

Argus *Methanol*

Issue 25-32 | Friday 13 June 2025

HIGHLIGHTS

Americas

- Buyers and sellers retreat to sidelines today.
- Prompt values slip from last week on bids and offers.

Europe

- Spot liquidity slow this week.
- Some derivative prices have eased recently.

Asia-Pacific

- China prices rise on geopolitical unrest in Iran.
- Iran production remains unaffected.



Methanol prices									
	Timing	Index	Low	High	±	Index	Low	High	±
Americas			Ģ	t/USG				\$/t	
fob Houston barge	Jun	78.00	75.00	81.00	nc	259.35*	249.38*	269.33*	nc
fob Houston barge	Jul	78.00	75.00	81.00	nc	259.35*	249.38*	269.33*	nc
Europe				€/t				\$/t	
fob Rotterdam barge	Jun	275.00	275.00	275.00	nc	317.88*	317.88*	317.88*	-0.41*
Asia-Pacific				¥/t				\$/t	
cfr China							278.00*	285.00*	+13.50*
China domestic ex-tank	prompt delivery		2,465	2,485	+103		280.81*	283.14*	+11.99*
China domestic ex-tank	2-4 weeks delivery		2,445	2,480	+113		278.47*	282.56*	+13.16*

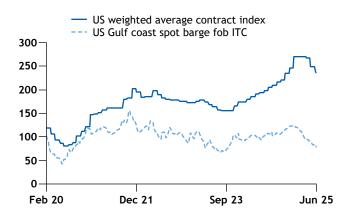
^{*}converted from original units

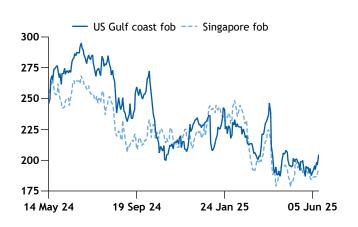
US methanol spot prices vs contract values

¢/USG

Global MTBE prices







GLOBAL PRICES

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·	T2 fob Rotterdam spot VWA	May	240.86	-78.14	272.83	-89.26	April	319.00
	·	-	465.00	-38.75	524.00	-49.00	•	503.75

INDUSTRY EQUIVALENT



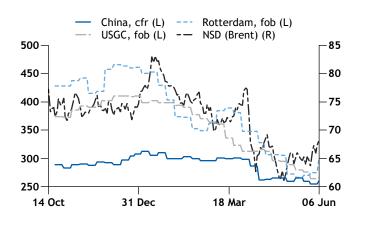
US				
	Timing	\$/t	€/t	¢/USG
US Contract Index	Jun	786	680	236.30
US spot - TX GC barge		259	224	78.00
Methanex MNDRP	Jun	778	673	234.00
Valenz - US MPP	Jun	795	687	239.00

World				
	\$/t	€/t	¢/USG	
Global average	474	416	104.14	3

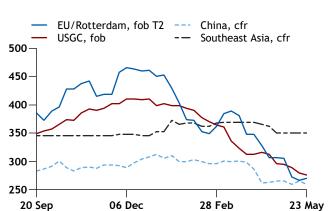
Europe				
	Timing	\$/t	€/t	¢/USG
T2 fob Rotterdam spot		317.00	275.00	95.34
Europe contract	2Q25	667.00	616.00	200.60
Methanex MEPCP	2Q25	678.00	625.00	203.91

Asia-Pacific				
	Timing	\$/t	€/t	¢/USG
cfr China		274	237	82.41
cfr South Korea		305	264	91.73
cfr Taiwan		325	281	97.74
cfr southeast Asia		348	301	104.51
cfr India WC		257	222	77.29
Methanex Asia contract	Jun	375	324	112.78

Daily methanol vs crude oil



Global spot methanol pricing



OPERATIONS OVERVIEW

Americas

No operational disruptions heard this week throughout the US Gulf coast.

Europe/Russia

- Equinor said in January that its methanol unit in Norway had restarted following previous maintenance work.
- Work to close Shell's pox-methanol unit at the Wesseling refinery in Germany was completed in March.

Middle East/Africa

■ Iran's Zagros restarted both plants on 3 and 11 June.

Southeast Asia/India

Indonesia's Kaltim will shut its methanol plant early next week for two weeks.

\$/t

NORTH AMERICA

Buyer and seller price ideas this week remained far apart and resulted in no fresh trade, as building supply availability along the US Gulf coast continues to pose price headwinds.

