

Plastics.

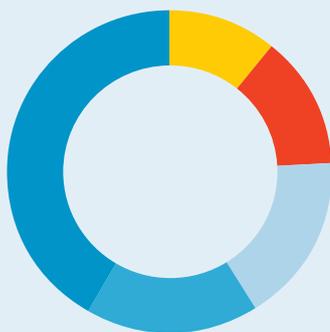
Thuringia's plastics sector – a growth industry in Central Germany.



The Thuringian plastics industry is a success story with over 100 years of tradition. Known for their technical expertise and innovativeness, local plastics companies are among the biggest revenue generators in the state.

Sub-sectors of the rubber and plastics industry by employees

(Source: In-house calculations based on data supplied by the Thuringian State Statistical Office, companies with more than 20 employees, July 2018)



■ other plastic products	42.2 %
■ panels, films, tubes, and profiles from plastics	18.6 %
■ building materials from plastics	15.1 %
■ packaging materials from plastics	12.2 %
■ other rubber products	11.9 %

Thuringia's plastics industry at a glance:

- › approx. 520 companies
- › around 34,000 employees
- › € 7.2 billion in revenue
- › 36.7 % export ratio
- › 5 universities
- › market and technology leaders such as BASF, MANN + HUMMEL, REHAU and Veritas
- › nearby chemical parks with potential suppliers and customers (e.g. in Leuna, Bitterfeld and Zeitz)

Seize the opportunities that our region offers.

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Skilled specialists – the keystone of success.

The deep expertise of vocational training associations and institutions as well as world-class universities will prime your business to succeed. Thuringia knows the value of producing a workforce with skills tailored to a particular industry.



“Plastics are still at the beginning of their development cycle. With its cutting-edge infrastructure, skilled workforce, research institutions and universities, Thuringia is an ideal environment for the national and international plastics processing sector to grow.”

Matthias Grafe, Managing Director,
GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH,
Blankenhain

University education

About one third of all students are enrolled in engineering courses. Five universities offer degree programs like mechanical engineering and materials science/engineering that are related to the plastics industry.

Special/advanced courses

Ilmenau University of Technology:
Master in Mechanical Engineering with specialization in plastics engineering

University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden:
Master in Applied Plastics Engineering

University of Cooperative Education Gera-Eisenach:
Bachelor in Engineering with focus on Plastics Engineering

Vocational und further training

Thuringia strongly supports vocational training programs for high school students and trainees. Managers and engineers in the plastics and automotive

industries can acquire an executive degree in Product Management for Plastics Engineering at the University of Applied Sciences Schmalkalden.

PolymerMat e.V. is Thuringia's plastics industry association. It unites companies, university and non-university research and development facilities as well as service providers. PolymerMat is deeply committed to promoting vocational training programs for tomorrow's professionals and to ensure the training, further qualification and retention of skilled workers in Thuringian companies in a systematic manner. The association successfully contributes to consolidate and expand the dynamic development the Thuringian plastics industry has undergone in recent years. Further networking activities help to improve the competitive edge and innovative potential of the plastics industry. Thuringia is recognized in Germany and abroad as a location for highly developed, ambitious ideas for polymer products. The plastics industry is further expanding its position among the four strongest sectors in Thuringia's manufacturing industry.

Plastics innovations secure market shares.

Thuringia understands the importance of application-oriented research and development of high-performance polymers. You can benefit from working with competent partners and co-innovators at world-class industry research institutes.

Thuringian Institute of Textile and Plastics Research (TITK)

The Thuringian Institute of Textile and Plastics Research (TITK) performs both preliminary and applied research in the industrial sector. It supports small and medium-sized companies in their innovation endeavours by providing them with scientific know-how, industry knowledge and a modern technical infrastructure.

Main areas of research:

- › native polymer and chemical research
- › plastic, textile and materials research
- › functional polymer systems

www.titk.de

East Thuringian Materials Testing Company

The East Thuringian Materials Testing Company for Textiles and Plastics, a subsidiary of TITK, provides services in plastics testing and problem simulation.

www.ompg.de

INNOVENT e. V.

The technological development organization INNOVENT, located in Jena, has been active in the fields of surface technology, magneto-optical systems and biomaterials. 140 employees pursue development assignments on behalf of industrial companies as far as the application stage.

www.innovent-jena.de

TITV Institute of Textile Research Thüringen-Vogtland

The institute specializes in two fields – the development and integration of microsystems in textiles and other flexible structures and the development of innovative materials based on cutting-edge textile technologies and materials. Especially the combination of electronics and textiles creates innovative textile products for completely new applications.

