

bvse market report: plastics, January 2025

1 General economy and reference to the plastics industry

The ifo business climate index rose in January 2025, see <https://www.ifo.de/fakten/2025-01-27/ifo-geschaeftsklimaindex-gestiegen-januar-2025>. The mood among companies in Germany has improved slightly. The ifo business climate index rose to 85.1 points in January, following on from 84.7 points in December. The rise was primarily the result of a better assessment of the current situation. By contrast, expectations were less optimistic again. The German business community remains pessimistic.

The business climate has deteriorated again in the manufacturing sector. Scepticism increased greatly among companies with regard to the months ahead. However, the current business situation was assessed as better. The number of new orders continues to fall. Capacity utilisation stayed put, almost unchanged at 76.5 %. This is still much lower than the long-term mean value of 83.4 %.

Plastics Information published its 48th PIE Dialogue in February 2025, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>. Companies' expectations were bitterly disappointed. In terms of the economy, the last six months of 2024 won't live in the memory. The main problem for the plastics sector in the German-speaking world is and remains the continuing weak demand.

For 57 % of the total 445 companies that took part in the survey in January 2025, business in the second half of 2024 was worse than in the first half. Only one in four companies referred to their development as stable. But only 19 % reported that their business situation had improved – that is 9 % lower than six months ago. All of the individual industry sectors reported a negative development balance. The balances for plastics producers, distributors and recyclers were disproportionately bad, each at more than minus 55 %.

2 Primary markets - standard plastics

The start to the new year was much better than expected. However, there are special effects with warehouse quantities at the end of the year. The processors' warehouse stocks were run down due to the year-end. And at the start of the year, therefore, there are new purchases. It therefore remains to be seen whether the somewhat stronger demand for standard plastics will continue.

In January 2025, the quotes for standard plastics barely changed. Only PS rose by +30 €/t; all other standard plastics were quoted unchanged. In January 2025, the EUWID average price of 1,393 €/t was more or less the same as in the previous month (1,387 €/t) see Tab. 2. In a year-on-year comparison, it can be seen that the average quotes from January 2025 (1,393 €/t) were 50 €/t higher than those of the previous year (1,343 €/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://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

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

Prices in €/t	January 2025	Dec. 2024	Nov. 2024	Oct. 24	Sept. 2024
LDPE film grade	1260- 1320	1260- 1320	1270- 1330	1280- 1350	1310- 1390
LLDPE film grade	1230- 1270	1230- 1270	1240- 1280	1250- 1300	1290- 1350
HDPE injection moulding	1260- 1290	1260- 1290	1260- 1290	1270- 1300	1310- 1340
HDPE blow moulding	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1300- 1350
PS crystal clear	1660- 1710	1630- 1680	1630- 1680	1630- 1680	1830- 1880
PS high impact	1790- 1810	1760- 1780	1760- 1780	1760- 1780	1960- 1980
PP homopolymer	1380- 1460	1380- 1460	1390- 1480	1390- 1480	1420- 1530
PP copolymer	1430- 1510	1430- 1510	1440- 1520	1440- 1530	1470- 1580
PVC tube grade	1110- 1210	1110- 1210	1110- 1210	1100- 1200	1100- 1200
PVC film/cables	1240- 1340	1240- 1340	1240- 1340	1230- 1330	1230- 1330

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Average Price	1393 ± 203	1387 ± 191	1391 ± 192	1394 ± 192	1458 ± 258
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PET: For PET, the start of the new year is balanced in terms of supply and demand, albeit at a very low level. It is shocking that ever more drinks are being offered in glass bottles. And the numbers of drinks and juices in composite carton are rising. The disadvantage of glass packagings is the much greater weight of the packaging material, which can result in smaller loads and thus more trips. What's negative about composite cartons is their limited recyclability.

Sideways movement - in January 2025, packaging PET was quoted on average at 1,120 €/t and thus 15 €/t higher than in the previous month, see PIE – Plastic Information Europe <https://pieweb.-plasteurope.com/>. In EUWID, the quotes for January 2025 were almost unchanged in comparison to those of November 2024. The calculated means were 1,040 €/t for European films and bottle grade (A-PET and C-PET), see www.euwid-recycling.de.

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 the month of the report, in this case February 2025; they will not become definitive until early March 2025. The two quotes stated for February 2025 below therefore indicate only an interim situation, see the left-hand column in Table 3 and Table 4.

3.1 plasticker: Standard plastics

The January price index reports very low demand. In January 2025, standard plastics were quoted at an average price of 519 €/t and thus 33 €/t lower than in the previous month (552 €/t), see Tab. 3. The average price for January 2025 (519 €/t) was 60 €/t below that of the previous year (579 €/t). There were significant price changes of greater than ±40 €/t for: HDPE regrind +50 €/t, HDPE regranalates -60 €/t, LDPE regranalates +50 €/t and PP regranalates -60€/t. Those price changes for which supply figures were too low (*) for statistical significance are not included here.

The likely average price in February 2025 (532 €/t) is thus 13 €/t higher than in the previous month (519 €/t), see Tab. 3. The price index of 14.02.2025 shows worse demand in comparison to the previous month.

