



Argus Chlor-Alkali Outlook

About this report

The Argus Chlor-Alkali Outlook service gives you a comprehensive global view of the industry, including regional dynamics and feedstock insights, in a single service.

The service includes a 24-month rolling price forecast and forward-looking analysis of global chlor-alkali supply and demand, trade flows and market dynamics.

Subscribers receive access to a live interactive workspace, a monthly PowerPoint PDF written by our experts, plus the accompanying Excel data files.

To find out more, [click here to get in touch.](#)

Designed to support the entire value chain



Chlor-Alkali Outlook service

A 24-month rolling forecast.

The price forecast shown and referenced in this two-year outlook is based on an energy forecast derived at the beginning of the calendar month of publication. This is to maintain consistency with the forecasts produced across the range of Argus publications.

The forecast methodology builds up based on global feedstock, cost and margin calculations and is directly linked back to the base energy assumptions.

Clients are reminded that many of these markets are subject to extensive short-term price volatility, and the elapsed time since the energy forecast was produced may have seen real changes in market prices. But our assumptions around the raw material to product – and inter-regional comparisons should remain valid despite short-term feedstock price volatility.

See our other services: chlor-alkali analytics with 10-year fundamental forecast

The screenshot displays the 'Chlor-Alkali Supply and Demand' workspace. It features a top navigation bar with the title and a search icon. Below the title, there is a brief overview of the workspace's content, including a link to the full 50-page report. The main content area is divided into several sections: 'Download data' with a table of reports (e.g., 'Argus Chlor-Alkali Analytics 2025-26 - Chlorine Balances'), 'Download file descriptions' with details for 'Balances' and 'Capacities', 'Chlor-alkali experts' with profiles for George Eisenhart, Bernard Law, and Stephanie Koenig, and 'Chlor-alkali capacity' with a world map and a data table. A large blue call-to-action box at the bottom right reads 'Access the chlor-alkali workspace or find out more about the service'. The interface also includes a video player for 'Argus Chlor-Alkali' and a 'More insights' section with various market news items.

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and modelling
approach.

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download the price
dataset in Excel

Outlook executive summary

81 days and without significant shipments through the strait of Hormuz.

[Click here to download the price dataset in Excel](#)

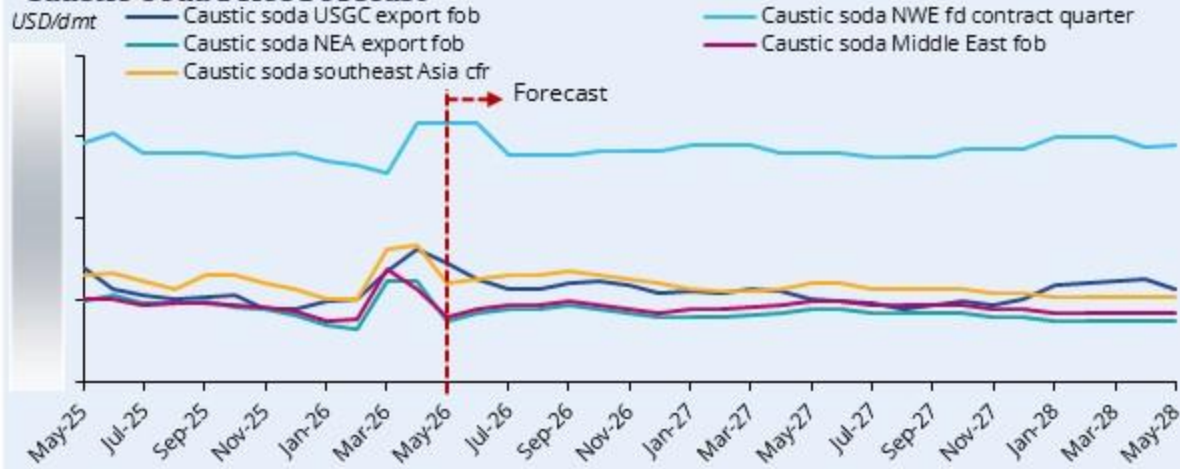
What's changed

- The Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed for 81 days, lasting longer than many market participants expected. Most market participants have source alternative supplies of energy and naphtha; however, the [redacted] and sulphuric acid supplies have begun to impact caustic demand, especially in Asia.
- Mideast chlor-alkali and vinyls production remains [redacted] with key derivative demand from sectors such as alumina.
- Resolution of the Middle East conflict does not appear imminent, and a return to normal operations [redacted]

Price Forecasts (USD/dmt)	May 26	June 26	July 26	Aug 26	Sept 26
US Gulf fob	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Northeast Asia fob	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]
Northwest Europe domestic contract	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]	[redacted]

*Forecasts for monthly or quarterly contracts that are under active negotiation at the time of publication are redacted from publication to avoid influencing discussions.

Caustic Soda Price Forecast



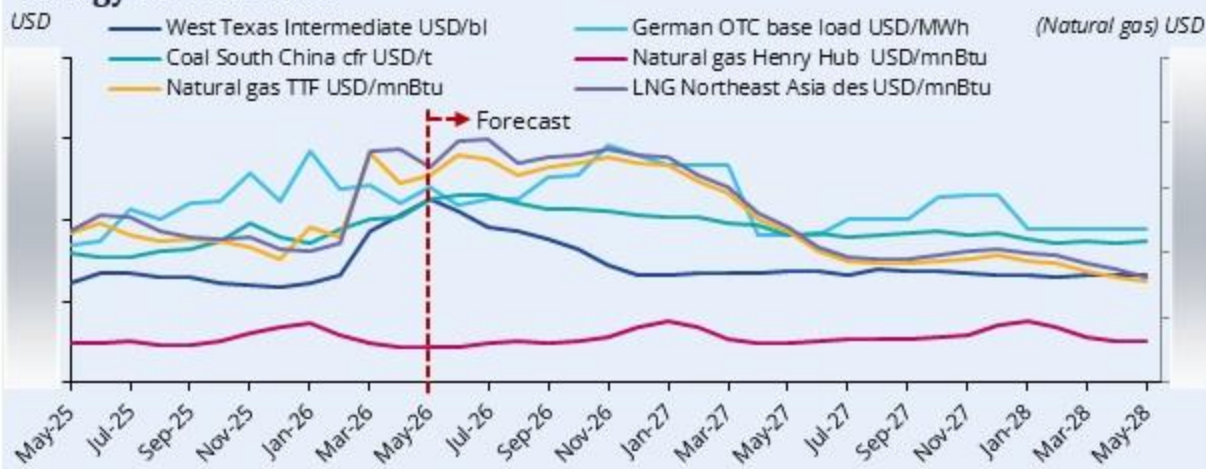
Short-term view, quarter ahead

- The war premium is fading from the market. Asian caustic prices are near pre-war levels, US Gulf coast export prices are [redacted] European contract price [redacted] until the third quarter.
- Caustic soda demand has [redacted] because of lost sulphur and sulphuric acid exports from the Mideast. This demand [redacted] beyond the Strait's reopening.

Long-term view, 24 months ahead

- Chlor-alkali market disruption may persist for 6-12 months, or well into [redacted]
- PVC market rebalancing is [redacted] as US-based Westlake has bought a PVC plant from Vynova in Wilhelmshaven, Germany, while Vynova plans to restart its PVC plant at Beek in the Netherlands.
- Caustic soda demand from the alumina sector will remain [redacted] bauxite and alumina trade is affected until Mideast aluminium smelters restart.
- Permanent caustic soda demand loss is emerging in the battery materials sector as some mineral processing facilities shift to magnesium oxide, made from coal and without a chlor-alkali co-product.

Energy Price Outlook



Region	Forecast Data	Unit	04-26	05-26	06-26	07-26	08-26	09-26	10-26	11-26	12-26	01-27	02-27	03-27	04-27	05-27	06-27	07-27	08-27	09-27	10-27	11-27	12-27	01-28	02-28	03-28	04-28	
NAM	WTI	USD/bl																										
	Natural Gas	USD/mn Btu																										
	Electricity	USD/KWH																										
	Caustic soda	USD/dmt																										
	Export fob USGC																											
	Chlorine USGC contract	USD/t																										
	Hydrochloric Acid US Midwest	USD/sst																										
	ECU Cash Cost	USD/ECU																										
NWE	Natural Gas TTF	USD/mn Btu																										
	Electricity	USD/KWH																										
	Caustic soda Northwest Europe	€/dmt																										
	Domestic Contract																											
	Caustic soda Northwest Europe	USD/dmt																										
	Domestic Contract																											
	ECU Cash cost	USD/ECU																										
	Electricity	USD/KWH																										
NEA (China excluded)	Coal South China cfr (5,500kcal/kg)	USD/t																										
	Caustic soda Export fob NEA	USD/dmt																										
	ECU Cash Cost	USD/ECU																										
	Electricity	USD/KWH																										
China	Coal South China cfr (5,500kcal/kg)	USD/t																										
	Caustic soda Export fob NEA	USD/dmt																										
	ECU Cash Cost	USD/ECU																										
	Caustic soda SEA cfr	USD/dmt																										
ME	Caustic soda ME fob	USD/dmt																										

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Americas review

Limited production disruptions lead to increased production and an increase in caustic soda supply.

