

Plastics the Fast Facts 2025

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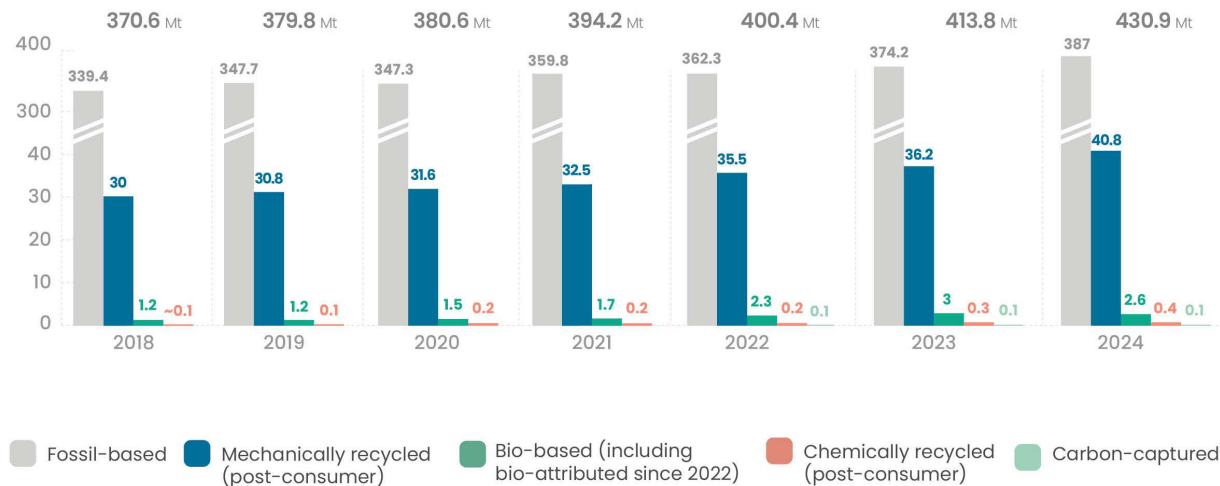


Global & European key plastics production data and trends

2024 data

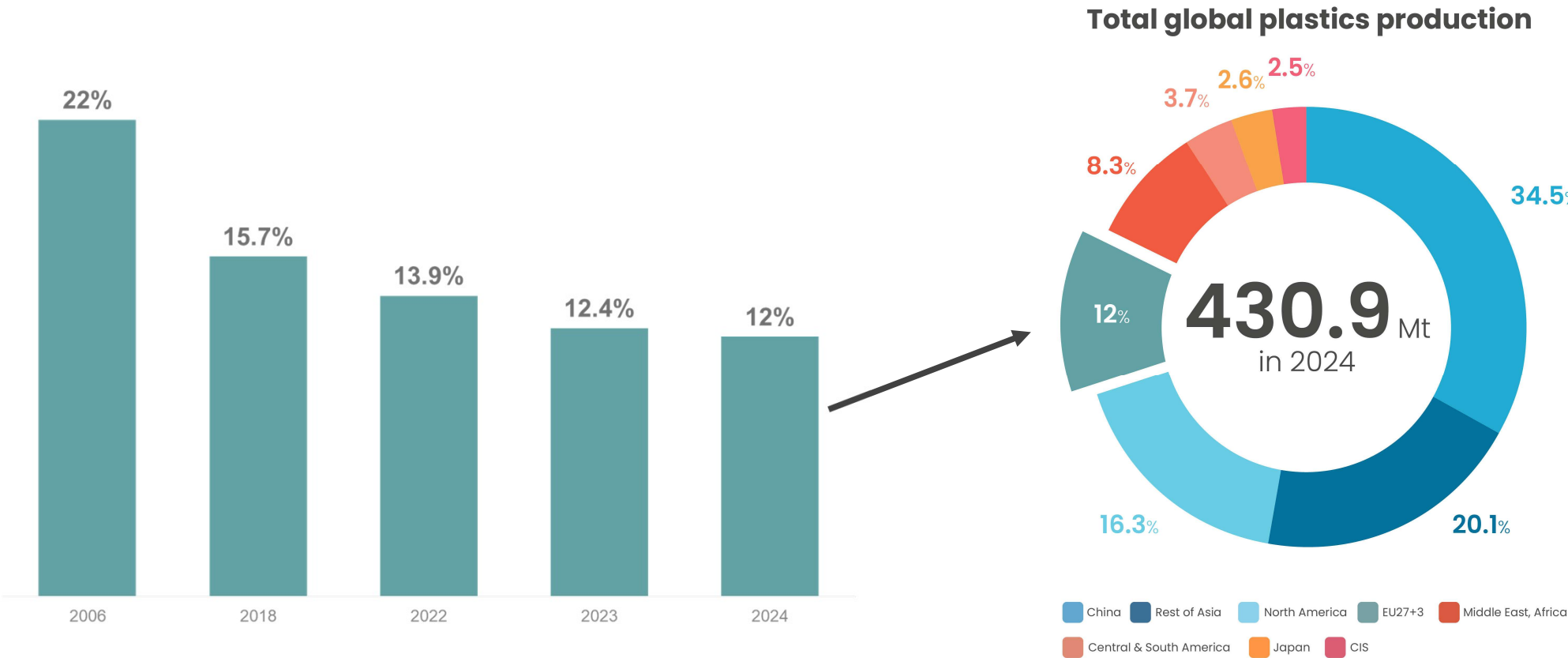
Global plastics production grows steadily

