

Low density



market study published by Ceresana Research provides a concise overview of the most important information regarding LDPE: from manufacturing to legal questions and recycling. The global market is closely analysed including prognoses until 2016: individual data regarding production and capacities, consumption in individual application areas, as well as imports and exports are presented for the entire world.

Low density polyethylene - one of the oldest plastics - continues to be in demand. The material is primarily used for films, carrying bags, and sacks, but also to reinforce levees, for example. Screw caps and lids are also produced from this soft, ductile, and flexible polymer. It can hold its ground against competition from newer plastics, as a result of its advantageous characteristics: low melting point, high clarity, and good processability.

The trend of substituting LDPE with other polymers is declining again throughout the industrialized nations. Opportunities for this polymer can be seen, for example, in the application of coatings and packaging for medical products. These applications will recover relatively quickly from the effects of the economical crisis.

LDPE prices fell by as much as 30% in certain regions during 2009, and Western Europe and North America exhibited considerable decreases in demand. Consequently, global revenue fell by 15.9 billion euro. However, Ceresana expects to see growth again starting in 2011. The Asia-Pacific region in particular, already the largest consumer of LDPE, will see growth and increase its share of global consumption to more than 39%.

LDPE production is particularly being expanded in the oil-rich countries of the Middle East. Capacity increases of approximately 3.5 million tons are planned to take place by 2014.

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