



صناعة وتجارة المنتجات البلاستيكية في دول مجلس التعاون
Plastic Trade & Industry in GCC Member State



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Introduction:

Plastic finished goods manufacturing forms the final manufacturing circle and the most important for petrochemical industries. Due to the distinctiveness of those products in terms of properties and specifications, that led to its widespread use, and varied applications that covered all aspects of practical life, it becomes one of the most important manufacturing industries.

Plastic industry started in GCC member states as a very limited

replacement industry in mid-fifties of the last century. It relied on imported raw materials from foreign markets, given the lack of its feeder industries locally at that time.

With the increase in national income, steady improvement in the standards of living, and the increased demand for plastic products, which were mostly imported, and after the setup of basic feeder plastic industry in the early eighties of the last century in each of Qatar then Saudi Arabia, plastic products' industry witnessed dramatic growth, evident in the setup of many new production ventures, considerable diversity in product types, and significant improvement in quality level. The proceeds of those developments were the increase in the number of operating factories in this sector in GCC member states in 2006 to some 1052 factory, their investment value estimated to some US D 4.2 billion, and employ 694 thousand workers; i.e. they constitute some 10% of the number of factories operating in the manufacturing industry, some 3.54 % of their investments' size, and some 8.5% of workforce.

Plastic industry is mostly SMEs. Average investment per factory is approximately US D 4 millions, compared to US D 11.3 million in processing industries. In average, single venture employs some 66 workers compared to 78 in the manufacturing industries.

It should be noted that designed capacities of the operating factories in the field of plastic products including Fiberglass in 2006 reached over 2.3 million tons, thus were almost capable to reach self-sufficiency phase.

The goal of this descriptive, statistical book is to shed light on the status of plastic products' industry and trade in GCC member states. It utilized the databases available in the Gulf Organization for Industrial Consulting (GOIC), in particular Gulf Industries Database and Foreign Trade Database. In addition, it benefited from some useful information available on Internet, and resorted to appropriate statistical estimates in case of absence of data, particularly in the area of real production of a number of operating factories where data is not available. Also, the varied production quantities and capacities were standardized as weight unit to facilitate analysis and comparison.



The book is classified into five chapters, besides the Foreword, Introduction, Conclusions, and Prologue. The first chapter tackles clarifying and diagnosing industrial and economic features of plastic industries in terms of emergence and developments, further to a brief on features and merits of plastic, its types and application fields. It also highlights the raw materials used in plastic industry, further to methods and means of plastic manufacturing.

The second chapter analyzes the status of plastic products industry, in terms of number of operating factories, their investments, workforce, and their designed capacities distributed per country, further to product type, and estimations of production during the last six years. In addition, this chapter sets forth prices of raw materials through foreign trade data.

The third chapter discusses foreign trade of plastic products including development of exports and imports in GCC member states per country and types of material.

The fourth chapter analyzes the apparent consumption quantities in GCC from all types of plastic products, relative distributions, and contribution of local production in the volume of apparent consumption.

The fifth chapter reviews the status of plastic products in terms of industry and trade at country level, including analysis of industry structure, production, foreign trade, volume of consumption, and contribution to domestic product.

The book ends with conclusion and findings illustrating the most important features and economic advantages for plastic products' industry in GCC member states, and its future prospects.

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