

POLITICS & SOCIETY

# Global plastic waste

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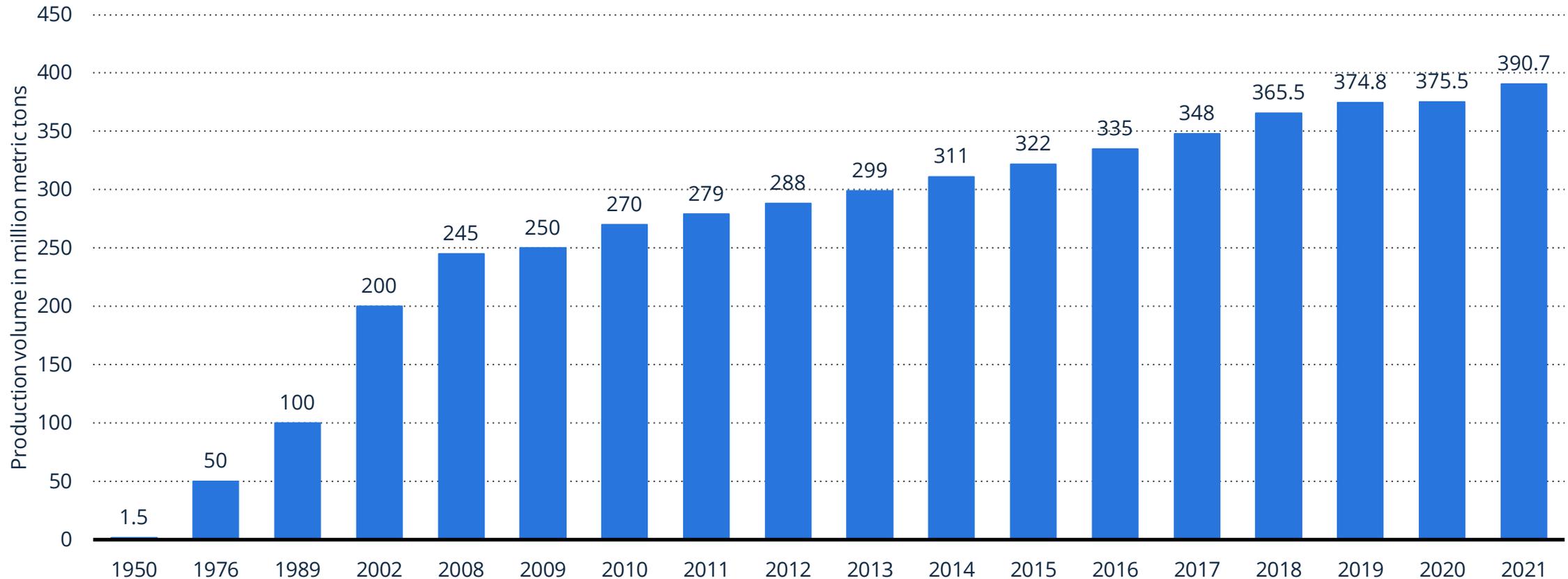
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CHAPTER 01

# Overview

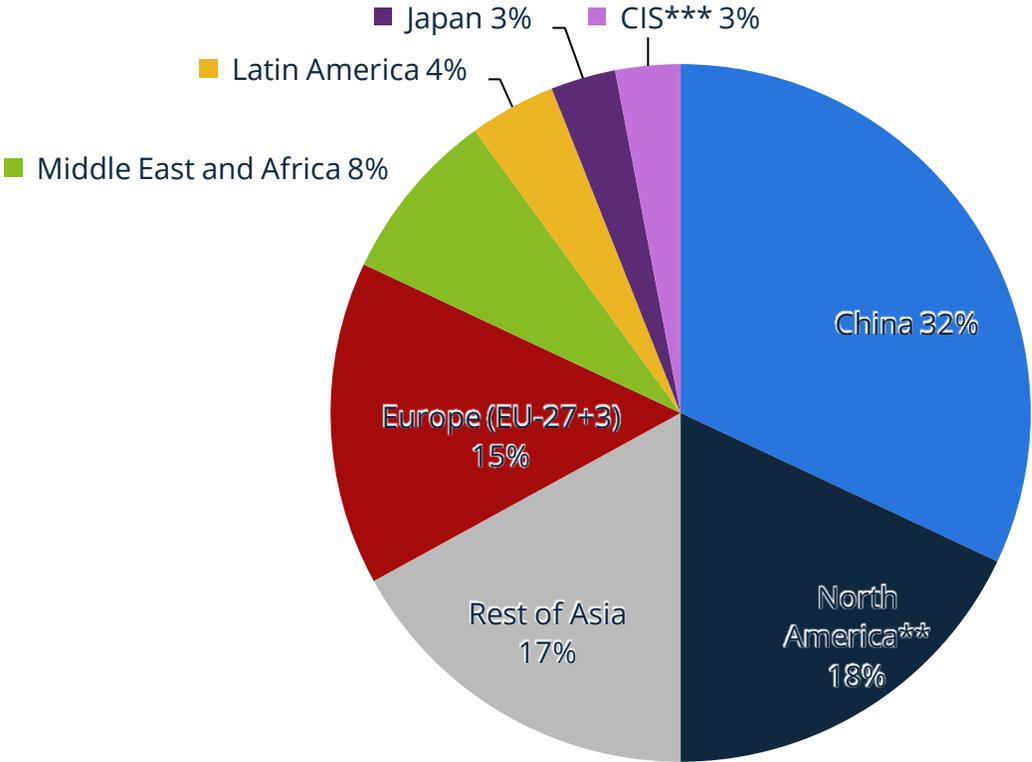
# Annual production of plastics worldwide from 1950 to 2021 (in million metric tons)

Global plastic production 1950-2021



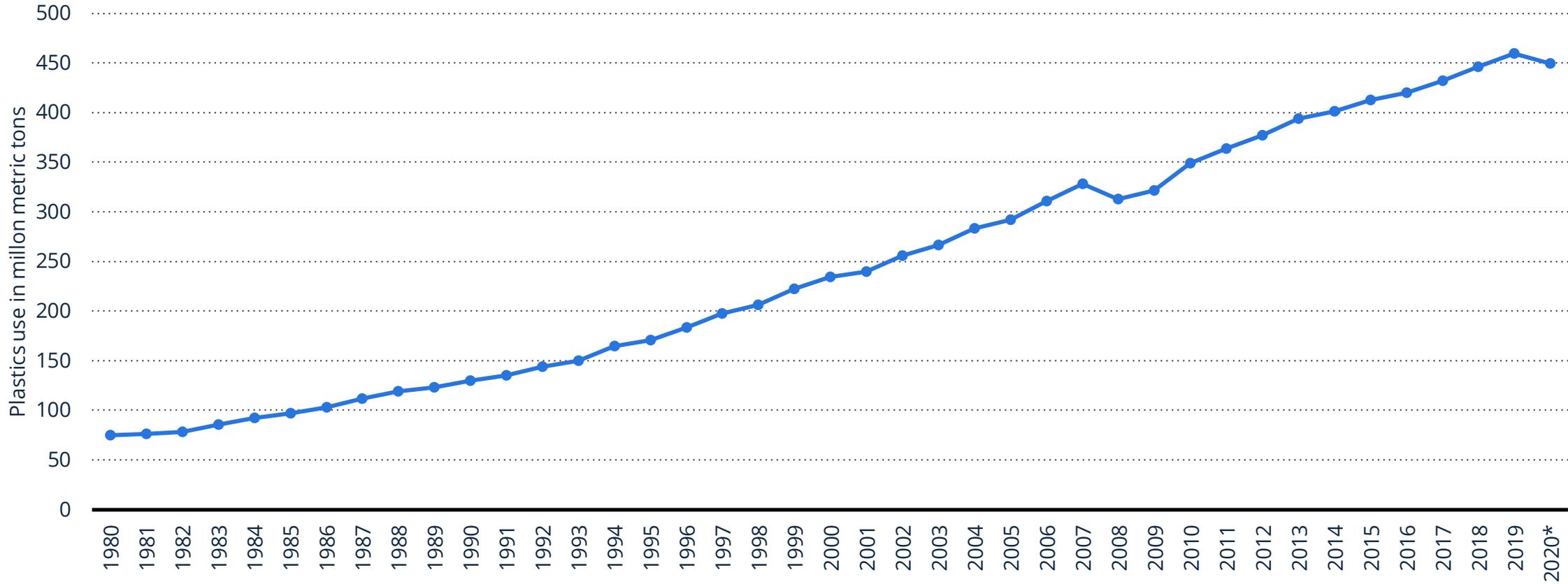
# Distribution of global plastic materials production in 2021, by region

Plastic material production worldwide by region 2021



# Plastics use worldwide from 1980 to 2020 (in million metric tons)

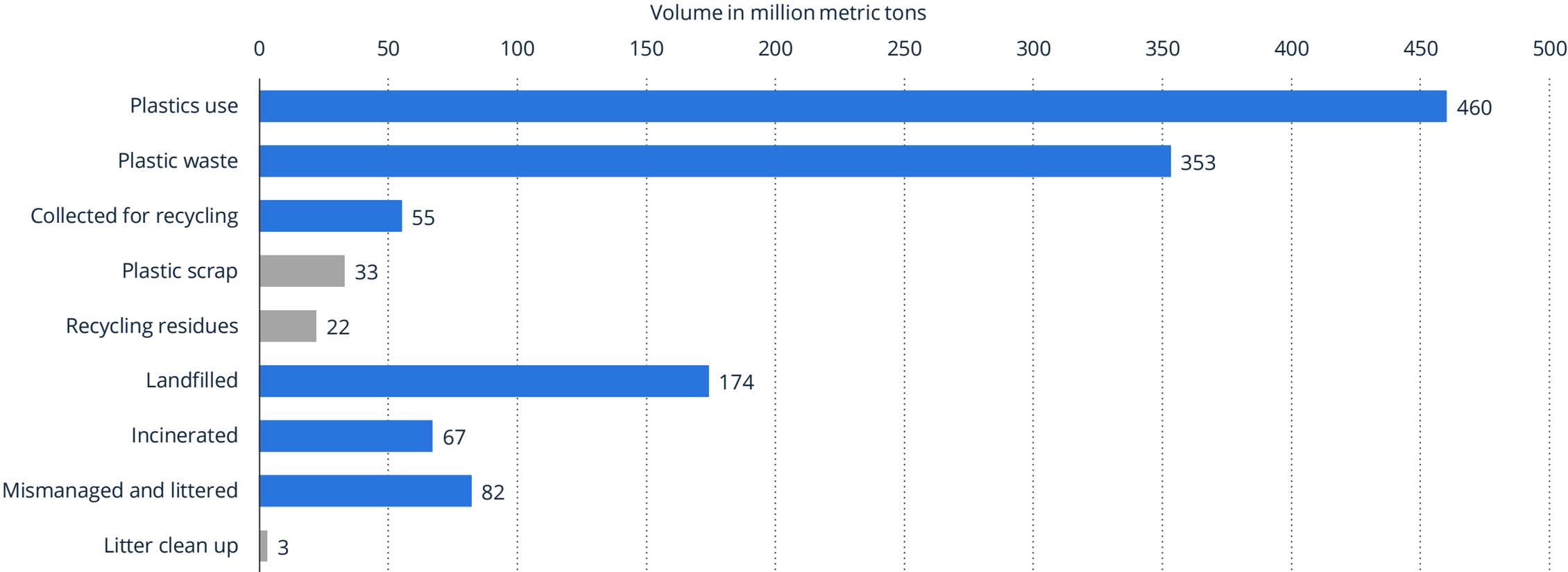
Plastic consumption worldwide 1980-2020



**Description:** Global plastics use has increased six-fold since 1980, reaching a high of 460 million metric tons in 2019. Global plastics use was expected to decrease 2.2 percent year-on-year in 2020. This decline was mainly a result of COVID-19-related lockdown measures, which had a significant impact on plastics production and use. The last notable reduction in plastics use was during the 2008/2009 global financial crisis. Global plastics use is forecast to continue rising in the coming decades. [Read more](#)  
**Note(s):** Worldwide; 1980 to 2019; \* Estimate [Read more](#)  
**Source(s):** OECD

