bvse market report: plastics, March 2025

0 27th International Conference on Plastic Recycling, 24-25 June 2025, Dresden

The 27th International Conference on Plastic Recycling will be held at the Maritim Hotel & International Congress Centre, Dresden on 24-25 June 2025. Our traditional barbecue in the Congress Centre near the Elbe is a special highlight.

The heading for the Conference on Plastic Recycling is “Plastic Recycling: Out of the Crisis, Into the Future”. The conference will open on 24 June with the central forum, which entails two consecutive podium discussions, one on “The Newly Established Framework for Plastic Recycling” and the other on “Controversial Plastic Recycling: Thermal Recovery - Opportunity or Waste?”. They will be followed by two workshops in parallel, one on “Plastic Recycling in the Partner Country Poland” and one on “Quantities, Markets, Prices”.

The traditional barbecue, which often goes on until the early hours, will be held from 7.00 pm.

In parallel to the conference, there are two exhibitions, one a forum on plastic recycling presenting machines, installations and services and the other a forum of recycled products you can touch.

The “Plastic Product Design in an Interdisciplinary Dialogue” will take place on the second day of the event, 25 June 2025. The conference will end at 12.30 with a snack for lunch.

1 General economy and reference to the plastics industry

On the occasion of its annual press conference on Ash Wednesday, the plastics processing industry association (Gesamtverband Kunststoffverarbeitende Industrie e.V. (GKV)) took stock of another mixed picture of the sector’s economic situation, just like the previous year, see https://www.gkv.de/de/service/presse/umsatzrueckgang-der-kunststoff-verarbeitenden-industrie-setzt-sich-2024-fort.html. In particular, the charts from the press conference of 5 March 2025 should attract the reader’s interest.

The fall in turnover in the plastics processing industry continued in 2024; the tide could turn in 2025. Turnover fell from 72.5 billion euros to 69.4 billion euros. The number of employees was cut from more than 319,000 to just around 313,000. GKV President Dr. Helen Fürst sees the chance of an end to the decline in 2025. “Our industry has potential for growth. The literal glimmers of light can gradually be seen on the horizon after two challenging years for the plastics processing industry,” Fürst said in Frankfurt am Main. However, in the eyes of the companies in the plastics processing industry, relief for the industry from high energy costs and a consistent reduction of bureaucracy are essential for an upturn. The industry is also hoping for further impetus from the world’s leading trade fair for the plastics industry, K 2025, which will take place in Düsseldorf from 8 to 15 October 2025.

2 Primary markets - standard plastics

There was higher demand for standard plastics in January and February. Strong demand for processing, as well as topping up warehouses and supply shortages were cited as reasons for the price rises. The market situation was aggravated by force majeure in some plastic synthesis plants. LDPE commodities in particular are affected by this. As a consequence, there were evasive shifts towards other plastics.

In February 2025, standard plastics were quoted much higher: LDPE film +75 €/t, LLDPE film +60 €/t, HDPE injection moulding +60 €/t, HDPE blow moulding +60 €/t, PS crystal clear +50 €/t, PS high impact +50 €/t, PP homopolymer +50 €/t, PP copolymer +50 €/t, PVC tube grade +30 €/t and PVC films/cables +30 €/t. In February 2025, the author quoted the average of the EUWID price as

1,444 €/t was therefore 51 €/t higher than in the previous month (1,393 €/t), see Tab. 2. In a year-on-year comparison, it can be seen that the average quotes from February 2025 (1,444 €/t) were 16 €/t lower than those of the previous year (1,428 €//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	February 2025	Jan. 2025	Dec. 2024	Nov. 2024	Oct. 24
LDPE film grade	1330- 1400	1260- 1320	1260- 1320	1270- 1330	1280- 1350
LLDPE film grade	1290- 1330	1230- 1270	1230- 1270	1240- 1280	1250- 1300
HDPE injection moulding	1320- 1350	1260- 1290	1260- 1290	1260- 1290	1270- 1300
HDPE blow moulding	1320- 1370	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1260- 1310	1260- 1310
PS crystal clear	1710- 1760	1660- 1710	1630- 1680	1630- 1680	1630- 1680
PS high impact	1840- 1860	1790- 1810	1760- 1780	1760- 1780	1760- 1780
PP homopolymer	1430- 1510	1380- 1460	1380- 1460	1390- 1480	1390- 1480
PP copolymer	1480- 1560	1430- 1510	1430- 1510	1440- 1520	1440- 1530
PVC tube grade	1140- 1240	1110- 1210	1110- 1210	1110- 1210	1100- 1200
PVC film/cables	1270- 1370	1240- 1340	1240- 1340	1240- 1340	1230- 1330
Average Price	**1444 ± 198**	**1393 ± 203**	**1387 ± 191**	**1391 ± 192**	**1394 ± 192**

PET: The demand for packaging PET remained at a low level in February and in March. Impetus is expected from the warmer spring days. However, the high food prices are still scaring many consumers off buying anything other than their basic day-to-day needs.