SUPPLY

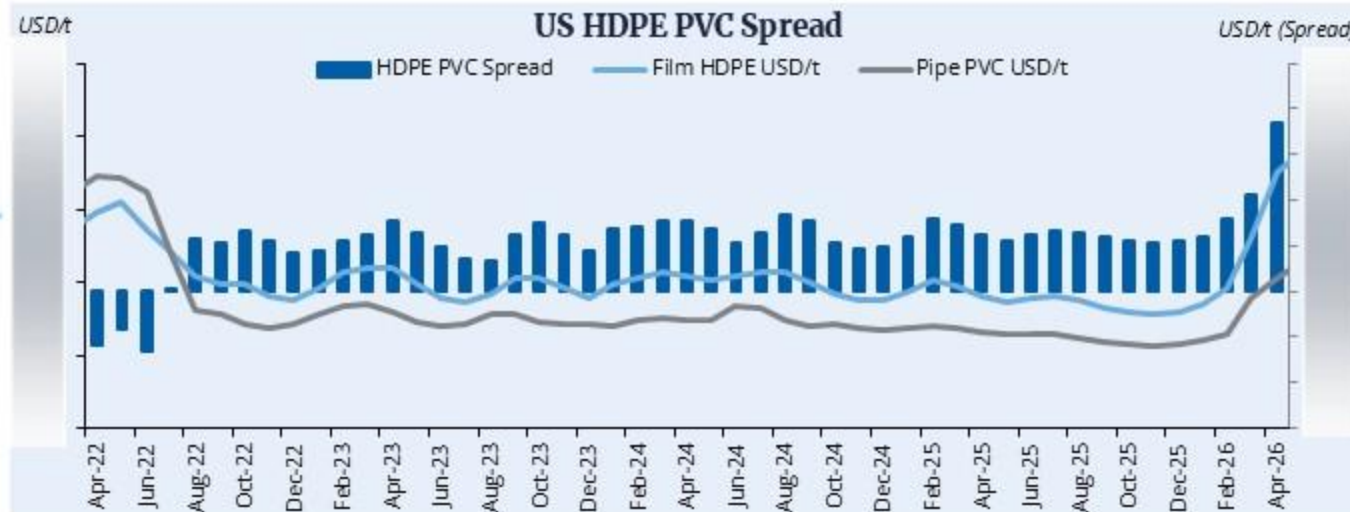
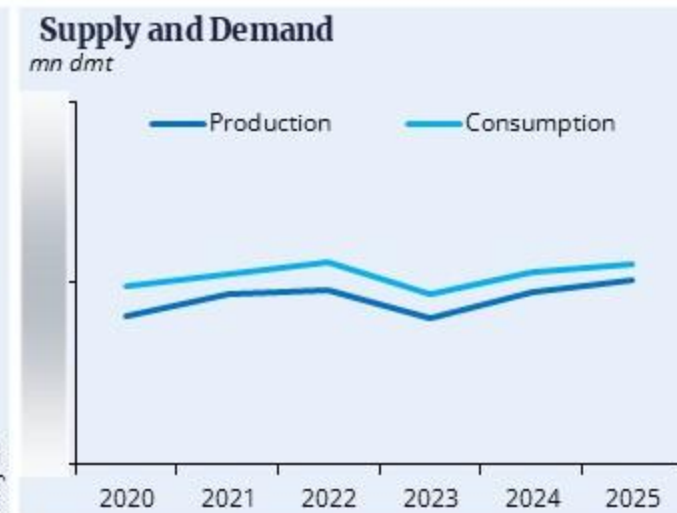
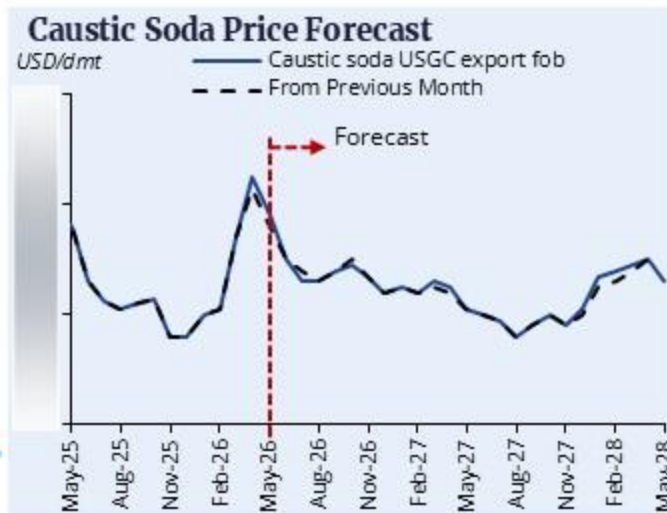
- ▶ The US is expected to see [redacted] and caustic soda export demand for the next six to nine months, and possibly longer if the strait of Hormuz does not reopen soon
- ▶ Most maintenance in the US has finished, but some plants still face operating issues. Some spring maintenance was [redacted] which could supply in August during the peak hurricane season on the US Gulf coast.
- ▶ Supply of caustics soda from the US Gulf is readily available as producers have been challenged to sell into the export market because of extremely [redacted]
- ▶ A major chlorine derivative will start up in mid-2026, [redacted] caustic soda supply. Around the same time, [redacted] keeping the HCl market balanced to [redacted]

DEMAND

- ▶ With the US Federal Reserve contemplating raising interest rates, demand is anticipated to [redacted]
- ▶ Demand for caustic soda and chlorine derivatives in the export market will [redacted]; with slowly [redacted] helping US exports prices more competitively.
- ▶ US domestic caustic soda demand is expected to [redacted] 2026 compared with [redacted] and from the propylene oxide and pulp sectors keeps [redacted]

SENSITIVITY

- ▶ The length of the closure of the Strait of Hormuz is critical to the export demand for PVC, EDC, VCM, caustic soda, as well as numerous other chlor-alkali derivatives. The longer the closure of the Strait, the [redacted] of the impact.
- ▶ [redacted] operating rates anticipated over the next several months could strain plant equipment and result in unplanned shutdowns.
- ▶ Polyethylene prices [redacted] faster than initially expected and could limit vinyls producers' ability to buy ethylene away from polyethylene producers.



Northwest Europe review

Output rises post maintenance. Caustic soda to remain in good supply.