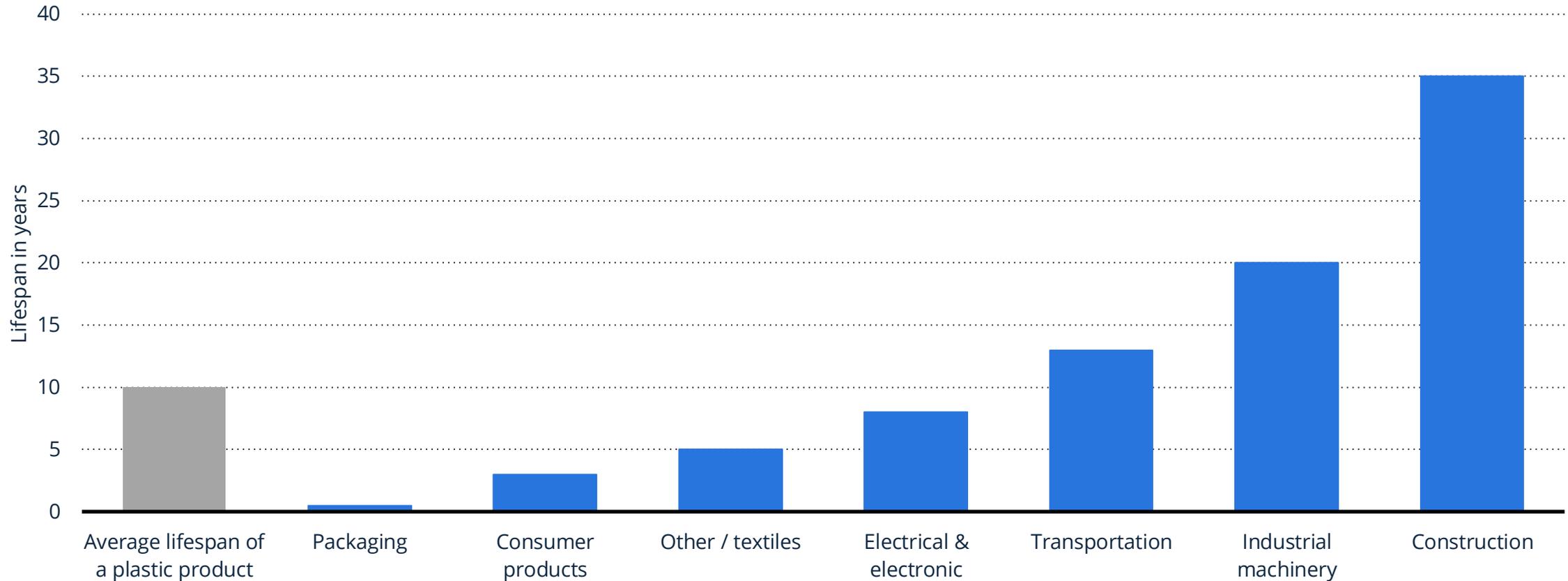
# Lifecycle of plastic waste worldwide in 2019 (in million metric tons)

Global plastic waste flow 2019



# Average lifespan of selected plastic products, by type (in years)

Plastic product average lifespans, by type

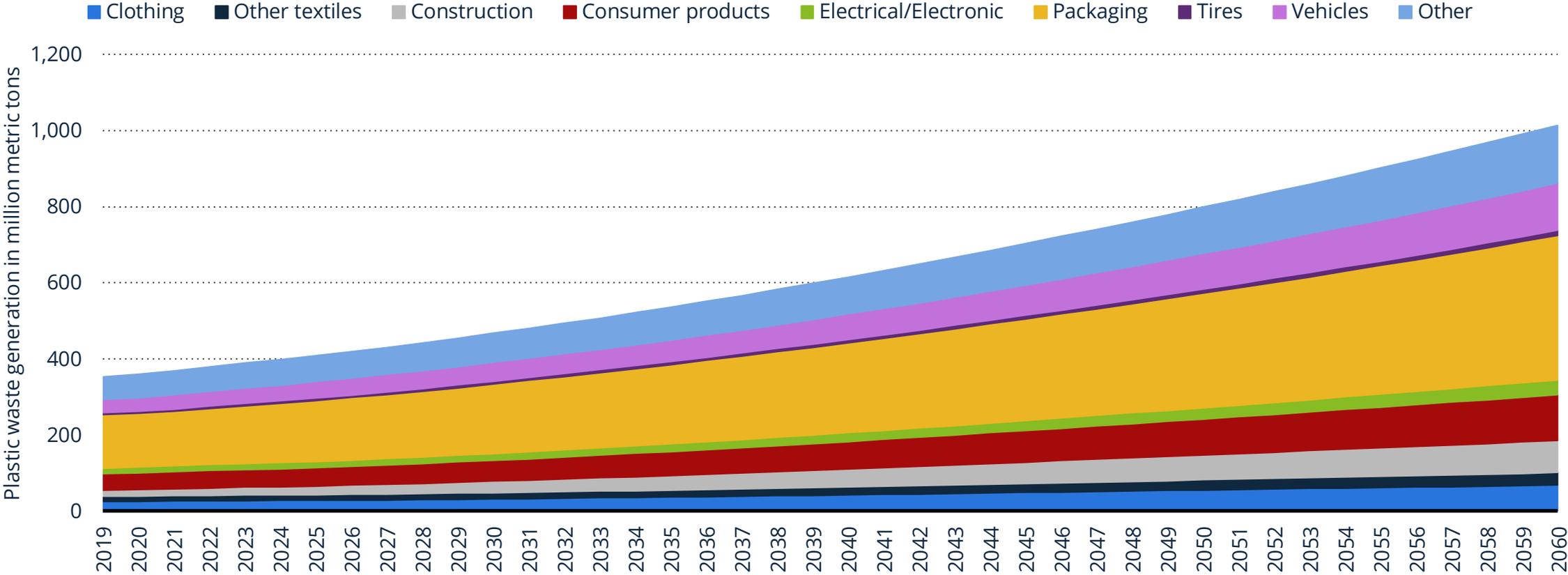


CHAPTER 02

# Generation

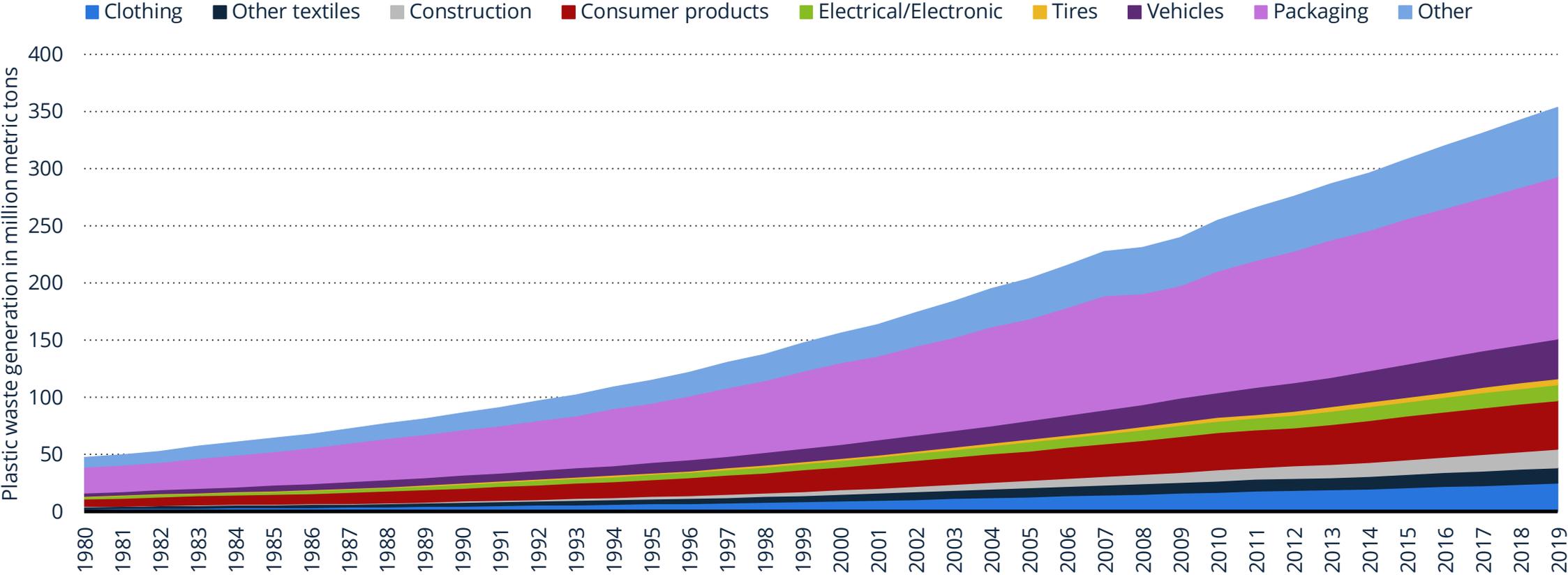
# Plastic waste generation projections worldwide from 2019 to 2060, by application (in million metric tons)

Plastic waste generation outlook worldwide 2019-2060, by application



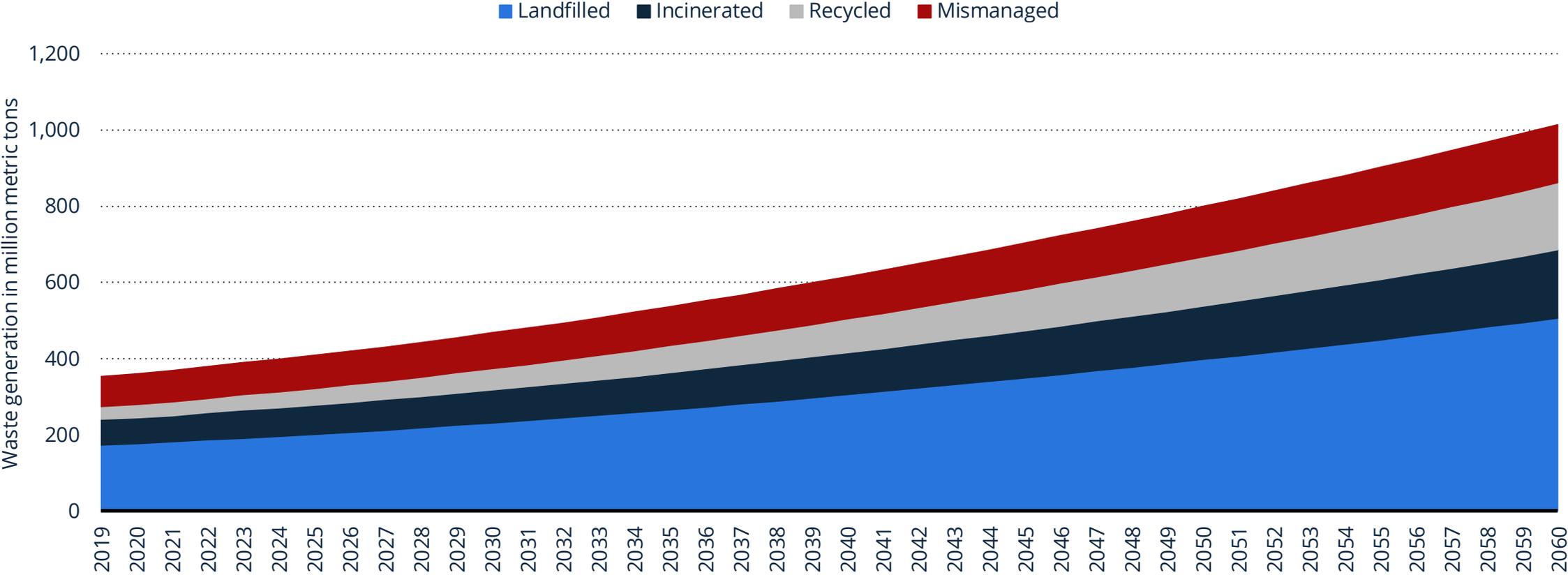
# Plastic waste generation worldwide from 1980 to 2019, by application (in million metric tons)