Global plastics production 2018-2024 evolution



- Production growth of more than 16% compared to 2018
- Total annual growth of more than 4% per year
- Mechanically recycled plastics production: +12.7%

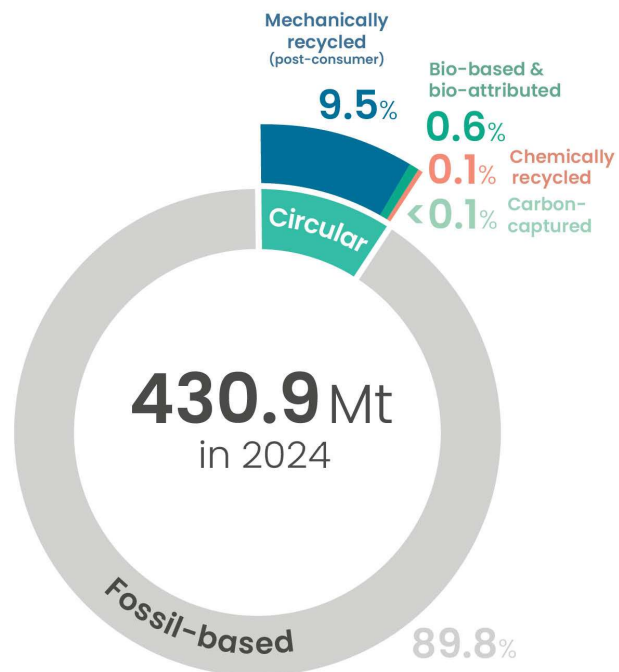
Continuous erosion of Europe's global market share