Traders and distributors this week cited further regional supply length and tepid derivative demand as critical variables underlying lower spot values and sapped liquidity. Prices have lost 35pc of value since the start of the year after late-2024 and early-year production disruptions normalized during the first half of 2025.

Additionally, derivative demand has weakened and sources do not expect consumption to rebound until the middle of the third quarter. One distributor said oilfield and washer fluid consumers are expected to return to the market in August. Deteriorated demand coupled with stable production rates has defined price pressure in recent weeks at the US Gulf coast, pushing average prices this week to the lowest level since September 2023, according to *Argus* data.

Domestically-produced supply will further concentrate this year after Methanex received the green light from US and European regulators to finalize its acquisition of OCI's methanol business.

The Canada-based producer this week said it expects to close the transaction by 27 June. The acquisition, which cleared European regulators last month, will bolster Methanex's methanol production footprint in North America by assuming control of four critical OCI assets, including its 910,000 metric tonne (t)/yr methanol facility and OCI's 50pc interest in the 1.7mn t/yr Natgasoline plant in Beaumont, Texas.

The transaction will also include OCI's 340,000 t/yr ammonia unit in Beaumont and an idled 1m t/yr methanol facility in Delfzijl, Netherlands.

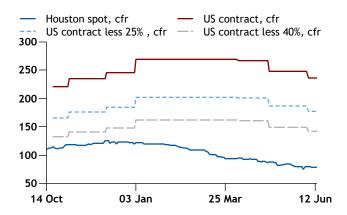
Market pricing

Spot barge prices along the US Gulf coast were rangebound throughout this week's trading sessions, with bids and offers defining this week's front- and second-month range in the absence of fresh liquidity.

Offers this week ebbed and flowed from 81-82¢/USG fob ITC, with bids not emerging until Tuesday at 75¢/USG fob — a bid level that held through Wednesday. Bids were absent Thursday and buyers disengaged from the spot market. Buyers and sellers were absent at week's end.

USGC methanol spot vs contract pricing

¢/USG



Market participants retreated to the sidelines and no offers nor bids were confirmed today, leaving prices assessed stable.

The prompt assessment this week was framed from 75-81¢/USG fob -2¢/USG lower on average from last week. The todate June volume weighted average remains fixed at 80.42¢/USG fob, 19pc lower than the weighted average in June 2024, according to *Argus* data.

Year-to-date (January-June) spot trade is lagging by more than 50pc from the same six-month period last year and by about 61pc from the five-year average for January-June trade, according to *Argus* data. Shrinking spot liquidity early this year continues a trend that has defined the US spot market since 2018 despite growing domestic production capacity.

Consolidation in the US market has concentrated supply and manufacturers have opted to lock in consumers into termed supply contracts.

Announcement

All data change announcements can be viewed online at www.argusmedia.com/announcements.

Alternatively, to be added to the email distribution list for all announcements, please email:

datahelp@argusmedia.com.



EUROPE

Liquidity slowed in the spot barge market from 9-12 June, following very high levels of activity the previous week.

Trade data available for March show total methanol imports to the EU 27 countries reached 500,250t in March, down by 22,450t from March 2024, according to Global Trade Tracker/Eurostat (GTT/Eurostat) data.

EU 27 countries imported 75,452t of methanol from Trinidad and Tobago in March this year, 98,532t less than in March 2024, under GTT/Eurostat trade data. Imports from Venezuela reached 22,346t in March, down by 46,182t from a year earlier; total imports from Equatorial Guinea were 2,001t in March, down by 56,180t from March 2024; and imports to the EU 27 from Azerbaijan totalled 5,025t, a 18,389t decline on the year, under GTT/Eurostat data. And no imports came from Libya to the EU 27 in March this year, according to GTT/Eurostat data, compared with 28,922t a year earlier.

But March methanol imports to the EU 27 rose from some countries, GTT/Eurostat data show. The EU 27 imported 137,016t from the US in March, up by 62,286t from a year earlier, while imports from Norway were up by 13,413t to 57,620t, and imports from Egypt in March were up on the year by 37,121t, to 80,072t, according to GTT/Eurostat data.

Methanol imports to the EU 27 from Saudi Arabia also climbed in March , by 50,543t on the year to 56,569t, GTT/Eurostat data show and imports from Oman in March totalled 53,419t, compared with none a year earlier. Market participants pointed to an open arbitrage between the Middle East and Europe in the first quarter.

