



The region's plastics processing and composite materials sector enjoys international recognition, particularly due to the vitality of Plastics Vallée (Ain) and the Plateau de Sainte-Sigolène (Haute-Loire). This reputation allows the sector to operate on every marketplace throughout the world.

SPECIFIC FEATURES AND STRENGTHS OF THE SECTOR

The plastics processing and composite materials sector is extremely dynamic, in particular due to the **presence of Plastics Vallée** (located around Oyonnax, in Ain): this is **the largest concentration of plastics processing enterprises**.

The Plateau de Sainte-Sigolène geographical area (around Monistrol-sur-Loire, in Haute-Loire) is also an area of excellence, especially for flexible plastics. **24% of companies in the sector are established in the region.**

This concentration is a huge strength: it means the sector's whole value chain is represented here. Manufacturers of raw materials, machines and moulds, plastics converters, design offices, etc. are all found in Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes.

Plastics processors and converters use every moulding process: injection, injection blow, thermoforming, rotational moulding, extrusion blow, extrusion. The Plateau de Sainte-Sigolène is an area of excellence for flexible extrusion.

Regional players work for every market: medical, automotive, agriculture, agri-food, cosmetics, construction, packaging, toys, childcare articles, sports and leisure, optics, eyewear and more.

To meet tomorrow's challenges, the players in the territory are committed to a circular economy approach. The aim is to make a significant **contribution to achieving 100% recycled plastic in 2025.**

The presence of **competitiveness cluster Polymeris** and of several test centres and technology platforms boosts innovation in the sector. The region's expertise enjoys worldwide recognition.

Consequently, the seats at the Shanghai motor sport race track were designed and manufactured in Ain.



KEY FIGURES

FOR THE SECTOR

- **#1 region for plastics and processing and composite materials**
- **800 companies**
- **25,000 employees**
- **€6,4 billion in turnover**



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MAIN AREAS OF ACTIVITY IN THE SECTOR

- Materials and compounds
- Machines and tools
- Plastronics (MIDs)
- Wrapping / packaging
- Technical textiles
- Plastics for medical use
- 3D printing
- Materials for public works
- Recycling and eco-materials
- Equipment for the aeronautical and automotive sectors

JOBS AND TRAINING

7,600

TRAINEES

IN CONTINUING EDUCATION IN THE REGION

In all, **15 establishments** provide training in plastics and composites.

The region has a great network of training courses to match the recruitment of labour. Hence, **Plasticampus Oyonnax is labelled "Campus of Excellence"** for plastics and composites.

CIRFAP (CFA for plastics processing) trains through apprenticeships.

Other non-specialist establishments (IUT de Chambéry, Universités Claude Bernard Lyon 1, Jean Monnet Saint-Etienne) offer training courses in this field.

THE SECTOR'S ECOSYSTEM



The competitiveness cluster Polymeris, rubbers – plastics – composites – is a key player in the sector.



The cluster Composites Auvergne-Rhône-Alpes is a network that brings together four centres of excellence in the field of composites.



IPC, Industrial Technical Center whose expertise is dedicated to innovation, R&D, and the transfer of plastic and composite technologies in France.



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