Its core specialties include:

- › smart textiles
- › surface functionalization
- › flexible materials

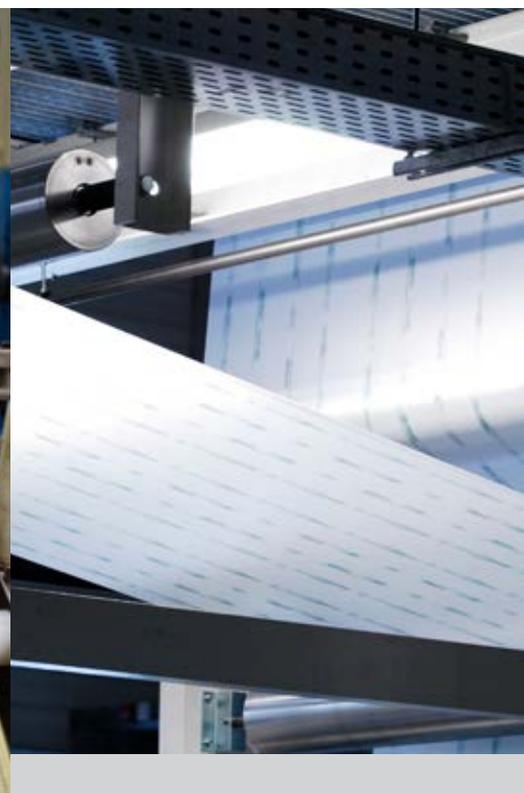
www.titv-greiz.de

Core competencies

The Thuringian plastics industry focusses on the following production segments:

- › injection and blow molding, extrusion
- › functionalized plastics products
- › process technology for multi-material systems
- › surface finishing
- › optical molded parts

Smart Textiles, (bio)polymers, composites (compounds, hybrids, multimaterials) and semiconductor materials are also gaining increased importance. As far as the production process is concerned, Thuringia is leading in precision technologies, rapid manufacturing, 3D printing, coating technologies (interface technologies) and reprocessing and recycling technologies.





Thuringia: where success is made.

Thuringia offers outstanding opportunities for plastics industry players to grow and innovate, as illustrated by the many companies who have expanded or relocated here.

GRAFE Advanced Polymers GmbH

GRAFE is a family-run company that has established itself as a leading German masterbatch manufacturer. The company employs more than 200 people in synthetic material dyeing, and exports its products to more than 30 countries. Its research department is one of the largest in the industry.

ContiTech AG

ContiTech AG was the result of a merger with Phoenix AG; it employs around 1,300 people, making it one of the largest employers in Thuringia. The company concentrates on the production of tubing, conveyor belts, sound insulation and vibration insulation systems.

KTN Kunststofftechnik Nobitz GmbH

KTN is a global player with a presence in over 50 countries and a major provider of all insulation services. In Nobitz, it produces fiberglass-reinforced plastics

parts such as cooling ducts, hatracks and sidewall and ceiling panels for every series of aircraft made by Airbus. Since 2011, KTN belongs to Hutchinson Group.

Döllken Weimar GmbH

Döllken Weimar GmbH is a leading manufacturer of skirting boards and floor profiles made from technical synthetics. It supplies its products to many countries in all continents from its various sites. Its customers are large and specialist wholesalers as well as DIY and dedicated flooring retailers.

Weru Fenster und Türen GmbH

Weru AG is a market leader in the production of vinyl windows for residential construction. Nearly 550 employees produce high-quality vinyl windows and doors in Triptis, the company's second production site outside of Rudersberg in Southwest Germany.

Selected companies

Avery Dennison Materials GmbH,
Gotha

BASF Performance Polymers GmbH,
Rudolstadt

Carlisle Construction Materials GmbH,
Waltershausen

Carpenter GmbH, *Ichtershausen*

Duo Plast AG, *Unterbreizbach*

friedola Tech GmbH, *Geismar*

MANN + HUMMEL GmbH,
Sonneberg

FKT Formenbau und Kunststofftechnik GmbH, *Triptis*

Fromm Plastics GmbH, *Kölleda*

GEALAN Tanna Fenster-Systeme GmbH,
Tanna

Geiger Automotive GmbH, *Tambach-Dietharz*

KTS Kunststofftechnik Schmölln GmbH, *Schmölln*

Rehau AG + Co, *Triptis*

Schmuhl Faserverbundtechnik (FVT) GmbH & Co. KG, *Remptendorf*

Schuster Kunststofftechnik GmbH,
Waltershausen

va-Q-tec AG, *Kölleda*

Veritas Thüringen GmbH,
Benshausen

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State Development Corporation of Thuringia (LEG Thüringen)

Dept. Investment, International Business and Cluster Promotion
Mainzerhofstrasse 12
99084 Erfurt/Germany

Phone +49 361 5603-450
Fax +49 361 5603-328
invest@leg-thuringen.de
www.invest-in-thuringia.de/en