

United States Petrochemicals Report Q4 2015

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Abstracts

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The US petrochemicals industry reported a slowdown in growth in recent months as the strong US dollar pinched exports and end-market growth was moderating. While consumption and production are still expected to grow at slower rates into 2016, it will be low oil prices that will prove the greatest threat to the industry over the medium-to-long term as they will advantage rival naphtha-based producers in Europe and Asia.

In the first seven months of 2015, polymer resins production grew 3.8% y-o-y to 20.7mn tonnes, while sales rose 3.6% to 20.8mn tonnes. This indicated an overall balance between supply and demand with a small deficit plugged by imports and inventories. However, the three month moving average of the American Chemistry Council's Chemical Activity Barometer (CAB), showed slower growth. While the CAB was up 1.8% y-o-y in August, it was down 0.2% m-o-m.

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