

bvse market report: plastics, January 2025

1 General economy and reference to the plastics industry

Towards the end of 2024 or the start of 2025 it is time to take stock of the 2024 year in plastics - a review with the opportunity to look forward to the new year. The situation in plastics recycling is catastrophic - for the second year in a row, also see EUWID RE 3, 2025, p. 20 and PIE – Plastic Information Europe No. 2754, 2024, p. 1. It's no consolation that the situation in the manufacture and processing of virgin plastics is also dire because virgin grade and recyclates are now closely connected.

To remain constructive we have to ask how things will develop, how can the crisis in the plastics industry, that is manufacturing, processing, recycling and mechanical and plant engineering, be overcome? Unfortunately, there are no easy answers or simple solutions to this. The situation is complex and can be improved only by a bundle of measures. The various players, stakeholders, organisations and associations in the plastics industry have come together and drawn up strategies that they are proposing to politicians and the executive.

However, one point is central: the market participants must be given hope! The elections in Germany this February are a good opportunity to strengthen and reinforce democratic structures. Stable political conditions, based on the principles of the social market economy, are a basic requirement for overcoming economic downturns.

Investments must be worthwhile in Germany. We need sensible energy prices that favour the processing of plastics at all levels. And we need much less bureaucracy! Instead of bureaucracy, it's time for assistance for companies with respect to approvals and investments; that's the only way that plastic recycling can hold its own.

2 Primary markets - standard plastics

There is a lack of market impetus in December and January. Private consumers are struggling to cope with the price rises in the consumer sector. And high costs are also preventing investments in house building. There is also great uncertainty in the markets for new vehicles, with the result that people aren't buying. Commerce and industry is also hardly investing because of the uncertain political and economic situation. What's more, the banks are hesitant in granting loans.

In December 2024, the quotes for standard plastics barely changed. In December 2024, the EUWID average price of 1,387 €/t was more or less the same as in the previous month (1,391 €/t) see Tab. 2. In a year-on-year comparison, it can be seen that the average quotes from December 2024 (1,387 €/t) were 46 €/t higher than those of the previous year (1,341 €/t). The current market situation for virgin grade standard plastics is portrayed well in EUWID, see www.euwid-recycling.de, and PIE – Plastic Information Europe, see <https://piweb.plasteurope.com/>.

Table 2: Standard plastics prices according to EUWID over the past five months, listed in €/t.

Prices in €/t	December 2024	Nov. 2024	Oct. 24	Sept. 2024	Aug. 2024
LDPE film grade	1260- 1320	1270- 1330	1280- 1350	1310- 1390	1290- 1390
LLDPE film grade	1230- 1270	1240- 1280	1250- 1300	1290- 1350	1290- 1350
HDPE injection moulding	1260- 1290	1260- 1290	1270- 1300	1310- 1340	1310- 1340
HDPE blow moulding	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1300- 1350	1300- 1350
PS crystal clear	1630- 1680	1630- 1680	1630- 1680	1830- 1880	1830- 1880
PS high impact	1760- 1780	1760- 1780	1760- 1780	1960- 1980	1960- 1980
PP homopolymer	1380- 1460	1390- 1480	1390- 1480	1420- 1530	1420- 1530
PP copolymer	1430- 1510	1440- 1520	1440- 1530	1470- 1580	1470- 1580
PVC tube grade	1110- 1210	1110- 1210	1100- 1200	1100- 1200	1080- 1180
PVC film/cables	1240- 1340	1240- 1340	1230- 1330	1230- 1330	1210- 1310

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Average Price	1387 ± 191	1391 ± 192	1394 ± 192	1458 ± 258	1453 ± 263
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PET: PET markets in Europe have held their own. 2024 was better than 2023, but we are still a long way from good and stable demand. In particular, the continuing very high prices for drinks are resulting in a reluctance to purchase. Moreover, the glass bottle is reconquering larger shares of the market.

Sideways movement - in December 2024 packaging PET was quoted on average at 1,105 €/t. And thus 5 €/t lower than in the previous month, see PIE – Plastic Information Europe <https://piweb.plasteurope.com/>.