Plastic waste generation worldwide 1980-2019, by application



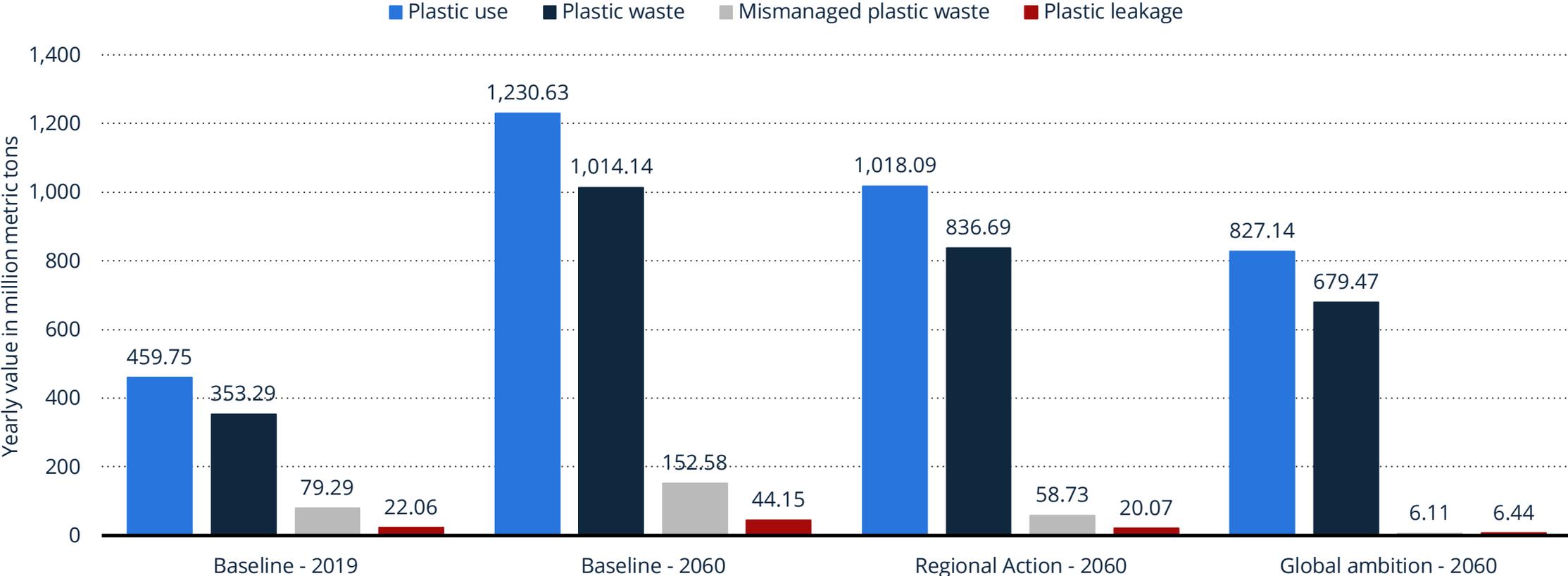
# Projected plastic waste generation worldwide from 2019 to 2060, by management method (in million metric tons)

Global plastic waste generation projections 2019-2060, by disposal method



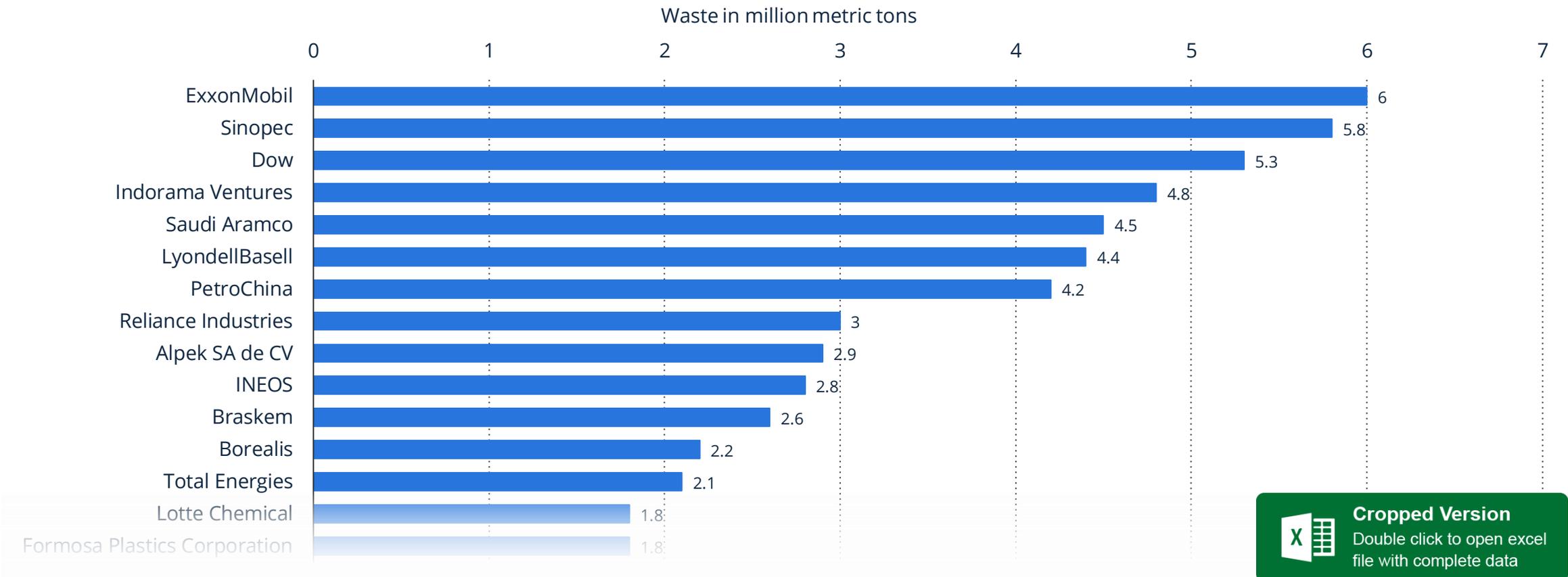
# Plastic use and waste projection scenarios worldwide in 2060, by type (in million metric tons)

Global plastic use and waste projections scenarios 2060



# Single-use plastic waste contributions of polymer-producing companies worldwide in 2021 (in million metric tons)

Biggest single-use plastic producers worldwide 2021



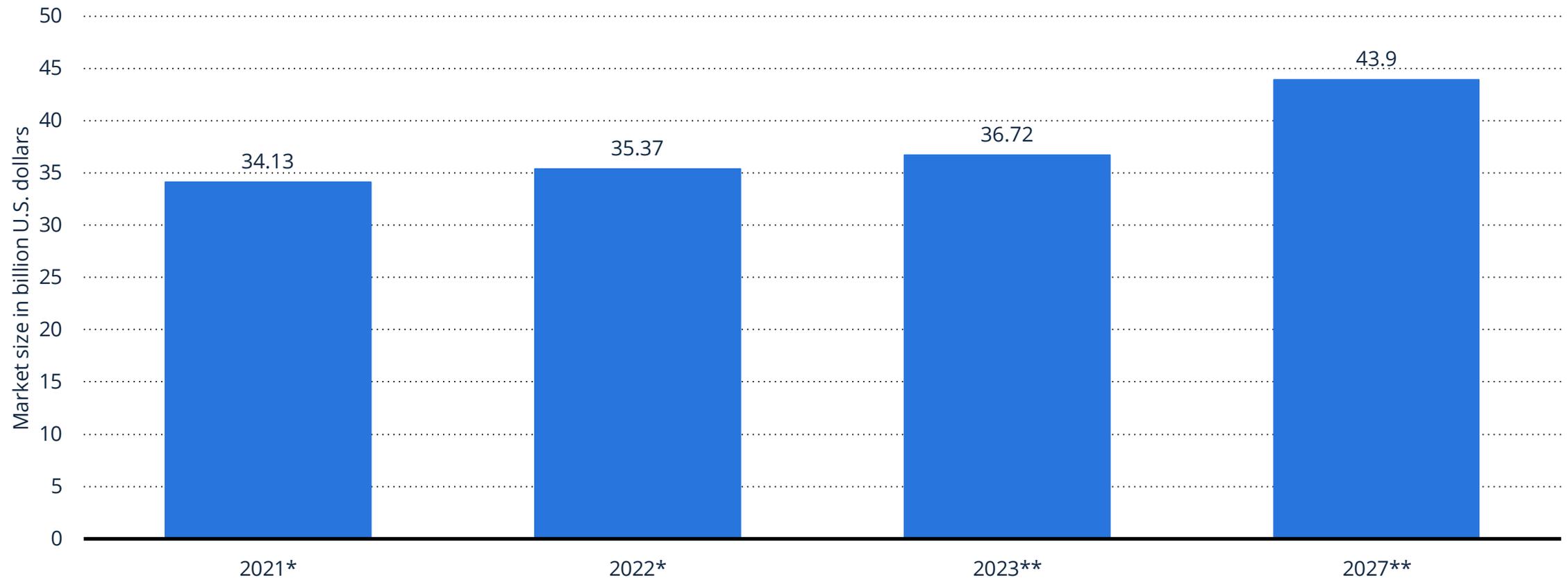
 **Cropped Version**  
Double click to open excel file with complete data