Source: "Plastics the Fast Facts 2025" - © Plastics Europe

Share of circular plastics production increases

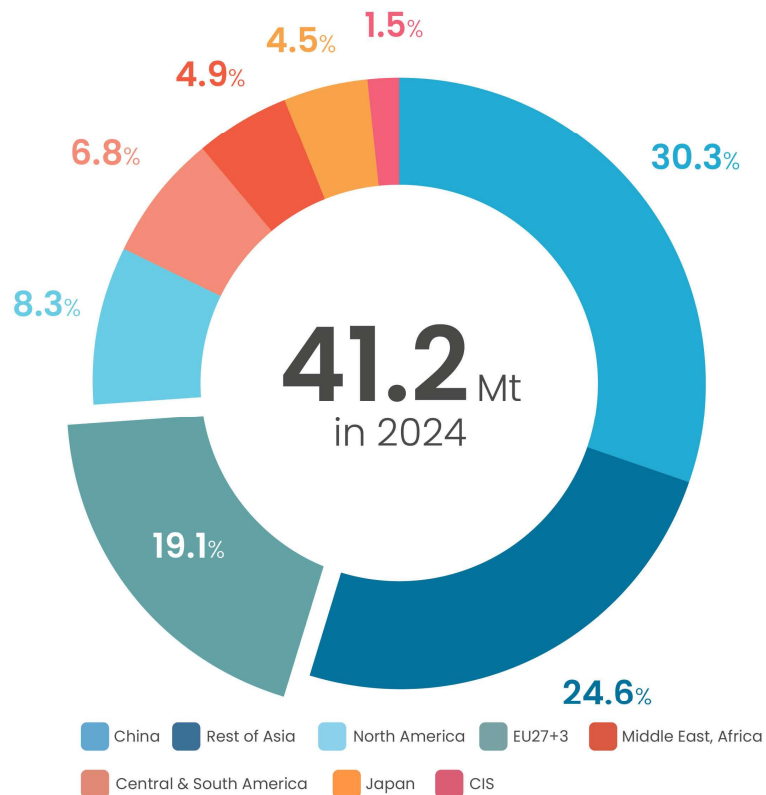
World plastics production



- For the first time circular plastics account for more than 10% of the global plastics production
- Increase driven by China's recycling production growth

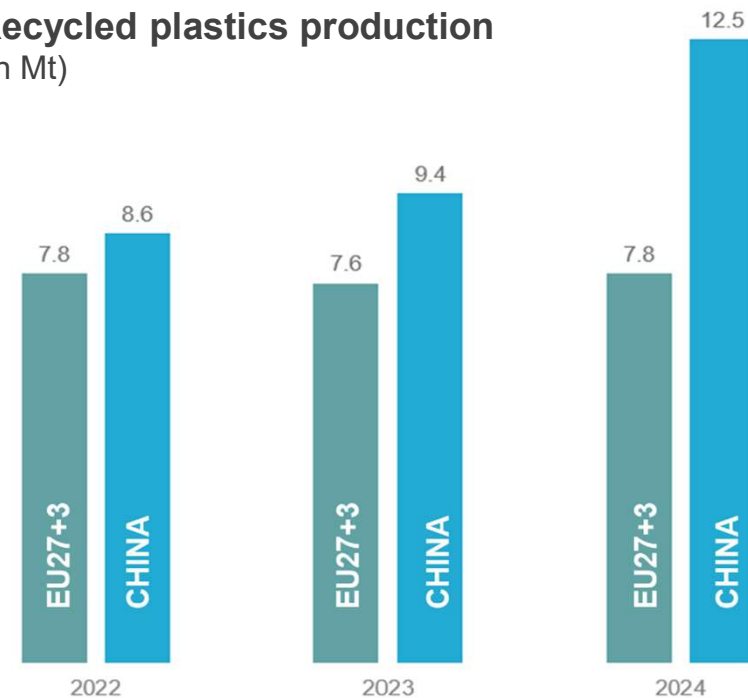
China leads global recycled plastics production

Global mechanically & chemically recycled (post-consumer) plastics production



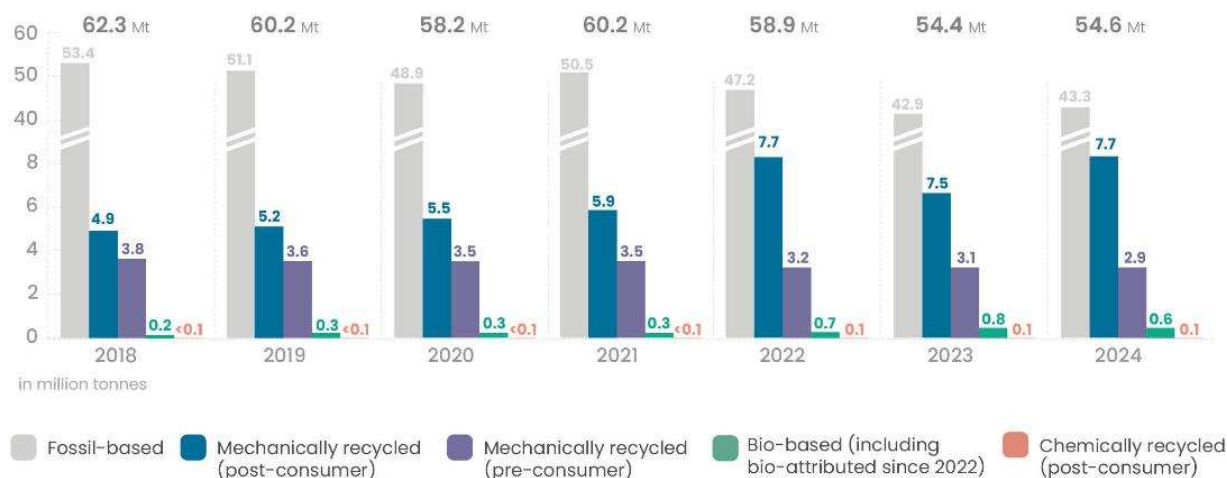
Global recycled plastics production:
+16% in 2 years, mainly impulse by **China's growth of +45%**