3 Secondary plastics markets in the plasticker price index

The plasticker internet platform, see <http://plasticker.de>, publishes quotes on an hourly basis. The present market report indicates the final monthly prices. It is only possible to represent the preliminary prices for January 2025; they will not become definitive until early February 2025. The two quotes stated for January 2025 below therefore indicate only an interim situation, see the left-hand column in Table 3 and Table 4.

3.1 plasticker: Standard plastics

Christmas break - the December price index reports very low demand. In December 2024, standard plastics were quoted at an average price of 552 €/t and thus 11 €/t lower than in the previous month (563 €/t), see Tab. 3. The average price for December 2024 (552 €/t) was 24 €/t below that of the previous year (576 €/t). There were significant price changes of greater than ±40 €/t for: HDPE regranulates -80 €/t, LDPE regranulates -140 €/t and PS regranulates +120 €/t. Those price changes for which supply figures were too low (*) for statistical significance are not included here.

The likely average price in January 2025 (509 €/t) is thus 43 €/t lower than in the previous month (552 €/t), see Tab. 3. The price index of 14.01.2025 shows much lower demand in comparison to the previous month.

Table 3: Standard plastics price according to plasticker; listed in €/t.

	January ⁶ 24	Dec. 24	Nov. 24	Oct. 24	Sept. 24	Dec. 23
HDPE regrind ¹	540	540	580	560	540	580
HDPE regranulates ⁵	810	850	930	850	890	870
LDPE bale goods ²	180*	470*	540*	430	300*	230
LDPE regrind ¹	420*	480*	420*	510*	440*	410*
LDPE regranulates ⁵	630	620	760	760	780	860
PP bale goods ³	210*	210*	210	210	140*	230
PP regrind ¹	520	530	490	540	540	580
PP regranulates ⁵	930	910	880	920	950	830
PS regrind ⁴	650	620*	620	690	710	700
PS regranulates ⁵	950	920	800	870	970	980
PVC_P regrind ¹	290*	460*	500*	650*	770*	640*
PVC_U regrind ¹	460*	440*	470*	570	480	550
PET bale goods	0*	270*	240*	270*	220*	200*
PET regrind mixed colours	530*	410*	440	450	350*	410
Average Price	(509)	552	563	591	577	576

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*: Supply figure too low to attain statistical significance; ¹: equivalent to the grade "post-industrial mixed colours"; ²: equivalent to K49; ³: equivalent to K59; ⁴: equivalent to "standard, mixed colours"; ⁵: equivalent to the grade "regranulates, black"; ⁶: preview (may be amended by additional quotes)

3.2 plasticker: Technical plastics

Christmas break - for December 2024, there was an average price of 1,475 €/t, which was 12 €/t higher than that of the previous month (1,463 €/t), see Table 4. The average price for December 2024 (1,475 €/t) was 168 €/t below that of the previous year (1,643 €/t).

There were significant price changes of greater than ±70 €/t for: PC regrind +90 €/t, PC regranulates +90 €/t, PBT regranulates -280 €/t, PA 6 regranulates +90 €/t, POM regrind +250 €/t. The December price index reveals a slightly lower demand for plastic over the previous month.

The probable average price in January 2025 (1,446 €/t) is thus 29 €/t lower than in the previous month (1,475 €/t). The price index of 13.01.2025 shows low demand in comparison to the previous month.

Table 4: Technical plastics price according to plasticker; listed in €/t.

	January ⁶ 24	Dec. 24	Nov. 24	Oct. 24	Sept. 24	Dec. 23
ABS regrind	610	610	620	660	670	740
ABS regranulates ⁵	1360	1300	1250	1280	1380	1370
PC regrind	900	990	900	970	1050	1120
PC regranulates ⁵	2590	2560	2470	2560	2340	2370
PBT regrind	660	600*	580	630	640	620
PBT regranulates	1890	1740	2020	1940	2180	2220
PA 6 regrind	720	820	890	880	780	960
PA 6 regranulates ⁵	2190	2440	2350	2140	2210	2460
PA 6.6 regrind	1040	1060	1100	1160	1000	1030
PA 6.6 regranulates ⁵	2590	2550	2570	2470	2690	3260
POM regrind	860*	860*	610*	750	750*	690
POM regranulates ⁵	1940	2170	2200	2220	2560	2870
Average Price	(1446)	1475	1463	1472	1521	1643