CHAPTER 03

# Waste management

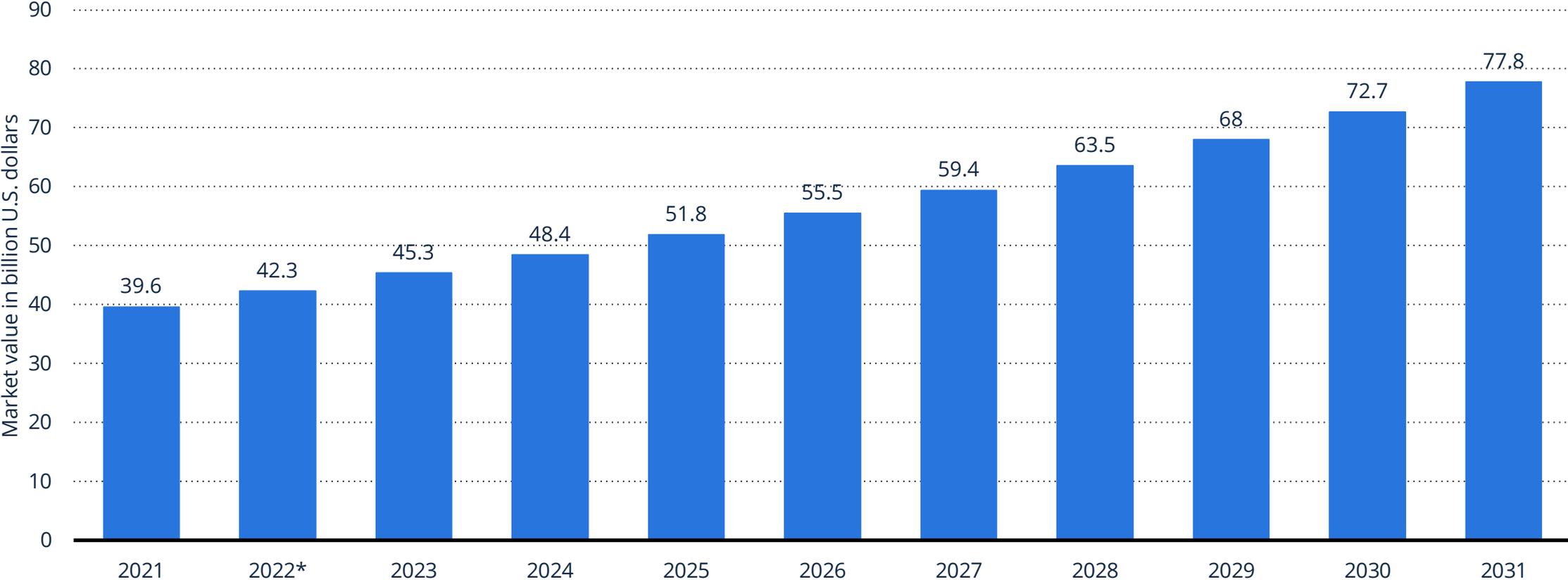
# Plastic waste management market size worldwide in 2021 and 2022, with a forecast to 2027 (in billion U.S. dollars)

Global plastic waste management market value 2021-2027



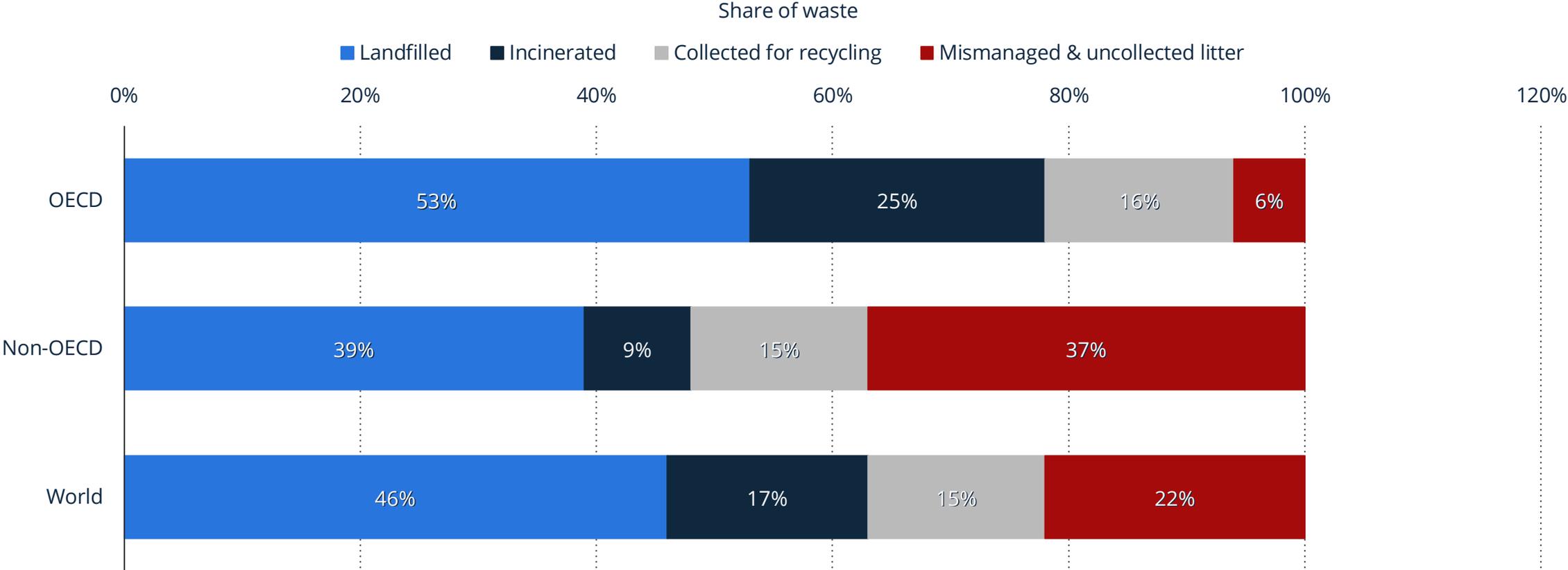
# Market value of plastic recycling worldwide from 2021 to 2031 (in billion U.S. dollars)

Global plastic recycling market value 2021-2031



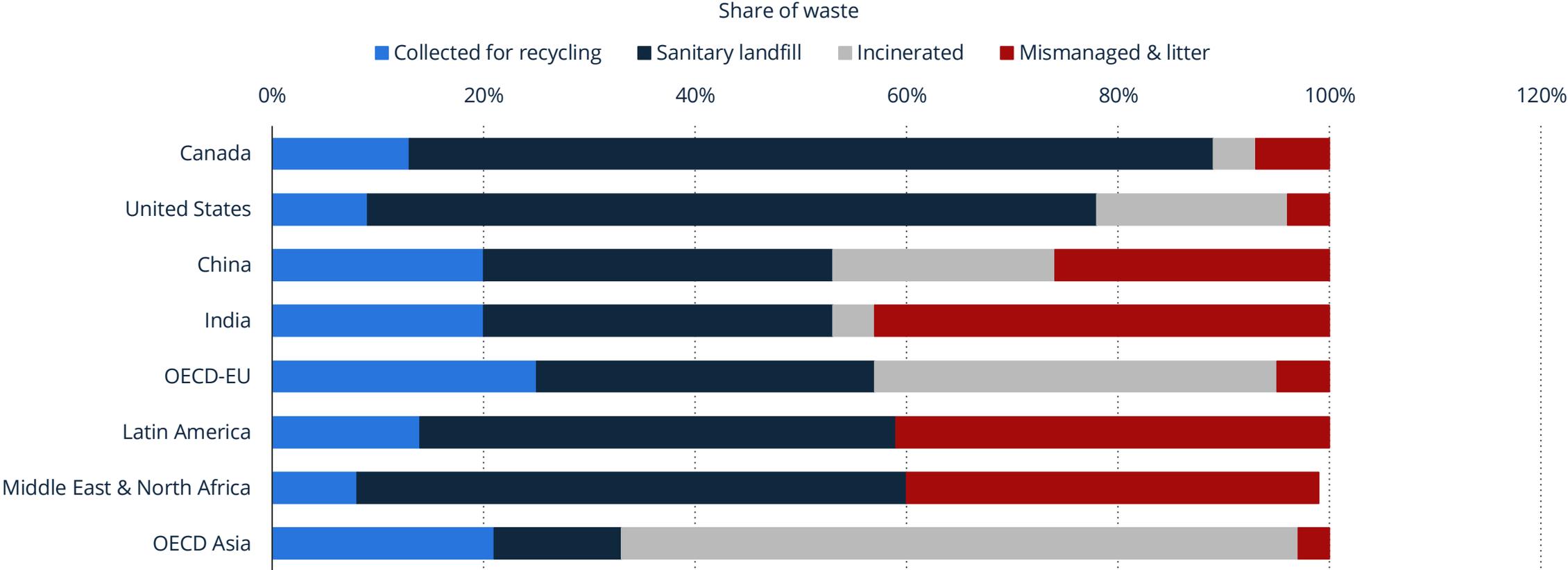
# Distribution of plastic waste management worldwide in 2019, by region and method

Global plastic waste management methods 2019, by region



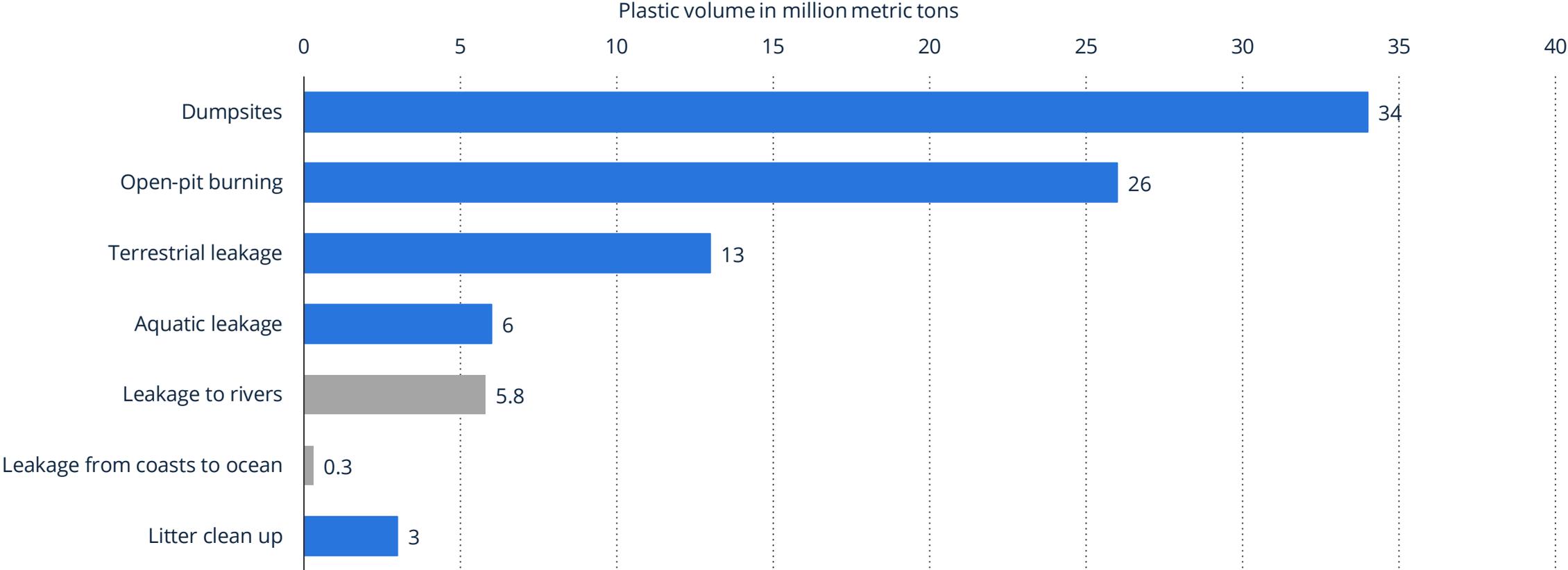
# Distribution of plastic waste management worldwide in 2019, by select region and country

