

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

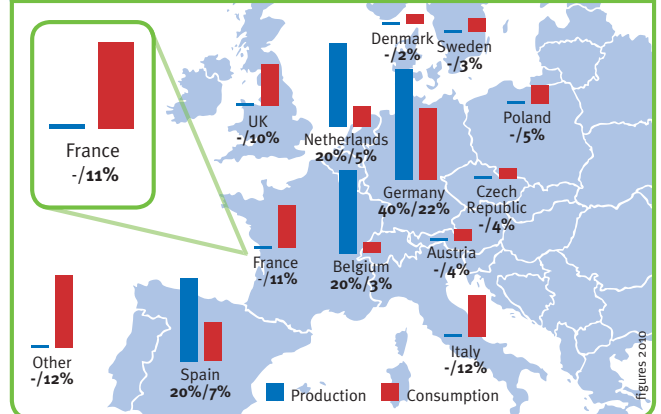


Polycarbonate is a lightweight, highly versatile, durable, heat and shatter resistant, formable and transparent thermoplastic. It is the material of choice for a wide range of end-user applications as diverse as DVDs, spectacles and optical lenses, car headlamps and parts, transparent roofs in construction,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

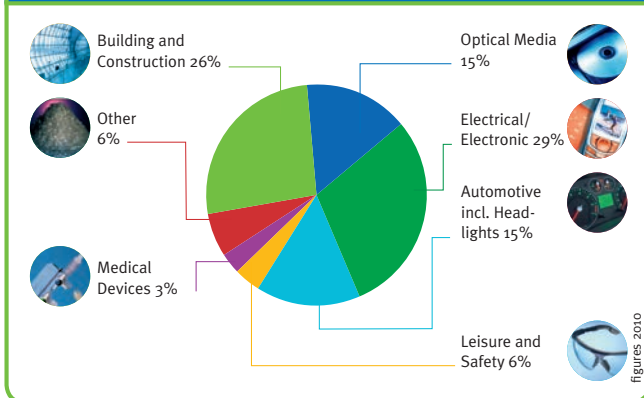
France has no own polycarbonate production and therefore depends on imports from other countries to supply its French industries' needs of this high performance plastics material. However, due to its function as enabling technology, **about 50,000 jobs were related to the use of polycarbonate** in France in 2010. During the past years, **French polycarbonate consumption grew continuously by about 4% p.a.** In 2010, France consumed 11% of the EU production of polycarbonate, **thereby generating ca. 3.8 billion Euro of value added.**

85% of the French consumption of polycarbonate is concentrated in four key economic sectors: the **Electrical & Electronics** industries, in **Building & Construction**, in the **Automotive** and the **Optical Media** market sector.

## European production and consumption of polycarbonate by countries



## French consumption of polycarbonate by sectors



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. **Over 80% of the French consumption of polycarbonate is used in these unique applications;** this market sector alone creates 3,6 billion Euro of value added.

