



RLA Chemical Market Insights – Friday, 05 June 2026

US Polymer Export Surge Loses Momentum as Panic Buying Fades and China Supply Re-emerges

US polymer exports are beginning to lose momentum after a temporary surge triggered by Middle East war-related supply disruptions. The closure of the Strait of Hormuz disrupted key supply routes from the region, forcing global buyers to seek alternative sources and boosting demand for US polymer cargoes. Major destinations for US exports have included Mexico, China, Canada, Brazil, Belgium, Turkey, Colombia and Vietnam.

However, the export boom now appears to be easing. After several months of strong buying, many customers are showing reduced interest in additional polymer volumes amid weak economic conditions and demand destruction. Inventories have built up across several markets, while panic-buying has started to fade. Latin American buyers are becoming more cautious and are reluctant to take on further volumes. At the same time, alternative supply sources are returning to the market, including China, which is helping reduce the urgency to secure US material.

China has shown greater resilience than many other suppliers, supported by its integrated refining base, diversified feedstock options and coal-to-olefins production. Coal-based polymer producers remain an important source of supply, although their material is not suitable for all converters, especially those unable to easily process coal-based PE resins. India has recently become a major destination for Chinese polymer exports, partly due to supply constraints linked to the Strait of Hormuz and rising product and feedstock prices.

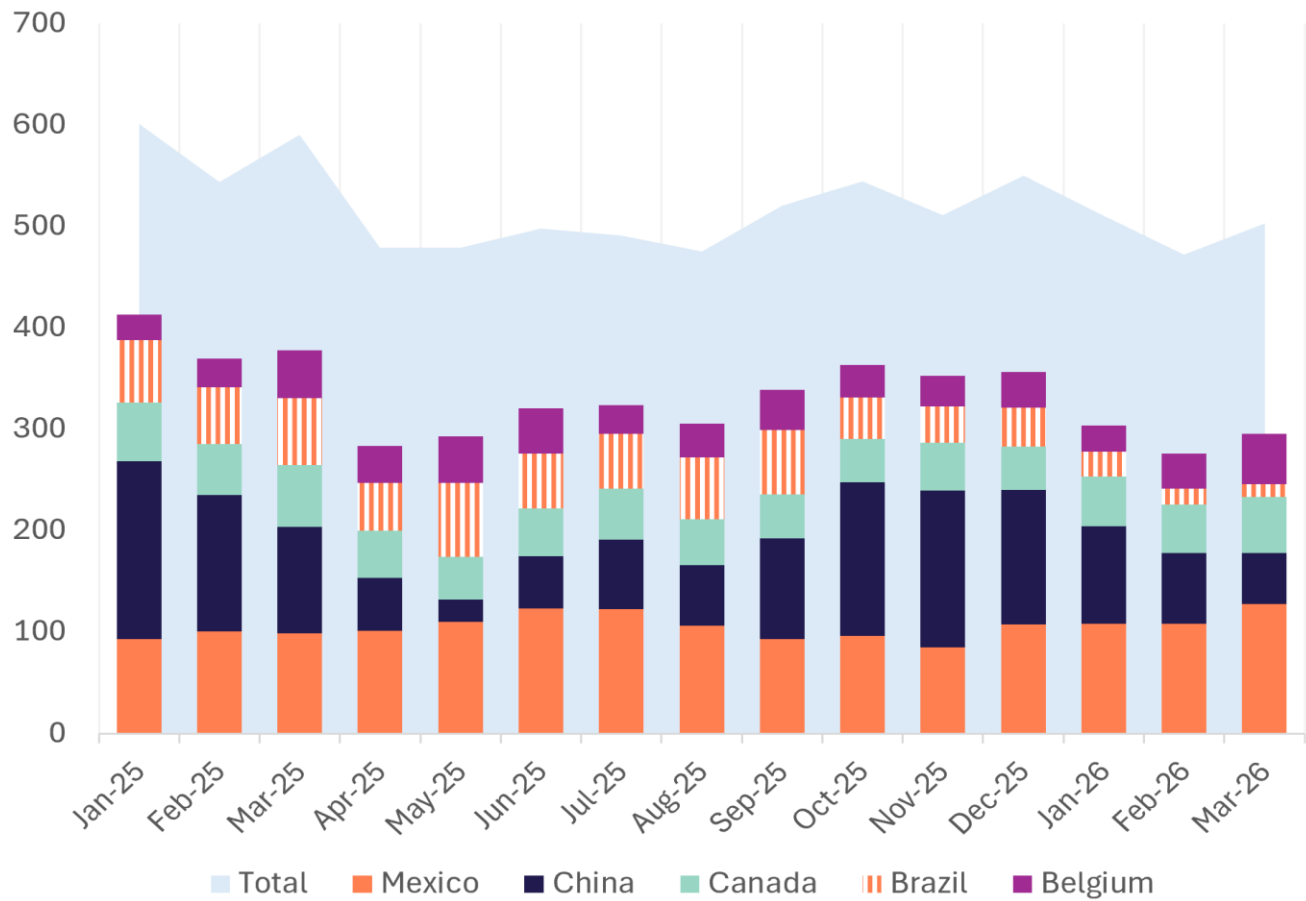
Even so, market participants do not view the rise in Chinese polymer shipments as a clear structural shift in global trade flows. Instead, many believe the increase reflects short-term supply stress and opportunistic trade movements rather than a lasting reorientation of export patterns. Overall, the global polymer market appears to be moving from disruption-led buying toward a more cautious phase, shaped by weaker demand, rising inventories and the gradual return of alternative supply.

Please find the chart for US Polymer Exports given at the next page.



US Polymer Exports

000 tonnes





SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

A monthly report covering the next four months including trends in oil supply, demand and trade, tanker demand and supply, spot, and time charter rates for MRs up to VLCCs, comparisons with FFAs plus the latest news on developments impacting the oil and tanker sectors.

MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

Concise analyses of topical issues, consistent market data series and views on future trends in tanker charter rates. The report covers Oil Prices; Economic Developments; Oil Demand and Supply; Trade; Tanker Demand, Supply and Rates. Sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year

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SINGAPORE OFFICE

10 Anson Road
#10-11 International Plaza
SINGAPORE 079903
T: +65-6950 7561

LONDON OFFICE

Terminal House
52 Grosvenor Gardens
London, UK SW1W 0AU
T: +44-20-3386 9413

INDIA OFFICE

SCO 10, First Floor
Sector - 79, Mohali,
Punjab, INDIA 140308
T: +91-172-4105887

E: info@wademaritime.com | research@richardsonlawrie.com

W: www.wademaritime.com | www.richardsonlawrie.com