Global plastic waste management methods 2019, by select country



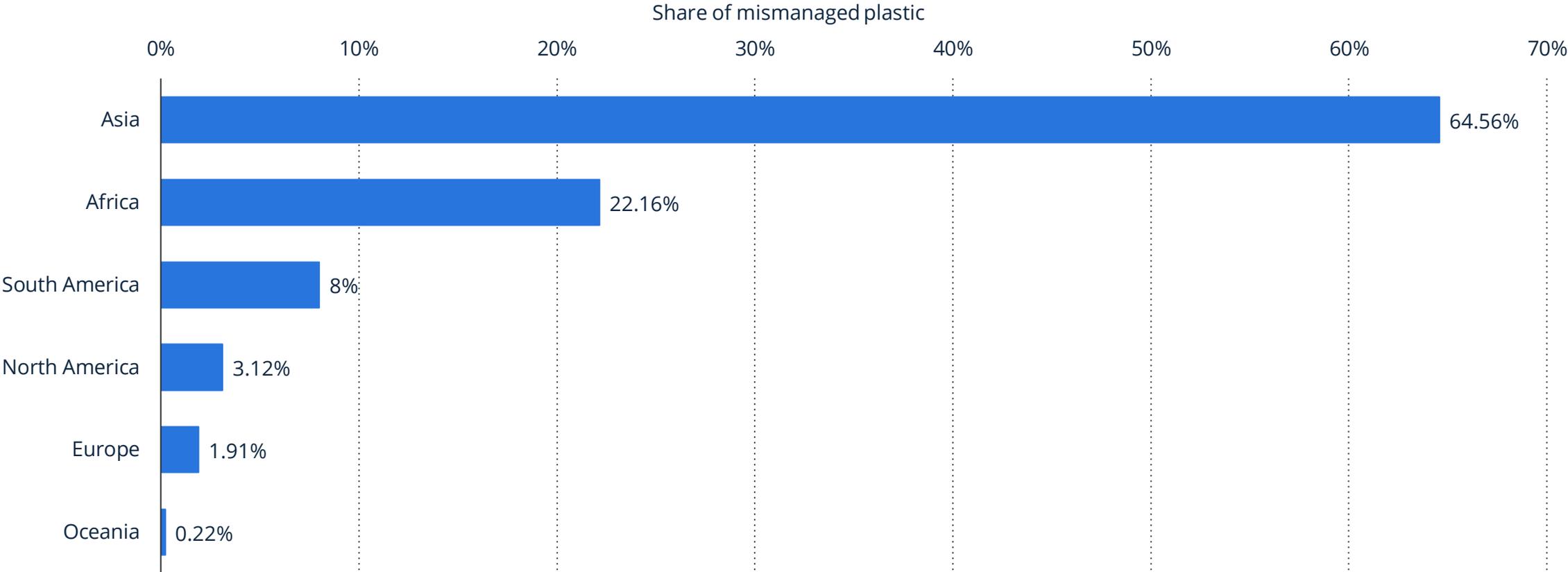
# Mismanaged and littered plastic waste worldwide in 2019, by end location (in million metric tons)

Global mismanaged plastic waste 2019, by destination



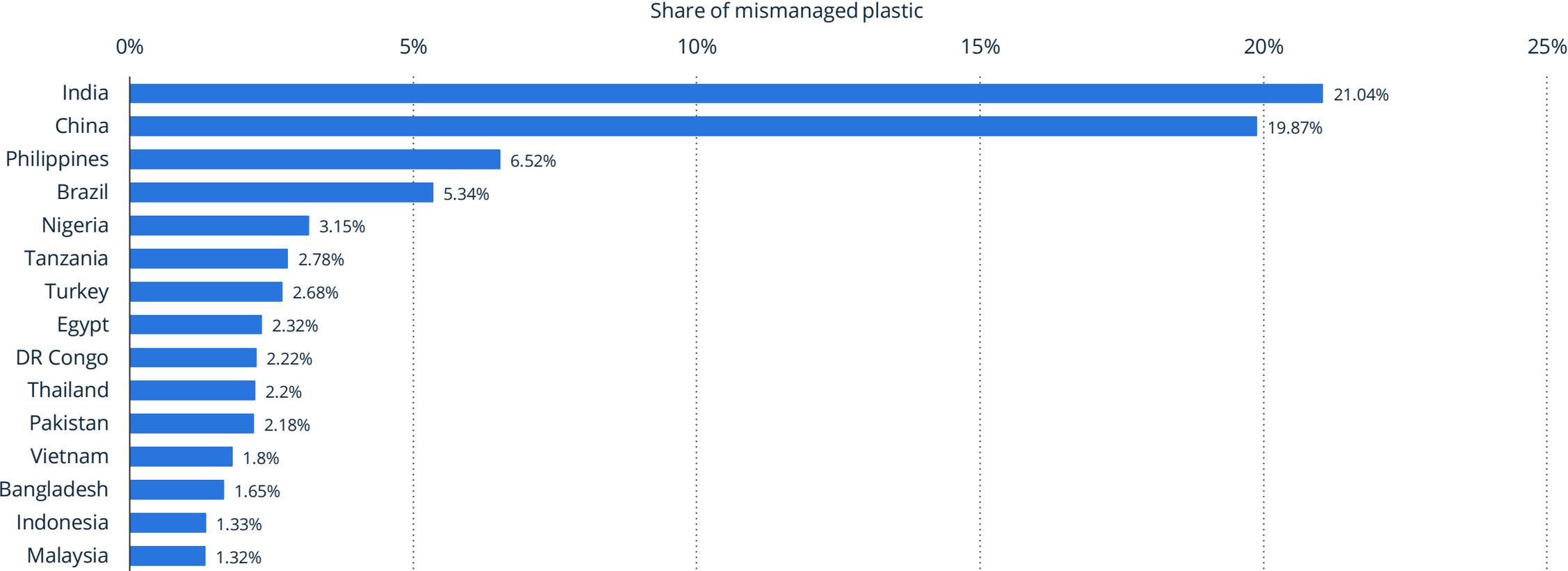
# Distribution of mismanaged plastic waste worldwide in 2019, by region

Mismanaged plastic waste shares worldwide 2019, by region



# Distribution of mismanaged plastic waste worldwide in 2019, by select country

Mismanaged plastic waste shares worldwide 2019, by select country

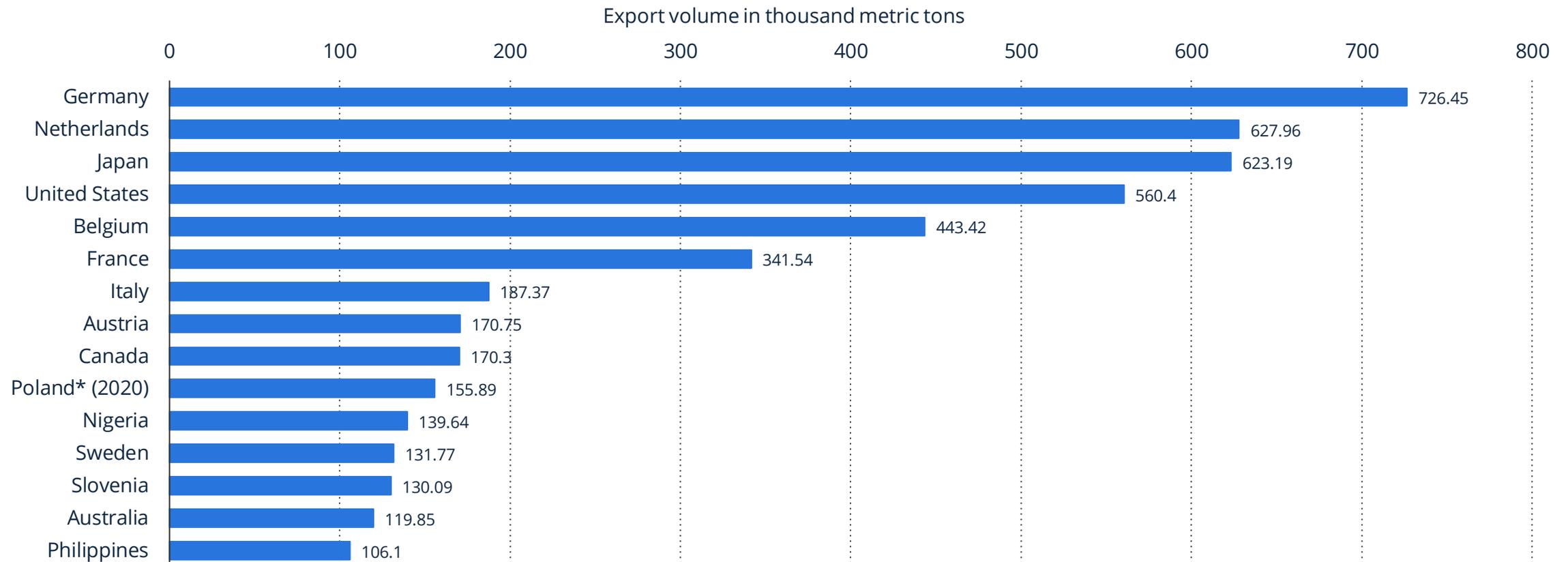


CHAPTER 04

# Trade

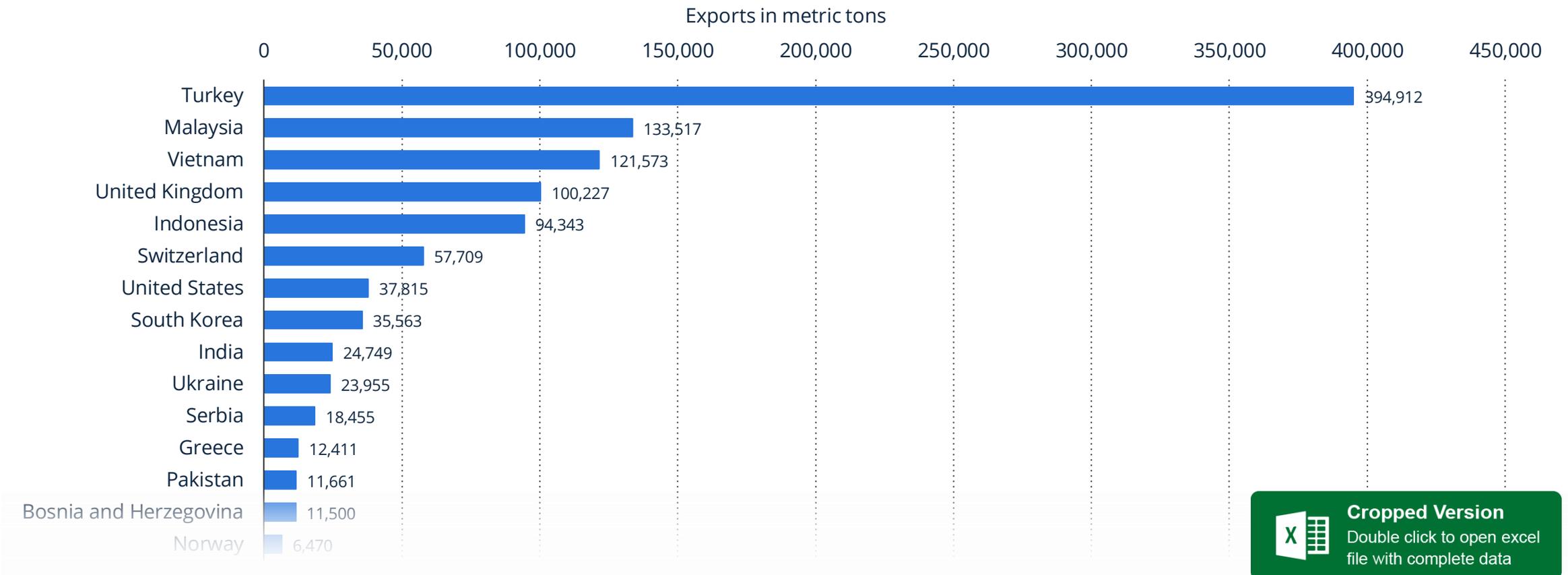
# Export of plastic waste worldwide in 2021, by leading country (in 1,000 metric tons)

