

Circularity of the Belgian plastics industry

Progress report



.AGORIA



denuo



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1. Introduction



Ever since resource efficiency and the **circular economy entered the European political agenda**, plastics have been significantly affected because of their versatile use across all sectors. Circularity is far more than an environmental objective; it is also strategically, economically and industrially important.

Belgium is not only a major polymer production hub but also has a strong plastics converting industry and plays a pioneering role in plastic waste sorting and recycling.

This progress report is **the result of a collaboration between three national associations: Agoria, Denuo and essenscia**, which represent different parts of the plastics value chain and share a strong commitment to value chain collaboration. It is largely based on the Belgian data collected by Plastics Europe in the 'Circularity for plastics report 2026' and complemented with additional own data.

It provides stakeholders with insights into how the Belgian plastics value chain is becoming increasingly circular and fully committed to the transition towards a circular economy. Many challenges remain, including legislative barriers, energy and labor costs, price volatility and geopolitical uncertainties. Nevertheless, we also see the fruits of the relentless efforts of our **innovative Belgian industry** and we are pleased to report that significant progress has been made.

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2. Key Report Findings

-14%

Since 2018, Belgium's plastics converting industry **has shrunk by 14%** across all applications.

2nd best

more than **41%** of Belgian plastic waste is **recycled**, well above the EU average of 29,7%.

+60%

The share of Belgian **plastic waste that is recycled** has **grown by a spectacular 60%** compared to 2018.

2%

only 2% of the Belgian plastic waste goes to **landfilling**.

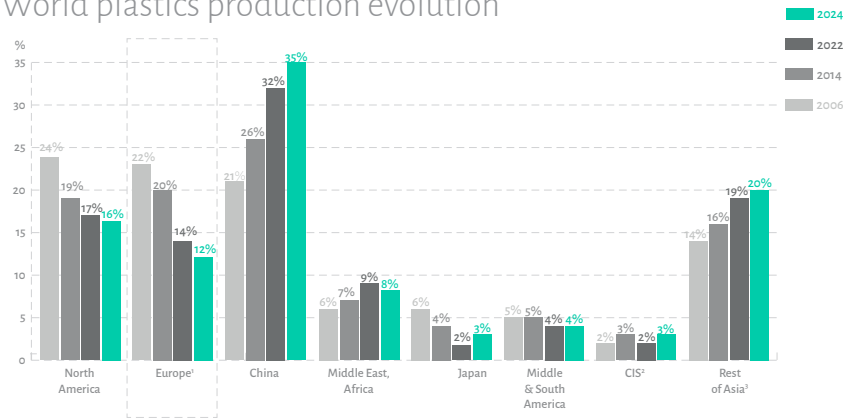
+88%

The recycled content in finished products produced by the Belgian plastic converters **increased** from 6.5% in 2018 to 12.2% in 2024.

3. The Belgian plastics industry in the European context

3.1. Plastics production evolution

World plastics production evolution



The above data are rounded estimations.

1. EU25+2 in 2006, EU28+2 in 2014, EU27+3 as of 2022.

2. Commonwealth of Independent States : Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

3. Includes Asian countries (except China & Japan), Oceania, Turkey and Ukraine.

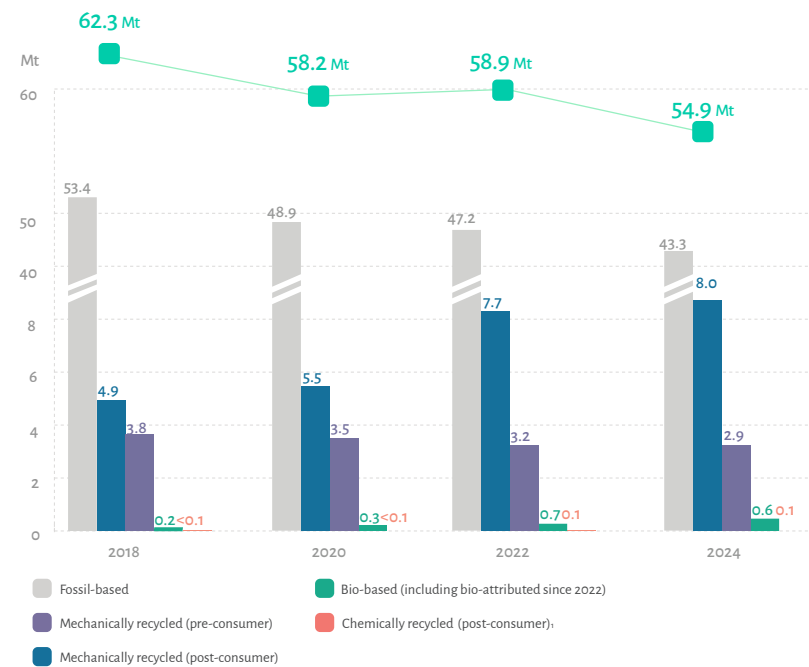
PLASTICS EUROPE 25

Although global plastics production continues to rise, Europe's industry is losing ground at an accelerating pace; its worldwide market share nearly halved from 22% in 2006 to just 12% in 2024. At the same time, the market share of China has drastically increased.

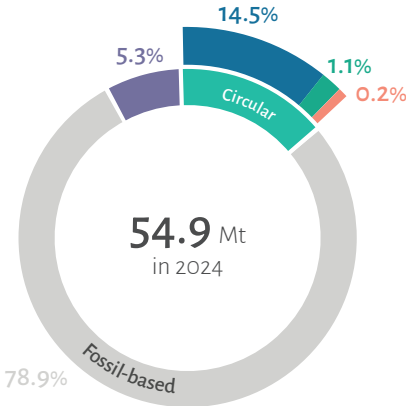
The data from the Plastics Europe report clearly indicate that although the total amounts of European plastics produced are in decline, **the share of the recycled plastics produced from post-consumer plastic waste continues to grow.**

Figure 1: Evolution of the world plastics production

European plastics production evolution



The above data are rounded estimations.
 1. Chemically recycled plastics production is estimated at ~0.11 Mt, based on available data, with the fuel-use exempt mass balance attribution rule.
 This method includes secondary chemicals which can be used for the production of plastics and other materials.

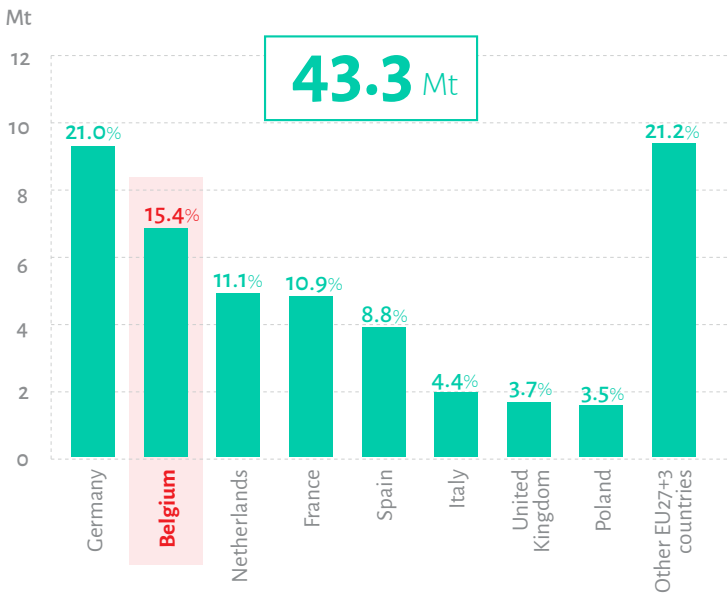


The data from the Plastics Europe report clearly indicate that although the total amounts of European plastics produced are in decline, **the share of the recycled plastics produced from post-consumer plastic waste continues to grow.**

Figure 2: European plastics production evolution

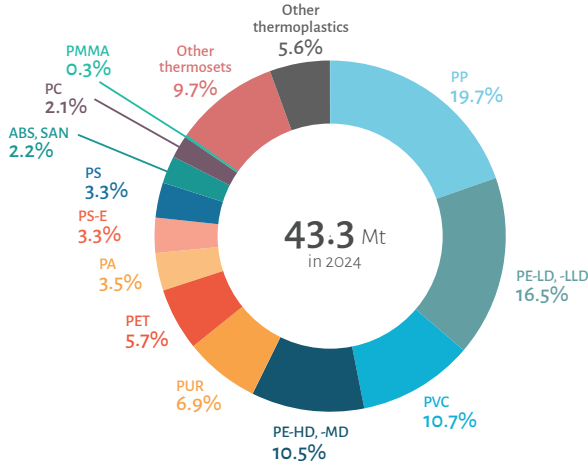
European fossil-based plastics production

Fossil-based plastics production by country



The above data are rounded estimations.

