

# Taiwan Petrochemicals Report 2015

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## Abstracts

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Taiwan's petrochemicals industry depends on its ability to compete on the Asian market, but BMI's latest Taiwan Petrochemicals report states that the island could find itself crowded out as a result of rising Chinese self-sufficiency and growth in low-cost shale-based ethane-fed production in the US. In 2014, Taiwan saw the beginning of a recovery in petrochemicals in line with overall manufacturing growth. Among the strongest end-use markets was the automotive industry, which helped offset lacklustre performance in other segments. Nevertheless, Taiwan has a small domestic market, relatively high labour costs compared with its neighbours, a strong environmentalist lobby and a large volume of FDI.

The island's producers will need to improve external competitiveness to boost output. This will depend on securing a reduction in tariffs on petrochemical exports to China to boost their competitive edge in the huge mainland market. The 10th round of talks for a cross-strait trade in goods pact or other trade negotiations are likely to be held in 2015, which producers hope will lead to a break-through and enable them to compete with South Korean producers for the Chinese market.

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