Gas restrictions in Egypt recently have led to run cuts at some urea petrochemical facilities in the country.

In its first-quarter 2025 news release dated 30 April, Canada's Methanex said it was "monitoring the gas market closely and would expect to experience some curtailments in 2025, particularly in the summer months, depending on gas supply and demand dynamics".

Downstream, some derivative manufacturers have said the European market faces higher additional costs than other regions, as well as competition from imports from parts of Asia. One market participant pointed to high gas prices in Europe. Methanol spot prices rose in recent weeks to be assessed around \$50-60/t over those in the US and China, according to *Argus* data.

Downstream in Europe, prices recently have eased in some derivative markets.

Acetic acid prices have eased recently, heard to be in a range of around €580-650/t this week, free-delivered northwest Europe. Prices have since stabilised. Values for acetic acid in the

Europe deals		
Timing	Price €/t	Volume t
Jul	272.00	1000
Jul	272.00	1000
Jul	272.00	1000

Europe methanol spot vs quarter contract pricing $\frac{\$}{t}$



Mediterranean were at lower levels than in northwest Europe. Activity in the acetic acid market is relatively muted, with one source pointing to a "slow" economy in Europe.

The MTBE factor to gasoline - a measurement of MTBE's value relative to the gasoline it is blended into - averaged 1.12 in the week ending 6 June, down from an average of 1.15 a week earlier. MTBE flat prices slipped to below the \$800/t level on about 11 April, from values of more than \$900/t in February, according to *Argus* data. MTBE normally would garner some support during the summer months, when gasoline blending demand usually peaks.

And in the DMT market, *Argus* assessed values at €870/t on 6 June, stable from the 23 May assessment but down from €915/t on 16 May. The recent DMT price decrease was compounded in part by the weaker price environment for methanol in May.

Market pricing

Activity in the Rotterdam spot barge market was muted this week. It was a public holiday in several European countries on 9 June.

Limited spot market activity was heard this week for barges loading in June.

Three spot methanol deals for barges loading in July were heard concluded on 10 June, at €272/t each.

Argus posts this week's price for methanol barges at €275/t, basis fob Rotterdam.

MIDDLE EAST/AFRICA

Iran's Zagros Petrochemical Company restarted both plants, each holding a capacity of 1.65mn t/yr, on 3 and 11 June, a company source said. Both plants were shut down during the end of May because of disruptions oxygen supply.

A fire at Kaveh Petrochemical Complex on 11 June, coupled with worsening tensions in the Middle East, pushed

up Indian domestic methanol prices later in the week, according to sources.

Market participants shared their concerns on the market as tensions between Israel and Iran worsened this week, with possibilities of a potentially tighter balance in India and China as closures of Iranian ports and delays in vessel shipments could arise from further escalations.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Market summary

Market participants were cautious this week due to escalated tensions between Israel and Iran.

China's methanol prices climbed following a slew of incidents. The geopolitical unrest in Iran and the fire of an Iranian methanol vessel earlier this week led to expectations of reduced import supplies.

South Korean, Taiwanese, and southeast Asian markets were muted because of ample term volumes, while the Indian market saw little trade discussions at the end of the week as most participants opted a "wait and see" approach during the conflict in the Middle East.

China

The methanol market in China was mainly supported by macroeconomic factors this week. The US-China trade talks in London stimulated some positive economic outlooks. Israel carried out air and missile strikes against Iran, and the pessimistic expectation over the US-Iran nuclear negotiations raised concerns over the supply of crude and other chemicals, including methanol.

The fire on Kaveh's vessel loading methanol in Iran's Bushehr port on 11 June also underpinned market sentiment this week.

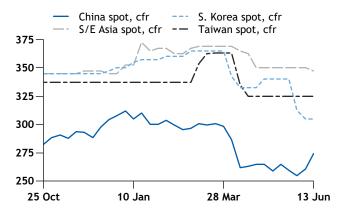
Despite this, market fundamentals remain weak. Besides rising inventories, downstream formaldehyde is entering a seasonal demand lull because of ongoing rainy weather, curtailing manufacturing for plywood.

Chinese domestic prompt prices were generally on an upward trend throughout the week, opening at 2,305-2,340 yuan/t ex-tank Taicang (\$262-266/t on an import parity basis), up by Yn5-30/t from last Friday, and surging to Yn2,465-2,485/t ex-tank Taicang (\$281-283/t on an import parity basis) on Friday, gaining Yn50-175/t over the course of the week.