SUPPLY

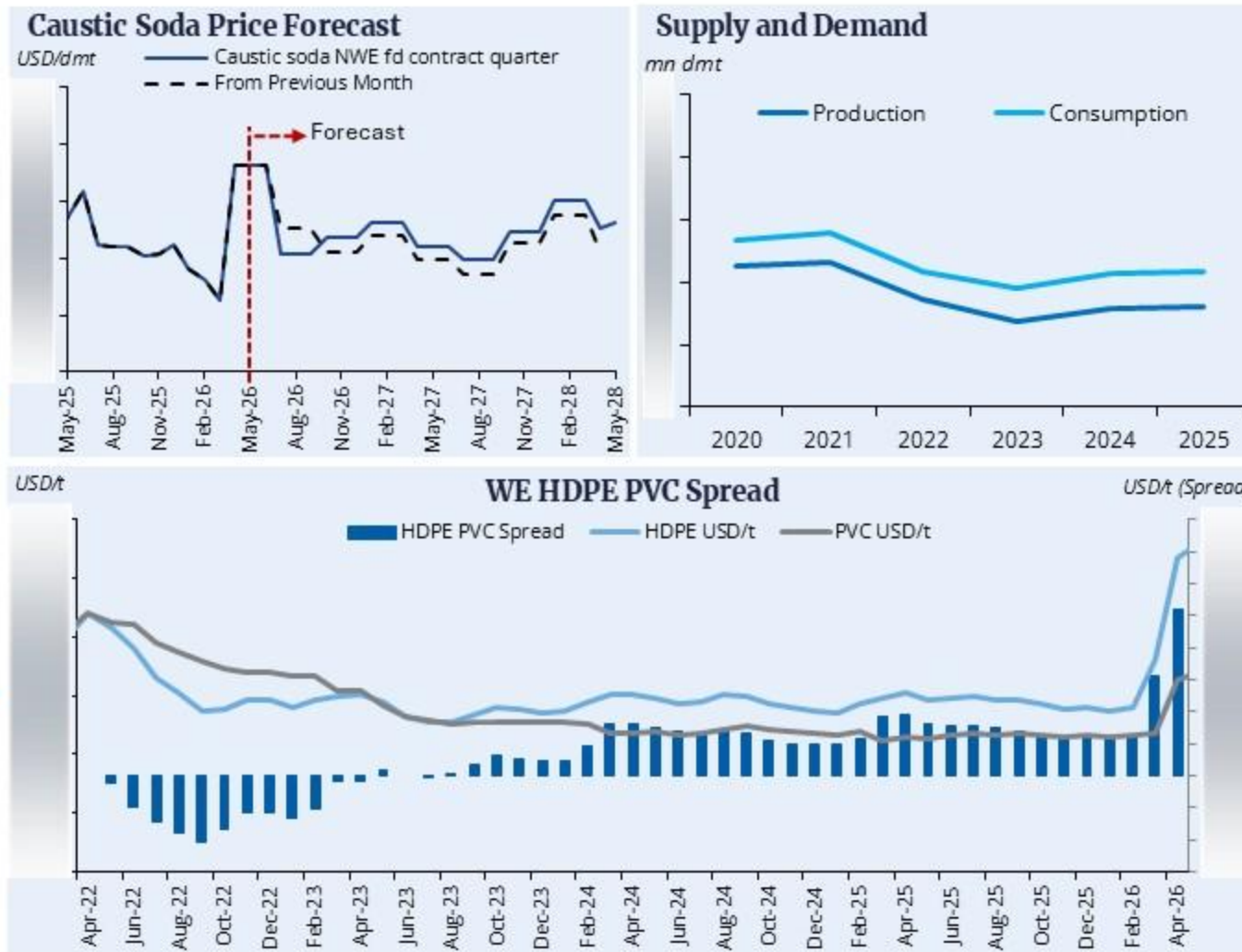
- ▶ Caustic soda output is [redacted] most planned turnarounds are complete.
- ▶ Operating rates may [redacted] in the coming weeks, before easing as seasonal chlorine demand falls.
- ▶ Depending on import activity there may be some supply length, provided domestic operations will remain [redacted]
- ▶ The extent of any length will depend on whether arbitrage windows for overseas imports to southern Europe [redacted] slight imbalance.
- ▶ Average capacity utilisation [redacted] will continue to pressure ECU cash costs, and the risk of permanent closures, planned or unplanned, remain [redacted]
- ▶ Further closures may initially rebalance the market and [redacted]: overcapacity instead of resulting in a shortage.

DEMAND

- ▶ Chlorine demand is following seasonal patterns and remains slightly [redacted] with the construction season in full swing.
- ▶ This will stretch into June, before offtake [redacted] during the summer holidays and this will trigger a [redacted] in chlor-alkali capacity utilisation.
- ▶ Average operating rates will stay in the mid to [redacted]. A structural recovery is not under way and is not in sight.
- ▶ Caustic soda consumption is [redacted], with signs that seasonal chlorine offtake outperforms caustic soda demand and that this is resulting in a well supplied caustic soda market.

SENSITIVITY

- ▶ Caustic soda prices may come under [redacted] in the second quarter as availability [redacted]
- ▶ Third-quarter prices [redacted] driven by costs amid persistent uncertainty from the Iran conflict. Buyers are expected to focus more on supply-demand fundamentals as supply security appears [redacted]
- ▶ But ECU cash cost pressures, now and as a hangover from various crisis over the past years, persist. Producers will aim to [redacted] some of the second-quarter price [redacted] during the upcoming round of negotiations.



Northeast Asia review

Caustic soda prices have fallen back to pre-crisis level as demand slowed.

SUPPLY

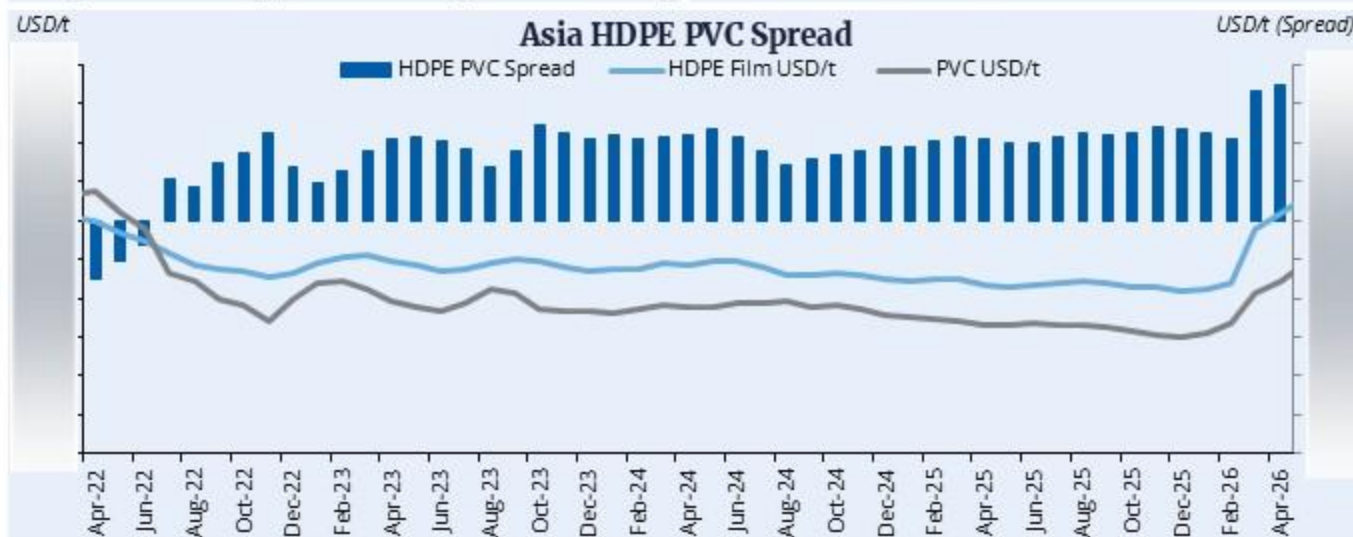
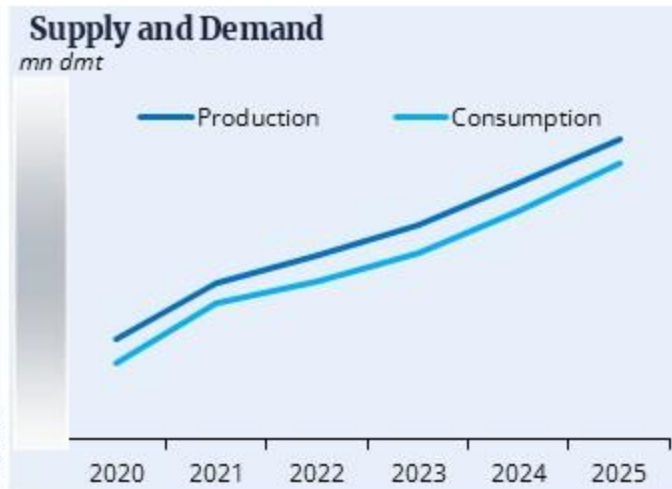
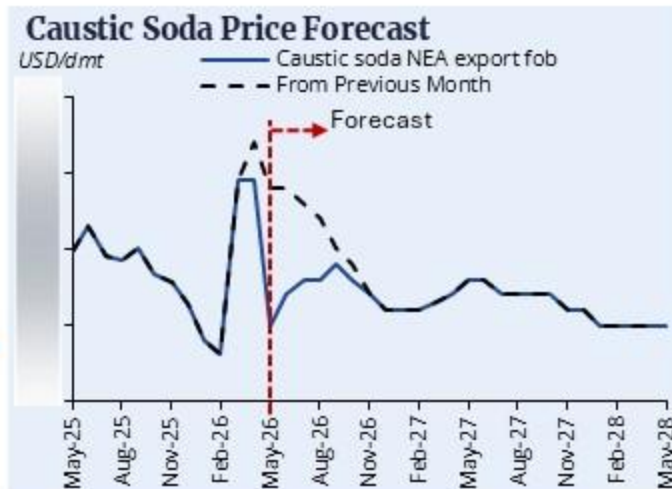
- China's supply position has remained long as producers keep capitalising on attractive netbacks for caustic soda and chlorine, although more producers are scheduling early summer maintenance.
- Outside China, more chlor-alkali operations have securing additional ethylene feedstock from China and other regions as a temporary measure.
- Scheduled maintenance shutdown in Japan during the maintenance season were

DEMAND

- Export demand as integrated producers in northeast Asia, excluding China, resumed production, cleared backlogs and fulfilled contracted volumes. This
- Most short-covering activity has ended. Fob prices are towards pre-crisis levels as export availability particularly from Chinese suppliers.
- The market has also observed that some regular buyers are remaining on the sidelines amid ongoing uncertainties. Meanwhile, demand for caustic soda from MHP producers has , partly due to the conversion of MgO.
- Current wide arbitrage gap has also stimulated strong buying interest, particularly for deep-sea shipments to Brazil and Europe.