Plastic waste export volume worldwide 2021, by country



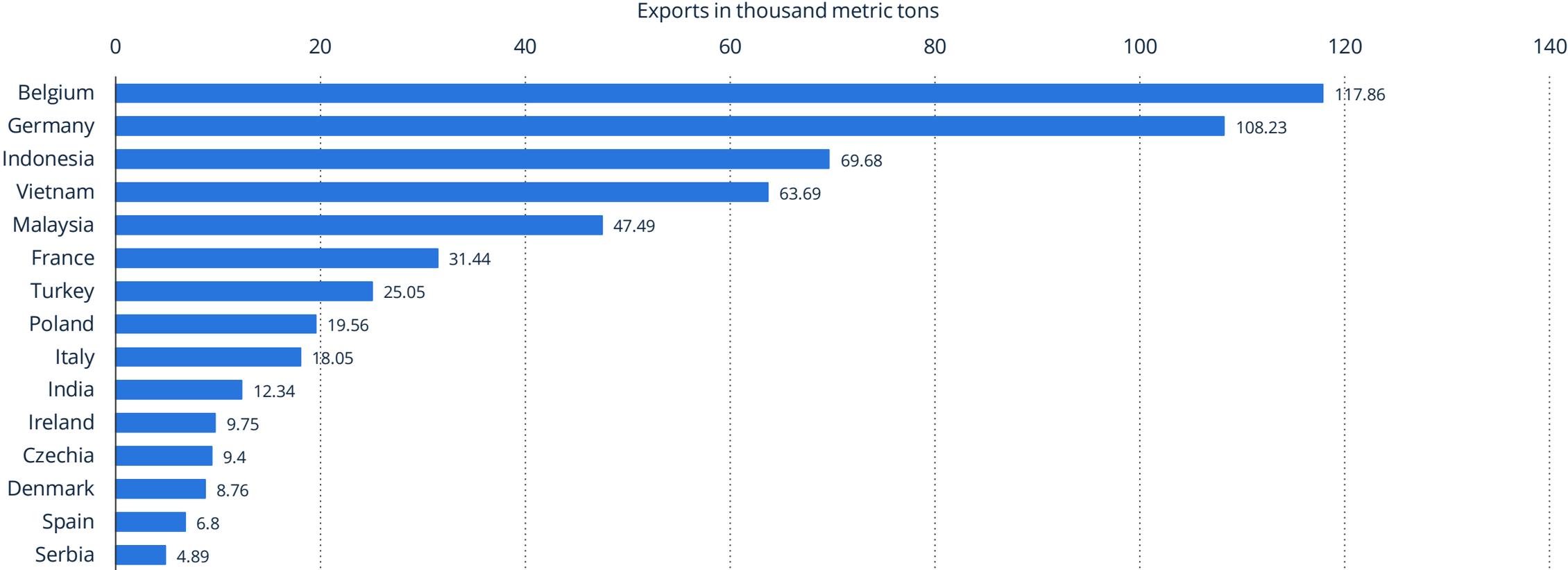
# Main destinations for plastic waste exports from the European Union (EU-27) in 2021, by country (in metric tons)

Plastic waste exports by the European Union 2021, by destination



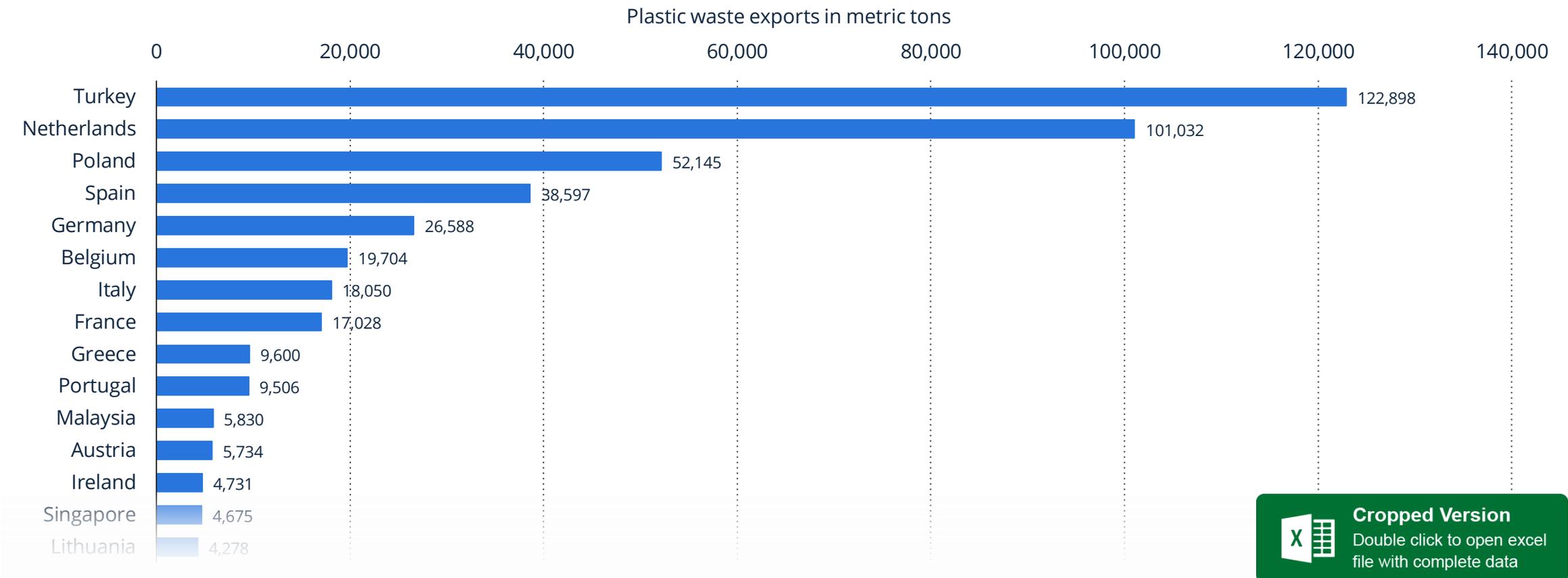
# Plastic waste exports from the Netherlands in 2021, by destination (in 1,000 metric tons)

Plastic waste exports in the Netherlands 2021, by destination



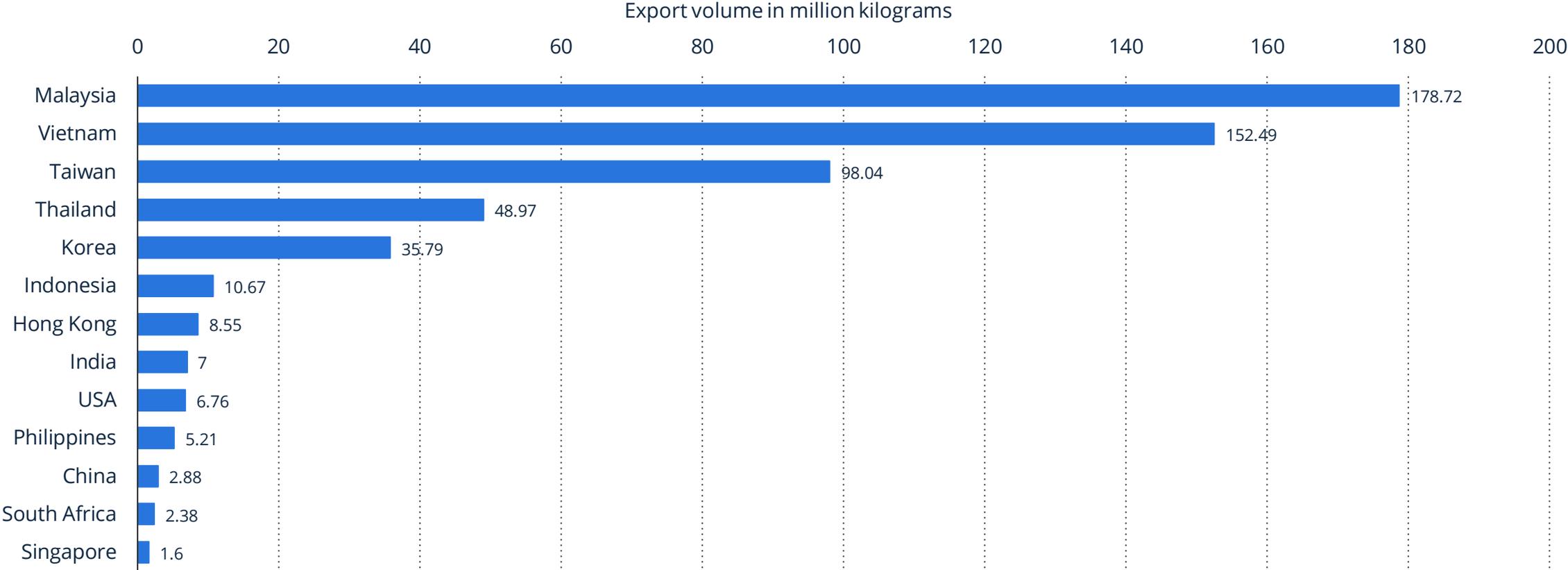
# Plastic waste export destinations from the United Kingdom in 2021, by selected country (in metric tons)

Volume of plastic waste exported from the UK 2021, by select country



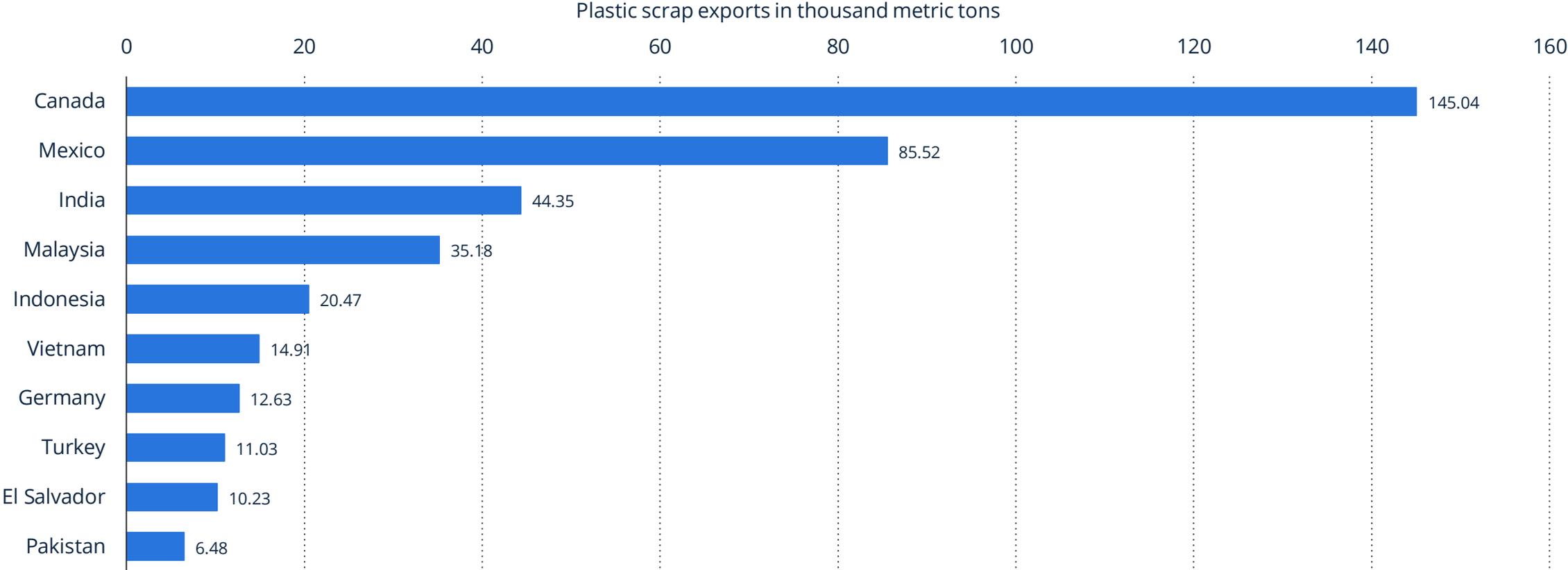
# Export volume of plastic waste from Japan in 2022, by region (in million kilograms)

