

Did you see the new products released at NPE2015?

A [new bio-based resin](#) was released at the NPE2015 tradeshow. PolyOne introduced its Geon™ BIO Flexible Solutions, formulated with a bio-derived plasticizer and in compliance with phthalate-restrictive regulations. "At last, customers can avoid compromising performance to meet regulatory and sustainability objectives," said Michael Garratt, president, Performance Products and Solutions, PolyOne Solutions, PolyOne Corporation.

[10 Plastics You Shouldn't Have Missed at NPE2015](#)

Vehicle Trends

Predictions state that by 2020 the use of plastics in vehicles will increase 75% from current amounts. Government regulations set for the next 5-10 years support this prediction. Regulations like increasing average miles per gallon required by Corporate Average Fuel Efficiency (CAFE) and road load reductions required by US and European greenhouse gas emission standards have automotive designers and manufacturers reconsidering materials used. Plastic is a big contender to help decrease the weight. We've seen a change in the past few years as automotive developers have come to Plastic Molding Manufacturing for more plastic components, including this year as a jump in development and production of new automotive plastic products, like two-shot automotive lenses.

Check out the prediction and stats from [Plastics Today](#).

The Effects of Petroleum

The ending months of 2013 and beginning months of 2014 consisted of high demand for crude oil and work in progress supply. As production in crude oil kept thriving, especially in the United States with the boom of fracking (hydraulic fracturing), the crude oil market has smoothed over. Polypropylene and polyethylene prices have stabilized due to current petroleum steadiness. Check out the U.S. Energy Information Administration's history graph of U.S. oil growth. [US Crude Oil Production Growth](#)

DID YOU KNOW?!

Manufacturing in the United States produces \$1.8 trillion of value each year, or 12.2 percent of U.S. GDP. For every \$1.00 spent in manufacturing, another \$1.48 is added to the economy, the highest multiplier effect of any economic sector.

Source: [National Association of Manufacturers](#)

[Plastic Molding Manufacturing Updates and More!](#)

Is Automation Decreasing or Increasing Jobs?

Manufacturing statistics show that between 2002 and 2010 millions of jobs were lost, with the 2008 recession being a major cause. In a recent [report](#) from Center for Technology Innovation at Brookings written by Kate Whitefoot and Walter Valdivia note that the current economic statistics don't account for all manufacturing services. Pre-production services like research, development, scientific testing and design services are not included in these statistics when in fact there is a direct correlation between these services and manufacturing. Advancements in technology, like automated machines, might be a cause for the downfall in production employment, but other value chain services are reversing these drops because technological advancements need more research, development, design and technical services to be successful in providing better products and services from the manufacturing industry.

Market analysis services increased 26%
Design and technical services increased 23%
Research and development services increased 13%

Will technical services fully make up for the production job losses over the next 10 years?

[Read more in The Wall Street Journal.](#)

Automation and Assemblies

Investments in robots are expected to quadruple in the next ten years. Manufacturers are considering the upfront costs to increase the long term cost savings for their company and customers as well. [Robotic Industries Associations](#) believes there is a huge potential in positive cash flow throughout the life of robotic systems. Compared to hands on processes like insert molding and manual assembling techniques increasing costs, it's hard not to see the benefits. Automation and assemblies allow our engineers and associates to focus their time and energy on making product improvements and innovations, verify and developing better quality programs and providing better customer service.

[Watch Automated Workcells in action!](#)

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