

Plastic in Action

Transportation & Technology

Plastics power the technologies and transportation systems that move our world forward. Lightweight, durable, and energy-efficient, they enhance performance, safety, and connectivity across industries—from electronics and aerospace to automotive and infrastructure. By reducing weight, improving fuel efficiency, and enabling advanced design, plastics help build a smarter, more sustainable future.



Smartphones, laptops, and wearable devices rely on plastics such as ABS, polycarbonate, and epoxy resins to protect delicate components from heat, impact, and moisture.



Semiconductor chips—the foundation of modern electronics, vehicles, and defense systems—are shielded from dust, vibration, and stress by high-performance plastic encapsulants.



Lightweight polymers improve fuel economy and passenger comfort in vehicles, airplanes, and trains, while recycled materials strengthen modern roads and runways.



Fluoropolymers and other advanced plastics safeguard internal wiring and critical systems in aircraft and spacecraft, ensuring reliability under extreme conditions.

Plastic materials account for roughly 50% of a car's volume by construction, but only about 10% of its weight.

More than one million Americans work in jobs directly or indirectly connected to the plastics industry, spanning a wide range of sectors. From the engineers who design the machinery that manufactures essential plastic products, to the material suppliers distributing raw plastics, to the processors shaping materials into goods, and the recyclers giving used plastic a second life, the plastics supply chain is a vital aspect within both the U.S. and global economy.