Recycled plastics production (in Mt)



Europe's plastics production continues at lowest levels since two decades

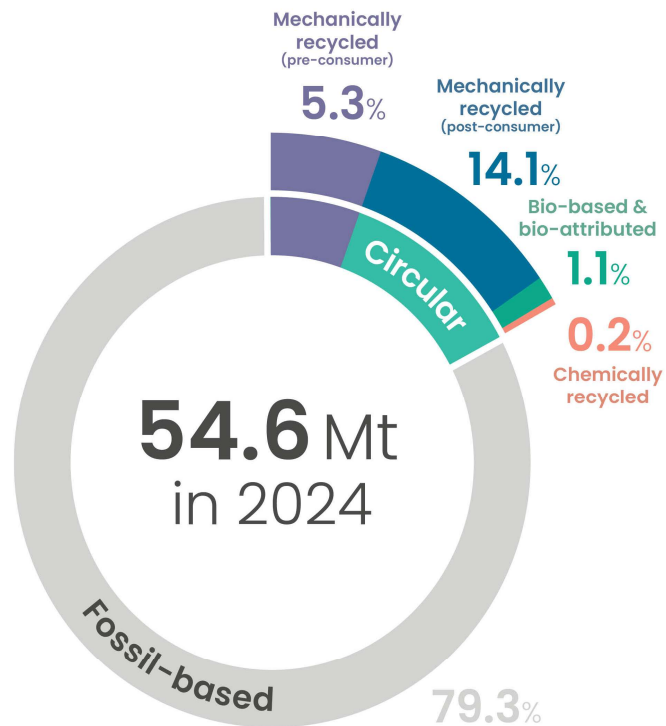
European plastics production 2018-2024 evolution



- European total **production** modestly **stabilises** (+0.4% vs. 2023)
- **Circular plastics** production remains **flat**
- **Bio-based** plastics production **falls** by 25%
- Overall production decline of **-12.4% since 2018**

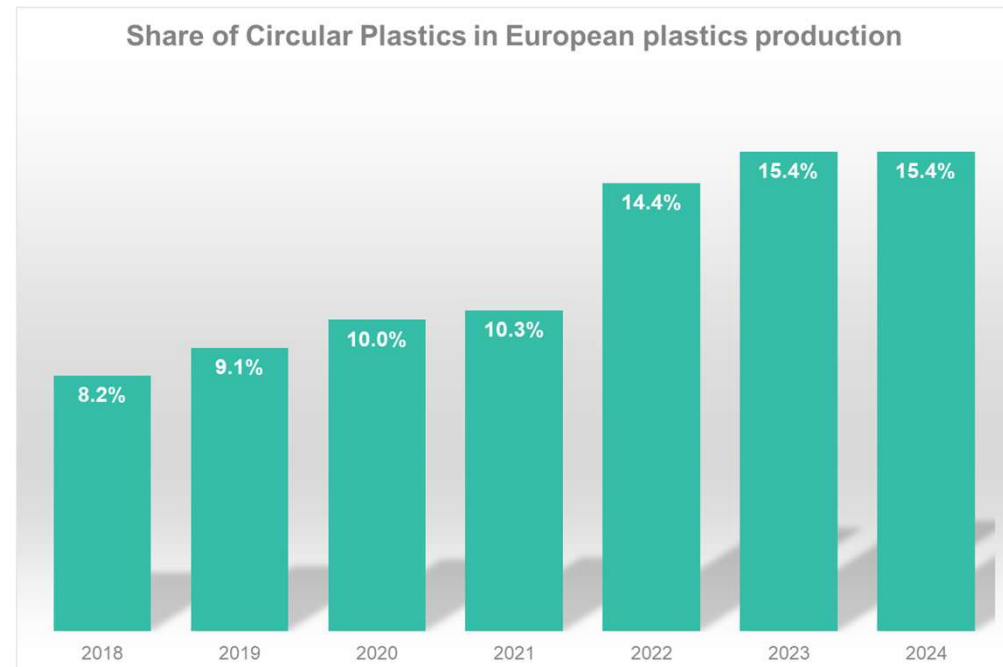
Europe's share of circular plastics stagnates

