

South Africa Petrochemicals Report Q1 2016

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Abstracts

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The South African petrochemicals industry is in recession and it could take at least two years before returning to growth as key petrochemicals sectors flatline in a difficult operating environment. The sector is the worst affected area of an economy that is enduring sub-2% growth and falling competitiveness.

In the January-August period of 2015, basic chemicals rose just 0.1% y-o-y, while plastic fell 3.1% and rubber declined 0.4%. The decline in plastic and rubber output abated from May, but while rubber looked as if it was on an upwards trend, the plastics sector looked set for another year of contraction in 2015. The factors causing the decline include poor domestic market performance, lower international petrochemicals prices and rising costs of inputs, including raw materials and labour.

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