

AMERICAS

◆ EUROPE

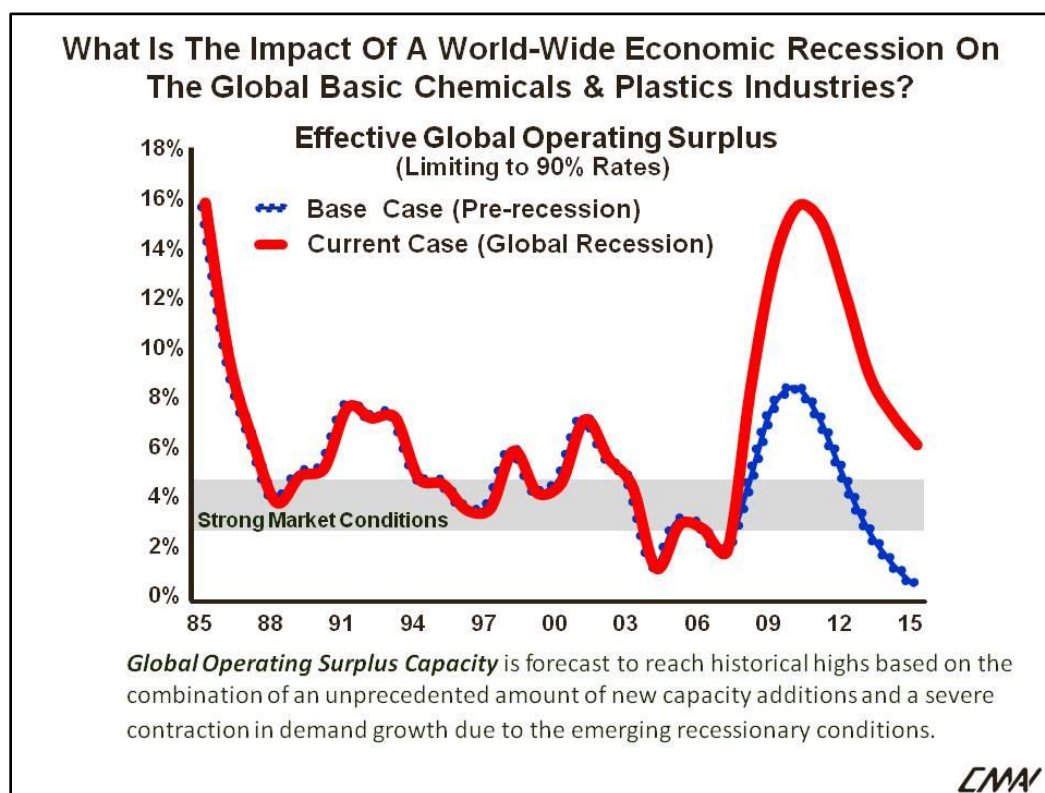
◆ MIDDLE EAST

◆ ASIA

For Immediate release:

CMAI Updates Chemical Industry Analysis Incorporating “Recession Scenario” into Supply/Demand Examination. Firm Sees Very Challenging Times Continuing.

Houston, TX – As part of its Market Advisory services, Chemical Market Associates, Inc. (CMAI) performs comprehensive analysis of future market conditions for a broad range of chemicals and plastics, focusing on markets for olefins, aromatics, plastics, fibers, chlor-alkali and methanol. At the core of each segment analysis are comprehensive supply/demand balance examinations, the results of which provide a valuable outlook of current and future market conditions. Global economic activity is a key driver of demand growth and, consequently, an up-to-date forecast of country-by-country economic activity is essential to the analysis. Given the challenges this industry as well as most others are facing in light of increasing recessionary pressures, CMAI announces that the firm has completed an extensive update of all relevant supply/demand balances, incorporating the economic recession and the impact it will likely have on this industry, its producers and consumers. Current clients to CMAI’s annual Market Advisory world analyses can download these updated supply/demand balances from the firm’s web site as of today. Additionally, these “recession scenario” balances will be used in CMAI’s upcoming World Petrochemical Conference in Houston, providing participants with an absolutely up-to-date view of the future. A full agenda and registration information regarding this March 2009 event can be found at www.cmaiglobal.com.



Gary Adams, President of CMAI, says “Given the radical change in global economic activity and the uncertainty that pervades all markets, our firm felt it was very important to expend the considerable effort in January that provides our clients with a concise and timely view of the impact of this global economic recession on the various market segments. Clearly, the updated supply/demand balances provide a grim view of near term industry asset utilization, a fact supported by the aggressive actions that have been taken by a number of producers to idle capacity and eliminate associated inventory and expense. As would be expected and in conjunction with the revised outlook of market conditions, CMAI’s forecast of prices and therefore industry profitability also has been altered and is available for clients on our website as well. Needless to say, our view of future industry profitability has been lowered as well, signaling the need for considerable rationalization. We will provide our clients with CMAI’s most current views of the near term market dynamics so that our independent examination of future market dynamics can be incorporated into their critical decision making activities. These are extremely challenging times for participants in this industry from every sector and every region of the globe. Both our Market Advisory and Business Advisory consultants around the world stand ready to support our clients in these endeavors. ”

CMAI is the premier provider of Market and Business Advisory services offering a unique combination of consulting analytics and expertise for the global chemical, plastics, fibers and chlor-alkali industries. With offices in Houston, New York, London, Dubai, Düsseldorf, Singapore and Shanghai, CMAI has provided expert business advisory services to a broad base of companies across multiple value chains and geographies since 1979. Clients to CMAI services include chemical and oil companies, technology & EPC companies, banking and financial institutions, plastic converters, textile & apparel manufacturers, brand-owners, grocers/retailers, government agencies and trading companies.

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