SENSITIVITY

- Northeast Asia remains the : caustic soda exporting region globally, especially from China, which provides base to the export market. Exporters outside China also contribute significantly to global trade.
- Any price fluctuations in the market can affect the overall position of the region. The impact of export prices from India, the Middle East and southeast Asia is because as producers use northeast Asia fob prices to benchmark their selling decisions.



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America cash cost analysis

Coordinated releases of oil from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve reduces energy price volatility.

ECU Americas



Cash Cost

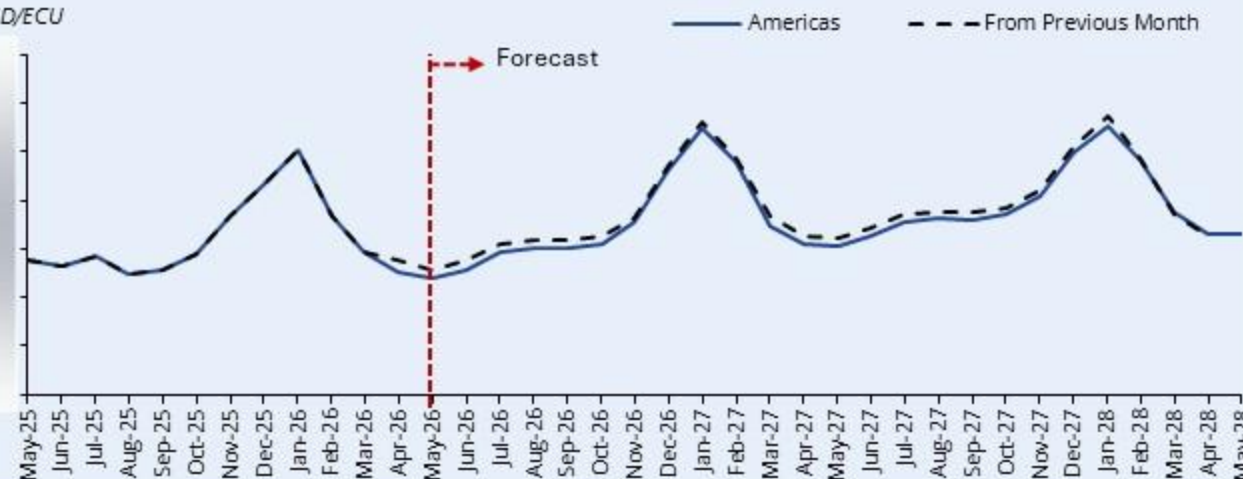
- The shift in technology mix owing to the closure of [redacted] ECU of asbestos diaphragm in October [redacted] non-asbestos diaphragm in [redacted] of asbestos diaphragm in [redacted] as the start-up of [redacted] brane chlor-alkali [redacted] the overall US Gulf coast cash cost thanks to the change in technology.
- With [redacted] incentive to produce more oil in the US [redacted] that new oil production comes additional volumes of associated gas. This additional natural gas is resulting in an expectation for [redacted] for the remainder of the year as well as lowering ECU cash costs.
- Operating rates in 2026 are anticipated to be [redacted] than in 2025, while operating rates in 2027 are as [redacted]



Energy

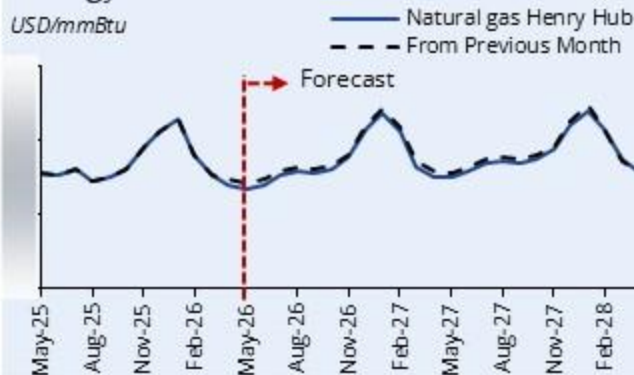
ECU Cash Cost

USD/ECU



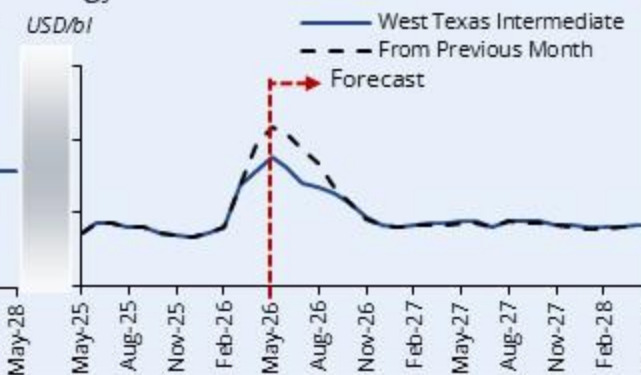
Energy Price Trend – Natural Gas

USD/mmBtu



Energy Price Trend – West Texas Intermediate

USD/bbl



Northwest Europe cash cost analysis

Cash costs likely bottoming out in May.

ECU Northwest Europe



Cash Cost

- But average power prices are forecast to remain to not fall below ; summer. They will be in a range of the remainder of the year and cash costs will peak at
- The cash cost differential between Europe and the Americas and Asia remains stark, leaving Europe in a vulnerable position to demand destruction and further capacity consolidation.
- Caustic soda prices are permanently Levels in the for several years now. But it will require a combination of demand recovery and capacity consolidation in order for the industry to operate sustainably in the long-term.

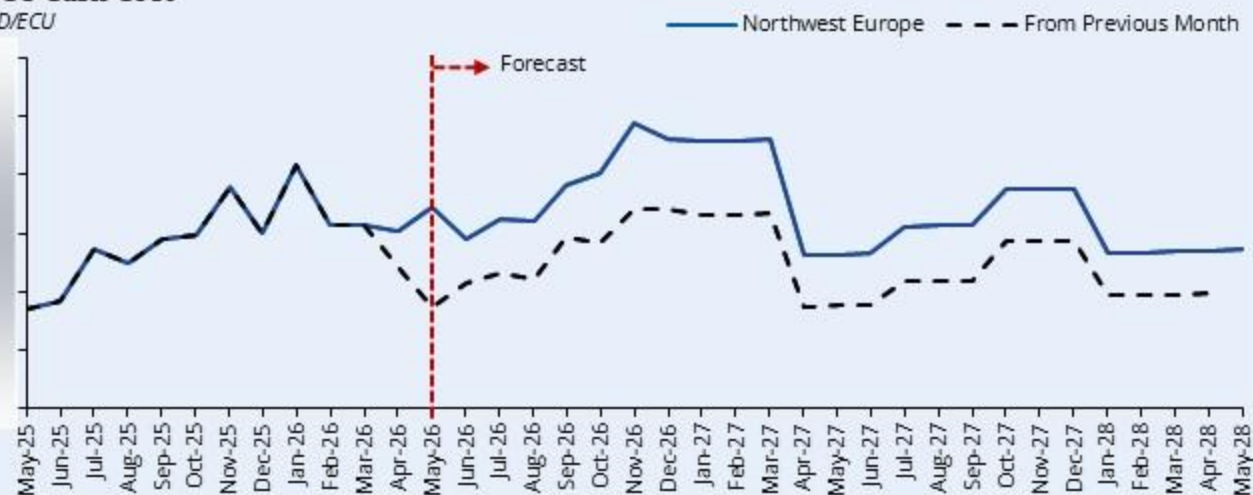


Energy

- Prices at the : previous month's average owing supply availability from within the region. Argus forecasts prices to
- Power sector gas demand reached residential and commercial gas demand m³/d as above-normal temperatures curbed consumption.

