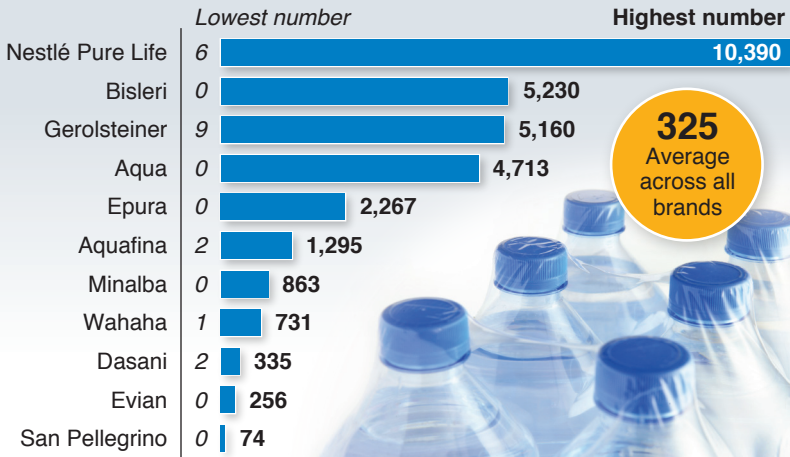


# Microplastics found in most bottled water

The World Health Organisation is to investigate the potential risks of plastic in drinking water after research led by U.S.-based Orb Media found tiny particles of plastic in leading brands of bottled water

**BOTTLED WATER BRANDS TESTED:** Number of particles per litre



**Note:** Particles rationally expected to be plastic. Bottled water volumes varied from 500ml to two litres. Absolute counts for each bottle were divided by sample volume to calculate density of microplastic (particles per litre). Background contamination amounts subtracted from numbers shown

■ **Test sample:** More than 250 bottles of water sold across nine countries – Brazil, China, India, Indonesia, Kenya, Lebanon, Mexico, Thailand and U.S.

■ **Result:** Plastic identified in 93 percent of samples, including polypropylene, nylon, and polyethylene terephthalate (PET), used to make bottle caps

■ **Global industry:** Bottled water market valued at \$147 billion per year