

Inventory of major sources of plastic pollution in Georgia

Review of data on production, export, import and use of plastic products by type and sector of application in Georgia



The collected data summarizes the export and import trends of plastic products in Georgia from 2021 to 2024. For detailed analysis, the products were divided into several main categories: construction materials, lids, monofilament, toys, medical equipment, household items, tableware, furniture, rest. A detailed description of the categories is presented below:

1. Plastic furniture

2. Corks, caps - Plastic articles for the transportation or packaging of goods; corks, caps, lids, caps and other articles for closure made of plastics

3. Monofilament - Monofilament plastic, cross-section greater than 1 mm, bars, rods and profiles, with treated or untreated surface, but not otherwise processed

4. Toys - Three-wheeled bicycles, scooters, pedal cars and similar wheeled toys; dolls' strollers; dolls; other toys; scale models and similar models for amusement, operable or inoperable, all kinds of puzzles; of plastics

5. Medical Instruments - Instruments and apparatus used in medicine, surgery, dentistry or veterinary medicine, including scintigraphic apparatus, electro-medical instruments other and instruments for testing eyesight; of plastics

6. Building Materials - Plastic waste, scrap and scrap; Plastic pipes, tubes and hoses and their fittings (e.g. joints, elbows, flanges); Plastic floor coverings, self-adhesive or non-adhesive, in rolls or sheets; Plastic coatings for walls and ceilings; Films, sheets, foils, foils, tapes, strips and other flat forms of plastics, self-adhesive, in rolls or without; Films, sheets, foils and tapes or strips of plastics, other.

7. Household Products - Utensils and other kitchenware, household utensils and sanitary or toilet articles made of plastics

8. Parts and Components - , briefcases, school backpacks and similar articles of leather or composite leather, plastic sheets; Buttons, clasps, snap buttons and other parts of these articles; of plastic, without textile coating; Soles and heels of plastic.

9. Other - Stationery or school supplies, clothing and accessories, furniture fixtures and fittings, statues and other decorative items, canopies.

General data

Data in US dollars

Summary of imports and exports (in US dollars)

	Imports:	Exports:
2021	\$436,712,700	\$14,011,900
2022	\$523,685,700	\$13,152,700
2023	\$586,998,600	\$16,379,900
2024	\$285,742,700 (6 months data)	\$7,296,600 (6 months)

Trends:

- Imports increased steadily from 2021 to 2023.
- Exports showed a slight decrease in 2022 but increased in 2023.

Data in kilograms

Summary of imports and exports (in kilograms)

	Imports:	Exports:
2021	151,531,200 kg	7,487,100 kilograms
2022	161,369,700 kilograms	5,488,400 kg
2023	186,960,600 kilograms	5,995,000 kg.
2024	50,111,500 kg (6 months data)	3,302,600 kg (6 months)

Trends:

- Imports increased steadily from 2021 to 2023.
- Exports were variable, with a marked decline in 2022 and a slight increase in 2023.

Comparison

- Imports in U.S. dollars and kilograms:
Both imports in dollars and kilograms have shown steady growth from 2021 to 2023, indicating an increase in both the value and volume of imported goods. Data for 2024 is partial but shows a decrease, possibly due to incomplete data or a decline in imports.
- Exports in U.S. dollars and kilograms:
Exports in US dollars fluctuated with a peak in 2023, while exports in kilograms showed a decrease in 2022 with a slight increase in 2023.
Partial data for 2024 indicate little decline in exports and imports. However, more data are needed for an accurate analysis, as some goods are usually imported in the second half of the year.

Category information

Key Notes:

1. Building Materials: A leading category in both imports and exports, showing steady growth in both value and volume.
2. Caps and Monofilament: Significant import categories. Exports are minimal, high domestic consumption.
3. Toys, Medical Equipment, Household Products, Parts and Components, Other: Notable import increases, minimal exports, indicating high domestic consumption and limited production for export.
4. 4. Furniture: Limited data, shows some import and export activity in recent years.