Plastic waste export volume Japan 2022, by region



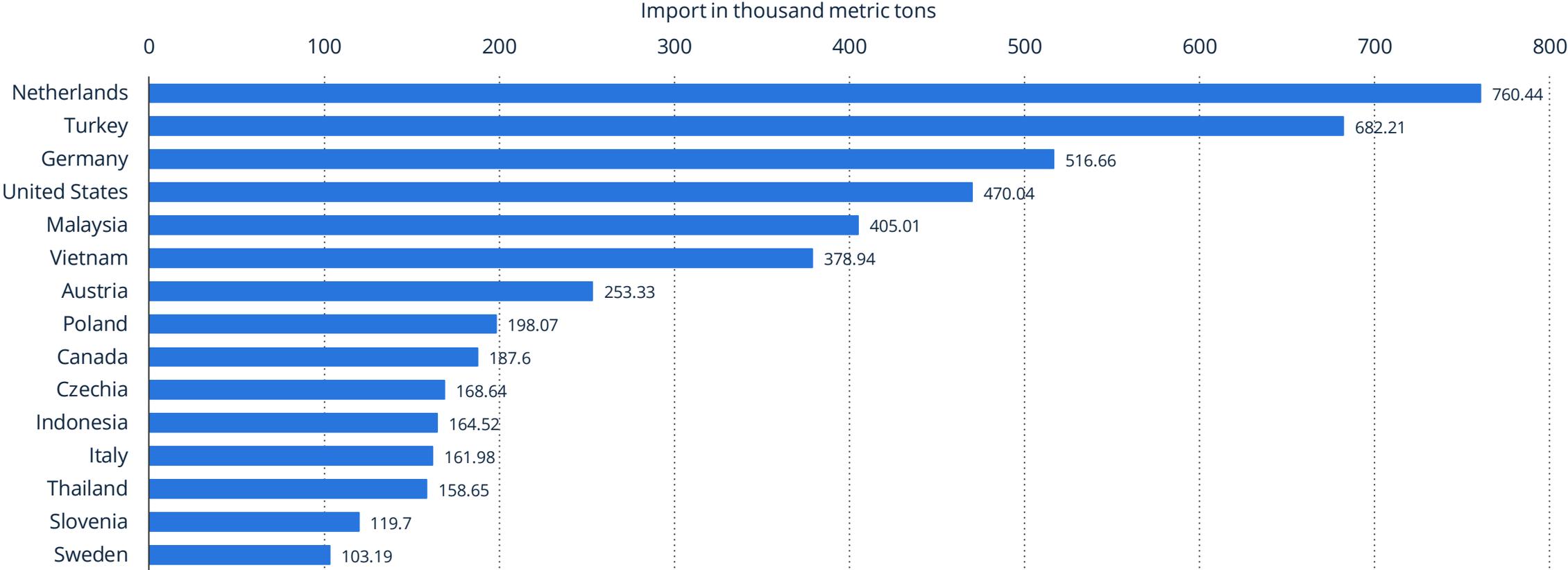
# Plastic scrap exports from the United States in 2022, by destination (in 1,000 metric tons)

Plastic waste exports from the U.S. 2022, by destination



# Imports of plastic waste worldwide in 2021, by leading country (in 1,000 metric tons)

Plastic waste import worldwide 2021, by country

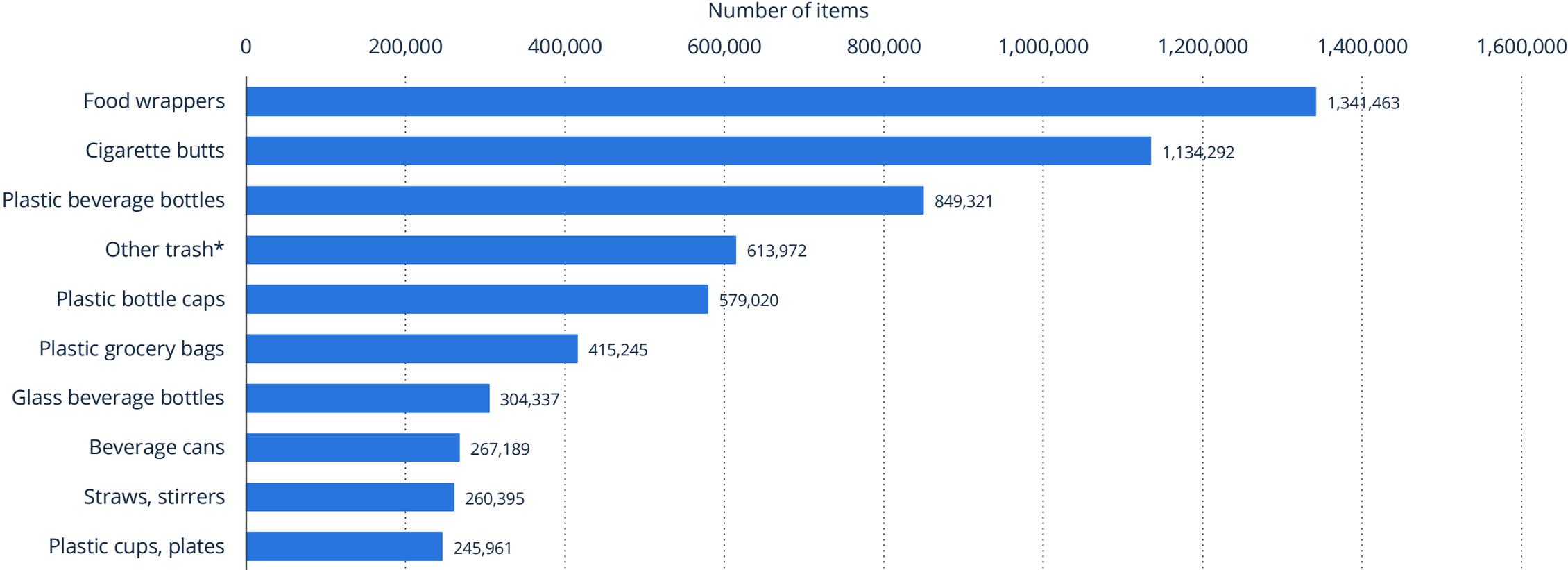


CHAPTER 05

# Pollution

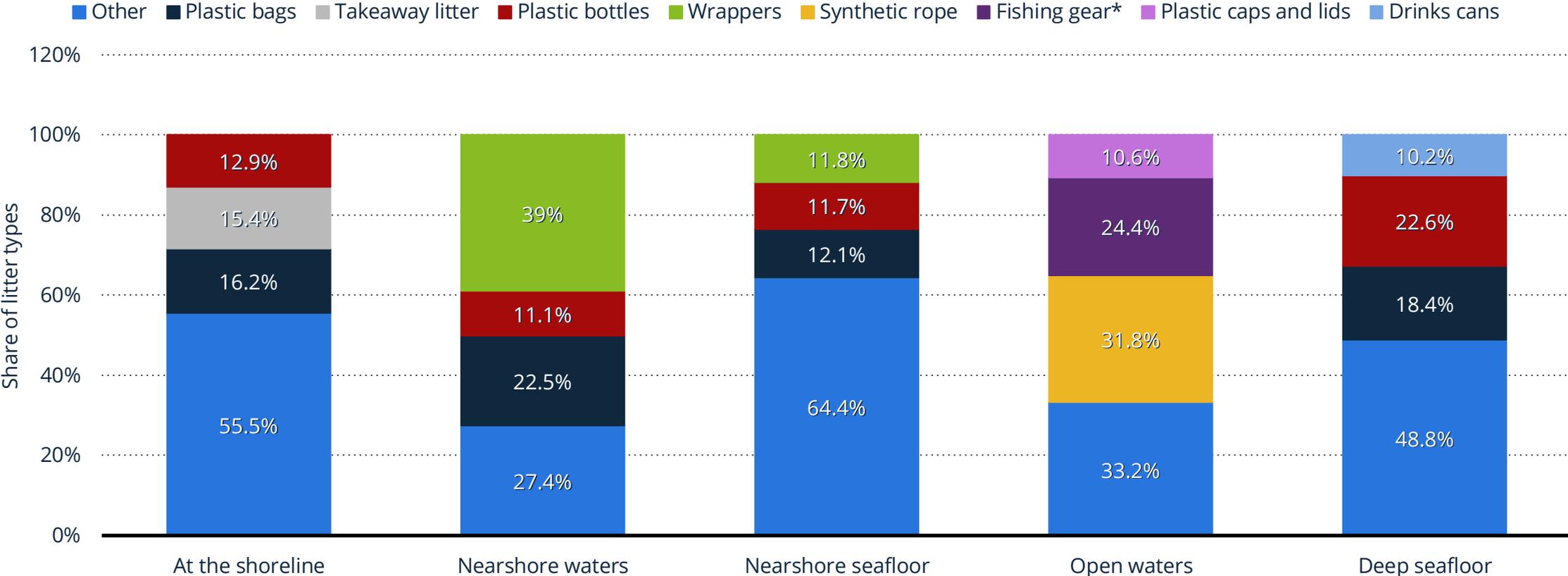
# Most common items found during the International Coastal Ocean Cleanup in 2021