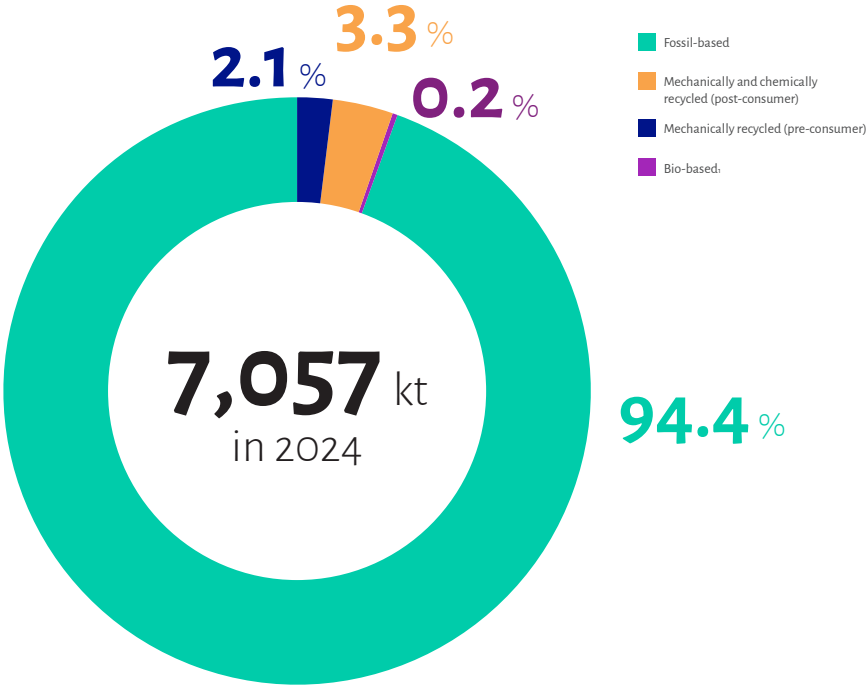
Fossil-based plastics production by polymer



Within Europe, **Belgium remains the second-largest producer of fossil-based plastics after Germany**, with major production facilities for polyolefins, PVC, PET, PS and PUR. Its dependence on fossil feedstocks is higher than the European average, at 94.4% compared with 78.9% across the EU.

Figure 3: European fossil-based plastics production by country and by polymer

Belgian Plastics production 2024, in kt



Between 2022 and 2024, Belgium's virgin plastics output fell by 3.1%, less sharply than the 6.8% decline recorded in Europe as a whole, suggesting that Belgium's industry is losing ground more slowly.

However, because recycled and bio-based plastics still represent only a small share of production, Belgium faces a significant structural transition to align with the EU's circular economy ambitions.

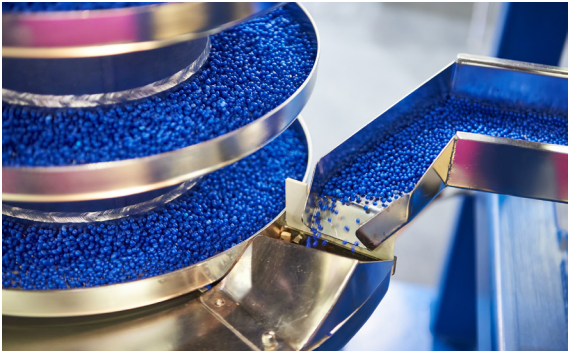


Figure 4: Belgian plastics production

3.2. Plastics conversion evolution

Belgium ranks seventh in European plastics conversion, processing 2.2 Mt in 2024, equal to the Netherlands but far behind Germany's 12.0 Mt. More worrying is the pace of decline: **Belgian plastic conversion dropped by nearly 10% in two years, well above the 3% fall recorded at European level.** While Belgium's conversion mix

(80% fossil-based) is slightly better than its production profile (94.4%), it still lags frontrunners like Spain, where recycled content already accounts for more than a quarter of output. The numbers point to a dual challenge: **a loss of international competitiveness, and a circular transition that has yet to gain real momentum.**

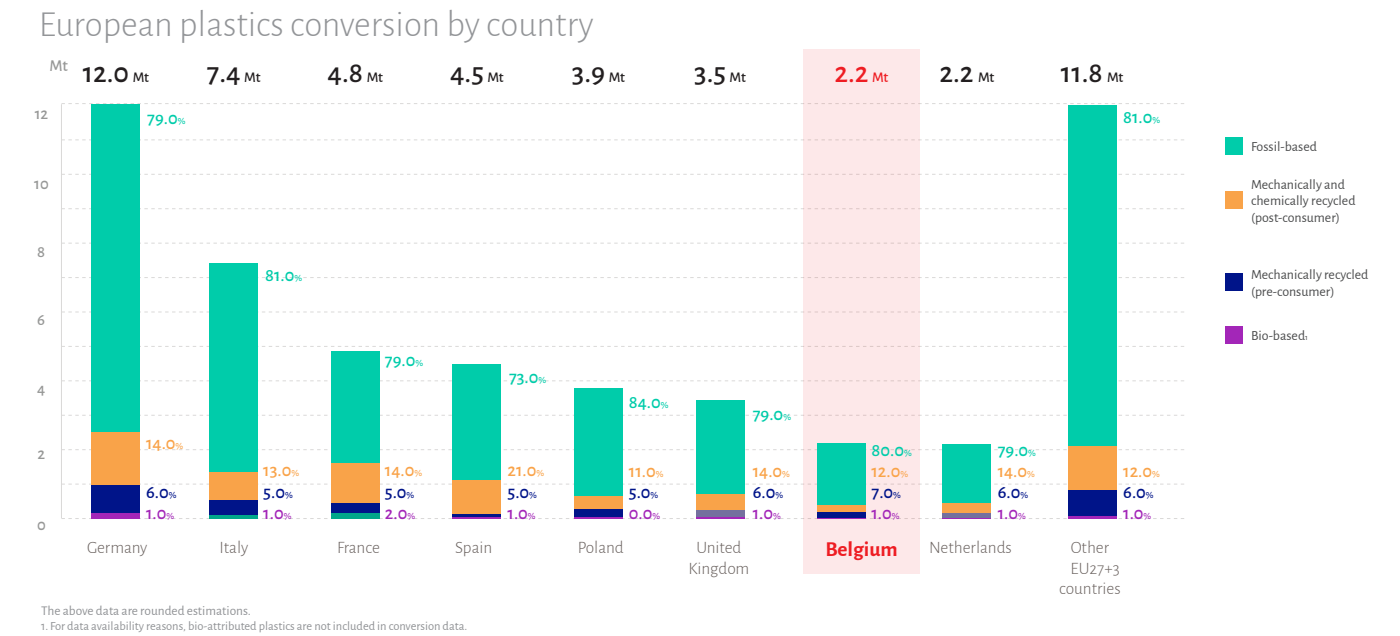


Figure 5: European plastics conversion by country

Plastics conversion 2024, in kt

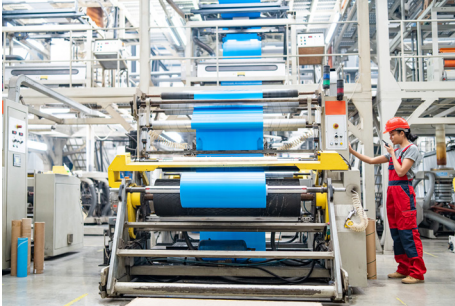
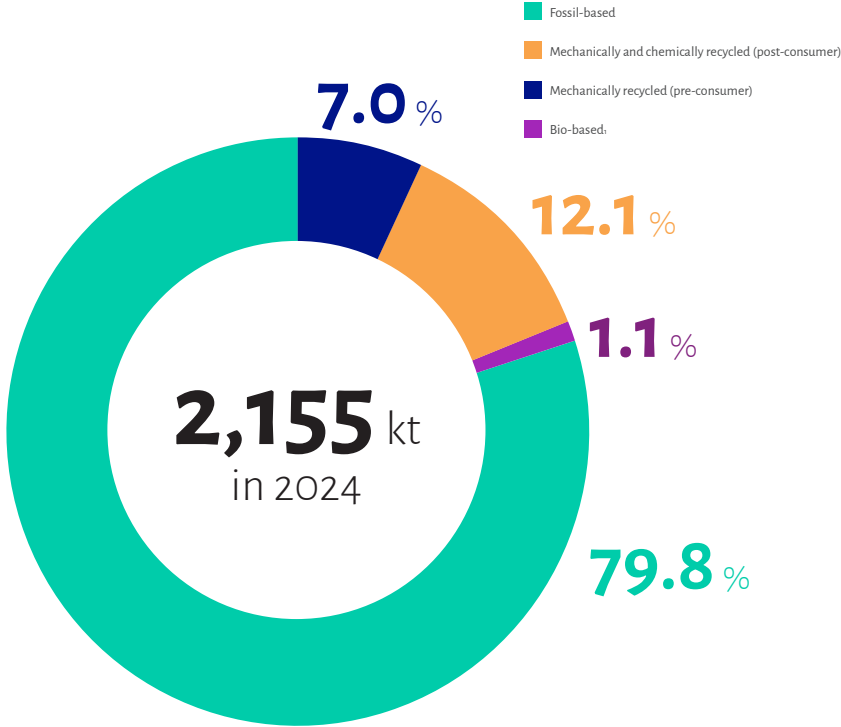


