

Markets & Profitability

\$

Market Analytics: Olefins - 2018

Market Analytics: Olefins - 2018 is one in a series of reports published as part of Nexant's Markets & Profitability program.

Market Analytics: Olefins - 2018 report provides an in-depth analysis of the olefins chain including:

- Ethylene
- Propylene
- Butadiene

Published: March 2018

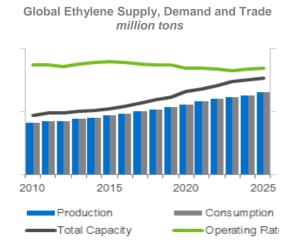
Along with the written report, Nexant's Online Database includes supply, demand and trade analysis for 40 countries and global capacity listings updated on a monthly basis.

Report Abstract:

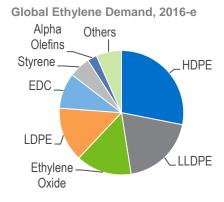
The global olefins markets remained in good health in 2016, with limited capacity addition and stable consumption growth providing high levels of profitability and high operating rates.

China's drop in headline economic growth figures does not seem to have impacted demand growth for petrochemicals, with polyolefin demand and especially the polyester industry performing very strongly during 2017.

The drop in oil prices has radically reduced the differentials in profitability in different regions. The Middle East producers with the most advantaged feedstock still have the lowest costs, although prices have remained sufficiently high to provide good returns for naphtha-based operators around the world, and also keep the new coal-



based market entrants in China in operation. The differentials between olefin values were abnormally high during much of 2016, with ethylene prices very high, and those for propylene and butadiene very low. Propylene values have been depressed by the surge in production from MTO/MTP in China, and more importantly PDH in several regions. Butadiene was in oversupply mostly due to the influence from low natural rubber prices, although both the natural rubber and butadiene markets tightened rapidly in late 2016, providing a significant co-product return for naphtha-based cracker operators.



The differentials between olefin values were abnormally high during much of 2016, with ethylene prices very high, and those for propylene and butadiene very low. Propylene values have been depressed by the surge in production from MTO/MTP in China, and more importantly PDH in several regions. Butadiene was in oversupply mostly due to the influence from low natural rubber prices, although both the natural rubber and butadiene markets tightened rapidly in late 2016, providing a significant co-product return for naphtha-based cracker operators. The shift towards lighter feedstocks initially created a shortness of propylene, which motivated cracker operators to run at lower cracking severity in order to maximise the production of propylene. The opposite effect was in play in 2016 however, with high ethylene values and

shortness of ethylene supply in some regions encouraging higher severity operation.



Market Analytics - Olefins 2018

Table of Contents

- 1. Executive Summary
- 2. The Olefins Industry
 - 2.1. Global Overview
 - 2.2. Current Industry Performance
- 3. Ethylene
- 4. Propylene
- 5. Butadiene

Appendix

A. Methodology

B. The Olefins Industry – Technology

Chapters 3 to 5 are segmented by

key geographic region:

- North America
- South America
- Eastern Europe
- Middle East
- Africa
- Asia Pacific

Each region/country is further segmented by:

- Consumption: Assesses historic and forecast consumption; forecasts are based on projections of end use and economic activity.
- **Supply:** Includes a list of all producers, their production capacity, location, etc., and discussion of the status of new projects.
- Supply, Demand and Trade: Provides historical analysis and forecasts to 2035 of consumption, production, imports/exports, inventory buildup/decline, capacity and capacity utilization.

This analysis will identify the issues shaping the industry, as well as provide an independent appraisal of the market.

Subscription Details:

Subscription to **Market Analytics: Olefins - 2018** includes:

- 12 month access via the Nexant website, to:
 - Unlimited downloads of PDF reports
 - Downloadable data in Excel from the Online Database
- Webinar
- Consultation time with the project team

Customized subscriptions are available

Contact Us:

For more information please contact <u>Markets@nexant.com</u>

or

www.nexantsubscriptions.com



Nexant Subscriptions and reports provide clients with comprehensive analytics, forecasts and insights for the chemicals, polymers, energy and cleantech industries. Using a combination of business and technical expertise, with deep and broad understanding of markets, technologies and economics, Nexant provides solutions that our clients have relied upon for over 50 years.

The Markets and Profitability program comprises of the well-known Petroleum and Petrochemical Economics (PPE), PolyOlefins Planning Service (POPS), Strategic Business Analysis (SBA) and World Gas Analytics (WGAS).

Markets and Profitability tracks over 60 feedstocks, petrochemicals, polymers, chemical intermediates and fertilizers on an ongoing basis and provides regularly updated reports covering all commercial aspects of these global industries. The accompanying database, provides global analysis and forecasts in two major inter- related areas: Markets and Profitability.

Nexant serves its clients from over 30 offices located throughout the Americas, Europe, the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Corporate Headquarters

Tel: +1 415 369 1000 101 2nd St Suite 1000 San Francisco CA 94105-3651 USA

Americas

Tel: +1 914 609 0300 44 S Broadway, 4th Floor White Plains NY 10601-4425 USA

Europe, Middle East & Africa

Tel: +44 20 7950 1600 1 King's Arms Yard London EC2R 7AF United Kingdom

Asia Pacific

Tel: +662 793 4600 22nd Floor, Rasa Tower I 555 Phahonyothin Road Kwaeng Chatuchak Khet Chatuchak Bangkok 10900 Thailand