

Polythene: Fact file

World production	32 million tonnes per year (HDPE + LDPE)
UK production	640,000 tonnes per year (HDPE + LDPE)
Manufacture	Addition polymerisation
Raw material	Ethene, C ₂ H ₄ , obtained from the cracking of crude oil fractions and natural gas.

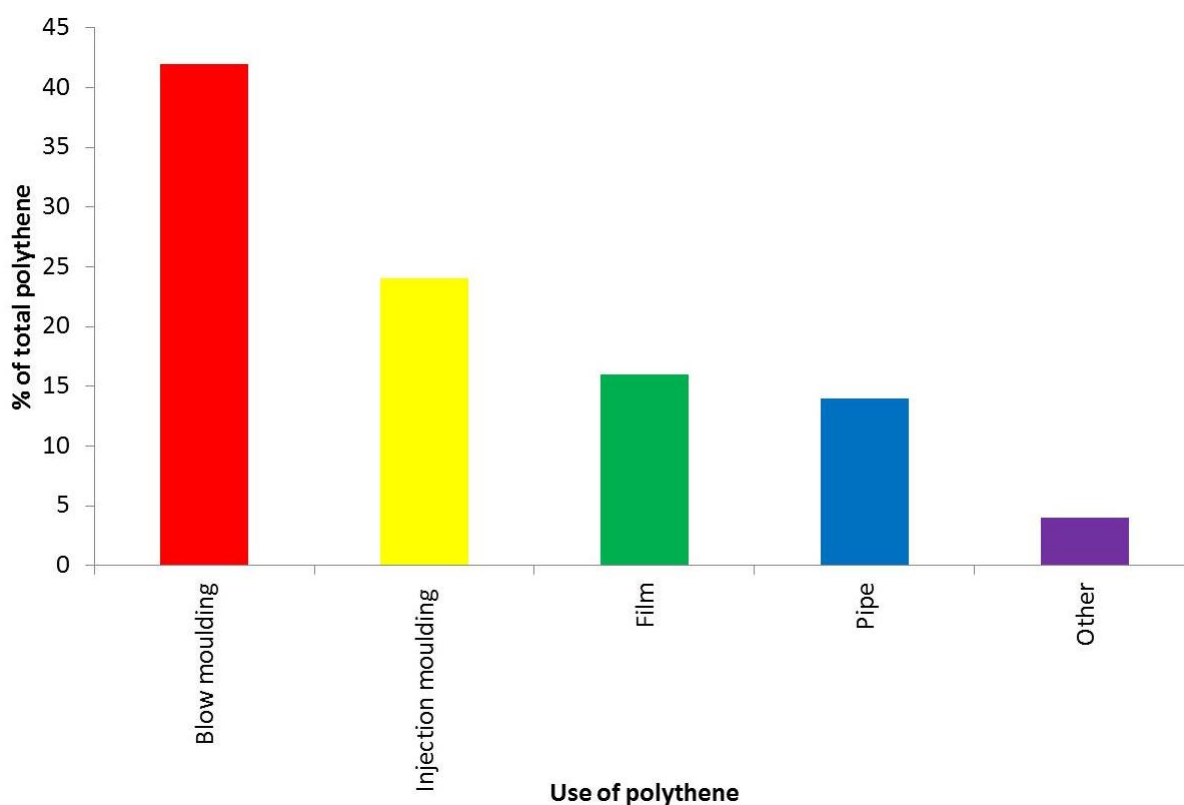


Figure: Chart to show the percentage amount of polythene used for different sectors.

Table: Table to show the percentage amount of polythene used for different sectors (as shown above).

	Blow moulding (eg washing-up liquid bottles)	42%
	Injection moulding (eg buckets)	24%
	Film	16%
	Pipe	14%
	Other	4%