

The U.S. Plastics Industry, at a Glance

Plastic products are critical to everyday life and the plastics industry that makes these products possible is one of the **largest manufacturing sectors** in the U.S. economy. In fact, a thriving, robust plastics industry is vital for job growth, economic revenue and the research, development and innovations that get us closer to creating a completely circular plastics economy.



Aviation



Automotive



Food Packaging



Healthcare



Construction

The plastics industry creates jobs

The plastics industry is a major job creator and opportunity driver, **supporting 945,000 jobs directly and over 1.55 million jobs in total.**



The **top three states** with the highest amount of direct plastic industry employment are:



The plastics industry generates revenue and creates economic activity

Plastics is a long-term and sustainable investment, for both companies and the environment, which can help the United States and the globe make good on 2050 net-zero goals. Because plastic is more durable, versatile and affordable than alternatives, industries across the economy can provide consumers with lighter, more efficient products at a lower price.

Plastics benefit industries by helping reduce emissions, while also decreasing demand for more environmentally harmful alternatives like glass and wood.

Plastics add economic value:



- \$451 billion in **total plastic shipments**
- Expected annual growth rate of 13.1% from 2021 to 2028.

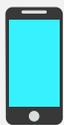
Plastics conserve energy and protect the environment

Plastics are less resource-intensive than alternatives and benefit industries that invest in the material, leading to cost-savings and emissions reductions.

15% plastics by weight



Automobile



Smartphone



Airplane

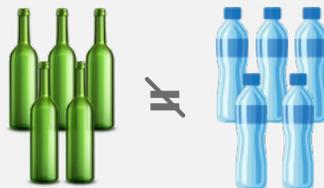
25% plastics by weight

50% plastics by weight



Using alternative materials would result in environmental costs that are **four times higher than using plastic.**

Glass bottles packed into a truck **increase transport costs by five times** compared to plastics.



Plastic bottles packed into a truck **reduce energy use by 40%** compared to glass bottles.

More plastic is recyclable with advanced recycling

The plastics industry has invested billions of dollars into innovative technologies to tackle plastic waste, including **advanced recycling**. Advanced recycling is also good for our economy and is projected to add **40,000 new jobs** over the next few years. Advanced recycling ensures that all plastics are recycled and find new homes in the plastics economy, not the environment.

Purification



Yogurt cups

Depolymerization



Colored bottles

Conversion



Car seats

FACT:

Generally, advanced or molecular recycling allows for complex plastics and materials like yogurt cups, colored bottles, and old child car seats to be recycled.