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

	February ⁶ 25	January 25	Dec. 24	Nov. 24	Oct. 24	Jan. 24
HDPE regrind ¹	580	590	540	580	560	580
HDPE regranalates ⁵	830	790	850	930	850	840
LDPE bale goods ²	530*	180*	470*	540*	430	230*
LDPE regrind ¹	320	420*	480*	420*	510*	560*
LDPE regranalates ⁵	630	670	620	760	760	810
PP bale goods ³	240	230*	210*	210	210	230
PP regrind ¹	550	500	530	490	540	600
PP regranalates ⁵	870	850	910	880	920	830
PS regrind ⁴	610*	620*	620*	620	690	740
PS regranalates ⁵	840	890	920	800	870	830
PVC_P regrind ¹	290*	290*	460*	500*	650*	610*
PVC_U regrind ¹	410*	450*	440*	470*	570	610
PET bale goods	310*	340*	270*	240*	270*	260*

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PET regrind mixed colours	440*	440*	410*	440	450	380
Average Price	(532)	519	552	563	591	579

*: 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

For January 2025, there was an average price of 1,513 €/t, which was 38 €/t higher than that of the previous month (1,475 €/t), see Table 4. The average price for January 2025 (1,513 €/t) was 105 €/t below that of the previous year (1,618 €/t).

There were significant price changes of greater than ±70 €/t for: PC regranulates +90 €/t, PBT regranulates +240 €/t, PA 6 regranulates -170 €/t and POM regranulates +300 €/t. The January price index reveals a slightly lower demand for plastic over the previous month.

The probable average price in February 2025 (1,522 €/t) is thus only 9 €/t higher than in the previous month (1,513 €/t). And therefore the February prices are unchanged in comparison to the previous month. The price index of 14.02.2025 shows slightly better demand in comparison to the previous month.

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

	February ⁶ 24	January 25	Dec. 24	Nov. 24	Oct. 24	Jan. 24
ABS regrind	650	620	610	620	660	800
ABS regranulates ⁵	1220	1270	1300	1250	1280	1230
PC regrind	1070	1000	990	900	970	1250
PC regranulates ⁵	2510	2650	2560	2470	2560	2220
PBT regrind	650	660	600*	580	630	660*
PBT regranulates	2040	1980	1740	2020	1940	2330
PA 6 regrind	890	770	820	890	880	940
PA 6 regranulates ⁵	2250	2270	2440	2350	2140	2340
PA 6.6 regrind	1090	1130	1060	1100	1160	980
PA 6.6 regranulates ⁵	2480	2540	2550	2570	2470	3160
POM regrind	710*	800*	860*	610*	750	680*
POM regranulates ⁵	2700	2470	2170	2200	2220	2820
Average Price	(1522)	1513	1475	1463	1472	1618

*: 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

Hope may come from the new BKV Study "Status Quo and Forecast of the Demand for and Availability of Post-Consumer Recyclates in 2030", see <https://www.bkv-gmbh.de/studien.html>. In Germany, the amount of plastic recyclates will not be sufficient to meet the statutory recycling requirements. A recyclates shortage of 30 % is forecast for 2030 and that would correspond to a lack of around 860,000 tonnes in Germany. And across the EU, this shortfall will be as much as 3.5 million tonnes.

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Detailed and accurate reporting on recycling standard plastics can be found in EUWID RE 7, p. 21f. The situation is and remains difficult for plastic recycling. Exhortations to hold out are being issued for plastics recyclers for 2025.

The special effects with respect to warehouse stocks at the end and start of the year do not only apply to virgin grade, but also, to a lesser extent, to recyclates. The processors' warehouse stocks were run down due to the year-end. And at the start of the year, therefore, there are new purchases. This effect is almost non-existent in the secondary plastics markets for standard plastics. Although there was slightly higher demand in the secondary plastics markets for technical plastics at the start of the year, it did not lead to price rises.

4.1 Recycling standard plastics

EUWID: The January quotes are stable. Only the PE wastes recorded some price changes here. There were small price falls, in this case by an average -11 €/t, for the regrinds of PE production waste. And for PE post user, film transparent natural was quoted at an average 30 €/t, commercial mixed film (90/10) at an average 30 €/t and commercial mixed film (80/20) at an average 10 €/t higher.

plasticker: In January 2025, there were further price falls. The January price index reports very low demand. In January 2025, standard plastics were quoted at an average price of 519 €/t and thus 33 €/t lower than in the previous month (552 €/t). Since October 2024, the prices have fallen in stages of 11 €/t to 33 €/t.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: recyclers are fighting for survival. Increasing numbers of insolvencies are being reported. In January 2025, the regranulates of standard plastics were stable in comparison to the previous month. Only slight price corrections of ±5 €/t were seen with some commodities. The demand for standards plastics remains low, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

4.2 Recycling technical plastics

plasticker: There was a slight increase in the quotes for technical plastics in January 2025. Here, there was an average price of 1,513 €/t, which is 38 €/t higher than that of the previous month (1,475 €/t). The January price index shows subdued demand for plastic. However, February is already showing somewhat higher demand for technical plastics.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: All of the regranulates were quoted lower in January 2025, too. The premium grades of regranulates quoted here recorded average price falls of 5 €/t to 10 €/t, see <https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/>.

4.3 PET recycling

The requirements of the SUP are taking effect! PET recycling continued to pick up speed in January 2025. The requirements for PET beverage bottles to contain 25 % recyclates are resulting in increased demand for PET all over Europe. The prospects for 2025 are good both in Germany and across Europe. In January 2025, the relevant price changes for used PET single-use deposit bottles remain: PET transparent ±0 €/t, PET mixed ±0 €/t and PET coloured ±0 €/t, see EUWID.

For virgin grade, in this case granulates, the average value in PIE – Plastic Information Europe is 1,120 €/t. Regranulates are valued at 1,550 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. Clear, food-safe flakes are quoted at an average 1,275 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. EUWID reports a calculated mean of 1,235 €/t for clear flakes.

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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 following 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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