Summary of September 2026 Plastics Export Analysis

Overall Performance:

- Plastics exports grew 25.9% to USD 1,327.4 million in September 2026, achieving six consecutive months of growth.
- All 13 plastics product panels recorded growth, supported by rupee depreciation, expansion into emerging markets, and resolution of some supply chain issues.
- Cumulative plastics exports for April–September 2026 rose 19.3% to USD 7,636.3 million.

Key Product Segments:

- Significant increases in exports for:
  - **Consumer & Houseware Products:** +26.8%
  - **Cordage, Fishnets & Monofilaments:** +24.6%
  - **Floorcoverings & Laminates:** +30.1%
  - **Plastic Films & Sheets:** +32.1%
  - **Plastic Pipes & Fittings:** +40.2%
  - **Miscellaneous Products:** +103.6% (notably optical fibres and lenses)
  - **Packaging Items:** +25.3%
- Some high-volume items like polypropylene and certain ball-point pens saw declines due to global competition, raw material shortages, or weak demand in specific markets.

Export Drivers & Markets:

- **Headgear and Toothbrushes:** Demand from Nepal, Colombia, Guinea, Belgium, and the USA.
- **Fishnets, FIBCs, Sacks:** Demand from USA, Malaysia, Poland, and other new/emerging markets.
- **Floor coverings:** Growth driven by the USA, UAE, Lithuania.
- **Medical plastic items:** Growth in spectacle lenses and surgical equipment, with diversification into new markets like Zambia and Algeria.
- **Human Hair:** Growth from China, as well as new markets like Bangladesh and Tunisia.
- **Optical Fibres and Lenses:** Exceptional increase to the USA, China, and Vietnam.

Declining Segments

- Polypropylene (HS 39021000): –19.1% (Apr–Sep) due to domestic shortage and weak demand from Nepal, Turkey, Mexico.
- Polysulphides & polysulphones (HS 39119090): –40% (Apr–Sep), weak demand in China, Japan, Belgium.
- Cannulae (HS 90183930): –10.6% (Apr–Sep), competitive pressure from China.
- Plastic tableware (HS 39241090): –16.4% (Apr–Sep), hit by US tariffs and slowdown in advanced economies.
- Building elements (HS 39259090): –15.3% (Apr–Sep), linked to slowdown in construction in USA & UAE.

Market Highlights

- USA: Major driver across films, sheets, pipes, floor coverings.
- China: Strong demand for human hair & optical fibres.
- Emerging markets: Zambia, Algeria, Iran, Ethiopia, Mozambique showing new opportunities.
- West Asia crisis: Freight/logistics disruptions affecting UAE, Saudi Arabia, Qatar.

Strategic Takeaways

- Value-added plastics are consistently outperforming raw materials.
- Diversification into Africa, Latin America, and smaller Asian markets is cushioning against demand slowdown in advanced economies.
- Tariff barriers (esp. USA) and logistics disruptions remain key risks.
- Medical plastics show signs of recovery (+9% in Sep), but competition is intensifying.

Key Takeaway: This period highlights robust export expansion in plastics, successful diversification, and emerging opportunities across product lines despite select challenges in some items and destinations.

Panel-wise Plastics Export

Panel	Sep-25 (USD Mn)	Sep-26 (USD Mn)	Growth %	Apr 25–Sep 25 (USD Mn)	Apr 26–Sep 26 (USD Mn)	Growth %
Consumer & Houseware Products	72.4	91.8	+26.8%	440.4	453.6	+3.0%
Cordage, Fishnets & Monofilaments	22.5	28.0	+24.6%	139.5	145.2	+4.1%
FIBC, Woven Sacks, Fabrics, Tarpaulin	159.3	175.7	+10.3%	905.4	944.9	+4.4%
Floorcoverings, Leathercloth & Laminates	50.8	66.1	+30.1%	356.8	368.4	+3.3%
FRP & Composites	40.1	47.9	+19.3%	253.3	271.4	+7.1%
Human Hair & Related Products	78.3	83.8	+7.0%	436.7	501.2	+14.8%
Medical Items of Plastics	46.2	50.4	+9.0%	283.7	270.8	–4.5%
Miscellaneous Products	75.0	152.7	+103.6%	434.6	820.7	+88.8%
Packaging Items – Flexible, Rigid	55.8	69.9	+25.3%	351.8	378.8	+7.7%
Plastic Films & Sheets	155.3	205.1	+32.1%	959.7	1,301.0	+35.6%
Plastic Pipes & Fittings	25.4	35.6	+40.2%	156.8	183.5	+17.1%
Plastic Raw Materials	252.7	299.9	+18.7%	1,554.3	1,869.4	+20.3%
Writing Instruments & Stationery	20.4	20.6	+0.9%	125.4	127.4	+1.6%
Grand Total	**1,054.1**	**1,327.4**	**+25.9%**	**6,398.4**	**7,636.3**	**+19.3%**

Data Source: Plexconcil