Sideways movement: in February 2025, packaging PET was quoted on average at 1,130 €/t and thus 10 €/t higher than in the previous month, see PIE – Plastic Information Europe https://pieweb.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 March 2025; they will not become definitive until early April 2025. The two quotes stated for March 2025 below indicate only an interim situation, see the left-hand column in Tab. 3 and Table 4.

3.1 plasticker: Standard plastics

The February price index shows low demand for plastic. In February 2025, standard plastics were quoted at an average price of 538 €/t and were thus 19 €/t higher than in the previous month (579 €/t), see Tab. 3. The average price for February 2025 (538 €/t) was 51 €/t below that of the previous year (589 €/t). There were significant price changes of greater than ±40 €/t for: HDPE regranulates +50 €/t and PS regrind +60 €/t. Those price changes for which supply figures were too low (*) for statistical significance are not included here.

The likely average price in March 2025 (542 €/t) is thus 10 €/t higher than in the previous month (532 €/t), see Tab. 3. The price index March of 14.03.2025 shows worse demand in comparison to the previous month.

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

	March[6] 25	Feb. 25	January 25	Dec. 24	Nov. 24	Feb. 24
HDPE regrind[1]	600	580	590	540	580	570
HDPE regranulates[5]	860	840	790	850	930	860
LDPE bale goods[2]	500*	460*	180*	470*	540*	260*
LDPE regrind[1]	400*	400*	420*	480*	420*	550*
LDPE regranulates[5]	650	650	670	620	760	730
PP bale goods[3]	230	220	230*	210*	210	210
PP regrind[1]	470	530	500	530	490	620
PP regranulates[5]	820	840	850	910	880	840
PS regrind[4]	730	680*	620*	620*	620	770
PS regranulates[5]	820	850	890	920	800	900
PVC_P regrind[1]	500*	340*	290*	460*	500*	630*
PVC_U regrind[1]	410*	400*	450*	440*	470*	620
PET bale goods	240*	310*	340*	270*	240*	260*
PET regrind mixed colours	360*	430*	440*	410*	440	420
Average Price	**(542)**	**538**	**519**	**552**	**563**	**589**

*: 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 February 2025, there was an average price of 1,491 €/t, which was 22 €/t lower than that of the previous month (1,513 €/t), see Table 4. The average price for February 2025 (1,491 €/t) was 81 €/t below that of the previous year (1,572 €/t).

There were significant price changes of greater than ±70 €/t for: PC regranulates -130 €/t, PBT regranulates +160 €/t, PA 6 regranulates -150 €/t, PA 6.6 regranulates -150 €/t and POM regranulates +150 €/t. Those price changes for which supply figures were too low (*) for statistical significance are not included here. The February price index reveals a slightly improved demand for plastic over the previous month.

The probable average price in March 2025 (1,527 €/t) is thus 36 €/t higher than in the previous month (1,491 €/t). The price index March of 14.03.2025 shows slightly better demand in comparison to the previous month.

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

	March[6] 25	Feb. 25	January 25	Dec. 24	Nov. 24	Feb. 24
ABS regrind	670	670	620	610	620	750
ABS regranulates[5]	1300	1270	1270	1300	1250	1340
PC regrind	940	980	1000	990	900	1220
PC regranulates[5]	2590	2520	2650	2560	2470	1980
PBT regrind	640	650	660	600*	580	670
PBT regranulates	2130	2140	1980	1740	2020	2270
PA 6 regrind	740	760	770	820	890	910
PA 6 regranulates[5]	2130	2120	2270	2440	2350	2360
PA 6.6 regrind	1110	1060	1130	1060	1100	880
PA 6.6 regranulates[5]	2480	2390	2540	2550	2570	3080

POM regrind	860*	710*	800*	860*	610*	680*
POM regranulates[5]	2730	2620	2470	2170	2200	2720
Average Price	**(1527)**	**1491**	**1513**	**1475**	**1463**	**1572**

*: 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

EuRIC webinar: Due to the tense situation in European plastic recycling, EuRIC held a webinar on the current situation on 4 March 2025, see https://euric.org/resource-hub/press-releases-statements/euric-plastics-webinar-brings-together-250-participants-to-tackle-europes-plastics-recycling-crisis. The plastic recycling industry is at a turning point. Recyclers are fighting for survival. Increasing numbers of insolvencies are being reported. One of the central questions of the webinar was whether the painstakingly established plastic recycling sector can survive until the amendments of the PPWR take effect. Sunset for plastic recycling, which will be given a boost by the requirements of the PPWR, is 2030. The problem of off-spec imports from Asia, which could squeeze European plastic recyclates, was also discussed.