*: Supply figure too low to attain statistical significance; ⁵: equivalent to the grade "regranulates, black"; ⁶: preview (may be amended by additional quotes)

4 Secondary plastics markets

4.1 Recycling standard plastics

The December quotes in EUWID report price falls for all grades, in this case PE, PP, PS and PVC. The average price falls for PE, PP and PS production waste are 8 €/t. And for PVC production wastes, the average price falls are 11 €/t. PVC window grade fell by an average 15 €/t. The PE post user quotes fell by an average 8 €/t.

plasticker also continues to report price falls, in this case with virgin grade as well as recyclates, which are taking effect in small, but steady, steps. The average price fall is 11 €/t. There is still little interest in purchase.

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PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: In December 2024, the regranulates of standard plastics were quoted lower in comparison to the previous month. The average price falls are in the range of 5 €/t to 10 €/t. The demand for standards plastics remains low, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

4.2 Recycling technical plastics

December is characterised by the Christmas break.

plasticker: Sideways movement - for December, there was an average price of 1,475 €/t, which was only 12 €/t higher than that of the previous month (1,463 €/t). The December price index reveals a slightly lower demand for plastic due to the Christmas break.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: All of the regranulates were quoted lower in December 2024, too. The premium grades of regranulates quoted here recorded average price falls of 5 €/t to 20 €/t, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

4.3 PET recycling

PET recycling is picking up more speed. The prospects for 2025 are good both in Germany and across Europe. The requirements for PET beverage bottles to contain 25 % recyclates should result in increased demand for PET all over Europe. As far as Germany is concerned, the amount of recyclates required by law is likely to be greatly exceeded in Germany.

The PET markets in December: Sideways movement for recycled PET, too. The Christmas break has an effect; very little turnover is registered at this time. In December 2024, the relevant price changes for used PET single-use deposit bottles are: PET transparent ± 0 €/t, PET mixed ± 0 €/t and PET coloured -5 €/t, see EUWID.

For virgin grade, in this case granulates, the average value in PIE – Plastic Information Europe is 1,105 €/t. Regranulates are valued at 1,540 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. Clear, food-safe flakes are quoted at an average 1,255 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. EUWID reports an average 1,235 €/t for clear flakes.

Reporting on PET markets is of central importance in EUWID and PIE – Plastic Information Europe. Detailed monthly reports on the PET prices for virgin grade, and for used beverage bottles and market assessments can be found in EUWID and PIE - Plastics Information Europe.

5 Explanation on the price quotes

A detailed discussion with information of price indices for virgin grades and waste plastics as well as precursor products can be found in EUWID Recycling and Disposal see www.euwid.de. EUWID: No guarantee for any of the prices here; prices ex station. As a rule, the prices quoted refer to quantities in excess of 20 tons.

The quotes for secondary prices, which are updated on an hourly basis, can be calculated using the price lists that are derived from the quotations published in the raw material exchange plasticker, see www.plasticker.de. The prices listed in this index are quoted without reservation - as the majority of the quotes submitted are not necessarily equivalent to the sales prices. Plasticker offers the quality grades regrind and regranulates both as virgin materials and as secondary goods. The term 'bale goods' refers to waste plastics only. Furthermore, plasticker does not distinguish between the follow-

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ing grades: transparent, mixed colours or colour-separated. Therefore, the information provided by plasticker may indicate different market behaviour than the prices quoted by EUWID

A detailed discussion with information of price indices for virgin grades and waste plastics as well as precursor products can be found in PIE – Plastics Information Europe, see www.kiweb.de. For virgin grades, the indices for standard plastics (Plastixx ST) and technical plastics (Plastixx TT) provide a good overview of the price trends. Pieweb quotes the monthly regranulates prices for standard plastics and technical plastics in the secondary markets. For secondary plastics, there are also details on PET, in this case flakes (flakes transparent, flakes mixed colours) as well as transparent regranulates.

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