Figure 6: Belgian plastics conversion by type

3.3. Plastics recycling evolution

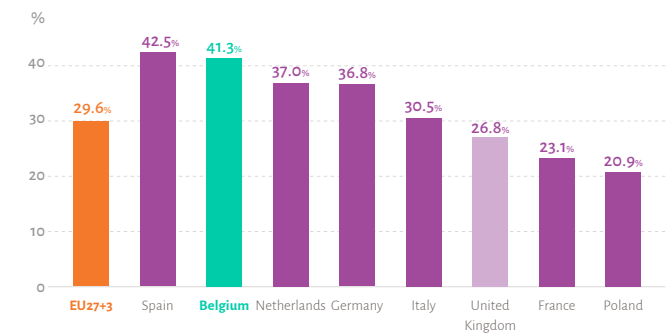


Figure 7: Recycling of all plastic waste in selected European countries, 2024

Across all plastic applications, Belgium recycles **41.3% of collected post-consumer plastic waste**, around twelve percentage points above the EU27+3 average of 29.6%, while landfilling only 1.6%. However, with 57.1% of collected volumes still incinerated, the main opportunity is to redirect more material from energy recovery to recycling.

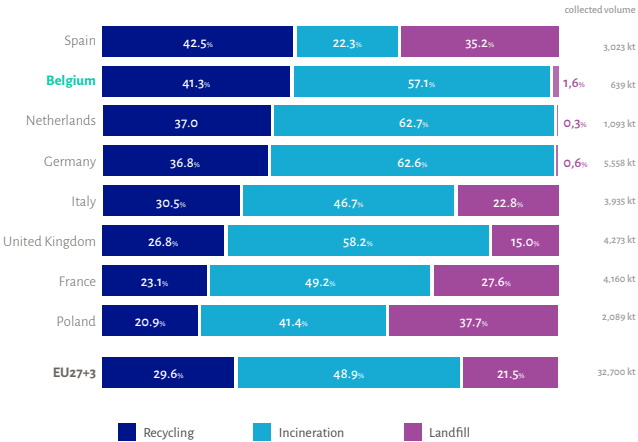


Figure 8: Treatment of post-consumer plastic waste in selected European countries, 2024

4. Socioeconomic importance of the Belgian Plastics Industry

As illustrated in the infographic below, the Belgian plastics value industry is an important sector in employment and contribution to the Belgian economy.

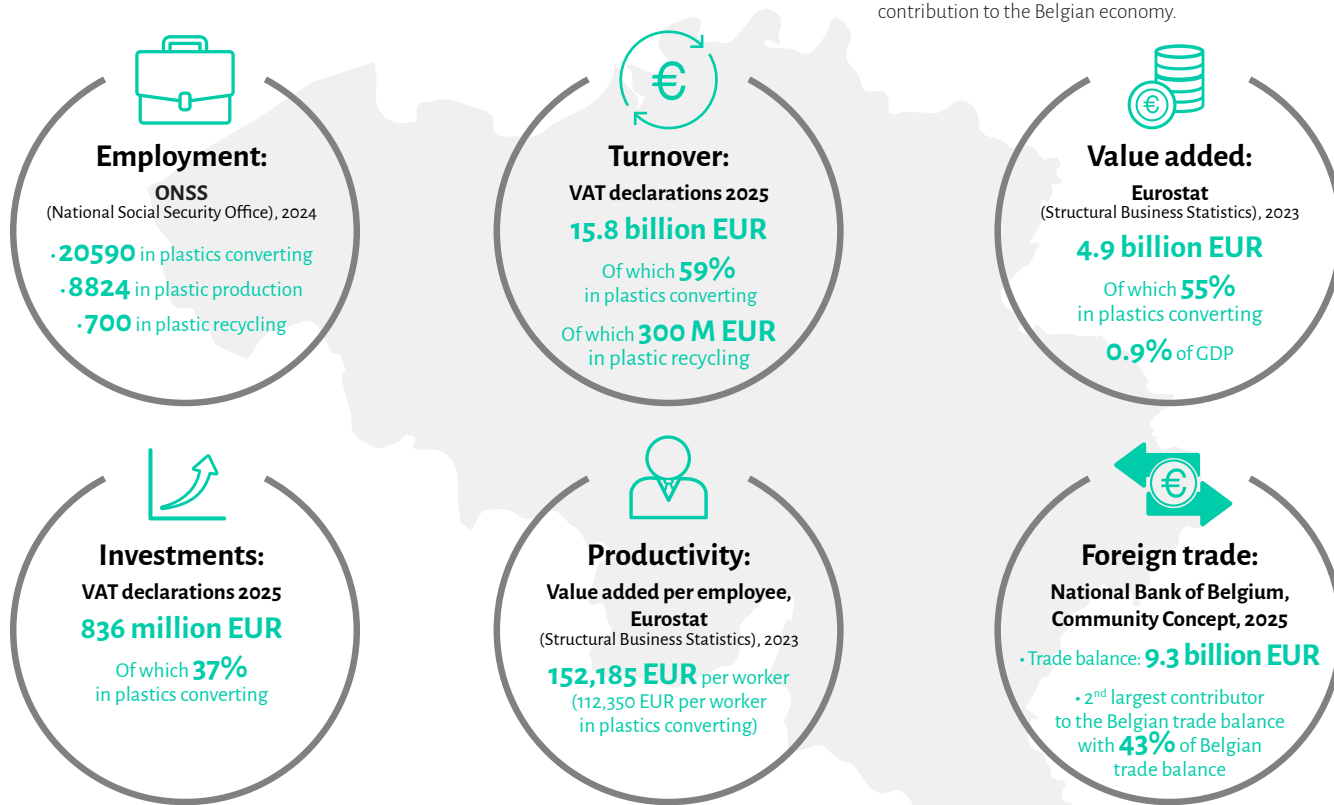


Figure 9: Socioeconomic data of the Belgian Plastics Industry

4.1. Main trade partners

	Export			Import			Trade balance		
	2018	2025		2018	2025		2018	2025	Evolution
Polymers	21.83	21.72	-0.5%	12.44	13.12	+5.5%	9.40	8.60	-0.8
Articles	10.49	11.99	+14.3%	11.03	11.32	+2.6%	-0.54	0.67	+1.2
Total	32.32	33.71	+4.3%	23.47	24.45	+4.2%	8.86	9.26	+0.4

Table 1: Belgian trade balance (in billion EUR)
for polymers and plastics and rubber articles

■ ■ A closer look at the trade balance data shows a clear contrast between polymers and plastic and rubber articles. ■ ■

For polymers, exports remained fairly stable (-0.5%) between 2018 and 2025, from 21.8 to 21.7 billion EUR. Imports, however, rose significantly by 5.5 percent over the same period, **from 12.4 to 13.1 billion EUR**. As a result, although the trade balance for polymers remained positive, it deteriorated by EUR 0.8 billion, from EUR 9.4 billion to EUR 8.6 billion. The European market accounts for **77% of Belgium's polymer exports, compared with 72% in 2018**. The main destinations are Germany (23.2%), France (11.1%), Italy (7.9 %), the Netherlands (7.1%) and Poland (5.3%). Outside the EU, exports are mainly destined for the United Kingdom (3.9%), Turkey (3.8%), China (2.9%) and the United States (2.8%). At -45%, the United Kingdom recorded the sharpest decline among the major export markets.

On the import side, **41% of Belgium's polymer imports come from the EU, compared with 45% in 2018**. Imports from the Netherlands in particular fell sharply (-21%), as did those from France (-7%) and Germany (-4%). This was offset by an increase from other EU countries, such as Spain, Poland and Italy, and more importantly from the United States (+25 %), China (+41 %) and Turkey (+113 %). The trade balance for polymers with the United States has deteriorated significantly: from -1.7 billion EUR in 2018 to -2.1 billion EUR in 2025.

