



Assocomaplast

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER PROCESSING MACHINERY
AND MOULDS MANUFACTURERS' ASSOCIATION

Associated with:
CONFINDUSTRIA, FEDERMACCHINE, EUROMAP



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PRESS RELEASE

ITALIAN PLASTICS AND RUBBER MACHINERY INDUSTRY **2006 final balance in synthesis**

The Italian plastics and rubber machinery manufacturers, represented by Assocomaplast (belonging to CONFINDUSTRIA), maintain the leadership in the global market ranking second as for production and export, just after the German competitors.

Compared to the estimates published at the end of the year by the mentioned Association, the final sectoral balance has pointed out an improvement, in particular during the second part of the year. As for production, Assocomaplast, which refers only to the turnover data of the Member companies, highlights a growth sustained by the aggregate turnover: on average, almost 7% in comparison to 2005 (on the contrary the number of employees has been reduced of 1,4%). As regards the global production, the Association draws an increase of little more than 4%, rising in value the peak of 2004, which has been the higher from the beginning of the current decade.

Referring to the foreign trade, it is worthwhile to mention that during the third quarter, and in particular in the fourth, foreign demand for Italian technologies regained strength: in December it increased of 3,8% with regards to the previous twelve months.

Moreover, the growing trend was already highlighted by the Association's survey on a significant sample of Member companies.

The import stream (even if much lower) increased of 3,8% during the 2005, thanks to the recovery of local market investments, according to the Association's survey on the last months of 2006, which consider the "machinery purchase intention" of a sample of Italian plastics processors. It is not a case that the Italian market absorption is growing, overcoming 2,17 billion euro: 4,2% points more than 2005.

Finally, the trade balance increased of about 4%, thus reaching 1,68 billion (closer to the record of the far 2001).

Italian market for plastics and rubber machinery (million euro)			
	2004	2005	2006
production	3.870	3.700	3.850
export	2.274	2.184	2.268
import	634	567	589
domestic market	2.230	2.083	2.171
trade balance	1.640	1.617	1.679

At geographical level, the Italian export and the top ten destination markets are summed up in the following graphic synthesis.

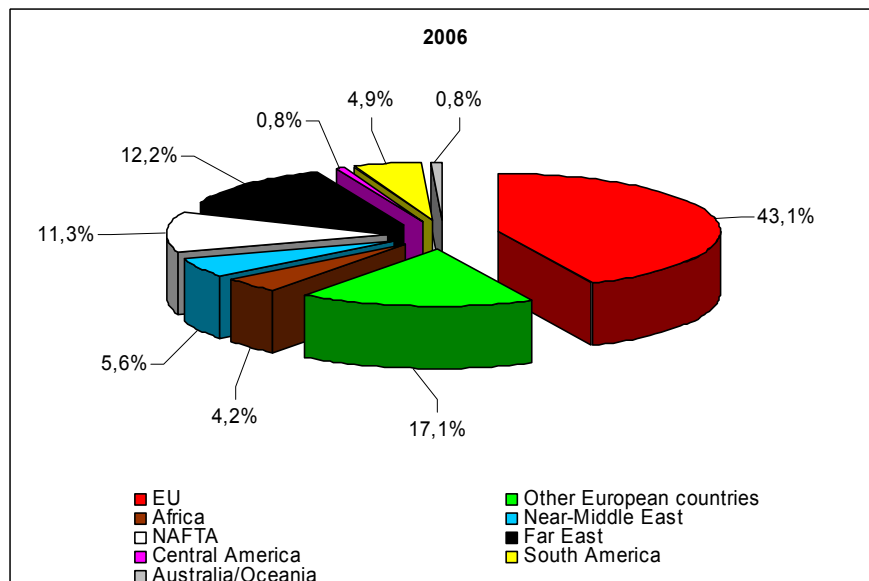
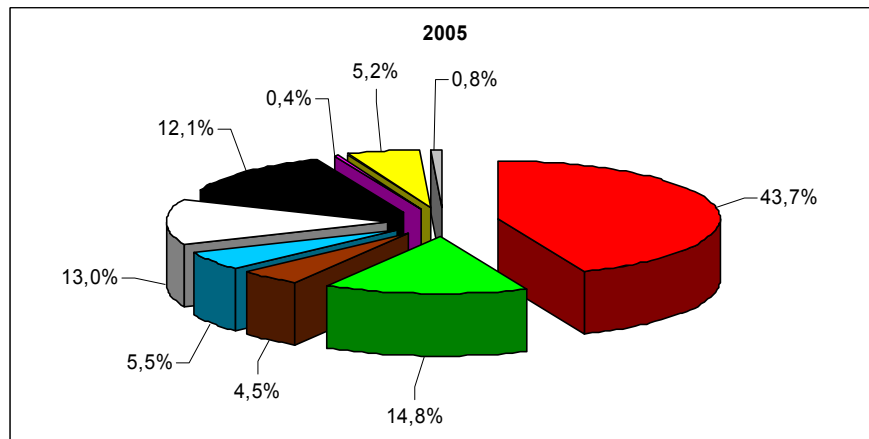
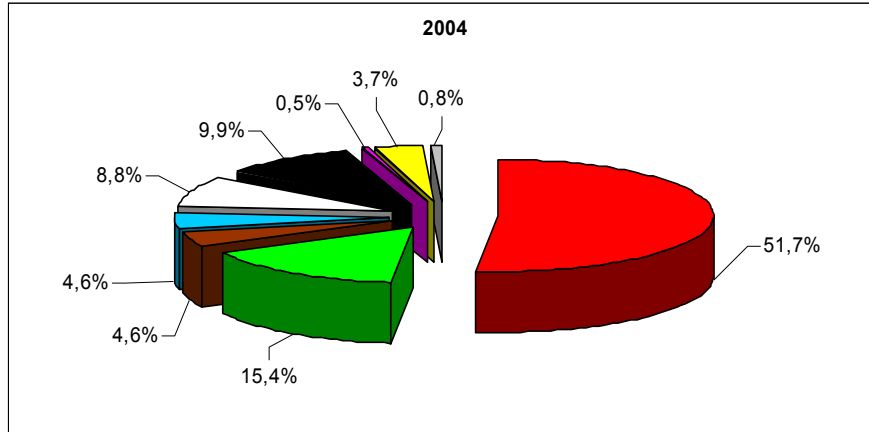
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2.

Italian export of plastics and rubber machinery (areas - % shares - 2004-2006)





3.

Italian export of plastics and rubber machinery (the "top 10" - % shares - 2004-2006)

