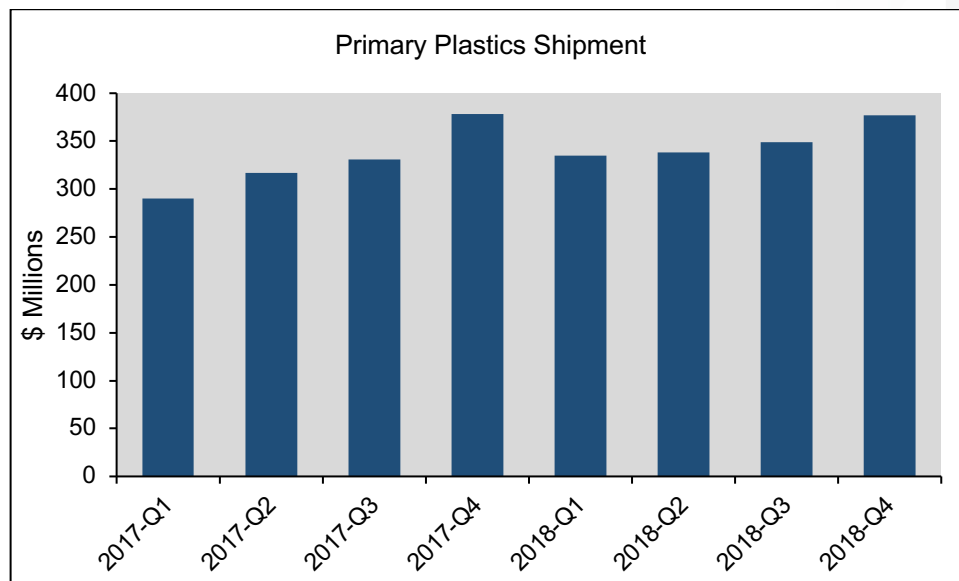


Plastics Machinery Shipments Finished Strong in 2018

The shipments value of primary plastics machinery (injection molding and extrusion) in North American increased in the fourth quarter according to the statistics compiled and reported by the Plastics Industry Association's (PLASTICS) Committee on Equipment Statistics (CES).

The preliminary estimate of shipments value from reporting companies totaled \$376.9 million – an 8.0 percent increase from the third quarter. Injection molding shipments rose 8.8 percent and single- and twin-extrusion equipment shipments increased 4.6 percent and 1.5 percent, respectively.



Comparing the fourth quarter 2018 shipments to the fourth quarter 2017, the value of single- and twin-extrusion equipment shipments rose by an impressive 33.7 percent and 52.0 percent, respectively. However, injection molding shipments value was 4.9 percent lower over the same period.

“We projected higher shipments for the fourth quarter and that’s exactly what transpired” according to Perc Pineda, PhD, Chief Economist of PLASTICS. “The increase is not due to inflationary pressures of the economy, which one tends to think about when dollar value increases, but purely an increase in the quantity of shipments. The unit shipments of injection molding rose 2.7 percent. Single-screw and twin-screw extruders shipments increased 5.6 percent and 16.1 percent, respectively. All told, quantity of shipments of primary plastics machinery increased by 3.8 percent from the third quarter” Pineda added.

The CES also conducts a quarterly survey of plastics machinery suppliers that asks about present market conditions and expectation for the future. In the coming quarter, 75 percent of the respondents expect conditions to either improve or hold steady. As for the next 12 months, 67 percent expect the market to be steady-to-better.

There was consensus from the survey of plastics machinery suppliers that Latin America and Mexico are growing export markets for machineries. The ongoing U.S. trade tensions with China remains to be a concern and sputtering economic performance in most of Europe caused a dimmer market outlook in the fourth quarter in both export markets.

“Exporting is a key activity of U.S. plastics machinery makers. Unfortunately, a full analysis for plastics machinery global trade for the fourth quarter was hampered by the recent U.S. government shutdown. The December trade data is now scheduled to be release on March 6, 2019. Based on October and November data, we expect plastics machinery exports on pace to fall short of \$400 million” according to Pineda.

As for the major end-markets, the respondents to the fourth quarter survey expect that medical and packaging will remain strong in terms of demand for plastics products and equipment.

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The PLASTICS Committee on Equipment Statistics (CES) collects monthly data from manufacturers of plastic injection molding, extrusion, blow molding, hot runners and auxiliary equipment. A confidential, third-party fiduciary, Vault Consulting, LLC, compiles the monthly data and analyzes individual company data for consistency and accuracy. Once this crucial process is completed, Vault aggregates and disseminates reports to participating companies. If this is something you and your company are interested in please contact Katie Hanczaryk at khanczaryk@plasticsindustry.org or 202-974-5296.

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About Plastics Industry Association

The Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), formerly SPI, is the only organization that supports the entire plastics supply chain, representing nearly one million workers in the \$404 billion U.S. industry. Since 1937, PLASTICS has been working to make its members and the industry more globally competitive while advancing recycling and sustainability. To learn more about PLASTICS' education initiatives, industry-leading insights and events, networking opportunities and policy advocacy, and North America's largest plastics trade show, NPE: The Plastics Show, visit plasticsindustry.org. Connect with PLASTICS on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).