For plastic and rubber articles, exports **rose by 15.3 % between 2018 and 2025**, from 10.5 to 12.0 billion EUR. Imports increased only by 2.6 % over the same period,

4.1. Main trade partners

from 11.0 to 11.3 billion EUR. As a result, the trade balance has turned positive, moving from -539 to +667 million euros. As with polymers, **the European market accounts for 77% of Belgian exports of the plastic and rubber converting industry, compared with 74 % in 2018.** The main destinations are Germany (17.9%), France (17.0%), the Netherlands (13.6%), Italy (5.1%) and Poland (4.1%). Outside the EU, exports are mainly destined for the United Kingdom (5.2%), the United States (3.0%) and China (1.5%). On the import side, **70% of plastic and rubber articles come from the EU,** compared with 61% in 2018. This shift is mainly due to an increase in imports from the Netherlands (+30.6%), Poland (+42.4%) and France (+18.7 %), combined with a fall in imports from the United States (-18.3%). Imports from China, however, have risen sharply (+87.2 %, from EUR 612 million to EUR 1.1 billion).

The trade balance for plastic and rubber articles with Germany has turned positive: from -68 million EUR in 2018 to +225 million EUR in 2025. With China, the trade balance for plastic and rubber articles has deteriorated even more sharply than for polymers. Here, the

balance further deteriorated from -447 to -961 million EUR, whilst for polymers it changed from +311 to +277 million EUR, a clear indication of the growing importance of China. **With the United States, however, the trade balance for plastic and rubber articles has improved, from -204 to -81 million EUR,** in contrast to the trend for polymers.

Trade data for plastic waste show that Belgian plastic waste is exported to OECD and non-OECD countries. Among OECD countries, Turkey and the United Kingdom are the main trade partners. Exports to non-OECD countries are gradually decreasing, with Malaysia, Vietnam and Indonesia as main trade partners.

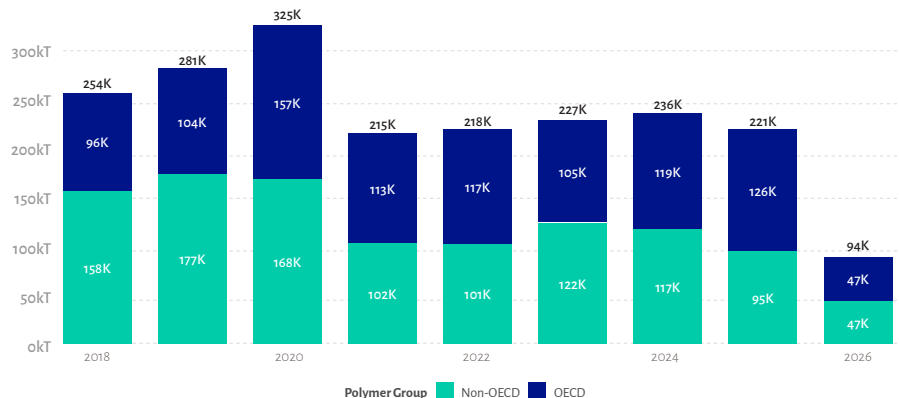


Figure 10: Exports of plastic waste (in kTonnes) from Belgium to non-OECD and OECD countries (source: ICIS & PRE)

Belgium also imports plastic waste from OECD and non-OECD countries. Most imports come from OECD countries, with the United Kingdom, the United States and Switzerland as main trade partners. Imports from non-OECD countries dropped significantly in 2023 but have been increasing again since 2025, with Indonesia, South Africa and China as main trade partners.

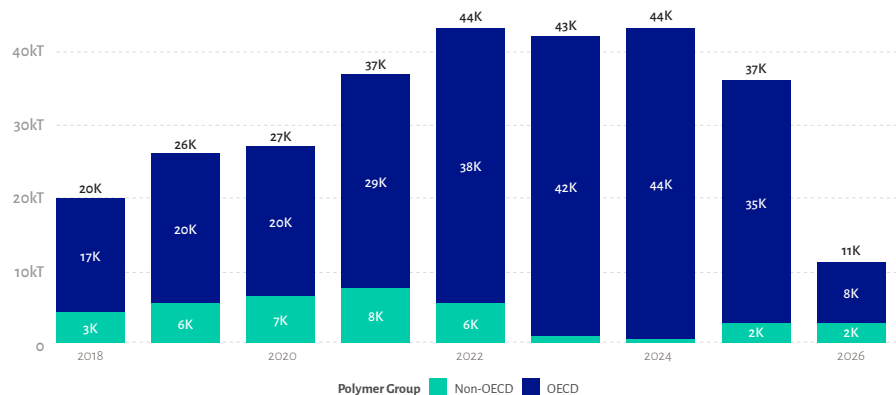


Figure 11: Imports of plastic waste (in kTonnes) by Belgium from non-OECD and OECD countries:

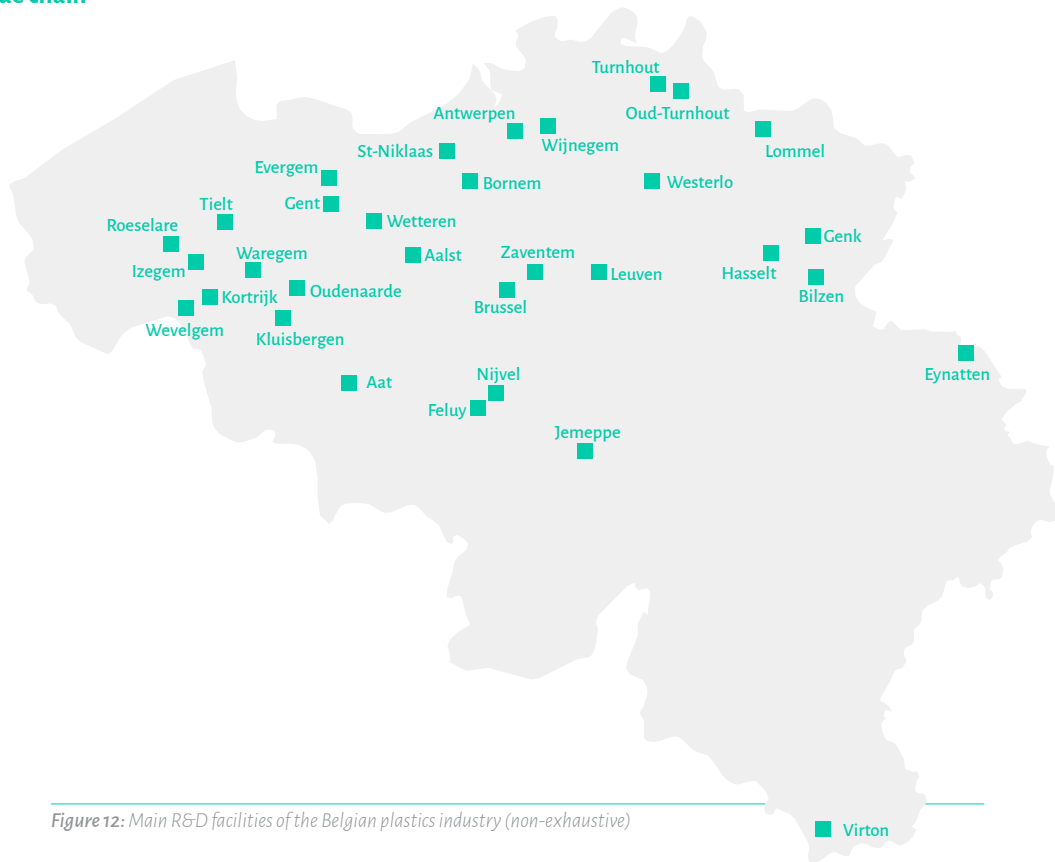


■ ■ It needs to be highlighted that **no accurate data are available on the import or export of recycled plastics as there are to date no separate customs codes for recycled plastics and virgin plastics.** ■ ■

4.2. Innovation in the Belgian plastics value chain

Catalisti, the Flemish spearhead innovation cluster for the chemicals and plastics industry in Flanders, has a dedicated innovation program 'Circularity and Resource Efficiency (CRE)' fostering collaborative innovation programs within the plastics value chain in close collaboration with the knowledge institutions. Within the Flanders Industry Innovation Moonshot program, Flemish research institutes develop breakthrough technologies and bold innovations to create climate-friendly processes and products to serve the wider purpose of systemic transformation of our industries to go carbon circular and CO₂-neutral. Bluechem, the Flemish incubator for sustainable chemistry, supports, amongst others, several start-up companies bringing innovations in recycling and defossilisation to market. Also, in Wallonia, plastic producers and converters run innovation projects with support of the 'pôle de compétitivité' Greenwin and Mecatech.

