

# United States Petrochemicals Report Q2 2015

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## Abstracts

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**BMI View:** The US petrochemicals industry saw a decline in resins output and sales in 2014, but with capacity growth set to abate until 2016 at the earliest, BMI expects tightening markets in 2015 that should help protect margins from foreign competition. Capacity growth will be limited to the expansion of existing facilities with no new crackers expected until 2016 at the earliest. As a result, the market will become tighter as 2015 progresses, pushing up spot prices.

Plastics manufacturers in the US from the Marcellus, Utica and other shale regions are counting on ethane processing plants to revive the industry from its slow-growth trend. The low-cost ethane acquired from shale drilling could help several plants which produce raw plastics, according to experts.

The US petrochemicals industry continues to expand on the back of growth in ethane availability as a result of shale gas exploitation. With exports and domestic demand growing, industrial growth is firming up and giving a positive scenario over the medium term. However, a glut in global capacity as a result of new crackers in the US will put pressure on margins in the long term.

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