Global waste items found in oceans 2021



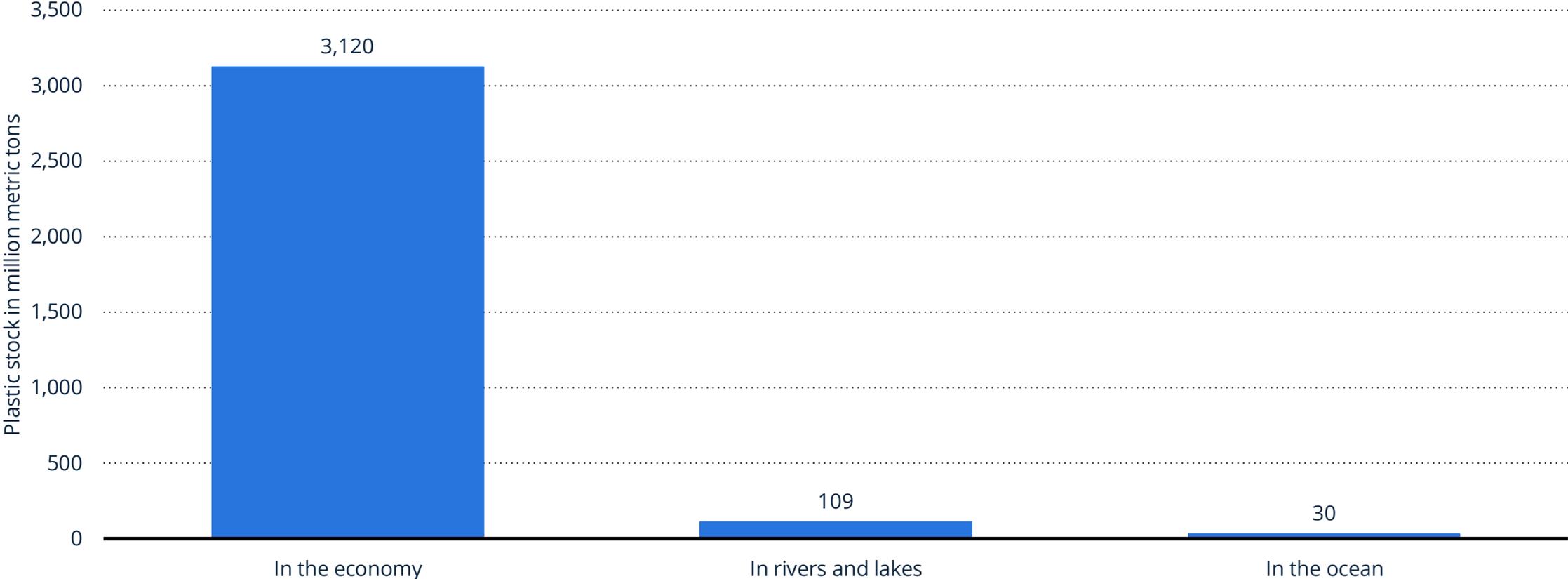
# Distribution of litter types found in oceans worldwide as of 2021, by environment

Main litter types found in oceans worldwide 2021, by environment



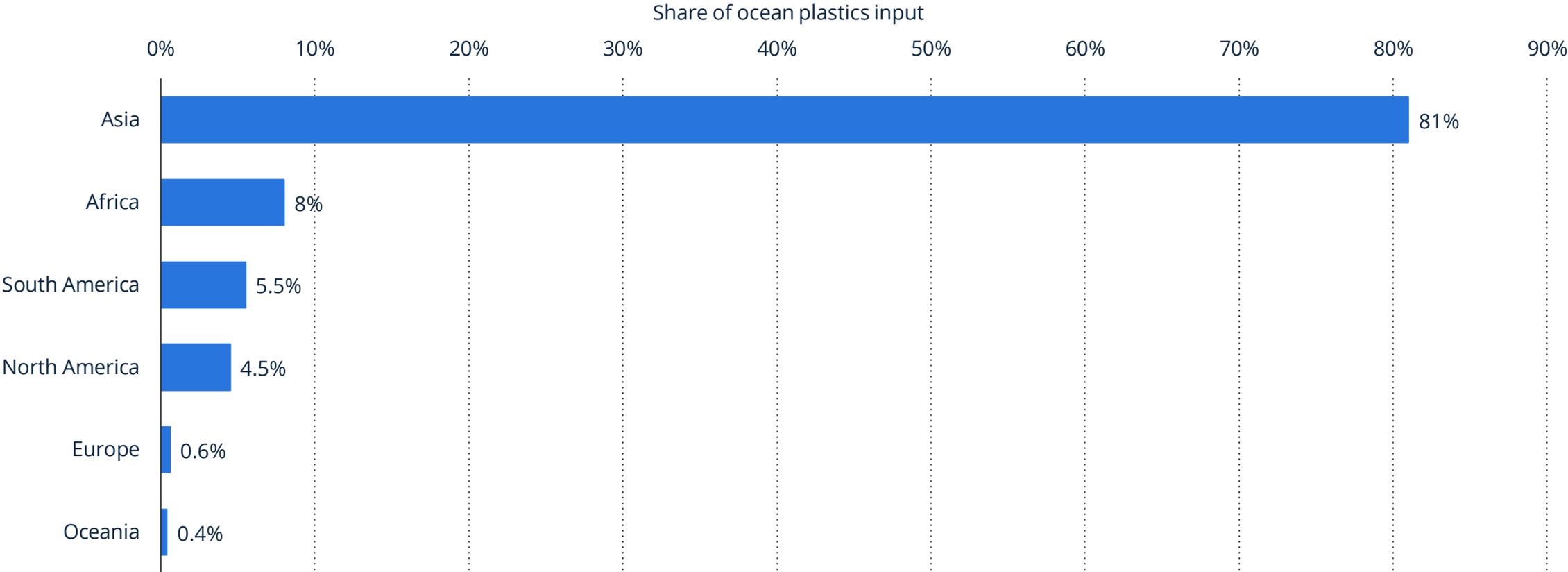
# Estimated accumulation of plastics stock worldwide from 1970 to 2019, by end location (in million metric tons)

Global accumulated plastics stock 1970-2019, by location



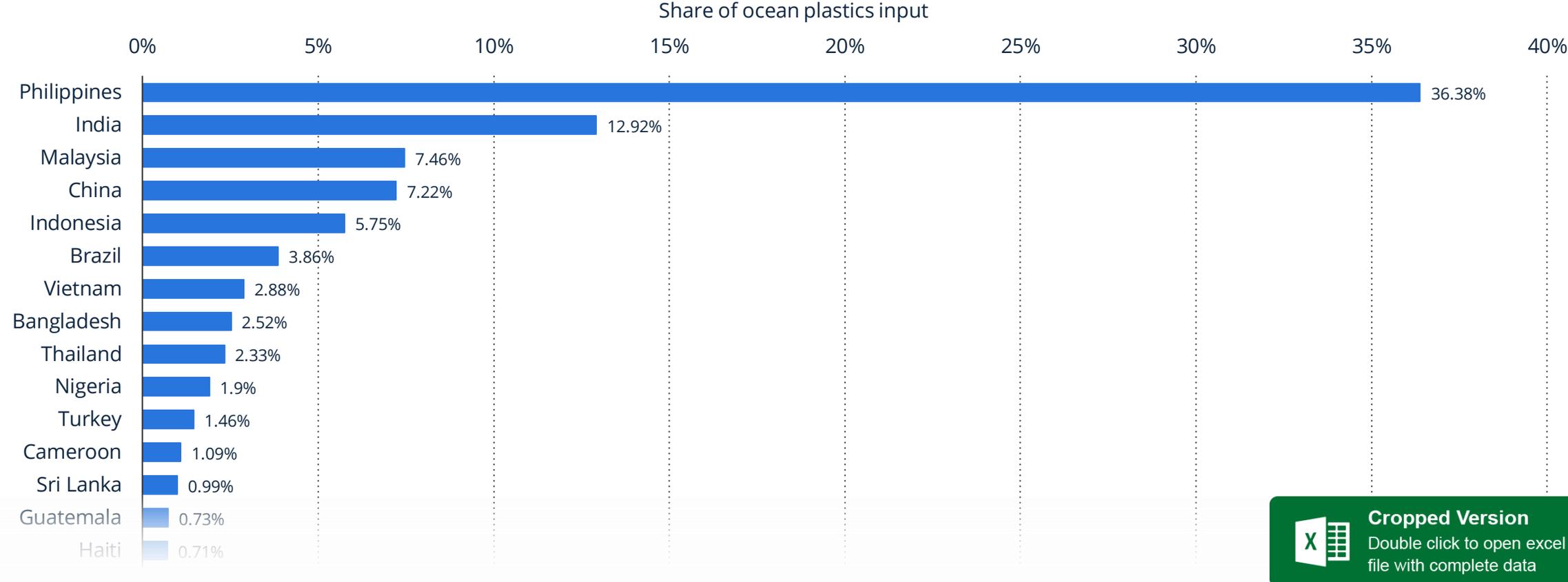
# Distribution of global plastics waste emitted to the ocean in 2019, by region

Regional shares of ocean plastic waste inputs worldwide 2019



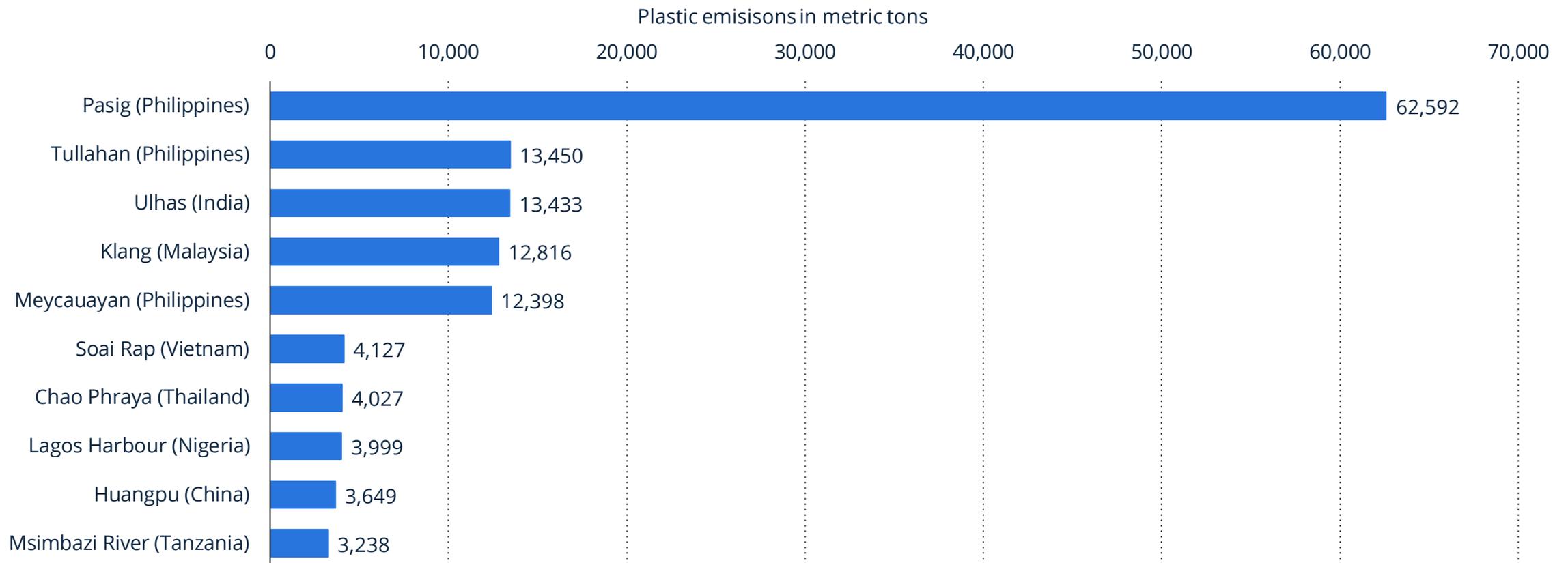
# Distribution of global plastic waste emitted to the ocean in 2019, by select country

Share of ocean plastic waste inputs worldwide 2019, by country



# Annual plastic waste emissions to oceans from select rivers worldwide as of 2019 (in metric tons)

Plastic emissions to oceans per year from select rivers worldwide 2019



# Sources

BRC  
Conversio  
Eurostat  
Expert(s) (Morales-Caselles, C., J. Viejo, E. Martí, E., A. Cózar, et al. (2021))  
Experte(n) (Meijer et al. (2021))  
JCPRA  
Minderoo Foundation  
nova-Institute  
Ocean Conservancy  
OECD  
OWID  
PlasticsEurope (PEMRG)  
Statista  
The Guardian  
The Ocean Cleanup  
Trade Map  
Transparency Market Research  
UN Comtrade