European plastics production



8.4 Mt of circular plastics in 2024

Share of Circular Plastics in European plastics production





2024 European key economic indicators, trade and trends

EU plastics industry economic indicators confirm decline



**~50,650
companies**

Business closures

~3,000 companies
have stopped
operating since 2022



**~1.5 M
employees**

Job losses

~35,000 people
have lost their
employment since
2022



**~ €398 BN
turnover**

Sharp decline in turnover

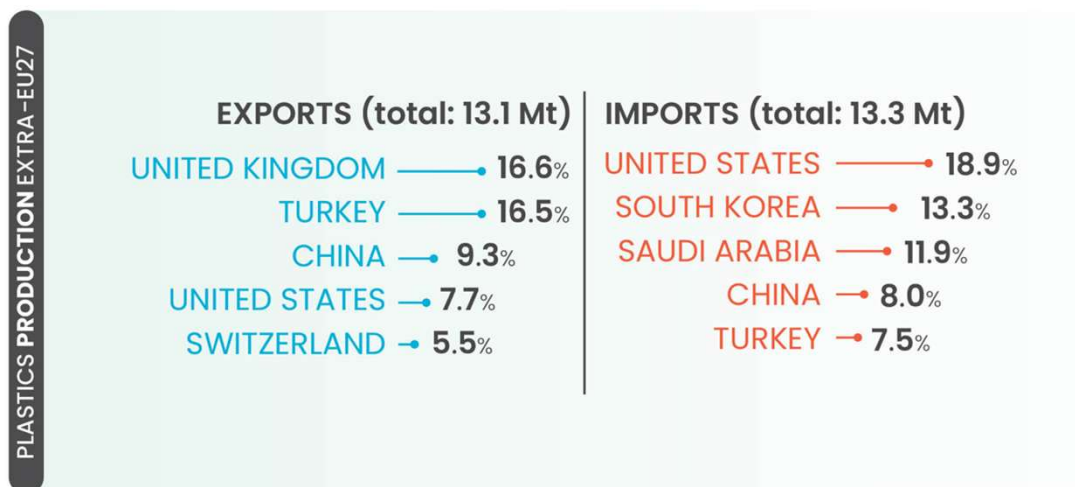
-13% compared to
2022

EU trade data confirms competitiveness challenges

Negative trade balance in tonnes for

EU27 Plastics raw materials -0.2 t

EU27 Plastics products -1.4 t



- EU as **net importer** of plastics, three years in a row
- **United States largest source of imports** of plastics, and 4th export market for the EU

2024 key trends in a nutshell



GROWTH



STAGNATION



DECREASE

It's not too late to turn the tide



Source: Canva

Time is running out, but with urgent policy support we can:

- Build the world's first circular plastics system
- Protect the strategic European industries that benefit from a secure local supply of plastics

How EU and national policymakers can help



Tackle Europe's energy cost crisis



Strengthen the enforcement of EU legislation at its borders



Boost European circular plastic production and remove internal barriers



Establishing a Chemicals and Plastics Trade Observatory

Thank you