

# France Petrochemicals Report Q1 2016

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## Abstracts

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French chemicals and petrochemicals producers endured a mixed performance in 2015 even as economic growth picked up. Petrochemicals production has slid in recent years in line with an overall restructuring of the industrial sector as it faces slower domestic demand conditions and poor competitiveness. The outlook in 2016 looks bearish in spite of growth in the automotive and construction sectors, which is the largest consumers of polymers in France.

France's chemicals industry reported a 1.4% decline in output in the first seven months of 2015, while rubber production also fell 1.4% in the January-August period. However, plastic output was up 4.2% y-o-y and French exports received a boost, helping to raise the chemicals trade balance 2.1% y-o-y to EUR500mn.

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