Data analysis by importing countries (Construction materials)

Import	Analysis of data on exporting countries
<p>2021: Main importing countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey: \$27,495,900.38 (56%), 62,841,698.57 kg (51%) China: \$4,417,836.63 (9%), 11,180,767.4 kg (9%) Russia: \$3,789,174.1 (8%), 12,231,711.05 kg (10%) Germany: \$983,288.04 (2%), 5,100,204,942 kg (4%) 	<p>2021: Main exporting countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey: \$1,954,916.3 (54%), 2,895,014.65 kg (50%) Azerbaijan: \$1,185,695.24 (33%), 1,831,412.63 kg (32%) Armenia: \$201,195.19 (6%), 553,592,384 kg (10%)
<p>2023: Main importing countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey: \$32,363,176.19 (55%), 83,261,634.16 kg (51%) China: \$7,778,806.03 (13%), 18,195,315.29 kg (31%) Iran: \$3,057,611.91 (5%), 4,102,344,386 kg (3%) Russia: \$3,727,884.20 (6%), 11,901,127.73 kg (7%) 	<p>2022: Main exporting countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azerbaijan: \$1,639,470.04 (66%), 2,343,164,733 kg (54%) Russia: \$240,296.2 (10%), 334,838,982 kg (8%) Armenia: \$218,338.53 (9%), 922,139,455 kg (21%) Turkey: \$145,871.18 (6%), 221,218,454 kg (5%)
<p>2022: Main importing countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey: \$27,371,020.41 (53%), 73,003,064.45 kg (49%) China: \$6,147,966.71 (12%), 17,643,873.62 kg (34%) Russia: \$3,015,513.52 (6%), 11,354,104.45 kg (22%) Germany: \$1,335,612.7 (3%), 7,016,570,869 kg (14%) Italy: \$1,136,072.2 (2%), 6,376,665,954 kg (12%) 	<p>2023: Main exporting countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azerbaijan: \$1,578,007.18 (61%), 2,468,238.29 kg (51%) Russia: \$450,541.89 (18%), 840,866.16 kg (17%) Armenia: \$205,136.9 (8%), 851,825.0888 kg (18%)
<p>2024 (6 months): Main importing countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Turkey: \$15,959,964.17 (53%), 37,201,256.21 lbs. (48%) China: \$4,497,528.22 (15%), 10,111,142.66 kg (34%) Russia: \$1,880,114,784 (6%), 5,537,900.49 kg (19%) Germany: \$892,961.47 (3%), 4,308,499.74 kg (14%) Italy: \$467,353.25 (2%), 2,844,652.82 kg (10%) 	<p>2024 (6 months): Main exporting countries:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Azerbaijan: \$649,721.86 (45%), 996,751.41 kg (41%) Russia: \$364,025.40 (25%), 439,251.95 kg (18%) Armenia: \$217,329.13 (15%), 643,397.33 kg (27%) Croatia: \$67,320.00 (5%), 109,536.22 kg (5%)

Summary

From 2021 to mid-2024, Turkey consistently was the top importer of plastic materials, accounting for more than 50% of the total value and weight of imports. China followed as the second largest source, showing significant growth in import volumes. Germany and Russia are also notable sources of imports, although their contribution is smaller. On the export side, Azerbaijan was the main destination, showing significant growth in both value and weight. Russia and Armenia are other key destinations for plastic exports from Georgia. Overall, trade in building materials shows strong and growing ties with Turkey and Azerbaijan.

Analysis of data on import and export of polymers (2021-2024)

1. Ethylene

Import Trends:

2021-2022: Imports increased significantly (by 22%), from 85,497,065 kg to 103,888,632 kg.

2022-2023: The growth rate slowed down significantly, increasing by only 1% to 104,657,060 kg. 2023 - first half of 2024: Imports continued to increase by 4%, reaching 108,568,539 kg.

Export (re-export) trends:

2021-2022: Exports increased sharply by 55%, from 12,522,011 kg to 19,377,086 kg.

2022-2023: There is a significant decrease of 44% to 10,932,163 kg.

2023 - first half of 2024: exports increased by 29%, reaching 14,103,281 kg.

2. Propylene Polymers

Import Trends:

2021-2022: Imports increased by 14%, from 45,378,986 kg to 51,509,597 kg.

2022-2023: The growth rate slowed down, growing by only 1% to 52,186,298 kg.

2023 - first half of 2024: There is a slight decrease of 1%, with a volume of 51,670,469 kg.