The Belgian plastics value chain has dedicated research and development facilities, often with a strong focus on circularity. According to Eurostat data, Belgian plastics converters spend EUR 152 million on intramural research and development. This figure does not include contracted research or collaborative research carried out with knowledge institutions. In total, **1,273 FTEs are employed in R&D, representing 6.2% of total employment in plastics conversion, including 857 researchers.**



5. The Belgian Plastics Value Chain

The infographic below provides an overview of plastics production, conversion into products and components, consumption and waste management in Belgium. In the following chapter the different parts will be discussed in more detail.

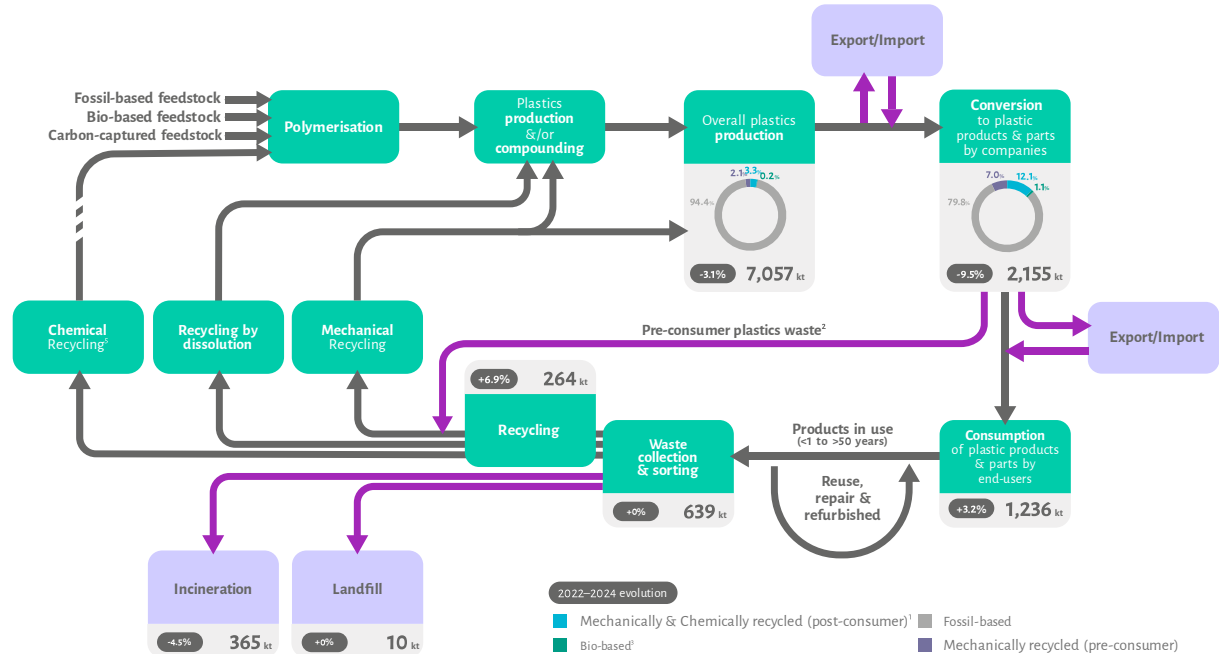


Figure 13: The Belgian plastics value chain (2024)

■ ■ The overview shows that Belgium's plastics production and converting industry **remains highly export-oriented.** ■ ■

Most plastics converted in Belgium are used in packaging and building & construction applications, with **up to 65% of packaging products and 36% of building & construction products exported outside Belgium.**

Plastic products conversion,
trade and national consumption 2024, in kt

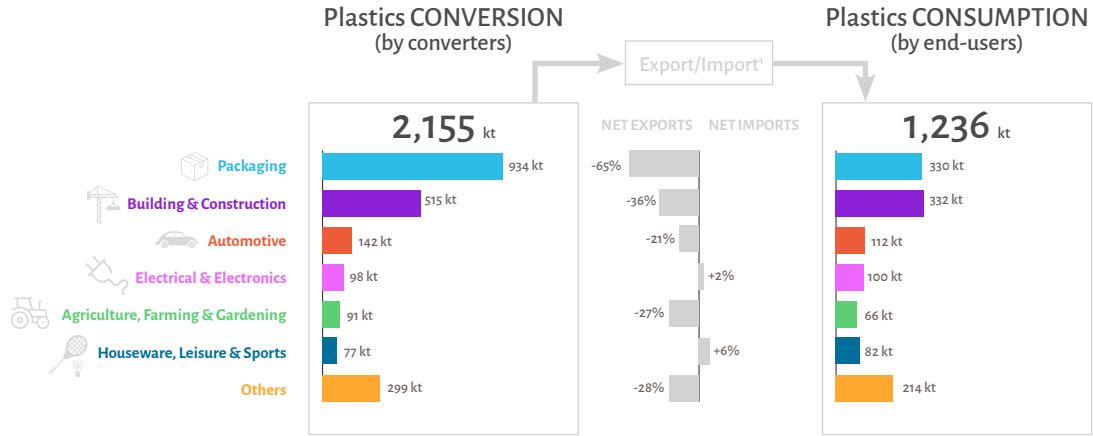


Figure 14: trade balance of plastic products conversion by application

5.1. Plastics conversion

■ ■ Since 2018, Belgium’s plastics conversion industry **has shrunk by 14% across all applications.** ■ ■

The sharpest declines are seen in automotive, reflecting the broader contraction of European car production and in packaging, where legislative pressure to reduce plastic use and the ban on single-use products have accelerated substitution by alternative materials. Despite these headwinds, packaging and building & construction remain the two dominant application segments, together representing most Belgian plastics conversion.

	2018	2020	2022	2024	2024 vs 2018
Packaging	1120	1185	1080	934	-17%
Building and Construction	567	574	534	515	-9%
Automotive	196	161	155	142	-28%
Electrics & electronics	109	98	108	98	-10%
Houseware, leisure, sports	83	75	86	77	-7%
Agriculture & gardening	104	99	90	91	-13%
Others	337	326	318	299	-11%
TOTAL	2516	2518	2380	2155	-14%

Table 2: evolution of Belgian plastics conversion by sector (in kT)

Evolution of Belgian Plastics Conversion by application (kT)

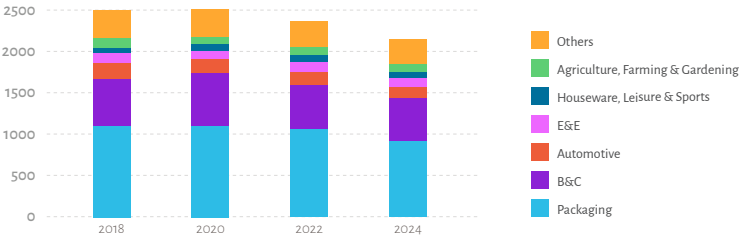


Figure 15: Evolution Belgian Plastics conversion by application

5.2. Plastic waste treatment

Today, most Belgian plastic waste sent for recycling is mechanically recycled. For clean, well-sorted plastic waste streams, this remains the most straightforward and economically viable way to recover the material.

However, to further reduce the use of virgin fossil feedstock and reduce the climate impact of the plastics value chain, other recycling routes will be required as well. An overview is given in the infographic below. Through physical recycling polymers are selectively separated from undesired substances and/or contaminants. Chemical recycling allows the recovery of the building blocks through various routes: depolymerisation to recover the monomers or oligomers, pyrolysis to recover pyrolysis oil as an alternative to fossil feedstock or gasification producing syngas as a building block.

Many of those technologies are not yet mature, but Belgium has an innovative ecosystem of academic and industrial R&D centres driving the development of front-runner technologies. As a result, a number of pilot-scale chemical recycling plants have recently been launched in Belgium, for polystyrene, polyolefins, polyurethanes and PET and more have been announced.

Various adaptations to the legal frameworks are lacking to accelerate investments in these novel recycling technologies.

