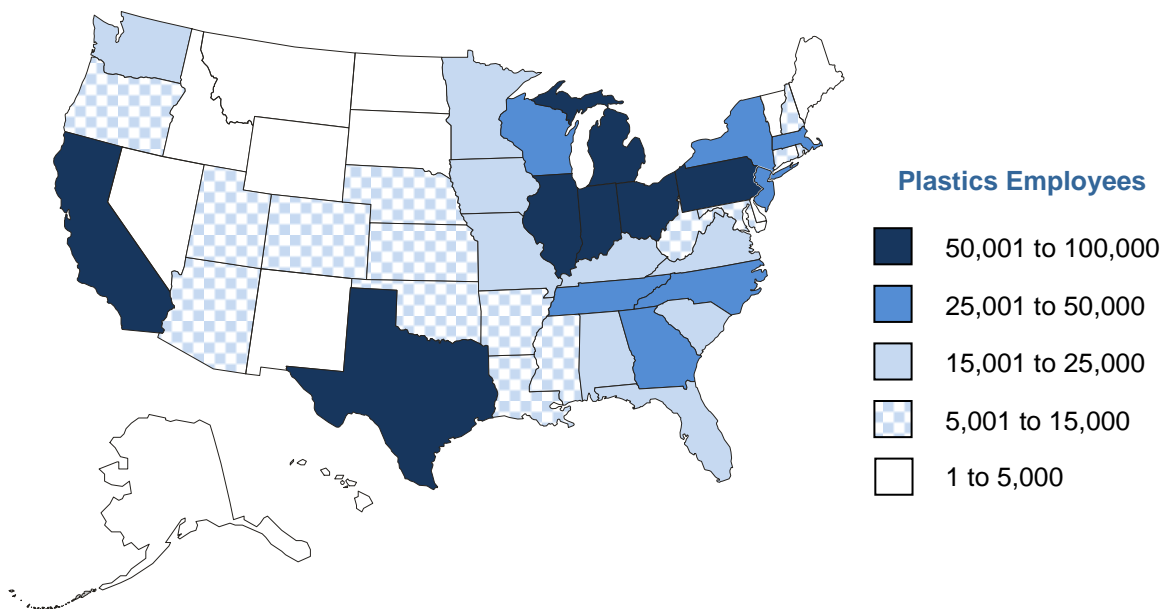
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 Based upon 2007 data contained in SPI's Size and Impact of the Plastics Industry on the U.S. Economy study and trade data from the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. International Trade Commission





Location of the Plastics Industry



Industry Wide Trade Flows, 2008

	2008	2007	Change
Exports	\$51.6 billion	\$48.4 billion	6.7% increase
Imports	\$38.6 billion	\$37.5 billion	3.0% increase
Trade Balance	\$13.0 billion	\$10.9 billion	\$2.1 billion increase

- Imports from China are having a significant impact on the industry. Trade in plastics products reached a deficit of \$4.1 billion. The plastics product deficit with China alone amounted to a record \$7.7 billion in 2008. However, in addition to being a significant import source, China is also the industry's third-largest export market.
- The top five export markets for the industry in 2008 were: Canada (22%), Mexico (21%), China (8%), Belgium (4%) and Japan (4%).
- The top five import sources for the industry in 2008 were: Canada (30%), China (24%), Germany (7%), Mexico (7%) and Japan (6%).

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