

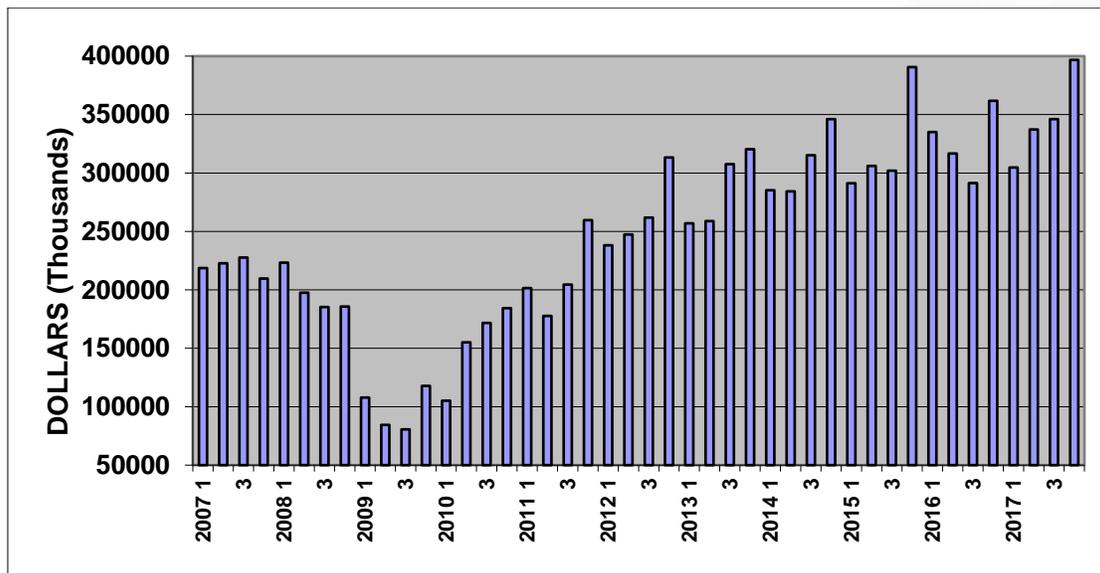
## Plastics Machinery Shipments Up 9.7% Y/Y in Q4 of 2017

Thanks to a very strong performance by the injection molding segment, North American shipments of primary plastics machinery posted another strong year-over-year increase in Q4 of 2017 according to statistics compiled and reported by the Plastics Industry Association’s (PLASTICS) Committee on Equipment Statistics (CES). This marked the third consecutive quarterly Y/Y increase in this data.

The preliminary estimate for shipments of primary plastics equipment (injection molding, extrusion, and blow molding equipment) for reporting companies totaled \$396.7 million in the fourth quarter. This was 9.7 percent higher than the total of \$361.7 million in Q4 of 2016, and it was 14.6 percent stronger than the revised \$346.1 million from Q3 of 2017. This Y/Y gain in Q4 followed a revised 18.8 percent Y/Y increase in the quarterly total from Q3.

“Both the overall US manufacturing sector and the US plastics industry carried solid momentum into 2018. This is evident in the fact that the quarterly total for plastics equipment shipments was the highest it has been in recent memory. The underlying economic fundamentals in the U.S. will continue to push higher, and global demand will also improve in 2018. That will keep intact the long-term incentives for investment in capital equipment,” according to Bill Wood, of Mountaintop Economics & Research, Inc.

### PRIMARY PLASTICS EQUIPMENT SHIPMENTS



The shipments value of injection molding machinery jumped 20 percent in Q4 when compared with last year. The shipments value of single-screw extruders declined by 15 percent. The shipments value of twin-screw extruders (which includes both co-rotating and counter-rotating machines) slipped 1 percent. The shipments value of blow molding machines in Q4 declined by 41 percent.

