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## **Favourable Prognosis for Plastics Processing**

The plastics-processing industry will grow also in the seventies. This is the forecast of IFO — Institute for Economic Research at Munich. Already during the sixties the plastics processing industry was among the branches with the strongest economic growth in the Federal Republic. Its total turnover climbed to DM 10.87 bn (1962: DM 3.86 bn). The per-head consumption reached almost 60 kg. Thus the Federal Republic is first among all countries, followed by Sweden and the USA. Between 1962 and 1970 the price index of plastics-processing dropped by about 8 p.c.

In the seventies, too, new and continuously improved chemical and technological developments in the plastics-processing industry will open up new applications and lead to a further high growth rate of annually about 10.6 p.c. Between 1970 und 1975 the annual expansion by 11.5 p.c. will be stronger than during the second half of the decade at 9.8 p.c. Within ten years the industry's total turnover will thus rise by 175 p.c. In 1975 the per-head turnover will reach 105 kg annually (1970: 60 kg) and in 1980 will amount to about 145 kg.

## **Vereinsbank in Hamburg Successful also in 1971**

In spite of the generally worsening conditions Vereinsbank in Hamburg was able to continue its successful business development in 1971, too. The balance sheet total rose by DM 216 mn (10.46 p.c.) to DM 2,279 mn and thus trebled during the last decade. The total business volume expanded by DM 299 mn (12.9 p.c.) to DM 2,613 mn. The Bank's activity in all business sectors has led to an increase in the number of its customers at home and abroad. The number of bank accounts increased by 22,279 to 234,281 in 1971.

The customers' ordinary deposits (non-banks) rose by DM 110 mn to DM 1,503 mn. Sight deposits, time deposits and savings deposits participated almost equally in this increase. Savings deposits rose by 10.34 p.c., although considerable amounts had to be deducted due to the prohibition of interest payments for deposits of foreigners. The share of

bonus yielding savings deposits climbed by 20.82 p.c. Also the deposits from performances affecting assets registered a considerable growth rate. The number of savings accounts increased by 12,204 to 115,728 in 1971.

## **1971: Record in CSSR Transit via Port of Hamburg**

In 1971, transit traffic from and to the CSSR via Hamburg reached with 1.65 mn tons a new record in the long history of the port. 1972, too, will be marked by an intensified economic cooperation between the CSSR and the Port of Hamburg. This opinion was unanimously held by the representatives of Cechofracht, among them Director-General Oldrich Novy, and by Werner Schröder, Vice-President of the Association of Hamburg Port Operators during their Hamburg negotiations in February, 1972.

In the record year of 1970, when a total of 47 mn tons was handled in the Port of Hamburg, transit traffic from and to the CSSR accounted for 1.4 mn tons, and the year of 1971 made again obvious that the development of this trade seems to be quite independent of the international economic situation: Though goods handling via Hamburg experienced an obviously temporary slackening, transit traffic from and to the CSSR reached a record level of 1.65 mn tons.

## **Siemens Anticipating Turnover of DM 16 bn**

For the business year 1971/1972 (Sep. 30, 1971 to Sep. 30, 1972) Siemens anticipates a turnover increase by almost 10 p.c. to a total of more than DM 16 bn. However, the sectors of electronical components and power-technical mass products are stagnating. Since in both sectors the customers' reduction of stocks has probably been completed, the board chairman, Dr Bernhard Plettner, stated that in both sectors a stabilisation on a lower level may be hoped for. In the first quarter of 1971/72 personnel working in Germany has been further reduced by about 2 p.c. to approx. 230,000 members. Genuine discharges could be largely avoided by making use of fluctuations.

After investment declined in the business year 1970/71 to DM 916 mn, DM 1,000 mn are provided

again for the current year. Two thirds of this sum total are to be financed from depreciations. A capital appreciation for this purpose is not planned. An optional bond, however, may be taken into consideration.

# **A Family of Four Persons Requires DM 1,113**

According to a statistical sample of Allensbach Institut für Demoskopie (Allensbach Institute for Population Research) a family of four needs DM 1,113 on average per month. In November, 1951, DM 328 sufficed to cover cost of living, clothing and housing. The corresponding sum needed for this purpose in 1958 was DM 465, and in 1964 still only DM 631. The differences in living costs within Germany are shown by the statement that in Bavaria DM 1,015 and in Northern Germany DM 1,169 are estimated to be necessary.

The big cities verify their reputation of being expensive places to live in. Here the estimated minimum requirement surpasses that of the coun-

tryside by DM 220. 45 p.c. of the population stated to have more than the monthly minimum at their disposal, 30 p.c. have to get along with less than the minimum, 25 p.c. dispose of approx. this sum.

A survey of the Gallup Institute recently made in the USA showed that a four-persons household needs a minimum of about \$ 550 per month. Referring to the purchasing power this almost corresponds to the German subsistence minimum.

# **German Machine Tools Advancing In the USSR**

as an export area.

This year the Federal Republic's machine-tools industry will present abundant offers in Moscow. For during the last years the Soviet Union has gained considerable importance

The exhibition which will take place in Moscow from May 20 to 28, 1972, and will be organised by the Verein Deutscher Werkzeugmaschinenfabriken VDW (Association of German Machine-tools Factories) and Düsseldorf Messegesellschaft NOWEA (The Düsseldorf Trade Fair Corporation), will be arranged in such a way as to comply with the Soviets' wishes and comprise the automotive industry emphasising truck production, farm machinery manufacture and feeders, mainly roller bearings. So far 137 manufacturing firms have given notice of their participation. The exhibition represents about 65 p.c. of total turnovers of the Federal Republic's machine-tools industry, which in 1971 amounted to DM 6 bn.

# **VW-Beetle Breaking Record of Ford Model "T"**

Ford's famous model "T" (1908 to 1927: 15,007,033 units) was broken with 15,007,034 beetles.

Here some data on its history — 1934: First concept by Ferdinand Porsche; 1938: building of Volkswagenwerk in Wolfsburg; 1945: after two thirds of the works had been destroyed, operations started again in May, and until the end of the year 1,785 VW were produced; 1949: in January the first two beetles were shipped to the USA, on July 1 the first "export model" with improved fittings was presented; 1953: foundation of Volkswagen do Brasil; 1964: foundation of Volkswagen de Mexico; 1972: world's record.

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