

# Czech Republic Petrochemicals Report Q3 2016

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## Abstracts

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**BMI View:** The Czech petrochemicals industry has been hit by the closure of Unipetrol's cracker in Litvínov due to fire damage in August 2015. The plant is due to come back into full operational capacity in Q416, which will ensure that basic chemical supply in 2016 will be poor and will reduce domestic polymer availability. In 2015, rubber and plastic products output rose 9.8%, but chemicals products output slumped 5.7%. Low naphtha costs have improved the competitiveness of the sector and boosted polyolefins margins, while higher sales volumes - particularly in the polypropylene (PP) segment - have been led by a manufacturing surge. Export-led industries have stimulated petrochemicals consumption.

Acquisition activity has been mooted by producers as the industry moves towards consolidation, more integration along the value chain and adding value to output. With fertiliser production suffering losses in recent years, Unipetrol plans to close its loss-making urea unit. Refining capacity is also being cut, with the closure of the small-scale 20,000 barrels-per-day Paramo refinery.

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