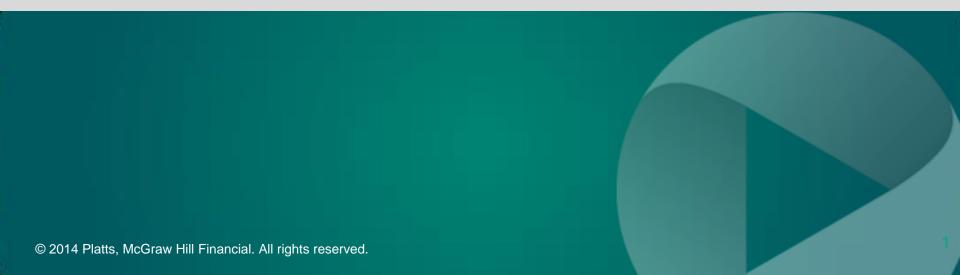


# Latin American polymer markets: Perception vs. reality in a changing landscape

Bernardo Fallas, Managing Editor – Americas Petrochemicals (Olefins & Polymers) Emmanuel Gallegos, Associate Editor – Latin American Polymers (Andean Region) March 30, 2015







#### **Three Questions:**

Where does the region stand? What are the major challenges facing these markets? When will new North American capacities reach South America?

#### How are prices behaving with oil at \$50/b?

Polyethylene, polypropylene, PVC Key takeaways



#### Polyethylene demand per capita

Projected % CAGR (2014-2025)



### ...But not without issues



- Latin America's population is near 600 million, yet PE capacity totals 5 million mt/year
- For US/Canada sellers, South America is a logical and attractive proposition because of proximity and growth potential
- But... IMF has revised region's GDP growth forecasts down significantly
- Brazil in technical recession

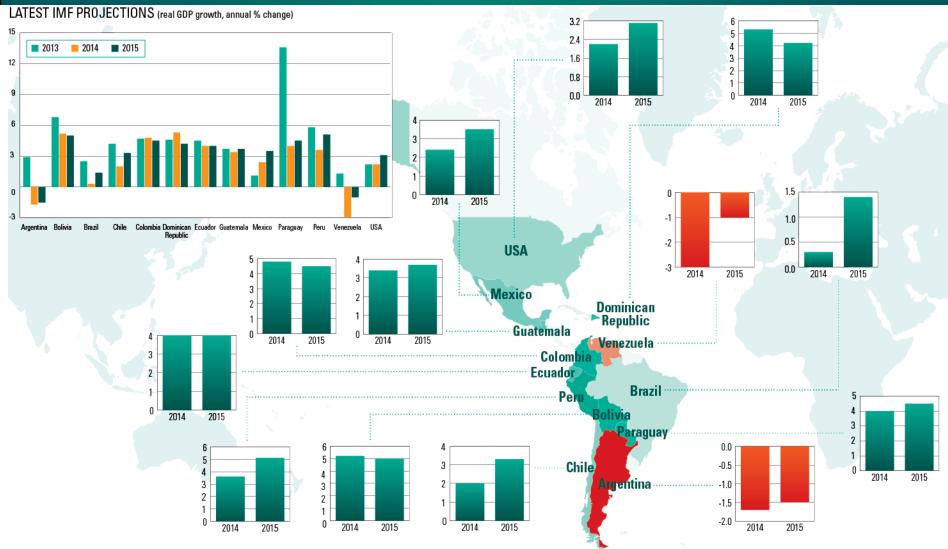
#### Latest IMF projections

(real GDP growth, annual % change)

Country	2013	2014	2015
Argentina	2.9	-1.7	-1.5
Bolivia	6.8	5.2	5.0
Brazil	2.5	0.3	1.4
Chile	4.2	2.0	3.3
Colombia	4.7	4.8	4.5
Dominican Republic	4.6	5.3	4.2
Ecuador	4.5	4.0	4.0
Guatemala	3.7	3.4	3.7
Mexico	1.1	2.4	3.5
Paraguay	13.6	4.0	4.5
Peru	5.8	3.6	5.1
Venezuela	1.3	-3.0	-1.0
USA	2.2	2.2	3.1
Lat Am & Caribbean	2.7	1.3	2.2

### Largest economies lagging





Source: IMF Survey, October 10, 2014

### Caution: Plenty of challenges ahead



- Volatility in crude/energy prices has hit polymer markets and creates a mood of uncertainty
- Weaker currencies relative to the US dollar across the region, have made imports unattractive
- For the buyer, access to credit; for seller, collection issues, as delinquency rates go up
- Protectionism/anti-dumping measures
- Political instability in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela

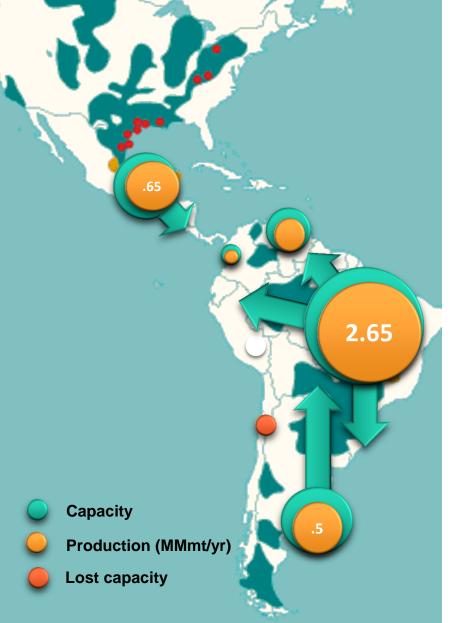




#### Brazilian real vs. US dollar

### PE: Hungry markets w/ limited production





- Nearly every country is netshort polyethylene
- Bulk of regional production is concentrated in 3 countries: Brazil, Argentina and Mexico
- Biggest markets by demand: Brazil, Mexico, Argentina
- Fastest-growing markets: Colombia, Peru, Chile
- Braskem (Brazil) is the regional powerhouse, with more than 3 million mt/yr of PE capacity

### PP: Imports fill the void





#### Mexico

Source: Indelpro Location: Altamira Capacity: 590,000 mt/yr Integrated: No

#### Colombia

Source: Propilco Location:Cartagena Capacity: 455,000 mt/yr Integrated: Yes

#### Venezuela

Source: Propilven Location: Zulia Capacity: 110,000 mt/yr Integrated: Yes

#### Brazil

Source: Braskem Location: Various Capacity: 2 million mt/yr Integrated: Yes

#### Chile

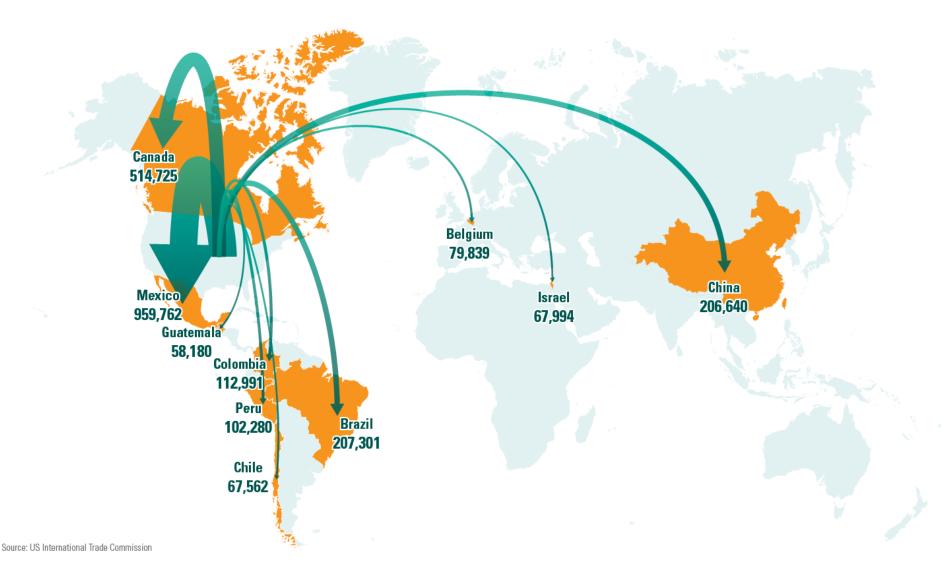
Source: Petroquim Location: Hualpen Capacity: 120,000 mt/yr Integrated: No