Trends in exports (re-exports):

2021-2022: Export volume increased moderately by 6%, from 4,721,722 kg to 5,011,369 kg. 2022-2023: There was a significant increase of 219%, with the volume reaching 15,991,413 kg.

2023 - first half of 2024: Exports continue to show strong growth, increasing 62% to 25,980,778 kg.

3. Vinyl chloride polymers

Import Trends:

2021-2022: Imports remained almost the same, with a slight increase of 0.3%, from 14,030,225 kg to 14,073,695 kg.

2022-2023: There is a notable increase of 16% to 16,342,218 kg

2023 - first half of 2024: Imports reduced by 10% to 14,707,552 kg.

Export (re-export) trends:

2021-2022: Exports increased sharply by 1.525%, from 14,161 kg to 230,105 kg.

2022-2023: Exports drop sharply by 39% to 139,230 kg.

2023 - first half of 2024: There was a further decline of 47%, with exports totaling 74,050 kg.

4. Styrene Polymers

Import Trends:

2021-2022: Import volume increased by 18%, from 7,836,598 kg to

9,210,869 kg. 2022-2023: The growth rate slowed to 12%, with a volume of 10,360,498 kg.

2023 - first half of 2024: Imports continued to grow, increasing by 14% to 11,782,504 kg.

Export (re-export) trends:

2021-2022: Exports rose sharply by 179%, from 84,613 kg to 236,064 kg.

2022-2023: There was a slight increase of 14% to 269,850 kg.

2023 - first half of 2024: Exports continued to grow by 33% to 359,142 kg.



Polymer data

Type of polymer	Volume of imports in 2021, kg.	Export volume in 2021, kg.	Volume of imports in 2022, kg.	Scope	Volume of imports in 2023, kg.	Scope	Scope imports 6 mas. 2024, kg.	Scope exports 6 mas. 2024, kg.
	85 497 065	12 522 011	103 888 632	19 377 086	104 657 060	10 932 163	108 568 539	14 103 281
Volume change	n/a	n/a	+22%	+55%	+1%	-44%	+4%	+29%
Propylene polymers	45 378 986	4 721 722	51 509 597	5 011 369	52 186 298	15 991 413	51 670 469	25 980 778
Volume change	n/a	n/a	+14%	+6%	+1%	+219%	- 1%	+62%
Polymers	14 030 225	14 161	14 073 695	230 105	16 342 218	139 230	14 707 552	74 050
Volume change	n/a	n/a	+0,3%	+1 525%	+16%	- 39%	- 10%	- 47%
Styrene polymers	7 836 598	84 613	9 210 869	236 064	10 360 498	269 850	11 782 504	359 142
Volume change	n/a	n/a	+18%	+179%	+12%	+14%	+14%	+33%

Summary

Import dynamics: Across all polymer categories, imports have generally shown upward trend, although growth rates have slowed in recent years for some polymers such as ethylene and propylene.

Export Dynamic: Export volumes were more volatile, with significant fluctuations, especially for vinyl chloride polymers. However, propylene and styrene polymers showed steady export growth, which may indicate the expansion of markets or an increase in export-oriented production

Market stability: Vinyl chloride polymers seem to be the most volatile regarding trade volumes, while styrene polymers demonstrate the most consistent growth.

CONTACTS

Ecovision
Georgia
www.ecovision.ge
info@ecovision.ge

Health and Environment Justice Support
(HEJSupport) info@hej-support.org

Follow us on LinkedIn:

<https://bit.ly/3A0L93C>

HEJSupport Website:

www.hej-support.org

More information about the
project:

www.hej-support/eecca-plastic



This paper is funded by the Plastic Waste Partnership under the Basel Convention on the Control of Transboundary Movements of Hazardous Wastes and their Disposal.

The views expressed in this publication are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Secretariats of the Basel, Rotterdam and Stockholm (BRS) Conventions, the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the United Nations (UN) or contributory organizations. The Secretariats of the BRS Conventions, UNEP or the UN do not accept responsibility for the accuracy or completeness of the contents and shall not be liable for any loss or damage that may be occasioned, directly or indirectly, through the use of, or reliance on, the contents of this publication.

The designations employed and the presentation of the materials in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on