The inter-month spread shifted from a premium of Yn10/t

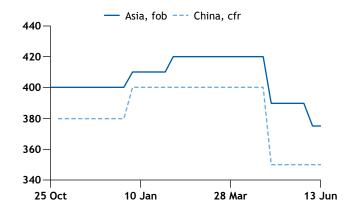
Asia-Pacific methanol pricing

\$/t



Asia-Pacific methanol contracts

\$/t



last week to near par this week. Trades for forward cargoes were concluded in the range of Yn2,315-2,480/t ex-tank Taicang (or \$263-283/t on an import parity basis), up by Yn50-160/t from last week.

Import discussions picked up slightly this week. A trading

ASIA-PACIFIC

China MTO/MTP producers - operating status										
				Olefin	Meth	nanol		Operatin	g rates	
Start-up	Producer	Location	Process	Capacity	Demand	Capacity	23 May	30 May	6 Jun	13 Jun
Oct 11	Sinopec Zhongyuan Ethylene	Puyang, Henan	MTO	200	600	500	100%	100%	100%	100%
Feb 13	Ningbo Fund Energy (former Skyford)	Ningbo, Zhejiang	MTO	600	1,800	-	90%	90%	90%	90%
Sep 13	Chengzhi Nanjing Clean Energy	Nanjing, Jiangsu	MTO	300	900	500	90%	90%	80%	80%
Nov 14	Shandong Lianhong Chemical	Tengzhou, Shandong	МТО	460	1,380	920	100%	100%	100%	100%
Apr 15	Zhejiang Xingxing Chemical	Jiaxing, Zhejiang	MTO	750	2,200	-	90%	90%	90%	90%
Jun 15	Yangmei Hengtong	Linyi, Shandong	МТО	300	900	-	65%	90%	90%	90%
Apr 16	China Coal Mengda Energy	Ordos, Inner Mongolia	MTO	600	1,800	1,600	100%	100%	100%	100%
Dec 16	Changzhou Fund Energy	Changzhou, Jiangsu	МТО	330	990	-	0%	0%	0%	0%
Dec 16	Jiangsu Sailboat Chemical	Lianyungang, Jiangsu	MTO	830	2,407	-	70%	100%	100%	100%
Jun-19	Nanjing Chengzhi Chemical No. 2	Nanjing, Jiangsu	МТО	600	1,620	-	90%	90%	80%	80%
Apr 20	Jilin Connell	Jilin, Jilin	MTO, idle	300	900	-	0%	0%	0%	0%
Jun 22	Tianjin Bohua Chemical	Tianjin	МТО	600	1,680	-	70%	70%	70%	70%
Nov 19	Shandong Luxi Chemical	Liaocheng, Shaodong	MTO	300	900	-	80%	80%	80%	80%
Mar 22	Xinjiang Hengyou	Xinjiang	MTP	200	600	-	0%	0%	0%	0%
MTO Weig	hted Average Weekly Operating Rates (excluding MTP and idle MT	O)				80%	86%	84%	84%

firm bid \$268/t cfr China for a 5,000t non-sanctioned cargo for late June - early July delivery on Tuesday, raising the bid to \$270/t cfr China on Wednesday. The company finally secured a deal at \$285/t cfr China on Friday for a 5,000t non-sanctioned cargo to be delivered in late June. Separately, a 10,000t bonded warehouse cargo was fixed in the middle of the week at \$275/t, or the equivalence of \$270/t cfr China.

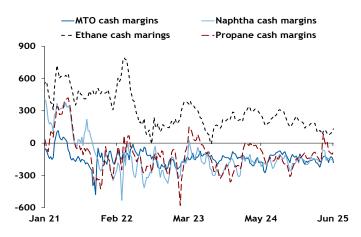
Port inventories rose again this week. Overall port inventories rose by 65,000t to 746,000t this week, according to market sources. Offtake rates at the main Taicang port dropped from last week's 2,500-4,000 t/day to around 2,000-2,800 t/day. Inventories at the main ports in Jiangsu rose by 45,000t to 361,000t. Inventories at the main ports in Zhejiang increased by 18,000t to 194,000t. South China's inventories edged up by 2,000t to 191,000t.