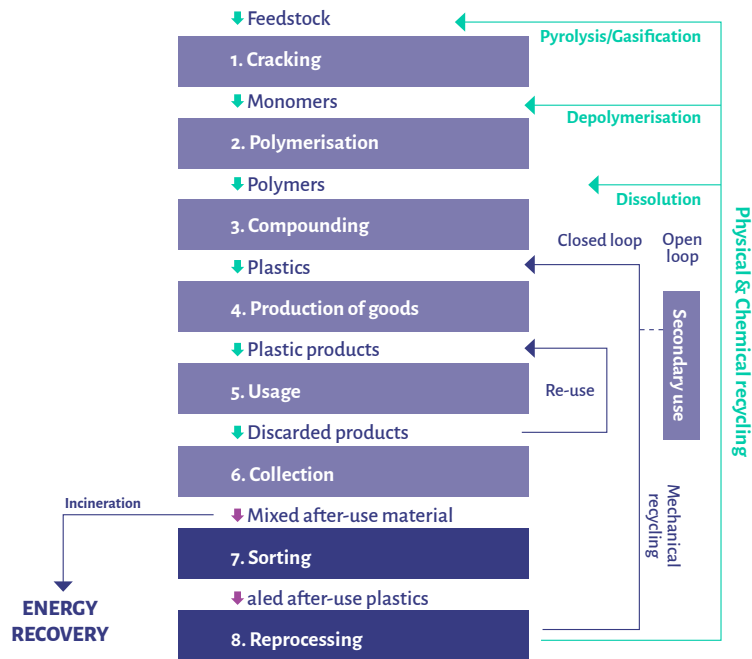


Figure 16: multiple routes to circularity for plastics

The data reported below focus only on the recycling of post-consumer waste as these are based on reported data. However, it is worth noting that also significant amounts of pre-consumer waste are recycled, as part of good manufacturing practices to minimise waste and maximise resource efficiency.

Compared to the previous reporting period, the total amounts of post-consumer plastic waste didn't increase further and stayed at 639 kT, despite an increase in Belgian population of 1.55% over that same period.

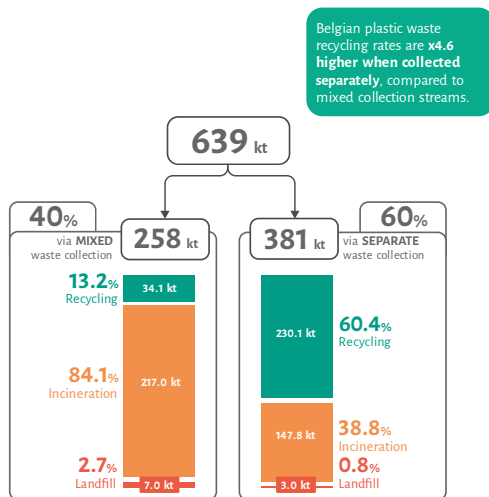
The share of Belgian plastic waste that is recycled continues to grow with a spectacular increase of 60% compared to 2018. In the same period, the overall European recycling rate increased only by 37%. The drastic increase in Belgium is mainly related to the increased collection of household packaging waste. **Another remarkable difference is the fact that in Belgium less than 2% of plastic waste goes to landfill whereas in Europe this is still at 21.5%.**

With 41.3% of the collected Belgian plastic waste being recycled, Belgium holds a second position across Europe behind Spain. In 2024, only four countries achieved post-consumer plastic waste recycling rates above 35% (Spain, Belgium, the Netherlands and Germany), while 17 countries remained below 25%.

However, the main remaining opportunity lies in incineration: 57.1% of collected plastic waste in Belgium is still incinerated. Redirecting more of this material from energy recovery to recycling, through expanded selective collection, additional sorting of mixed waste and complementary recycling technologies, is the next step in raising the recycling rate."



Post-consumer plastic waste collection and treatment 2024, in kt



Post-consumer plastic waste treatment evolution 2006-2024, in kt

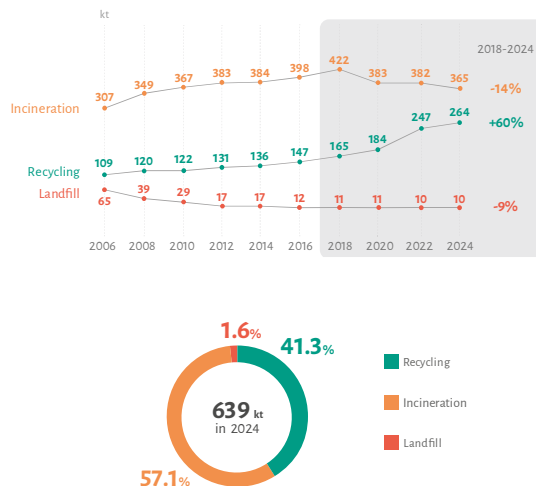


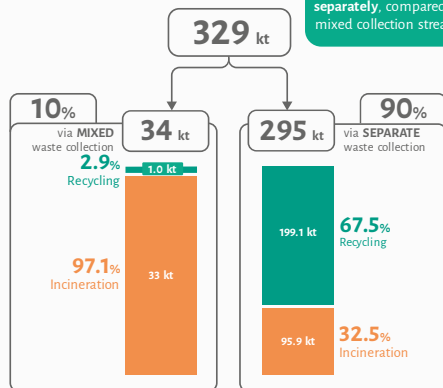
Figure 17: Waste treatment evolutions for Belgian plastic containing waste.

- **Separate collection remains the most effective way to increase the recycling rate of plastics** although additional sorting of plastics from mixed waste has also increased since the previous period, from 10.7% to 13.2%. ■■

PACKAGING¹

Post-consumer plastic PACKAGING waste collection and treatment

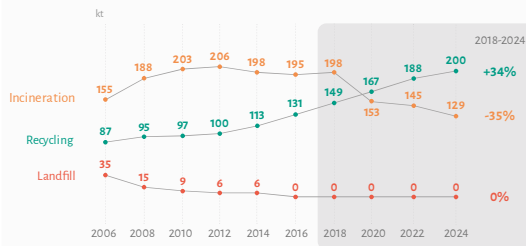
2024, in kt



Belgian plastic PACKAGING waste recycling rates are **x23 higher** when collected **separately**, compared to mixed collection streams.

Post-consumer plastic PACKAGING waste treatment evolution

2006-2024, in kt



Post-consumer plastic PACKAGING waste collection evolution

2018-2024, in kt

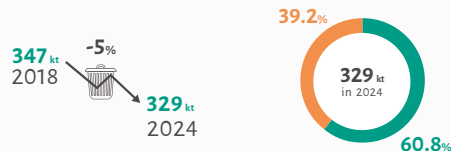
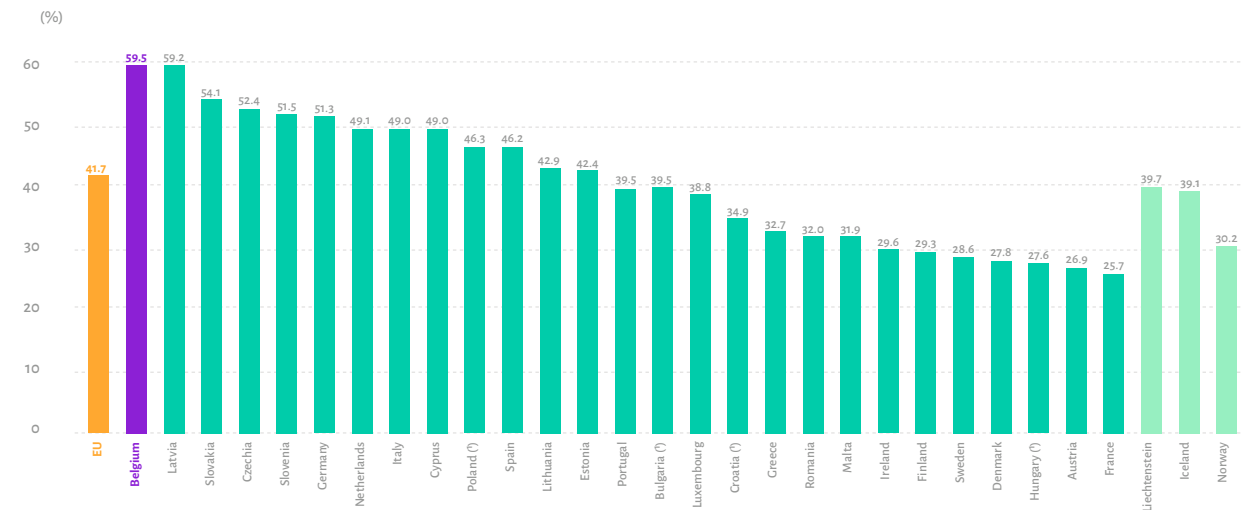


Figure 18: Waste treatment for Belgian post-consumer plastic packaging waste.