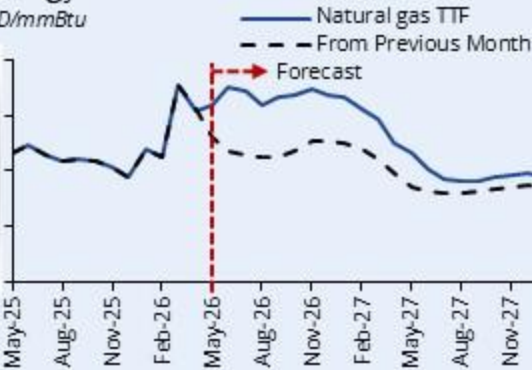
ECU Cash Cost

USD/ECU



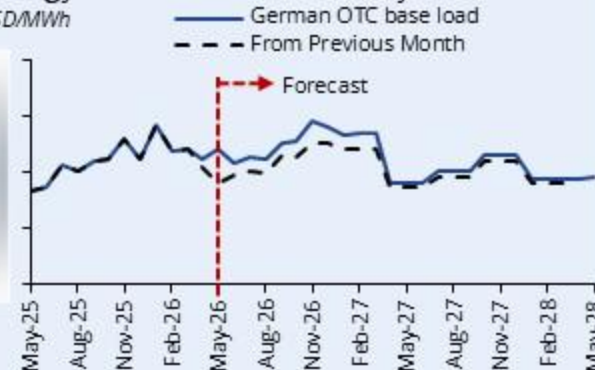
Energy Price Trend - Natural Gas

USD/mmBtu



Energy Price Trend - Electricity

USD/MWh



Northeast Asia (excluding China) cash cost analysis

Northeast Asia's ECU cash costs have risen sharply amid rising energy cost.

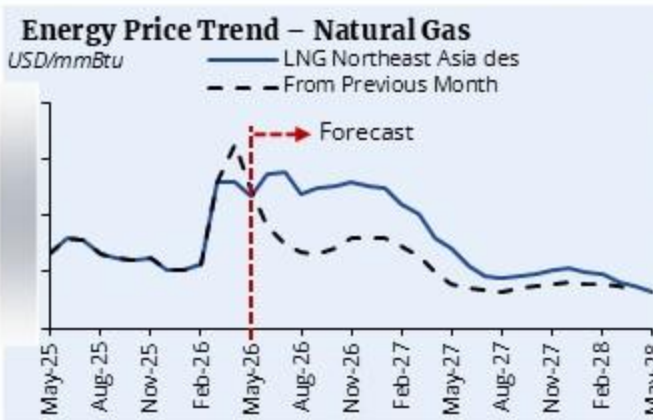
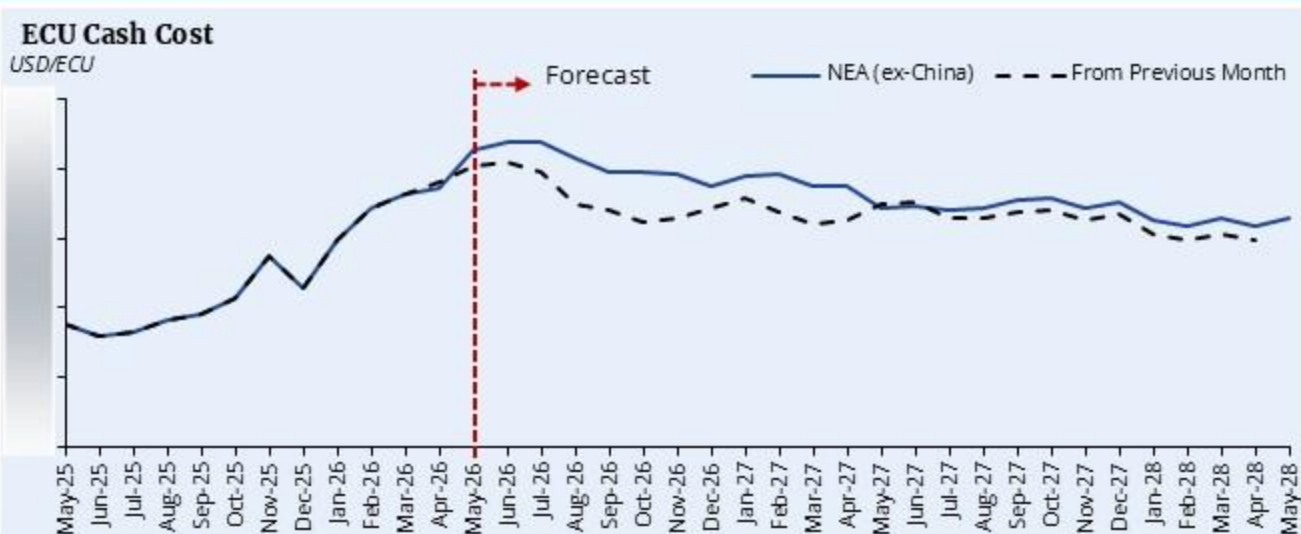
ECU Northeast Asia (excluding China)



- The overall average ECU cash cost in northeast Asia, excluding China, _____, supported _____ coal and NEA LNG forecasts.
- Most chlor-alkali producers from outside China draw power from national grids that rely heavily on imported coal, natural gas, nuclear energy and other sources.
- _____ of Middle East LNG and oil supplies has _____.
- Average ECU cash costs for northeast Asian producers outside China _____ China.



- Northeast Asian LNG prices averaged _____ April, an _____ month because of supply disruptions. Argus expects May's average price to _____.
- Japan's LNG demand was _____ is expected to _____ May, as coal fired _____ on the year in April and remained strong in May.
- South Korea's LNG demand were _____ expectation and is expected _____ May. Gas demand is likely to _____ cause of _____ nuclear availability and sustained strong coal burn.



China cash cost analysis

China's ECU cash costs have inched up slightly amid Middle East crisis.

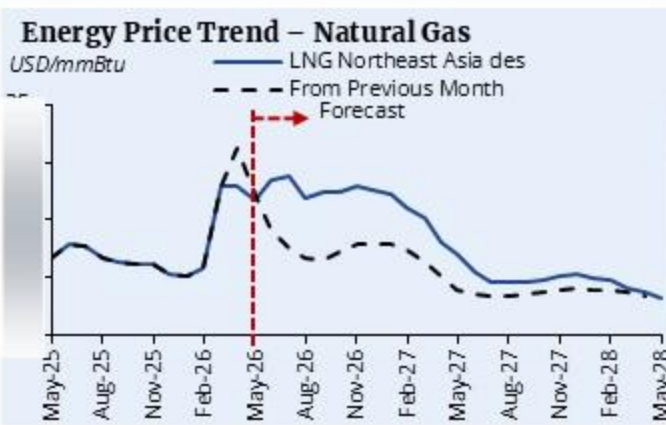
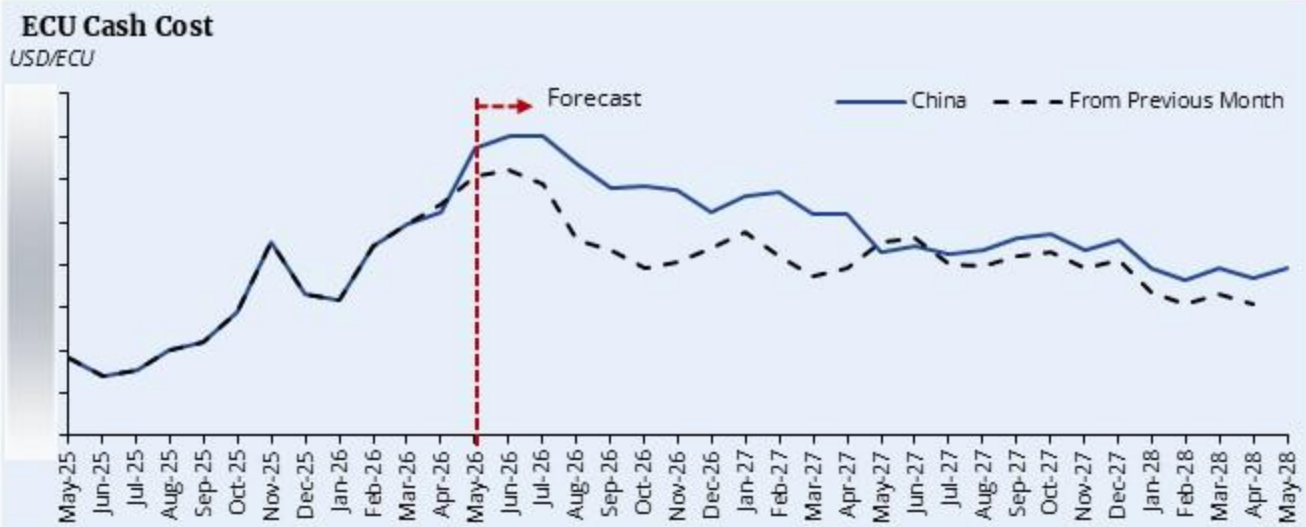
ECU China

Cash Cost

- China's ECU cash costs have **inched up** with the latest Argus' coal forecast.
- Coal prices are expected to **continue to rise** and **drive up** demand.
- Chinese producers still hold an advantage in ECU cash costs **compared to** with northeast Asia producers outside China.
- Attractive ECU cash cost enabled Chinese producers to stay **price leader**, especially in the export market.