The Chinese inland methanol market also picked up this week, temporarily ending the downward trends previously seen since mid-May. Ex-tank Inner Mongolia and northern Shaanxi prices edged up by Yn30-100/t to Yn1,870-2,010/t, equivalent to \$211-218/t on an import parity basis. CTO producer Ningxia Baofeng and Inner Baofeng both returned to the market, buying merchant methanol to feed their respective olefin plants because of unstable operations at their captive methanol plants. Estimated production losses in June were noted at 635,000t, similar to levels previously seen in May.

MTO demand remains largely stable this week. Average operating rates at Chinese MTO plants held steady at 80pc (if excluding MTPs) and 84pc (if to further exclude an idle MTO).

Olefin margins by different technologies





MTO margins declined after a 5pc rise in coastal methanol prices. Ethylene prices rose by 4pc this week, while other olefins and olefin derivatives were largely steady. If based on olefins, MTO margins fell by \$45/t to -\$180/t. Integrated MTO margins dropped to -\$180/t from -\$135/t. The estimated margins of Ningbo Fund deteriorated to -\$195/t, down by \$40/t. Zhejiang Xingxing's margins eroded by \$45/t to -\$175/t. Jiangsu Sailboat's margins were estimated at -\$170/t, down by \$55/t. Rising inland methanol prices fully wiped out positive margins of inland MTO from \$20/t to zero this week. Meanwhile, naphtha cracker margins recovered to -\$150/t, up by \$10/t.

In the derivatives market, Chinese acetic acid prices softened again this week. Domestic prices were noted at

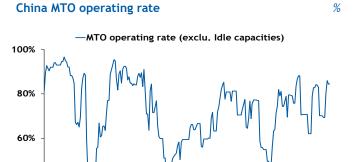


ASIA-PACIFIC

40%

20%

Jan 21



Yn2,430-2,550/t delivered in Jiangsu, down by Yn40-70/t. Average operating rates at Chinese acetic acid plants rose by 8pc to 93pc. Celanese Nanjing and Henan Longyu ramped up their respective acetic acid units to normal levels this week after restarting operations on 5 June. Shanghai Huayi expects to produce on specification acetic acid from its new 800,000 t/yr Caojing-based plant within June. Meanwhile, its old 500,000 t/yr Wujing-based acetic acid unit will be mothballed on 30 June.

Apr 23

May 24

Feb 22

In the MTBE sector, domestic prices in east China were assessed at Yn5,100-5,400/t, slightly higher than last week's Yn5,100-5,300/t range. Rallies in crude, stronger prompt gasoline prices provided support to MTBE prices. Some Shandong teapot refineries, such as 200,000 t/yr Lushenfa, 50,000 t/yr Shenchi, and 520,000 t/yr Yuhuang, restarted MTBE operations this week, according to market participants. But these teapot refineries may not be running at full capacity as of now.

South Korea and Taiwan

Limited activity was heard in the south Korean and Taiwanese markets this week, with most of these remaining catered by sufficient term volumes. But market participants remained cautious as they observed the escalation between Israel and Iran.

An offer was placed at \$330/cfr south Korea, for 5,000t of methanol for arrival on the second-half of July.

Southeast Asia

Market participants cited limited impact in the southeast Asian market, despite three producers shutting down their methanol plants this month.

Indonesia's PT. Kaltim Methanol Industri (KMI) will shut its 710,000 t/yr methanol plant early next week for scheduled maintenance. The closure is expected to last for two weeks, a company source shared.

Two offers were placed at \$345/cfr and \$340/cfr for arrival during the first-half and second-half of July, respectively, for 5,000t each and payment terms of LC 30 days.

The price assessment for southeast Asia was noted down this week at \$340-355/t cfr southeast Asia, based on new offers.

India

Jun 25

Indian methanol prices were steady this week at \$255-259/cfr, following limited discussions by the end of the week on concerns over escalated tensions between Israel and Iran.

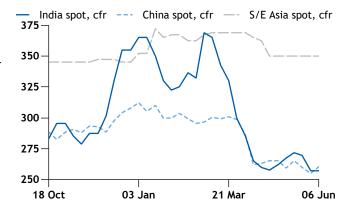
Market participants shared that incoming volumes from the Middle East remain as normal, despite tensions between Israel and Iran on 13 June, but most remain watchful over the coming days as potential cargo delays could occur if there are further escalations.

Indian ports continue to face congestion, with current waiting times at Mumbai and Kandla ports quoted at a respective 5 and 8 days, sources shared. Market liquidity in India is expected to ease in the coming weeks as the monsoon season approaches, resulting in weaker downstream methanol consumption and further logistic challenges.

