

# Phthalic Anhydride

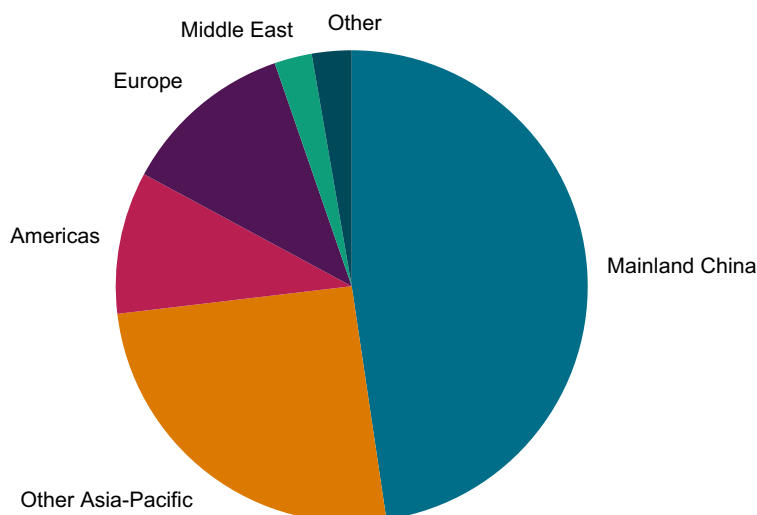
May 2025

## Abstract

Phthalic anhydride is a white crystalline solid that serves as the commercial variant of phthalic acid. Its primary markets include phthalate plasticizers, unsaturated polyester resins and alkyd resins used in surface coatings. Commercial phthalic anhydride typically has a purity of 99.8%-99.9%, with a general guarantee of at least 99.5%. It is available in two forms — flake and molten — with the majority of global consumption occurring in molten state.

The following pie chart shows world consumption of phthalic anhydride:

### World consumption of phthalic anhydride — 2024



Data compiled Oct. 21, 2024.  
Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights.  
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The primary market for phthalic anhydride is the production of phthalate plasticizers, which accounts for nearly half of the total consumption of phthalic anhydride. Asia is the leading consumer of phthalic anhydride for plasticizer manufacturing, with mainland China being the largest global consumer in this sector. Following Asia, the next significant markets for phthalic anhydride are Europe and America.

The second-largest market for phthalic anhydride is the production of alkyd resins, which consumes nearly a quarter of the total phthalic anhydride. Once again, Asia is the predominant consumer for this application, representing almost three-quarters of the phthalic anhydride used in alkyd resin manufacturing. Mainland China stands out as the world's largest consumer of phthalic anhydride for alkyd resins. Outside of Asia, the next significant markets for phthalic anhydride are Europe and America.

The demand for many downstream markets of phthalic anhydride is significantly affected by overall economic conditions. Consequently, the consumption of phthalic anhydride tends to mirror the trends of major global economies. Its consumption is heavily reliant on activities in construction and remodeling (both residential and nonresidential), as well as automobile production and original equipment manufacturing.

For plasticizers, Asia (specifically mainland China and India) and Europe are anticipated to lead in volume growth, with Asia's expanding economy driving increased domestic demand for phthalic anhydride.

The consumption of phthalic anhydride in the production of alkyd resins is projected to experience a slight increase from 2024 to 2029, with above-average growth expected in Asia, especially in mainland China, as well as in Southern Asia and South-eastern Asia and Oceania. Regarding unsaturated polyester resin production, phthalic anhydride consumption is also expected to rise during 2024–29, although growth will differ by region. The Asian markets are predicted to see increased demand, particularly in mainland China, Southern Asia, and South-eastern Asia and Oceania, while consumption of unsaturated polyester resin is expected to decline in Japan.

**For more detailed information, see the table of contents, shown below.**

**S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Phthalic Anhydride*** is the comprehensive and trusted guide for anyone seeking information on this industry. This latest report details global and regional information, including



Global summary;  
regional coverage



Producers with  
annual capacities  
and plant sites



Production figures  
and trends



Consumption and  
forecasts by end use  
application



Manufacturing  
processes and  
environmental issues



Trade – imports  
and exports

## Key benefits

**S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – *Phthalic Anhydride*** has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers, organizations and leading representatives from the industry in combination with S&P Global's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence and expert insights into industry dynamics, trade and economics.

This report can help you:

- Identify trends and driving forces influencing chemical markets
- Forecast and plan for future demand
- Understand the impact of competing materials

- Identify and evaluate potential customers and competitors
- Evaluate producers
- Track changing prices and trade movements
- Analyze the impact of feedstocks, regulations and other factors on chemical profitability

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