

# The U.S. Plastics Industry, at a Glance

Plastic products are critical to everyday life and the plastics industry that makes these products possible is one of the **largest manufacturing sectors** in the U.S. economy. In fact, a thriving, robust plastics industry is vital for job growth, economic revenue and the research, development and innovations that get us closer to creating a completely circular plastics economy.



**Aviation**



**Automotive**



**Food Packaging**



**Healthcare**



**Construction**

## The plastics industry creates jobs

The plastics industry is a major job creator and opportunity driver, **supporting 945,000 jobs directly and over 1.55 million jobs in total.**



The **top three states** with the highest amount of direct plastic industry employment are:



## The plastics industry generates revenue and creates economic activity

**Plastics is a long-term and sustainable investment**, for both companies and the environment, which can help the United States and the globe make good on 2050 net-zero goals. Because plastic is more durable, versatile and affordable than alternatives, industries across the economy can provide consumers with lighter, more efficient products at a lower price.

Plastics benefit industries by helping reduce emissions, while also decreasing demand for more environmentally harmful alternatives like glass and wood.

### Plastics add economic value:



- \$451 billion in **total plastic shipments**
- Expected annual growth rate of 13.1% from 2021 to 2028.

## Plastics conserve energy and protect the environment

Plastics are less resource-intensive than alternatives and benefit industries that invest in the material, leading to cost-savings and emissions reductions.

### 15% plastics by weight



Automobile



Smartphone



Airplane

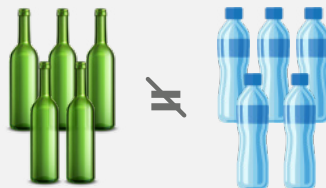
### 25% plastics by weight

### 50% plastics by weight



Using alternative materials would result in environmental costs that are **four times higher than using plastic.**

Glass bottles packed into a truck **increase transport costs by five times** compared to plastics.



Plastic bottles packed into a truck **reduce energy use by 40%** compared to glass bottles.

## More plastic is recyclable with advanced recycling

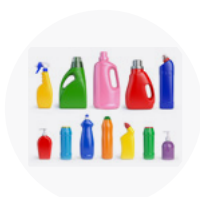
The plastics industry has invested billions of dollars into innovative technologies to tackle plastic waste, including **advanced recycling**. Advanced recycling is also good for our economy and is projected to add **40,000 new jobs** over the next few years. Advanced recycling ensures that all plastics are recycled and find new homes in the plastics economy, not the environment.

### Purification



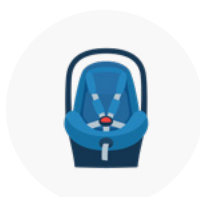
Yogurt cups

### Depolymerization



Colored bottles

### Conversion



Car seats

### FACT:

Generally, advanced or molecular recycling allows for complex plastics and materials like yogurt cups, colored bottles, and old child car seats to be recycled.