



Assocomaplast

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER
PROCESSING MACHINERY AND MOULDS
MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Associated with:
CONFINDUSTRIA,
FEDERMACCHINE and EUROMAP

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PRESS RELEASE

NEGATIVE FORECASTS, TO BE CHECKED IN THE SHORT TERM

According to the 2008 preliminary balance released by Assocomaplast Secretariat (the Italian trade association, CONFINDUSTRIA's member, gathering about 200 manufacturers of plastics and rubber machinery, equipment and moulds), in 2008 the sector did not repeat the satisfactory performance recorded in 2007 (being this latter the best one since the year 2000 up today) and, as quoted in the table, production and both sectoral exchange flows should have rather slowed down with respect to 12 months before.

All along the elapsed year the production of the sector should have decreased by 3.5% if compared to December 2007, as well as abroad sales by 3.4% and imports by 1.9%. Consequently, theoretical domestic market value and trade balance (representing anyhow a large surplus for Italy) should have lost, respectively, 3.2 and 3.8 percentage points.

In this case, the results reflect the deep crisis that has been hitting the global markets since the second half of last year, in particularly starting from September-October, a concern shared by Italian and major foreign competing manufacturers.

As a matter of fact, up to June 2008 (without considering "moulds" customs code, which showed a constant negative trend starting from January 2008), abroad sales of plastics and rubber machinery were still increasing by 7.4% in respect of the same month of 2007.

In addition to the tough fall for the mould sales the one of injection moulding machines can also be seen (even if, in part, for this last specific branch problems arose before the autumn global economy slow down). A cut of around 20% in export can be predicted for both these items.

As for 2009 outlook, any surmise would be bold and it is likely, not to say almost sure, that the running year will close again with a downturn. To quantify or to assume the decrease it would be a very difficult exercise or really too early to be done, therefore it is necessary to wait some months in order to have a more clear overview.

In such an unsettled context, the first possible check will be offered on the occasion of the triennial international exhibition PLAST'09, scheduled on March 24-28, 2009 in FieraMilano



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fairground, which will be attended by 1,200 exhibitors coming from over 40 countries. As a matter of fact, within and during the event, it will be clear if the demand/offer ratio might record the desirable first signals of turnabout, especially for the Italian manufacturers, who still and anyhow are among the very first sectoral players in the world.

Italian market of machinery, equipment and moulds for plastics and rubber (million euro)

	2007	2008 (estimates)	2009 (forecasts)
production	4,250	4,100	3,800
export	2,691	2,600	2,300
import	612	600	500
domestic market	2,171	2,100	2,000
trade balance (surplus)	2,079	2,000	1,800

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