Ex-tank prices ranged between 26-28 rupees/kg, or the import parity equivalence of \$286.40/t. This compared with last week, when ex-tank prices ranged Rs24.5-24.75/kg.

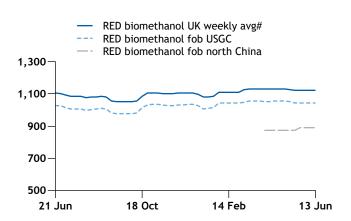
India methanol pricing





LOW-CARBON METHANOL

Low-carbon methanol pricing



US biomethanol and low-carbon methanol prices this week slipped from last week.

Lower RINs prices week-over-week contributed to lower low-carbon methanol prices, which fell by \$15.61/metric tonne (t) from last week to \$1,107.81/t.

Biomethanol netback values from the UK were largely stable, slipping by 0.60/t from last week to \$1,043.05/t on stable RED biomethanol prices overseas.

China's RED biomethanol prices were stable this week. The latest surge in fuel oil and biodiesel prices lifted market sentiment, but subdued biomethanol trade in the recent month limited price upsides. The fob north China prices were assessed unchanged at \$870-910/t fob north China.

Some north China ports began to explore green methanol bunkering and improve export trade. Tianjin launched the Green Methanol Alliance and Service Platform on 12 June, aiming to develop Tianjin into a green methanol trading and bunkering hub in northern China. Global storage supplier Stolthaven Terminals at the event signed an agreement with Japanese trading firm Itochu to collaborate on green methanol storage and logistics solutions out of Tianjin Lingang port.

Stolthaven has recently provided warehousing services for a batch of biomethanol set to arrive in Singapore. This biomethanol will be loaded in Tianjin in early July and transported to Singapore for bunkering exercises. In response to rapidly growing demand, Stolthaven Lingang plans to allocate

Low-carbon methanol			\$/t
	Timing	Price	±
RED biomethanol cif UK weekly average	Prompt	1,120.00	nc
RED biomethanol ARA diff to fob Rotterdam methanol weekly average index	Prompt	+777.95	-17.87
RED biomethanol fob USGC	Prompt	1,043.05	-0.60
RED biomethanol USGC diff to methanol Houston barge	Prompt	+781.54	-0.43
Low-carbon methanol US calculation	Prompt	1,107.81	-15.61
RED biomethanol fob USGC diff to low-carbon methanol calculation	Prompt	-64.76	+15.01
RED biomethanol fob north China	Prompt	890.00	nc
RED biomethanol fob north China diff to methanol cfr China	Prompt	629.50	-5.50

Announcement

\$/t

The holiday calendar showing which Argus reports are not published on which days is now available online http://www.argusmedia.com/Methodology-and-Reference/Publishing-Schedule

up to 45,000m3 of storage capacity for green methanol in the Tianjin Lingang industrial zone.

Argus assessed RED biomethanol dap prices in east China at \$900-940/t, with dob prices at \$930-990/t after factoring in \$30-50/t for bunkering and storage costs, in line with last week's levels.

Shanghai Electric's hybrid (bio- and e-) green methanol demonstration project in Taonan, Jilin, is set to produce its first green methanol by late June-early July. It will mark the industrialization of world's first hybrid green methanol project that uses biomass and green hydrogen as raw materials. The production will be delivered to Shanghai Port for bunkering a new methanol-fuelled containership operated by French shipping company CMA CGM. The transaction follows a framework agreement signed by Shanghai Electric, Shanghai Port and CMA CGM.

NEWS

Methanex to close OCI acquisition in June

Canada-based methanol producer Methanex is anticipated to finalize the acquisition of OCI's global methanol business by 27 June after US regulators green-lit the purchase.

Continue reading >>

Zagros Petrochemical restarts methanol plant

Iran's Zagros Petrochemical restarted one of its two 1.65mn t/yr methanol plants in Assaluyeh on 3 June, according to a company source.