Force majeure for PE commodities, especially LDPE. The stronger demand for PE commodities is due to shortages from plastic manufacture. And once again we can see that the secondary grade comes to the rescue when there is a shortage of the primary grade. Again, the recyclates, often denoted as the grubby urchins, are now turned into goods in high demand. Demand for PP plastics also rose because of the shifts.

4.1 Recycling standard plastics

EUWID: The quotes for PE plastics changed in the February price index. The quotes for all other standard plastics were unchanged. The price rises are on average 2.50 €/t to 15 €/t. The price changes are often only one-sided.

For PE production waste, the regrinds of HDPE mixed are quoted at 210 €/t - 310 €/t, LDPE mixed at 210 €/t - 310 €/t and LDPE natural at 340 €/t - 430 €/t. The quotes for bale goods for LDPE film mixed (K49) are 15 €/t – 65 €/t and LDPE film natural (K40) 270 €/t – 335 €/t.

For PE post user, all commodities are quoted higher: LDPE shrink hoods natural 500 €/t – 570 €/t, LDPE shrink hoods natural 80 €/t – 120 €/t, film transparent natural <70 µm 285 €/t – 315 €/t, film transparent coloured <70 µm 25 €/t – 55 €/t, LDPE agricultural film natural >70 µm -5 €/t – 15 €/t, commercial mixed film transparent (90/10) 180 €/t – 215 €/t, commercial mixed film transparent (80/20) 105 €/t – 155 €/t, HDPE blow-moulded bodies coloured 50 €/t – 120 €/t, HDPE crates sorted according to colour 350 €/t – 380 €/t and HDPE crates mixed colours 250 €/t – 320 €/t.

plasticker: The February price index shows low demand for plastic. In February 2025, standard plastics were quoted at an average price of 538 €/t and thus 19 €/t higher than in the previous month (519 €/t). The price fall that has been continuous since October has been stopped. Slight price rises will probably also take effect in March.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: In February 2025, some regranulates of standard plastics were higher in comparison to the previous month. The average price rises are on average 5 €/t and 25 €/t. Supply and demand remain low for now. However, force majeure resulted in impetus for PE commodities, especially for LDPE, see https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/.

4.2 Recycling technical plastics

plasticker: Since October 2024, the prices for technical plastics have been hovering around a mean value of 1,490 €/t. For February 2025, there was an average price of 1,491 €/t, which was 22 €/t lower than that of the previous month (1,513 €/t), see Table 4. The February price index reveals a slightly improved demand for plastic over the previous month. The March price index is predicting stabilisation of the prices at a slightly higher level, going hand in hand with slightly improved demand.

PIE – Plastic Information Europe, regranulates: Some technical plastics are quoted unchanged and we can see some small price falls of between 5 €/t and 15 €/t for others. Demand is low; the hoped-for spring revival has not yet materialised, see https://pieweb.plasteurope.com/.

4.3 PET recycling

Developments in PET recycling have been pleasing in 2025. PET recycling is on a smooth course. Although supply of used PET bottles is falling slightly, recyclers have sufficient stocks. Demand for PET recyclates, in this case flakes and regranulates, has settled at a stable level. Increasing number of purchase orders for flakes are now coming from other European countries. As expected, the SUPD is taking effect all over Europe, as a result of which European recycling markets are becoming more important.

In February 2025, the relevant price changes for used PET single-use deposit bottles were: PET transparent +10 €/t, PET mixed +10€/t and PET coloured ±0 €/t, see EUWID.

For virgin grade, in this case granulates, the average value in PIE – Plastic Information Europe is 1,130 €/t. Regranulates are valued at 1,570 €/ on average in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. Clear, food-safe flakes are quoted at an average 1,305 €/t in PIE – Plastic Information Europe. EUWID reports a calculated mean of 1,325 €/t for clear flakes. Virgin grade are quoted at around 1,050 €/t.

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.

Bonn, Tuesday, 1. April 2025 Dr. Thomas Probst, bvse