Energy

- China's domestic coal production expected **to decline** year compared to 2025 in lieu of developing El Nino event and LNG supply disruption.
- China's seaborne imports projections remains same for 2026 **and 2027** versus a **decline**



Major Asia-Pacific plant maintenance schedule 2026.

COUNTRY	COMPANY	LOCATION	Unit	Capacity (kt)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
SOUTH KOREA	LG CHEM	YEOSU	CA #1															
			CA #2-1															
			CA #2-2															
			VCM #1															
			VCM #2															
			PVC															
	DAESAN	VCM																
		PVC																
	HANWHA	ULSAN	VCM #1															
			VCM #2															
			PVC															
		YEOSU	CA #1															
			CA #2															
			CA #4															
CA #6																		
VCM #1																		
VCM #2																		
VCM #3																		
JAPAN	KASHIMA CA KASHIMA VCM SHIN-ETSU	KASHIMA	CA-EDC															
			VCM															
			PVC															
	AGC KEIYO VCM	CHIBA	CA															
			CA-EDC															
	TOSOH	YOKKAICHI	VCM															
			CA-EDC															
			VCM															
		CHIBA	PVC (TAIYO)															
			PVC (TAIYO)															
	NANYO	CA-EDC																
		VCM #1																
		VCM #2																
	KANEKA	TAKASAGO	PVC															
			CA-EDC															
			VCM															
			VCM															
	TOKUYAMA	KASHIMA	PVC															
			CA-EDC															
		TOKUYAMA	VCM															
PVC (SHIN-DAIICHI)																		
PVC (SHIN-DAIICHI)																		
NIIHAMA	NIIHAMA	PVC (SHIN-DAIICHI)																
		PVC (SHIN-DAIICHI)																

Major Asia-Pacific plant maintenance schedule 2026.

COUNTRY	COMPANY	LOCATION	Unit	Capacity (kt)	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC		
TAIWAN	FPC	JENWU	CA															
			EDC #1															
			EDC #2															
			VCM #1															
			VCM #2															
			PVC															
			PVC (Mass)															
	LINYUAN	VCM																
		PVC																
	MAILIAO	CA																
		EDC																
		VCM																
	NINGBO	PVC																
		PVC																
PVC																		
T-VCM CGPC	LINYUAN	VCM																
		PVC																
KAOHSIUNG		PVC																
		PVC																
INDONESIA	ASC	ANYER	CA-EDC 2,3,5															
			CA-EDC 1,4															
			VCM #1															
			VCM #2															
			VCM #3															
			PVC															
	SULFINDO	MERAK	CA-EDC															
THAILAND	TPC	MAPTAPHUT	CA-EDC															
			VCM															
			VCM															
			PVC															
	VINYTHAI	MAPTAPHUT	CA-EDC															
			VCM															
MALAYSIA	KPP	KUANTAN	PVC															
			PVC															
VIETNAM	AGCVN	VUNTAU	PVC															

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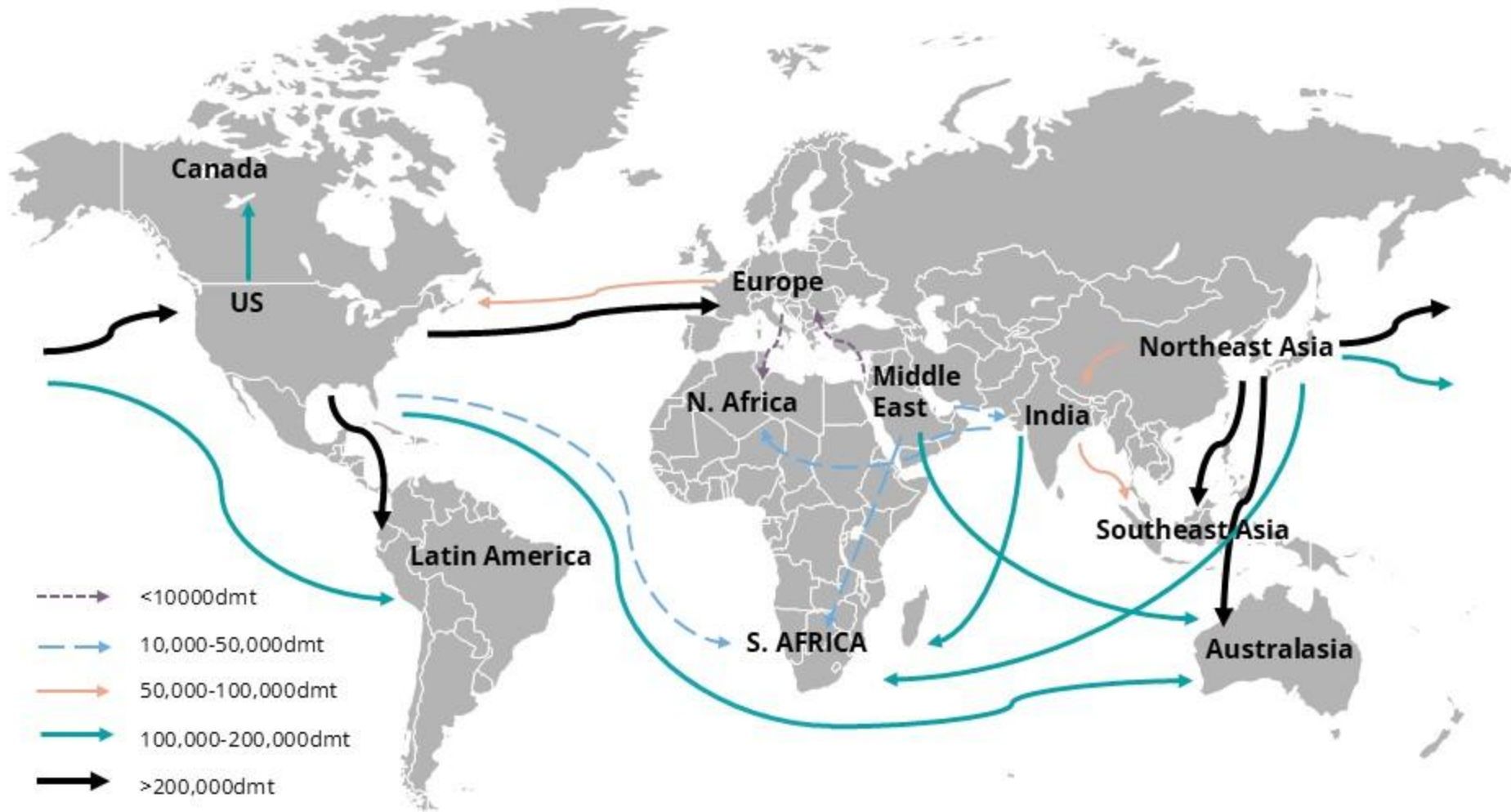
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Global trade flows

Elevated freight costs dampen trade flows.



- With the closure of the strait of Hormuz, Mideast Gulf producers and consumers of caustic soda have essentially shut down.
- [redacted] combined with clean tankers seeking backhaul opportunities from the Pacific to the Atlantic, have prompted several cargoes to move to the Mediterranean and Brazil in recent weeks.
- The [redacted] ethylene supplies in northeast Asia and [redacted] caustic soda demand in southeast Asia will keep caustic soda supplies long for the next several months.
- The strait of Hormuz has now been closed for 81 days, with no early reopening in sight. Vessel traffic is unlikely to resume for at [redacted] agreement, while a return to pre-closure levels may take [redacted]