For plastic packaging waste, the absolute amounts of packaging waste declined in Belgium by 5% between 2018 and 2024, a result of various packaging minimisation initiatives. **The recycling rate however has continuously increased over that same period by 34% and the incineration rate decreased by 35%.** This mainly

reflects the expansion of the blue bag collection for household packaging waste and the mandatory selective collection of commercial and industrial packaging waste. In 2024, the vast majority of this waste was collected separately, with 67.5% of this separated waste stream effectively sent to recycling.

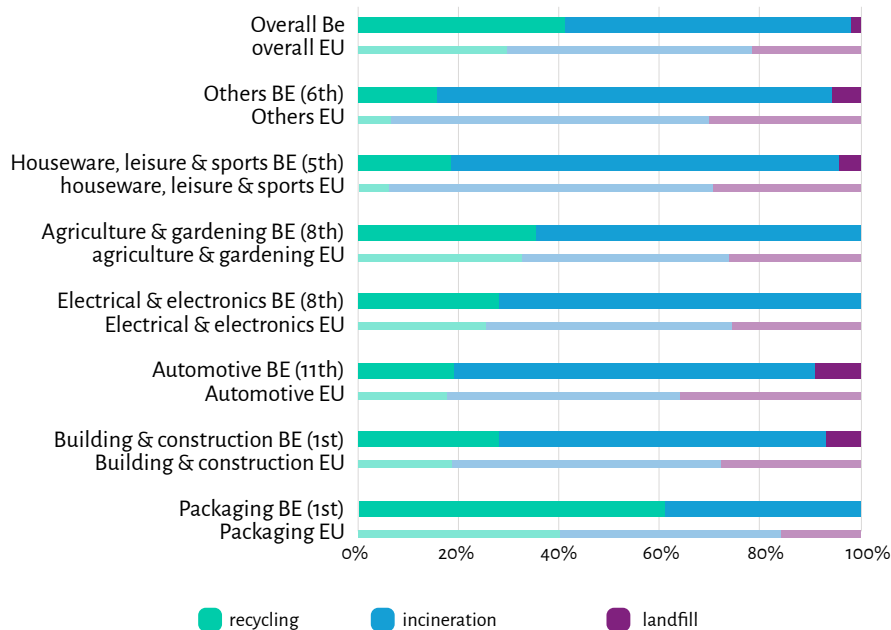


(†) 2022 data — no 2023 figure available

Figure 19: Recycling rate of plastic packaging waste by country, 2023

The figures in the above figure confirm Belgium's strong performance compared with the rest of Europe. Belgium's plastic packaging recycling rate is 17 percentage points above the EU average of 41.7% and already exceeds the 55% target set for 2030. With Member State rates ranging from 59.5% to 25.7%, the figure again shows that performance depends mainly on effective collection and sorting infrastructure, rather than on the packaging itself.

Waste treatment by application BE vs EU



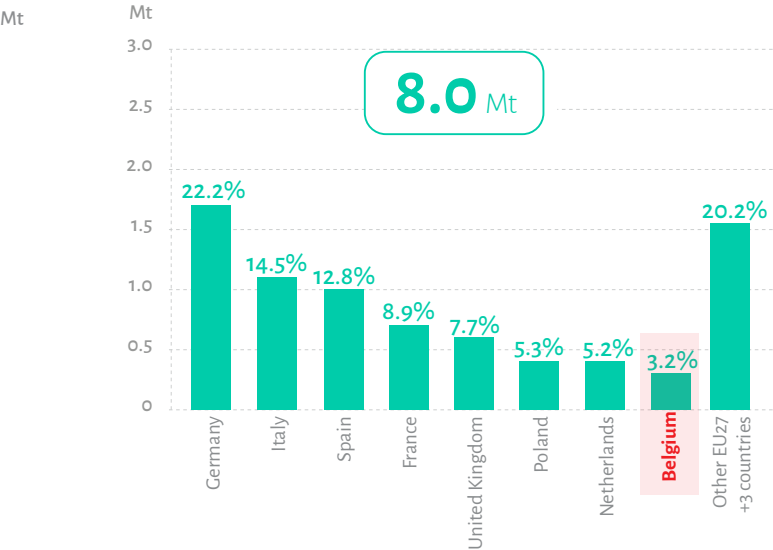
Plastic waste treatment varies significantly by sector.

In every sector, Belgium sends a higher share of plastic waste to recycling than the European average, with particularly large differences in packaging and building & construction, where Belgium ranks number 1.

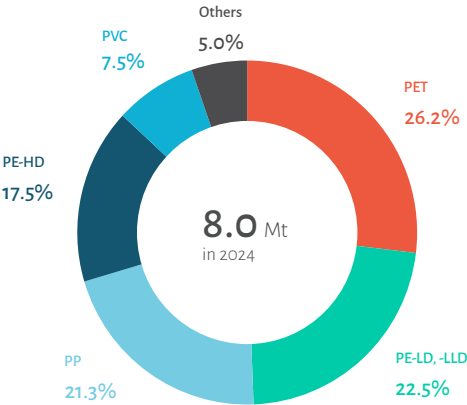
Figure 20: Comparison of Belgian plastic waste treatment by origin of application with the European average.

European post-consumer recycled plastics production

Mechanically & chemically recycled (post-consumer) plastics production by country



Mechanically recycled plastics production (post-consumer) by polymer¹



Belgium holds an important 8th position in Europe in recycling of post-consumer waste, with an estimated recycling capacity of 259 kt. The total mechanical recycling capacity of plastics in Belgium is estimated at 490 kt.

Figure 21: mechanically recycled plastic production in Europe

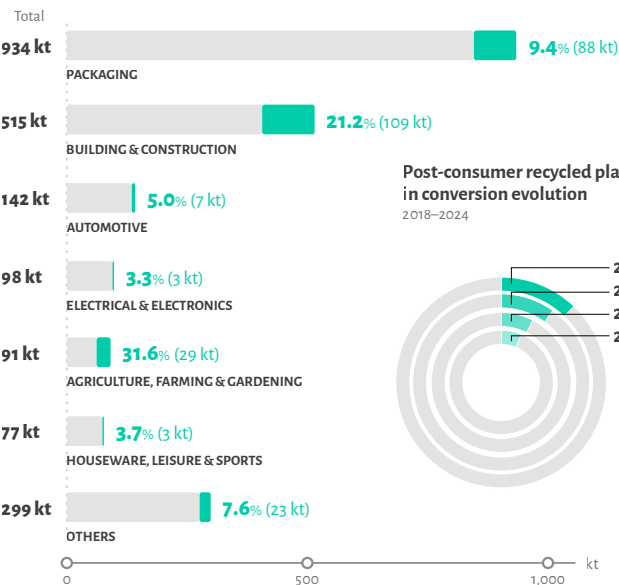
6. The uptake of recycled plastics

The recycled content in finished products produced by the Belgian plastic converters has gradually increased from 6.5% in 2018 to 12.2% in 2024. Nevertheless, uptake remains below the European average of 14.1%.

Compared to the European average, Belgium's weakest performance in recycled-content uptake is found in packaging, a direct consequence of the large share of Belgian plastic packaging used for food contact, where legislation still restricts the use of recycled plastics. In contrast, building and construction leads in absolute volumes of recycled plastic used, mainly driven by **Belgium's strong tradition of PVC profile recycling**, an application where closed-loop recycling is technically well-established and commercially viable.

Post-consumer recycled plastics in conversion

2024, in kt



Post-consumer recycled plastics in conversion evolution

2018–2024

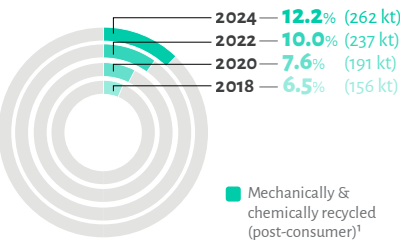


Figure 22: uptake of recycled content by the Belgian plastics converting industry by sector.

Looking at the trends, the recycled content has gradually increased across sectors with the highest recycled content percentage in the agriculture & gardening sector, followed by

the building and construction sector and the packaging sector. Only automotive applications show recycled-plastics uptake above the European average.

