



Assocomaplast

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER PROCESSING MACHINERY
AND MOULDS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

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2003 FINAL BALANCE FOR THE ITALIAN MANUFACTURERS

If at the beginning of 2003 the Italian manufacturers of plastics and rubber machinery - and the national manufacturing industry as a whole - were expecting a certain recovery in terms of production, during the year such optimism dimmed, first of all due to the lack of investments of the Italian processors, whose orders were irregular and very cautious.

On the other hand, the solidity of the foreign orders - thanks to those coming from some expanding countries, such as China, Iran and Russia - balanced the result of the sector represented by Assocomaplast (the Italian trade Association, belonging to the National Industry Federation, Confindustria), allowing to draw a not completely negative balance for the plastics machinery industry, especially when compared to other fields of the Italian mechanical industry, that mainly confirms the forecasts made in the previous months.

Production grew by a mere 3% with respect to 2002, thus from 3,65 to 3,75 billion euro, whilst export increased by 2%, almost reaching 2,15 billion euro. Anyway, to this purpose it is necessary to remind two issues (not related each other) that could affected the result at the end of 2004: the euro exchange rate appreciation and the expected amendment of the final 2003 trade data, that is going to be made by the Italian Statistical Institute, likewise the past years.

The sectoral import faced a considerable decrease (-7%), stopping at 575 million euro and confirming the poor propensity of the Italian processors to invest, already experienced in the previous months.

In light of the above mentioned figures, the domestic market value (production plus import less export) remained practically unchanged, stopping under the value of 2,2 billion euro. The usual and great surplus of the trade balance further increased (almost 7%), thus reaching 1,6 billion euro.

It is rather difficult to make forecasts for the current year, given the present economic-political situation, either for the domestic market or for the foreign countries. Concerning the Italian plastics industry, it is necessary to highlight that recent surveys worked out by Assocomaplast among two representative samples of companies - national processors and manufacturers and subsidiaries of the most important international machinery suppliers - revealed a stagnating demand, due to some Italian uncertainties at various levels that are still affecting the perspectives in almost all the plastics and rubber application markets.

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ITALIAN MARKET FOR MACHINERY, EQUIPMENT & MOULDS FOR PLASTICS AND RUBBER PROCESSING

(million euro)	2001	2002	2003
production	3.800	3.650	3.750
export	2.367	2.091	2.141
import	679	617	575
domestic market	2.113	2.176	2.184
trade balance	1.688	1.475	1.566

INTERMECCANICA – ITALIAN MECHANICAL INDUSTRY: PRODUCTION 2003

(million euro)	production	export	import	domestic market	trade balance
ceramics machinery (ACIMAC)	1.400	940	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
wood working machinery (ACIMALL)	1.453	1.141	147	459	994
printing, graphic and converting machinery (ACIMGA)	1.397	1.025	817	1.189	208
textile machinery (ACIMIT)	3.381	2.468	703	1.616	1.765
plastics and rubber machinery (ASSOCOMPLAST)	3.750	2.150	550	2.150	1.600
leather and tannery machinery (ASSOMAC)	623	465	23	181	442
glass working machinery (GIMAV)	989	732	53	310	679
marble and stone working machinery (MARMOMACCHINE)	1.158	677	60	541	617
packaging machinery (UCIMA)	2.972	2.437	266	801	2.171
metalworking machinery (UCIMU)	4.050	1.810	1.065	3.305	745
total	21.173	13.845	3.684	11.012	10.161

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