Northwest European trade analysis

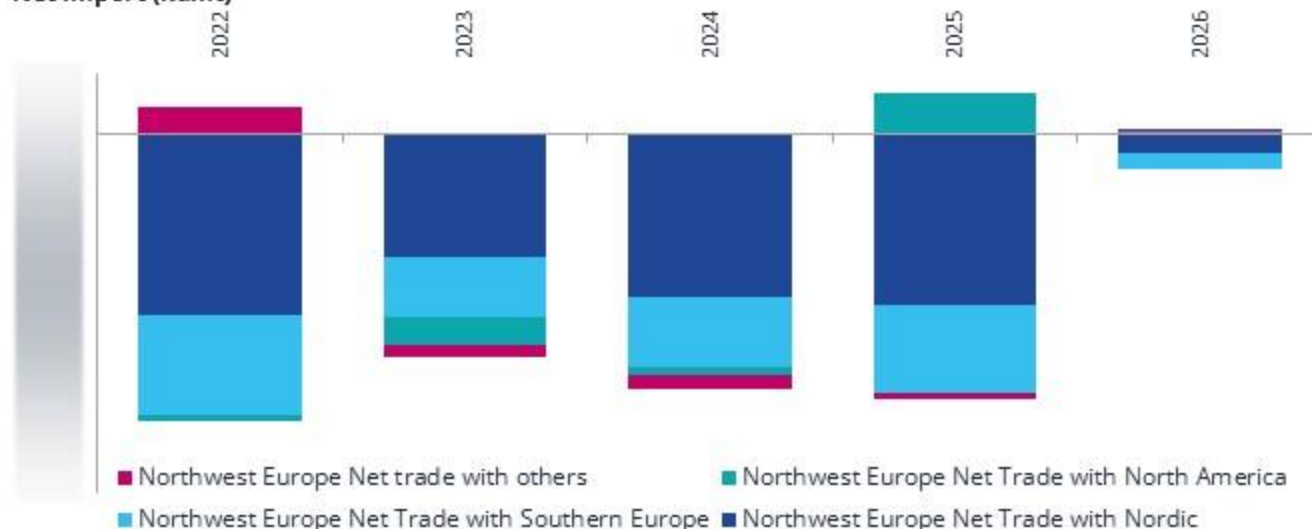
Rebounding export interest to put prices on downward trajectory.



*Largest production sites by capacity

- Export interest is [redacted]: resume normal operating rates after maintenance. Availability may peak around June-July and we expect a [redacted] on export pricing until then.
- The magnitude of the reductions will be less pronounced if all arbitrage windows for overseas imports close as Europe's seaborne markets would then be self-sufficient for a period of time. But a tightness is not likely in this scenario as long as operational [redacted]
- Northwest Europe may see [redacted] as southern European importers may prefer [redacted] times versus overseas product and view local origin material as more competitive.
- US imports into the northern parts of Europe will remain [redacted] rates remain [redacted] relaxes and local export prices [redacted]

Net Import (kdmt)



Net Export (kdmt)

*2026 Trade data show only until February 2026

Southern Europe trade analysis

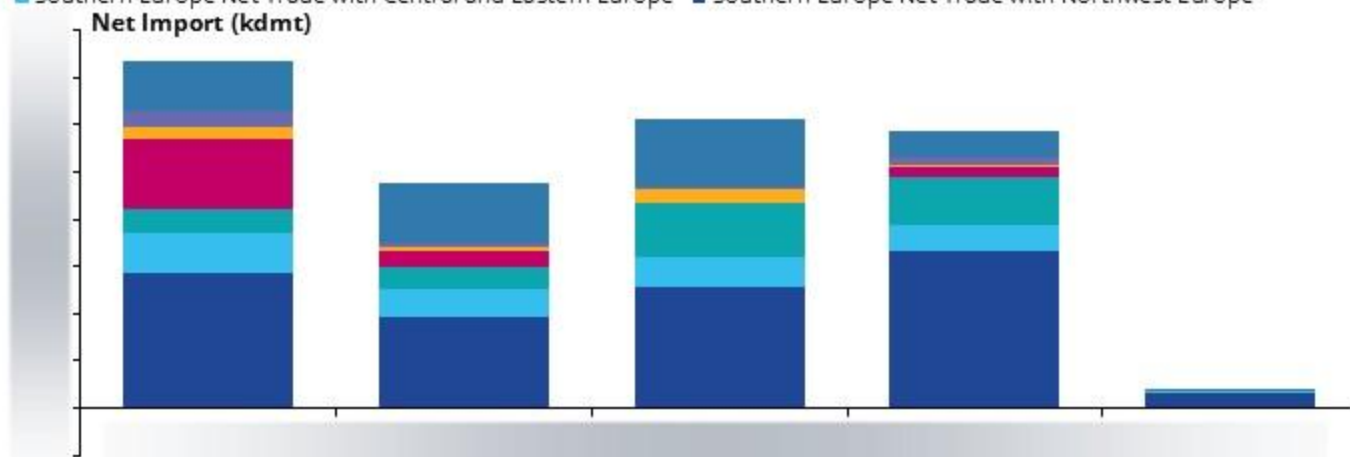
Import prices to fall further, but the limited number of import sources could limit reductions.



*Largest production sites by capacity

- Import supplies are more secure now that selling interest from northwest Europe northeast Asian cargoes are on the way for late June and July arrival.
- Import price have retreated from their recent peak, but are still at the start of a downward trend.
- Further reductions could be in the medium to high double digits, and their magnitude could be limited overseas product and a of supply options as a result.
- Freight rates from the US are still quoted well into take a freight or export prices for spot shipments to southern Europe to resume.

- Southern Europe Net Trade
- Southern Europe Net Trade with India
- Southern Europe Net Trade with Northeast Asia
- Southern Europe Net Trade with Central and Eastern Europe
- Southern Europe Net trade with others
- Southern Europe Net Trade with Middle East
- Southern Europe Net Trade with North America
- Southern Europe Net Trade with Northwest Europe



*2026 Trade data show only until February 2026

Asia-Pacific trade analysis

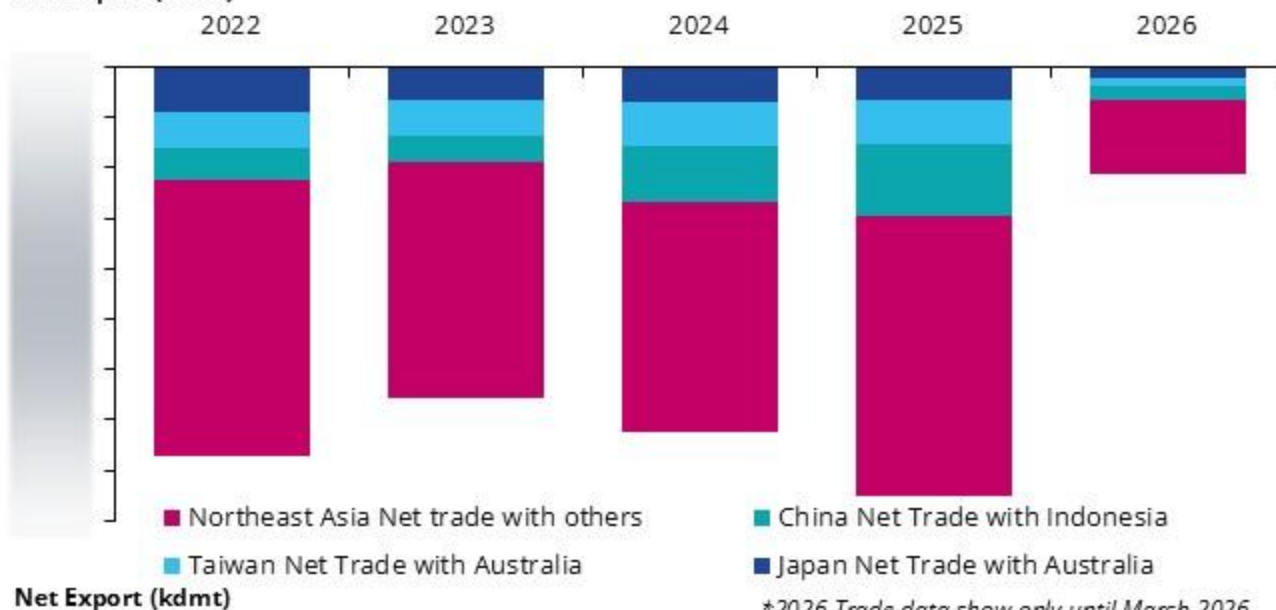
Trade flows were slower amid ongoing Middle East crisis.



*Largest production sites by capacity

- Trade flows from northeast Asia to southeast Asia, USWC, and Australia has the short covering has been concluded. However, rapid fall in northeast Asia fob have attracted buying interest to restock.
- A widened arbitrage gap has also stimulated strong buying interest, particularly for deep-sea shipments to Brazil and Europe. Most of the trade flows originated from China, as export availability from China has .
- However, in Indonesia, buying interest for imports MHP producers are neutralizing/precipitating agent.