Evolution of post-consumer recycled content by sector for Belgian plastics conversion

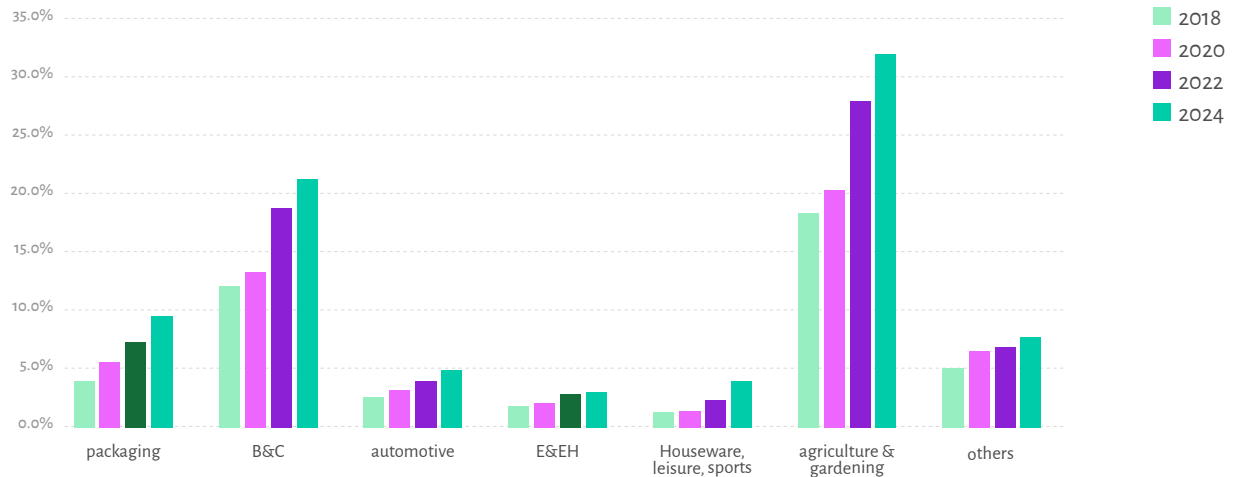


Figure 23: uptake of recycled content by the Belgian plastics converting industry by sector.

There is a growing concern across Europe about the origin of the recycled content. To ensure that upcoming recycled-content requirements strengthen European recycling capacity rather than imports of recycled materials from outside Europe, a level playing

field must be guaranteed by imposing that imported recyclates should meet the same quality, traceability and sustainability requirements as European recyclates.

7. Circularity beyond recycling

A circular economy is not limited to recycling waste; it aims to keep resources in use for as long as possible and at their highest value.

Reducing resource use by shifting to reusable alternatives is another pathway to circularity.

■ ■ In Belgium, the consumption of lightweight carrier bags is the lowest in the European Union and far below the European average. ■ ■

Consumption of light weight carrier bags (in #/inhabitant)

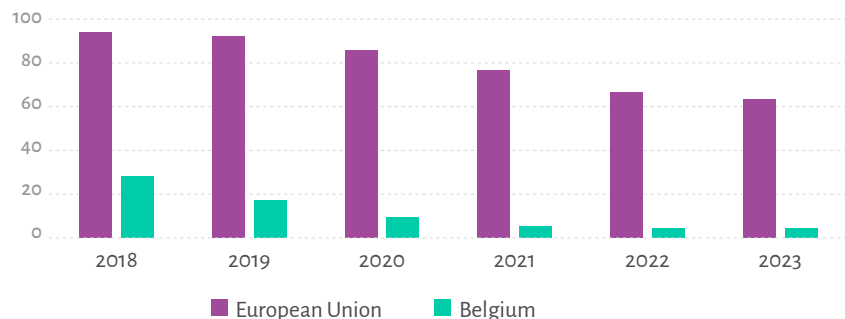


Figure 24: Evolution of the consumption of lightweight carrier bags

Belgian plastics converters have been working together with their customers from the Fast Moving Consumer Goods sectors in the Green Deal “Anders Verpakt” **to develop reusable packaging alternatives which have been introduced in the Belgian market.**

Throughout the value chain the use of reusable plastic crates and pallets (wood and plastic) is well established, with major Belgian plastic converters producing such crates and pallets.

Despite the healthcare sector’s complex regulatory framework, Belgium is exploring more circular approaches. Pilot projects are assessing the decontamination, recycling and reuse of plastics from various hospital waste streams, while hospitals are beginning to replace selected single-use products with reusable alternatives.

7.1. Sector federations catalysing the circular economy

Sector associations Agoria, Denuo and essenscia are involved in various voluntary initiatives in Belgium with the ambition to catalyse the circular economy for plastics. **essenscia** is co-leader of the work agenda chemicals and plastics (WA C/K) of Circular Flanders, a public-private partnership to accelerate circularity in the Belgian economy. **Agoria** and **Denuo** are key partners in this work agenda. One of the important outcomes of the WA C/K is the Flemish roadmap for plastics recycling published in 2025 and describing the need for not only mechanical recycling but also physical and chemical recycling technologies as complementary routes towards circularity for all types of plastic containing waste. It also describes how Belgium has the potential to become a major hub for circular plastics given its major petrochemical position, its important plastic converting industry as well as its significance in sorting and recycling of plastics.

essenscia and its members are setting up in close collaboration with the construction sector new voluntary collection and recycling schemes for plastic building waste such as polyurethane insulation materials, plastic pipes, roof membranes...

Circular economy is one of Agoria's key focus domains. A dedicated team of circular economy experts supports Agoria members in their transition towards more circular business models, products and value chains. Through expert guidance, networking initiatives, learning communities and advocacy, Agoria helps companies embed circularity in their daily operations and strengthen their competitiveness.

Through its engagement in the European Circular Composites Alliance (ECCA), an initiative led by EuCIA – the European Composites Industry Association, **Agoria contributes to the development of European value chains and solutions that enable a more circular future for composite materials.**

essenscia and Denuo are partners in Circular Design in Plastics, an initiative of Plastiwin in the context of Circular Wallonia, raising awareness on the importance of circularity already as early as from the design phase of new products WA C/K.

Denuo takes an active role as lead partner in the Select4Care project, together with VIL and a consortium of 24 organizations including major hospitals, medical device manufacturers such as Johnson & Johnson and Medtronic, and recycling companies. The project demonstrates that high-quality recycling of single-use medical plastics from operating rooms is technically and organizationally feasible, provided that safe decontamination procedures are in place and hospital staff receive clear sorting guidance. **Select4Care also encourages medical device manufacturers to integrate recyclability** into product design from the outset, closing the loop between production and end-of-life.



8. Conclusions

- Although the **Belgian polymer-producing and plastics-converting industries are under severe pressure** and have reduced in size and employment rate, **the circularity of the entire Belgian plastics value chain is gradually growing**. With a recycling rate of 41.3%, Belgium holds second position in Europe, having increased its recycling of plastic-containing waste by 60% since 2018 – far outpacing the European average growth of 37%. Less than 2% of Belgian plastic waste goes to land-fill, compared to 21.5% across Europe.
- These results reflect sustained investment, value chain collaboration, and a pioneering role in plastic waste sorting and recycling that Belgium has built over decades.
- However, the uptake of recycled content in finished products (12.2% in 2024) still lags the European average of 14.1%, showing that closing the loop between recycled material and its actual use in new products remains an area for improvement.
- Further progress will require building on a strong foundation. **Belgium has the assets to become Europe's leading hub for circular plastics: a major petrochemical base, a significant converting industry, and a growing ecosystem of mechanical and chemical recycling capacity**. Realizing that potential demands continued investment in innovative sorting and recycling solutions and stronger value chain collaboration from design to end-of-life.
- To prevent pressure on the availability of circular materials, remaining legislative barriers (e.g. End-of-Waste status, speedier authorization processes for novel recycling technologies under Food Contact Material legislation, ...) must be removed. Administrative burdens must be reduced by facilitating intra-EU shipments of plastic waste and recycled materials to allow materials to flow to the best available recycling facilities across Europe. Expanding selective waste collection across Europe and adopting a harmonized approach to circularity will remain of paramount importance to **create the right conditions for investment in a truly European circular plastics industry, with a major role for the Belgian plastics industry**.
- A level playing field with imports of recycled materials from outside Europe, in particular from Asia, must also be ensured: imported recyclates should meet the same quality, traceability and sustainability requirements as European recyclates, so that upcoming recycled-content requirements strengthen European recycling capacity rather than imports.



9. About the report

This report is primarily based on the data collected by Plastics Europe in the report 'The Circular Economy for Plastics – A European Analysis 2026'. The Plastics Europe report was compiled using publicly available information, market knowledge and insights from interviews with polymer producers, plastic converters and plastic recyclers.

The national data from the Plastics Europe report are further complemented with industry insights of Agoria, Denuo and essenscia.

Additional relevant data were drawn from STATBEL, National Social Security Office, the National Bank of Belgium and Eurostat, along with information from the Summary report of the Green Deal "Anders Verpakt", ICIS and information from Plastics Recyclers Europe.



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