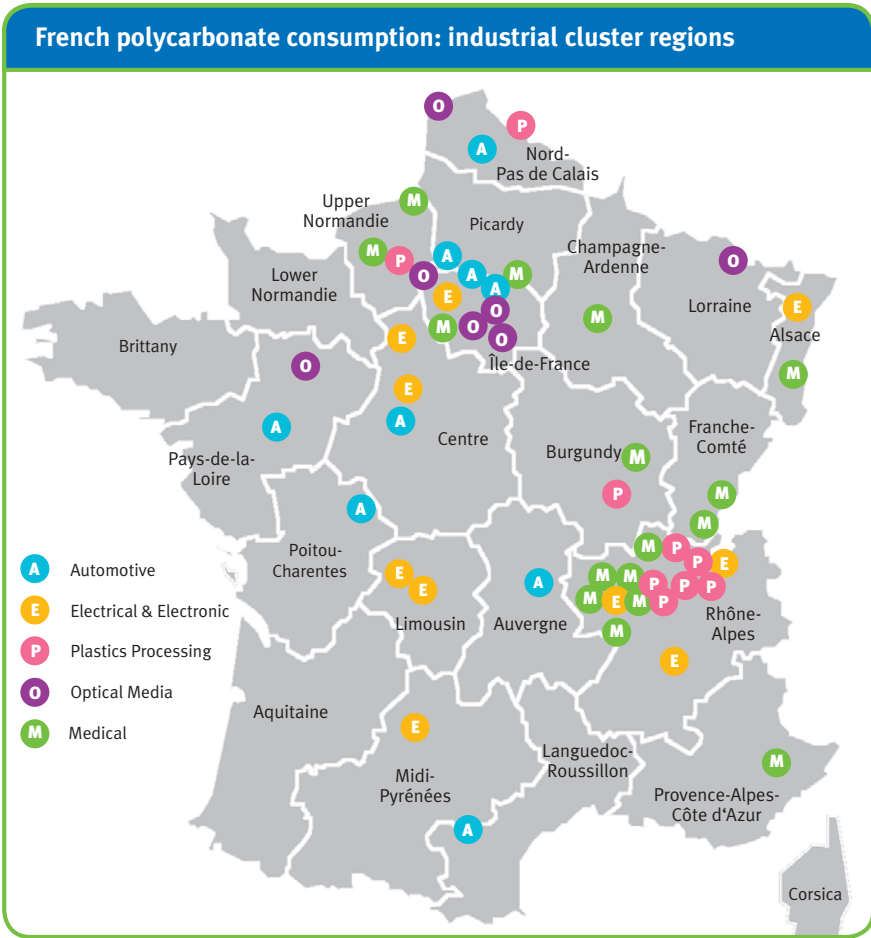
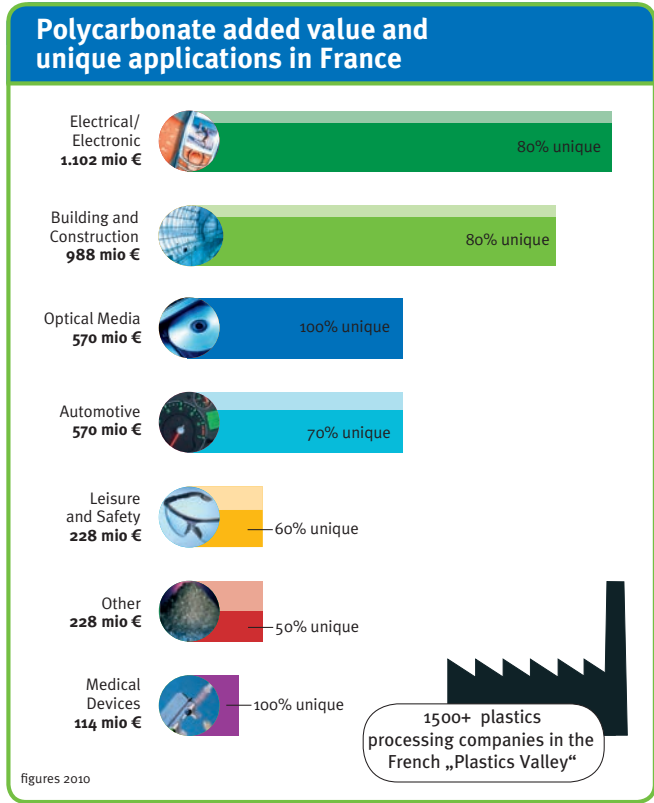
In these unique applications situations, outputs are dependent upon polycarbonate, and so are the working places of the people producing or processing them: **2,000 jobs in the processing, and 48,000 jobs related to the manufacturing and sale of end products are related directly and indirectly to polycarbonate in unique applications in France.**

\* 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.



A unique situation in France is the expertise and knowledge concentration of the polycarbonate plastics processing companies: **more than 1,500 French companies specialising in moulding, extruding, coating, blending and mixing of advanced polycarbonates are concentrated in the so-called „Plastics Valley“ in Oyonnax near Lyon.**

Polycarbonate is a dynamic enabling platform technology for innovation, thus helping to sustain France’s manufacturing base. The competitive position of a significant number of leading French 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.



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