



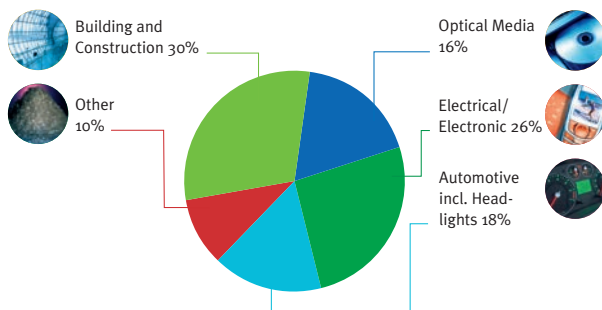
# Polycarbonate in Spain: A major contributor to the country's economy and quality of life

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.

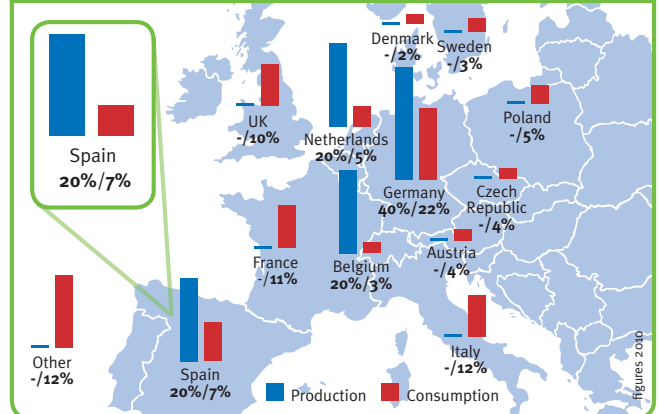
**Spain is a major producer of polycarbonate: about 20% of total European production** is produced here, generating about 500 mio Euro of value added. A trade surplus of about 380 mio Euro is generated by net exports of polycarbonate. Due to its function as an enabling technology, **over 38,000 jobs in Spain are related to the production and consumption of polycarbonate.**

Spanish national consumption of polycarbonate grew continuously by about 6% p.a. during the past years and reached about 7% of total EU consumption in 2010. **Nearly 90% of the Spanish consumption of polycarbonate is concentrated in four key economic sectors:** in Building & Construction, in the Electrical & Electronics industries, the Automotive and the Optical Media sector. It is estimated that **about 2.6 billion Euro of value added depend upon polycarbonate technology in Spain.**

## Spanish 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. **Over 75% of the Spanish 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: 4,000 jobs in the production industry, 2,000+ jobs in the processing, and 32,000 jobs related to the manufacturing and sale of end products are related directly and indirectly to polycarbonate in unique applications in Spain.

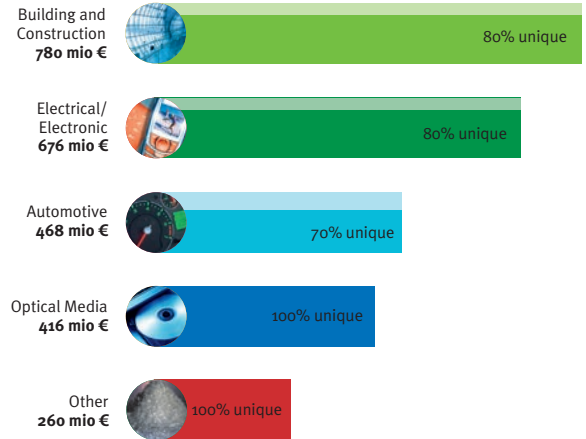
\* All figures in this document are based on the year 2010. The figures have been determined in a conservative approach ensuring that only the jobs and value added that could be uniquely attributed to polycarbonate should be counted in this value chain.



A characteristic use of polycarbonate in Spain is the **Horticultural sector** concentrated in the South-East in the region of Almeria. Here, more than 26,000 hectares of land are covered by **greenhouses**, which are built with lightweight, shatter-proof and **transparent polycarbonate glazing**. **Over 95% of the Spanish production** of peppers, tomatoes, cucumbers, melons, green beans, and lettuces from these greenhouses **are exported**, mainly to the other European countries. Total output is estimated to be in excess of 12 billion Euro.

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



figures 2010

### Spanish polycarbonate consumption: industrial cluster



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