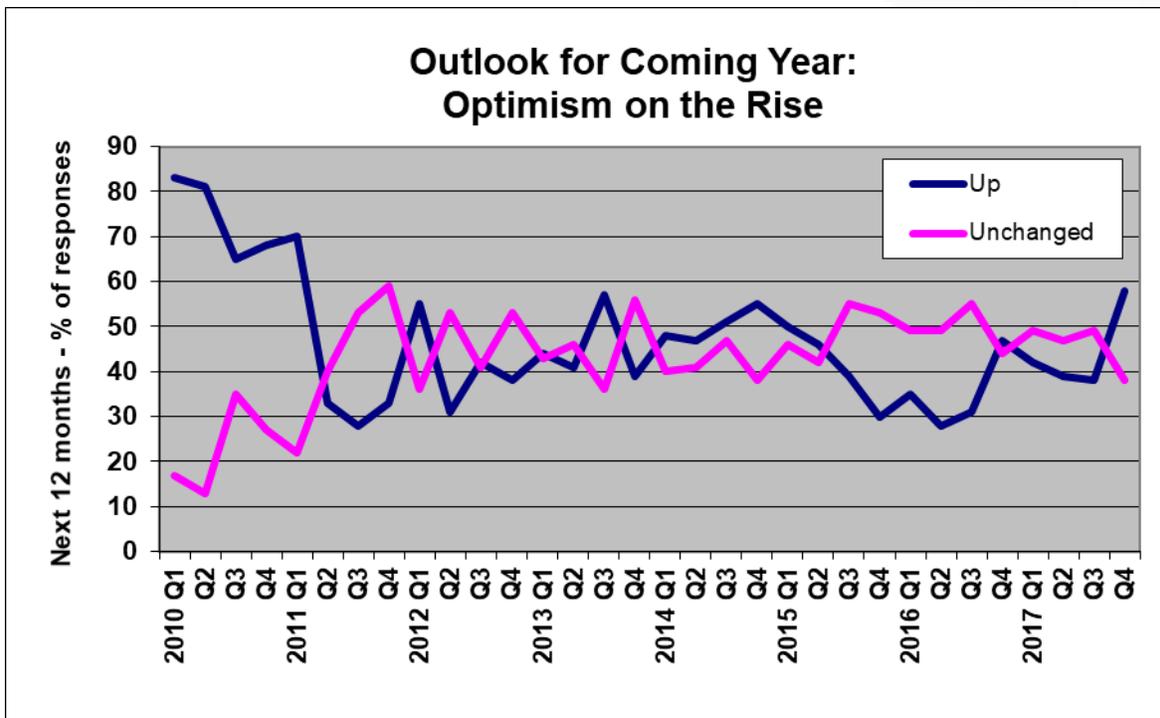
Demand for auxiliary equipment also appeared to be solid in the fourth quarter according to the latest estimate for total bookings. Actual comparisons in this year’s quarterly auxiliary data to last year’s quarterly totals are unavailable due to a change in the number of reporting companies.

The solid results in the CES machinery data in the fourth quarter were matched by robust gains in two other data series that track the U.S. industrial machinery sector. The data on U.S. business investment in new industrial equipment (reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis) showed that spending for industrial equipment in Q4 of 2017 increased by 7.4% when compared with the previous year. For the year 2017, this indicator was up 7% from 2016. According to the Census Bureau, new orders for industrial equipment expanded by 8% in Q4 of 2017 when compared with the previous year. For the year 2017 they were up a solid 9.1%.

The CES also conducts a quarterly survey of plastics machinery suppliers that asks about their future expectations. According to the Q4 survey, 96 percent of respondents expect market conditions to either hold steady or get better during the next year. This is substantially stronger than the 87 percent in Q3.

Global market conditions in 2018 are expected to improve. Expectations for North America improved significantly. Expectations for the major international regions—Latin America, Mexico, Asia, and Europe—call for steady-to-better market conditions in the coming year.

The respondents to the Q4 survey expect that automotive, packaging, and medical/pharmaceutical will be the strongest end-markets in the coming year. The outlook for all other major end-markets calls for steady-to-better conditions.



###

The industry and survey analysis that appears in this media report was contributed by Bill Wood of Mountaintop Economics & Research, Inc., a supplier of market analyses and forecasts for decision makers in the plastics Industry. Mr. Wood is a plastics market economist with more than 30 years of experience in industrial market analysis and forecasting. ([billwood@plasticseconomics.com](mailto:billwood@plasticseconomics.com))

###

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](mailto:khanczaryk@plasticsindustry.org) or 202-974-5296.

###

Plastics Industry Association (PLASTICS), formerly SPI, is the only organization that supports the entire plastics supply chain, representing nearly one million workers in the \$418 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](http://PlasticsIndustry.org). Connect with PLASTICS on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#).