

United States Petrochemicals Report Q1 2016

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Abstracts

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The US petrochemicals industry is expected to shrug off the challenge of loss of competitiveness in its dominant ethane feedstock relative to naphtha used by producers in Europe and Asia. US production retains a favourable edge in the cost curve, supply chains are well integrated and feed is sufficient to fulfil the demand of new capacity going forward.

The Chemical Activity Barometer (CAB), a leading economic indicator created by the American Chemistry Council, grew 1.7% y-o-y on average in H215 as measured on a three-month moving average (3MMA). The CAB stabilised in November, rising 0.1% m-o-m following three consecutive months of decline. The pattern reverses a downward trend that had begun to gain momentum. The CAB was up 1.3% y-o-y in November 2015, representing a deceleration of annual growth.

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