

PLASTIC AND RUBBER IN 2023

The 2023 edition of *Plast*, the international exhibition for the plastics and rubber industry, confirms the meeting at Rho Fiera Milano: scheduled from 5 to 8 September, it will be joined by the three satellite-shows Rubber, 3D Plast and Plast-Mat. The heart of the event beats in the machinery, ancillary equipment and molds, produced by over 400 companies.

The MECS study center of the Amoplast trade association estimates a substantially positive balance for 2022. Overall production of the plastics and rubber sector should reach the threshold of 4.5 billion euros, recording only one percentage point more than in 2021: a limited change, which nonetheless consolidates the recovery achieved on the 2019 value. Exports, which absorb around 70% of production, increase by around 2%, while the domestic market grows by 1%, in a manner correlated to the increase in imports, around 5%. A more recent survey conducted among Amoplast associates signals a slowdown for machinery. Italian manufacturers trust the so-called "K-effect": the Düsseldorf exhibition could help unlock investments left on standby. The difficult geopolitical and economic situation in progress makes entrepreneurs cautious and it is plausible to expect, for 2023, a fallback of all sector indicators, in line with the forecasts of Confindustria which envisions low or negative growth, against a still high inflation rate, above all due to high energy costs, for the country's entire economy.



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