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Stolthaven, Itochu partner on green methanol

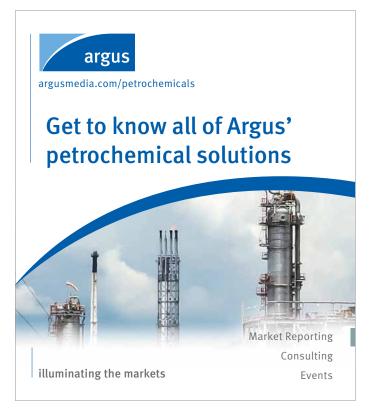
Global storage supplier Stolthaven Terminals, through its joint venture China Stolthaven Lingang, has signed an agreement with Japanese trading firm Itochu to collaborate on green methanol storage and logistics solutions out of Tianjin Lingang port in northern China.

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Brazil's GoVerde to invest in e-methanol project

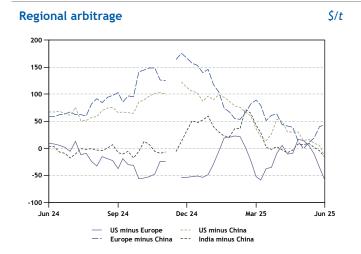
Brazilian renewables developer GoVerde will invest R2bn (\$360mn) in a synthetic methanol (e-methanol) project in the Suape port complex, in northeastern Pernambuco state.

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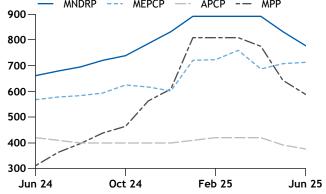




INDUSTRY EQUIVALENT



Producer and marketer posted prices \$/t MNDRP --- MEPCP -- APCP -- MPP

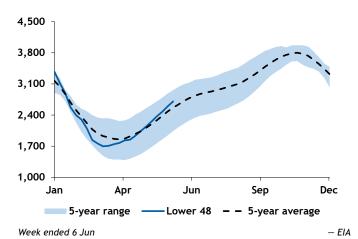


ENERGY SUMMARY

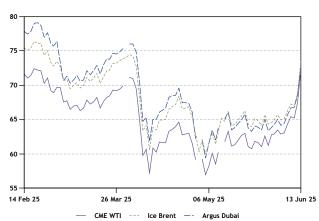
Natural gas prices				\$/	/mmBtu
	6 Jun	9 Jun	10 Jun	11 Jun	12 Jun
Henry Hub spot	2.665	2.950	2.675	2.755	2.895
Nymex, Jul	3.784	3.635	3.533	3.507	3.492
Nymex, Aug	3.862	3.720	3.631	3.612	3.597

Natural gas index month averages	
	USD/ mnBtu
Houston Ship Channel HPL \$/mmBtu	2.853
Henry Hub \$/mmBtu	3.104
Alberta NIT/AECO C\$/GJ	1.866





Nymex WTI, Ice Brent and Argus Dubai



\$/bl

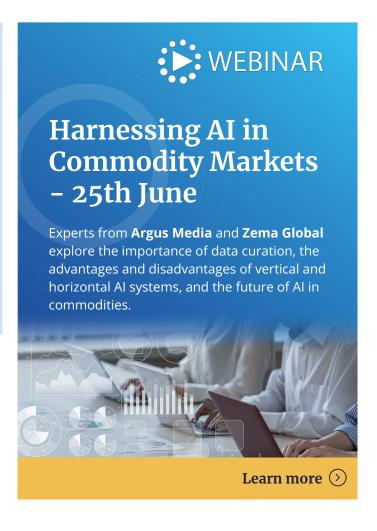
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Argus Methanol Issue 25-32 | Friday 13 June 2025

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Argus successfully completes annual losco assurance review

Argus has completed the 13th external assurance review of its price benchmarks covering crude oil, oil products, LPG, chemicals, thermal and coking coal, natural gas, biofuels, biomass, metals, fertilizers and agricultural markets. The review was carried out by professional services firm PwC. Annual independent, external reviews of oil benchmarks are required by international regulatory group losco's Principles for Oil Price Reporting Agencies, and losco encourages extension of the reviews to non-oil benchmarks. For more information and to download the review visit our website https://www.argusmedia.com/en/about-us/governance-compliance





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Lacon House, 84 Theobald's Road, London, WC1X 8NL Tel: +44 20 7780 4200

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Chief commercial officer Jo Loudiadis

President, Expansion Sectors Christopher Flook

Global head of editorial Neil Fleming

Editor in chief Jim Washer

Managing editor, Americas Jim Kennett

Contact: Jim Foster Tel: +1 713 360 7561 methanol@argusmedia.com



London, Tel: +44 20 7780 4200 Houston, Tel: +1 713 968 0000 Singapore, Tel: +65 6496 9966



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