#### Argentina

**Source:** Petroken, Cuyo Location:Various Capacity: 320,000 mt/yr Integrated: No

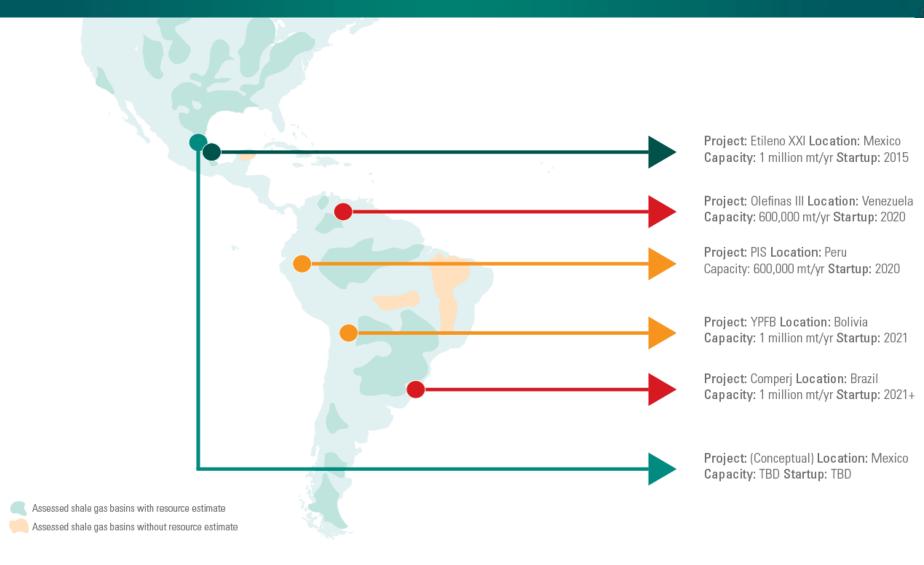
#### Region will continue to crave US PE...





