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THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE PLASTICS INDUSTRY
IN ISRAEL

by
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I. Introduction

The first local factory was established in Israel 40 years ago, but the bulk of the industry has developed only during the past decade. Israel has a particular need for plastics, if only because the alternative materials - metals and timber - are all imported.

Due to the dynamic industrialization of Israel, it may be anticipated by analogy that Israel's plastic industry will continue growing at least at its present rate of growth.

II. Production and import of plastics raw materials

The three major groups of materials presently produced in Israel are:

LDPE (49%, by weight)

PVC (34%) and

THERMOSETS (17%)

Total production and imports of plastics raw materials for the period 1968 - 1976 are present in Table I.

SEE TABLE I. - Page 2

III. Consumption and export of plastic raw materials

Consumption and export of plastic raw materials for the period 1968 - 1976 are summarized in Table II.

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Table 1

Production and Import (1000 tons)
of Plastic Raw Materials in Israel

	<u>PRODUCTION</u>					<u>EST. (1)</u> <u>1976</u>	<u>IMPORT</u>			<u>EST.</u> <u>1976</u>		
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>		<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>		<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
P.V.C.	7.9	8.6	9.6	10.5	13.5	50.0	1.8	4.4	6.8	7.2	10.0	5.0
LDPE	18.6	16.0	17.8	18.0	19.0	53.0	2.1	3.5	0.8	1.8	4.0	2.0
HDPE	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	4.4	4.7	1.0	8.0
Polystyrene	-	-	-	-	-	16.0	6.1	6.7	7.0	8.0	7.5	2.0
Polypropylene	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.8	2.4	2.7	4.0	5.5	10.0
Thermosets (2)	3.4	4.0	4.4	6.0	7.0	18.0	0.5	1.0	1.0	1.5	-	1.0
Polyurethanes	-	-	-	-	-	-	1.2	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.0	5.0
Others	-	-	-	-	-	12.0 (3)	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.7	3.0
TOTAL	29.9	28.6	31.8	34.5	39.5	149.0	14.0	20.3	25.0	31.2	38.3	36.0

- (1) Accompanied by added capacities of ethylene, benzene, styrene and methanol
- (2) Urea formaldehyde, Melamin formaldehyde, Phenol formaldehyde and Polyesters
- (3) Includes Nylon 6/6 - and polyester - fibers

Table 11

Consumption and Export (1000 tons)
of plastic Raw Materials, Israel

	<u>CONSUMPTION</u>					<u>EXPORT</u>			<u>EST.</u> <u>1976</u>		
	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>	<u>1968</u>	<u>1969</u>	<u>1970</u>		<u>1971</u>	<u>1972</u>
PVC	8.5	11.4	13.9	16.6	21.0	1.2	1.6	2.5	1.1	2.5	15.0
LDPE	10.4	14.2	13.0	17.6	21.0	10.3	5.3	2.5	2.2	2.0	13.0
HDPE	-	-	4.4	4.7	5.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polystyrene	6.1	6.7	7.0	8.0	7.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Polypropylene	1.8	2.4	2.7	4.0	5.5	-	-	-	-	-	-
Thermosets	2.5	3.1	3.0	3.3	3.5	1.0	1.0	1.6	2.9	5.1	13.0
Polyurethanes	1.1	1.7	2.3	2.8	3.0	-	-	-	-	-	-
Others	0.5	0.6	0.8	1.2	1.7	-	-	-	-	-	-
TOTAL	30.9	40.1	41.7	58.2	68.2	12.5	7.9	9.1	6.2	3.6	41.0

IV. Plastics applications

Plastics applications in Israel (% of total volume) compared with typical industrialized countries (T.I.C)

	<u>Israel</u>	<u>T.I.C</u>
Semi-finished goods	31.0	37.5
Consumer goods	30.0	14.1
Packaging	28.0	19.1
Technical products	4.5	24.0
Piping	4.0	3.7
Others	2.5	1.6

The present trend of growth, of over 30%, in packaging applications which is higher than the average rate of general plastics consumption increase, indicated a further concurrent growth in all plastics applications in Israel.

V. Trends and forecast

Industrial output in Israel has been planned to triple during the period 1965 - 1976, with emphasis on increased exports and decreased imports.

Plastics Exports
(millions \$ from Israel)

	<u>1965</u>	<u>1971</u>	<u>(Est) 1976</u>
Raw materials	1.1	3.4	16.0
Processed goods	1.8	4.9	16.0
TOTAL	2.9	8.3	32.0

VI. Needs

The goals of Israel's plastics industry include increased production of better designed and higher-quality consumer goods and engineering products, introduce newer technologies improve and increase food packaging applications, increase and improve applications in building and agriculture, develop the production of disposable medical items.





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