



# Polycarbonate in Belgium: A major contributor to the country's economy and quality of life

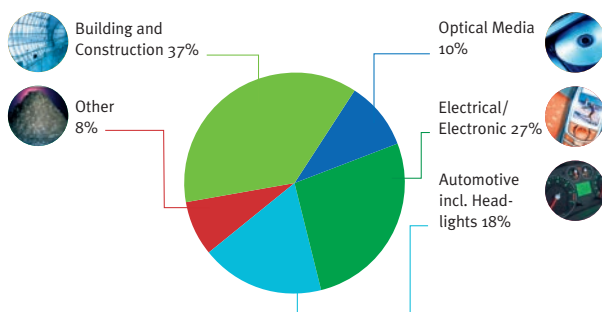


Polycarbonate is a lightweight, highly versatile, durable, heat and shatter resistant, formable and transparent thermoplastic. It is the material of choice for a wide range of end-user applications as diverse as DVDs, spectacles and optical lenses, car headlamps and parts, transparent roofs in construction, or medical devices.

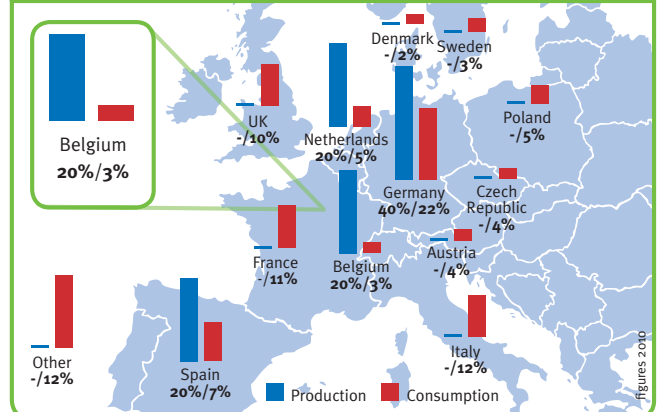
**Belgium is a major producer of polycarbonate: about 20% of total European production** is produced here, generating about 450 mio Euro of value added. A trade surplus of about 390 mio Euro is generated by net exports of polycarbonate. Due to its function as an enabling technology, **over 15,300 jobs in Belgium are related to the production and consumption of polycarbonate.**

Belgian national consumption of polycarbonate grew continuously by about 6% p.a. during the past years and reached about 3% of total EU consumption in 2010. **Nearly 85% of the Belgian consumption of polycarbonate is concentrated in three key economic sectors:** in Building & Construction, in the Electrical & Electronics industries and the Automotive sector. It is estimated **that about 1.1 billion Euro of value added depend upon polycarbonate technology in Belgium.**

## Belgian consumption of polycarbonate by sectors



## European production and consumption of polycarbonate by countries



In many of these applications polycarbonate is critical to transforming the functional characteristics of components or end uses. This means: Polycarbonate cannot be replaced by any other material if the same material performance characteristics are required. **More than half of the Belgian consumption of polycarbonate is used in these unique applications.**

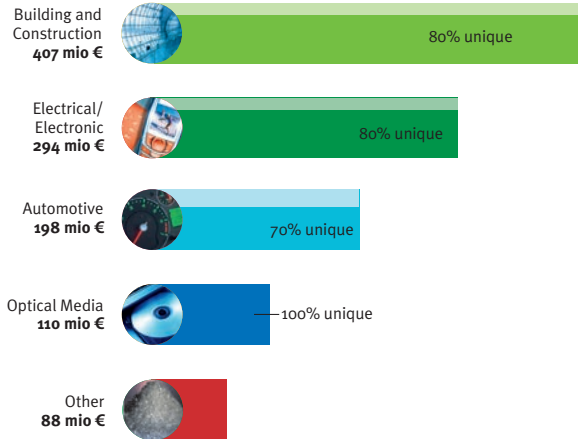
In unique applications situations, outputs are dependent upon polycarbonate, and so are the working places of the people producing or processing them: 3,800 jobs in the production industry, about 1,000 jobs in the processing, and 10,500 jobs related to the manufacturing and sale of end products are related directly and indirectly to polycarbonate in unique applications in Belgium.

\* All figures in this document are based on the year 2010. The figures have been determined in a conservative approach ensuring that only the jobs and value added that could be uniquely attributed to polycarbonate should be counted in this value chain.



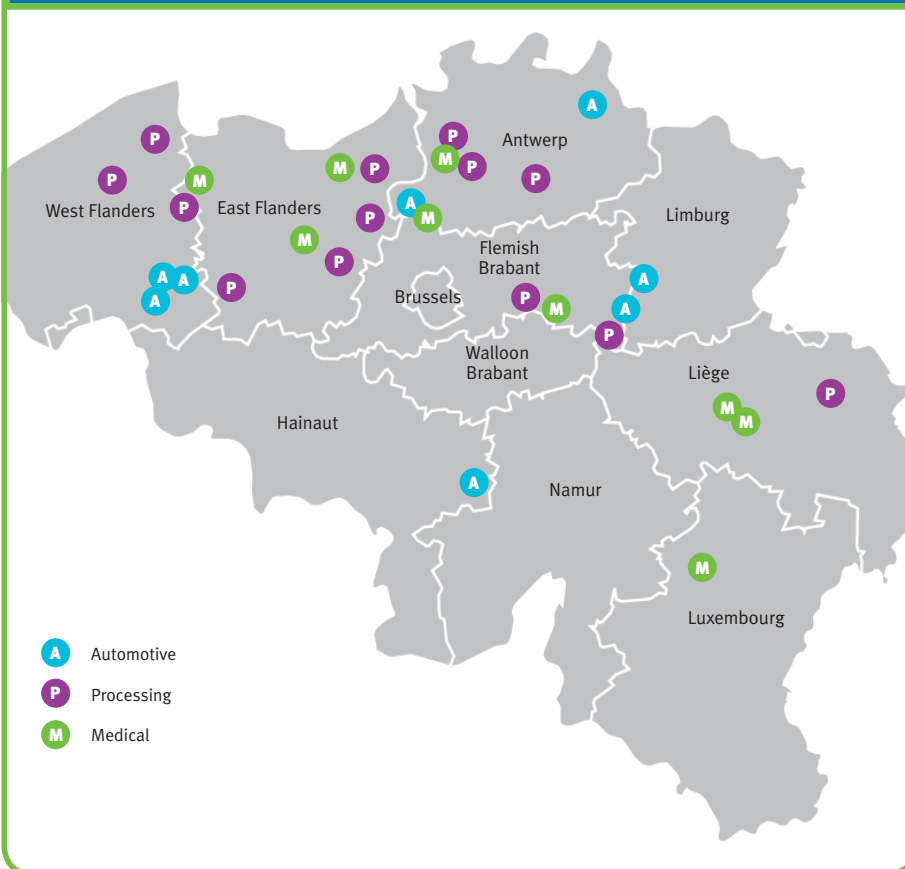
Polycarbonate is a dynamic enabling platform technology for innovation, thus helping to sustain Belgium’s manufacturing base. The competitive position of a significant number of leading Belgian companies depends upon the continued exploitation of the many and unique properties of polycarbonate. It offers solutions to modern societies to meet the emerging needs for lower weight, greater safety and security, lower risks and improved well-being, while at the same time reducing costs and improving the product performance.

### Polycarbonate added value and unique applications in Belgium



figures 2010

### Belgian polycarbonate consumption: industrial cluster regions



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