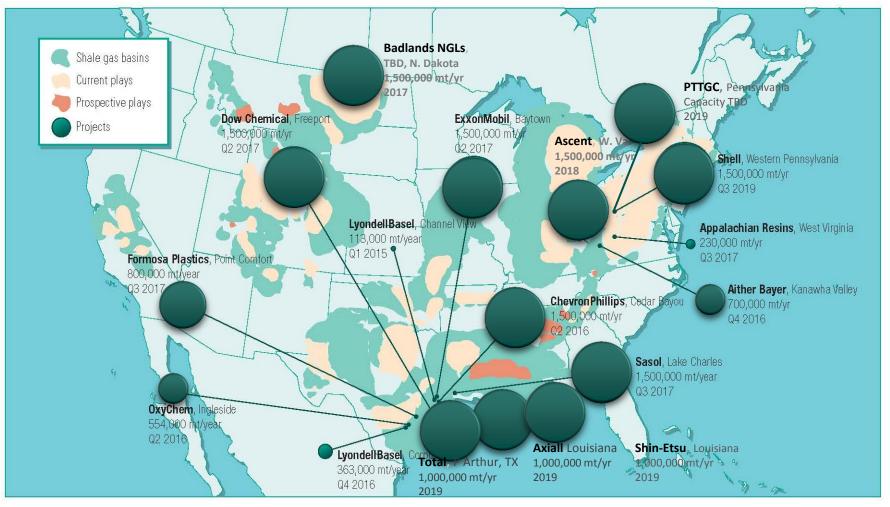
#### ...Because projects are lagging





#### US bets on expansions, exports





Source: EIA, Platts

### Ethylene 'boom' nears: 2018

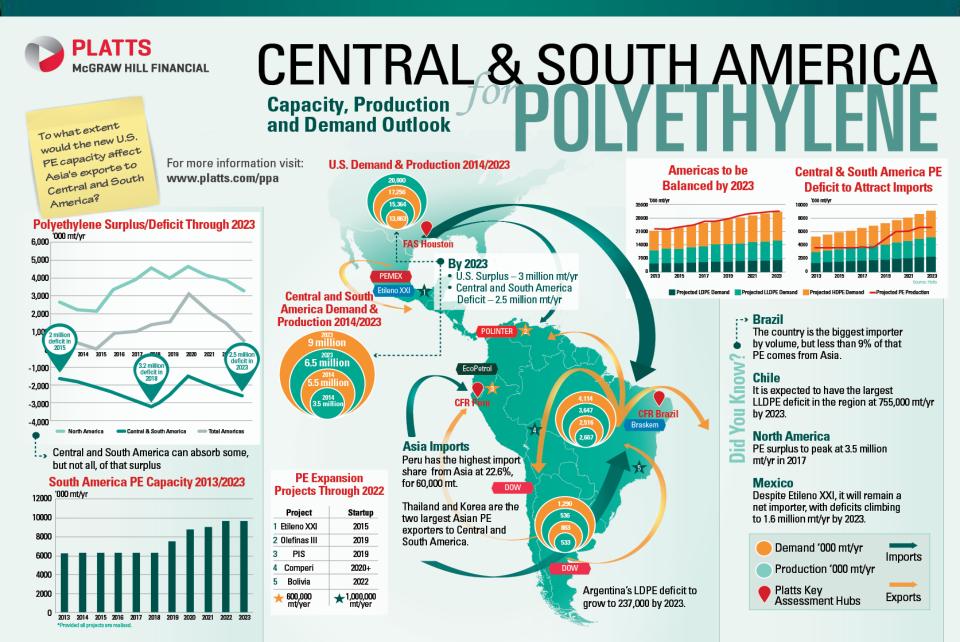


Company	Location	,000 t/yr	Startup
Dow Chemical	Texas	1,500	H2 2017
ExxonMobil Chemical	Texas	1,500	H2 2017
Chevron Phillips Chemical	Texas	1,500	H2 2017
Formosa Plastics CUSA	Texas	800	H2 2017
Sasol	Louisiana	1,500	H2 2017
Occidental/Mexichem	Texas	550	H2 2017
Appalachian Resin	W. Virginia	250	2018
Aither Chemical/RMG	W. Virginia	200-300	2018
Badlands NGLs	N. Dakota	1,500	2018
Ascent (Odebrecht-Braskem)	W. Virginia	1,000-1,500	2019
Axiall	Louisiana	1,000	2019
Shin-Etsu (Shintech)	Louisiana	1,000	2019
Total Petrochemicals	Texas	1,000	2019
PTTGC	Pennsylvania	N/A	2019
Shell Chemical	Pennsylvania	1,000-1,500	2019

Source: Company announcements, Platts

### Advantage through resin exports







# Latin polymers in a world of \$50/b oil

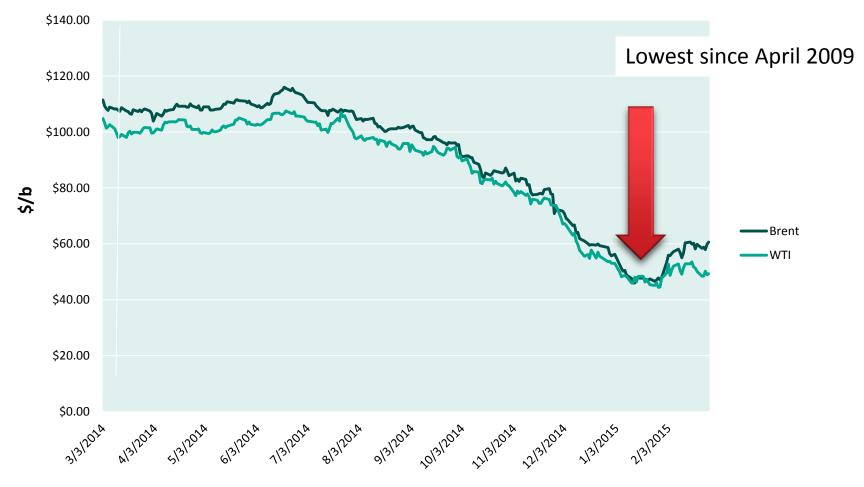
Lower crude and natural gas have yielded steep drops in the pricing of imported resin, but volatility, economic concerns have hindered trade in key markets



