

# France Petrochemicals Report Q3 2016

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## Abstracts

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BMI View: France's petrochemicals industry has undergone a process of structural adjustment to improve cost margins. However, it has been behind the curve compared to other Western European states that have seen consolidation and capacity reductions in recent years. Resistance from labour unions has largely been responsible for the slow process of dealing with the sector's lack of integration and poor economies of scale. However, delocalisation is inevitable for the petrochemicals industry, just as it is across the industrial sector.

In 2015, rubber output fell 3.2%, while plastic production rose 4.8%, indicating mixed results for France's petrochemicals industry as it recovers. The same trend was observed in Q116, with no sign that plastic output was peaking or that rubber was bottoming out. The automotive industry has been a key driver of local plastic and rubber consumption, but from 2016 growth will slow, putting downward pressure on engineering plastics. However, improved growth in household consumption should generate more demand for plastic used in packaging, such as polyethylene (PE) and polyethylene terephthalate (PET).

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