### Global oil prices sink on oversupply



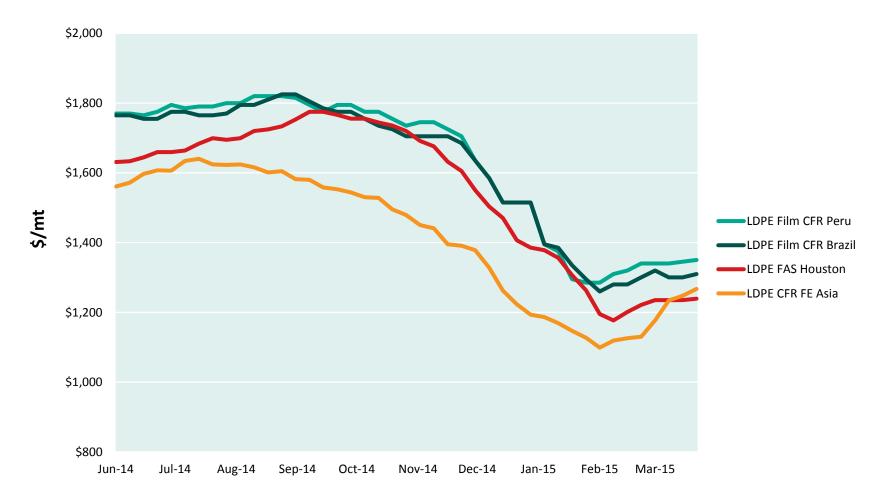




Source: Platts

#### Peru LDPE: Down 23% year on year

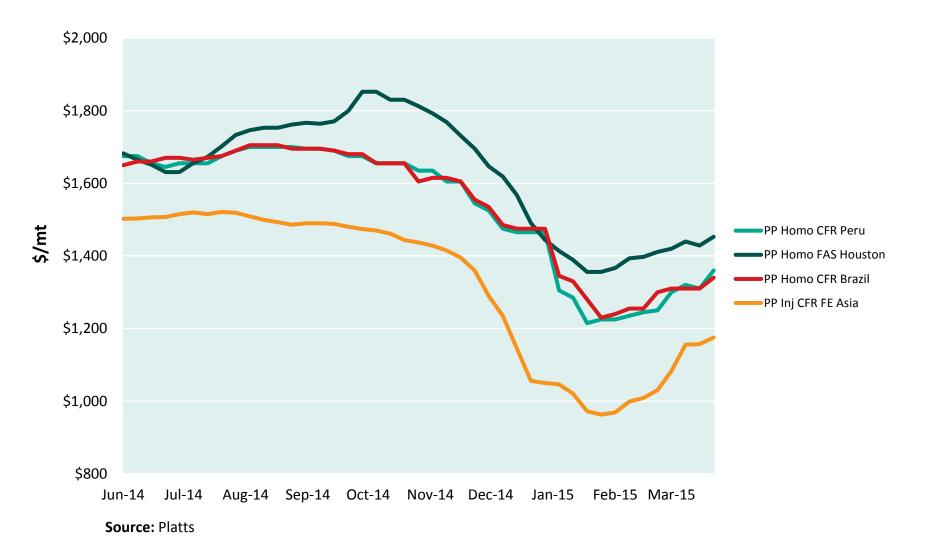




Source: Platts

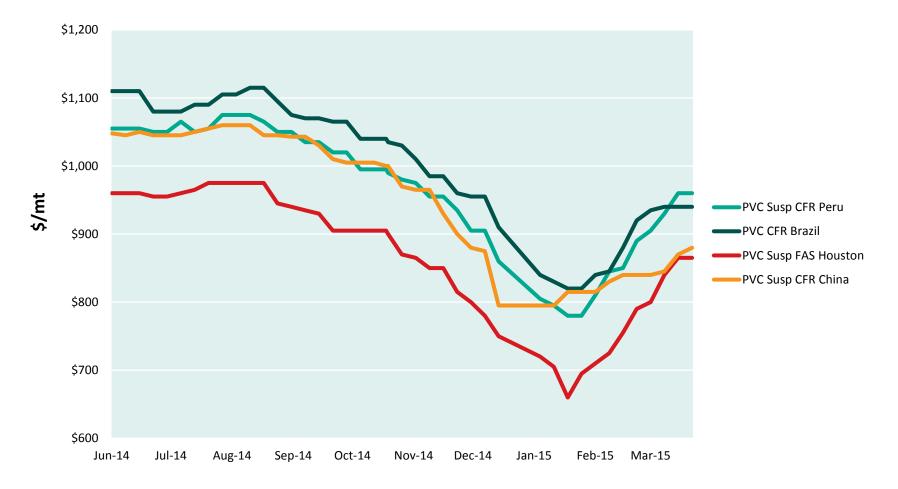
### PP imports track Asia pricing





#### In PVC, US has more influence





Source: Platts



- Long term. North American producers look to enjoy feedstock advantage in region (naphtha vs. ethane)
- Demand centers are in close proximity
- Plastics usage remains low room for growth
- Free-trade agreements with key countries in place
- Major expansion projects in the region lagging



- Volatility in crude/energy prices has hit polymer markets and fostered a mood of uncertainty
- Weaker currencies relative to the US dollar across the region have made imports unattractive
- For the buyer, access to credit; for seller, collection issues, as delinquency rates go up
- For seller and buyer, logistical, network constraints affecting major markets, including Brazil
- Protectionism/anti-dumping measures
- Political instability in Argentina, Brazil, Venezuela

## Latin America Team







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# Thank you! Obrigado! Gracias!

Let's stay in touch regarding the markets

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