Net Import (kdmt)



Middle East-Africa trade analysis

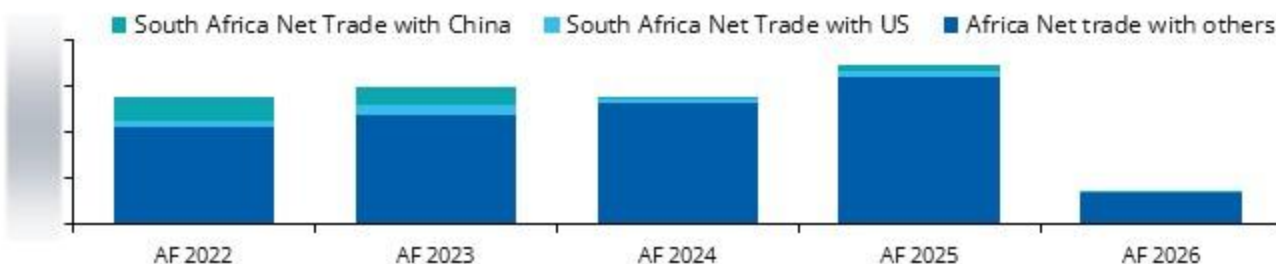
Caustic soda trades within Persian region have slow significantly amid Middle East crisis.



*Largest production sites by capacity

- Middle East caustic soda intra-regional trades have significantly amid the Middle East crisis. Five chlor-alkali production sites are in the coastal region of the Persian Gulf, as some of the production sites have
- There were attempts to scale up the production to deliver caustic soda to the refineries on the east coast via land routes. However, volumes transported were
- Some of the alumina refining facilities have also scaled down or ceased operation as inter-regional caustic soda trades within the Gulf region are still operating
- No exports or imports from the Middle East are expected in the near term.

Net Import (kdmt)



Net Export (kdmt)



Net Export (kdmt)

*2026 Trade data show only until March 2026

North America trade analysis

Falling freight costs and increased caustic production will lead to additional exports of caustic soda.



*Largest production sites by capacity

- Freight costs are beginning to **decrease** allowing export **opportunities**. US Gulf coast exports will be challenged by Asia into markets like the Mediterranean and Brazil as Asia has both freight cost and caustic soda price advantages.
- With the closure of the strait of Hormuz, buyers of chlorine derivatives like PVC and buyers of caustic soda will look to the US for additional supplies, as PVC and chlor-alkali production are based on natural gas and ethane, which are sourced domestically and less impacted by international oil prices or supply disruptions.
- Operating rates on the US Gulf coast have **improved** most planned maintenance has completed although some operating issues remain.



*2023 Trade data show only until March 2023

Latin America trade analysis

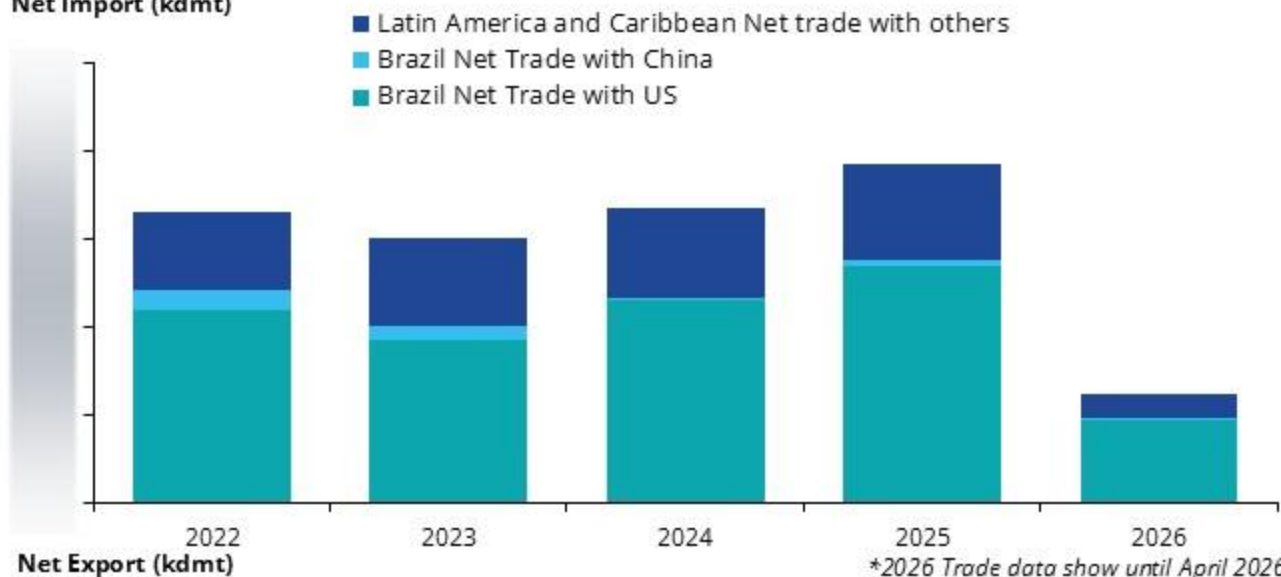
Brazil sees caustic soda length as membrane plant start up issues recede.



*Largest production sites by capacity

- Latin America is becoming a target for Asia caustic soda as [redacted] soda prices in Asia and attractive freight rates make importing caustic soda a viable alternative to the US Gulf coast, which has both [redacted].
- Latin American production rates are [redacted] from earlier in the year as the start up issues with the new membrane chlor-alkali plants have for the most part been resolved and derivative demand is [redacted].
- The supply disruptions from the Mideast are not anticipated to materially disrupt production of chlor-alkali and derivatives in Latin America. [redacted] naphtha and oil prices will [redacted] cash costs. Latin America may see operating rates [redacted] as international supply [redacted].

Net Import (kdmt)



*2026 Trade data show until April 2026

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outlook reference
and modelling
approach.

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Chlor-alkali related markets score card

Impact on chlor-alkali markets.

Chlor-Alkali Derivatives

Battery Material		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Huayou and QMB's MHP plants in Indonesia are to resume their operations in June after a two-month-long shutdown due to the collapse of their tailing facilities. Their combined monthly consumption of caustic soda is [REDACTED]
Chlor-Alkali producers news		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The European Commission approved the takeover of German chemical company Covestro and UAE company Abu Dhabi National Oil Company (ADNOC) on [REDACTED]. This comes after ADNOC succeeded with its takeover [REDACTED] The transaction includes Covestro's chlor-alkali assets in Germany and Spain, which have a total of [REDACTED] as well as a [REDACTED]
Alumina		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Denka Performance Elastomers elected to shutdown its operations in the US. The company stated the shutdown was related to multiple factors including; high raw material costs, a lack of qualified employees, and the high cost of environmental regulatory compliance. This may allow European chloroprene producers to [REDACTED]. Europe are roughly half of the cost in the US.
Vinyls		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Demand for caustic soda in the refining sector is expected to [REDACTED] Hemisphere begins. Regional differences in demand are anticipated to [REDACTED] year, owing to the [REDACTED] Nigeria.

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Chlor-Alkali 24 month price outlook

Argus Monthly Chlor-Alkali Outlook

Click worksheet name or tab at bottom

Worksheet name	Description	Frequency	Latest data for
Chart - Caustic Soda	Global Caustic Soda outlook	Monthly	20-May-26
Chart - Cash Cost	Regional Cash Cost	Monthly	20-May-26
Data	Caustic Soda and Cash Cost Data	Monthly	20-May-26

Release date: 20-May-26

Issue number: 23-12

Source: <https://direct.argusmedia.com/>

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Caustic Soda and Cash Cost Price Page

Region	Price	May 25	Jun 25	Jul 25	Aug 25	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Mar 26	Apr 26	Forecast
Americas	Caustic Soda USGC Export fob USD/dmt													
Americas	Chlorine USGC contract USD/t													
Americas	Hydrochloric Acid US Midwest USD/mt													
Americas	NAM ECU Cash Cost USD/ECU													
Europe	Northwest Europe Domestic Contract €/dmt													
Europe	Northwest Europe Domestic Contract USD/dmt													
Europe	NWE ECU Cash Cost USD/ECU													
Asia	Caustic Soda NEA Export fob USD/dmt													
Asia	NEA (excluding China) ECU Cash Cost USD/ECU													
Asia	China ECU Cash Cost USD/ECU													
Asia	Caustic Soda SEA fob USD/dmt													
Middle East	Caustic Soda ME fob USD/dmt													

Note:
 CU: Caustic Soda
 ECU: Electrochemical Unit
 fob: dry metric tonne
 d: Short ton

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Global caustic soda prices, \$/dmt



Source: Argus Media - Consulting Services

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Chlor-Alkali Outlook

Chlor-alkali forecast services

This workspace includes data and analysis from our monthly **Argus Chlor-Alkali Outlook**. Review our [forecast methodology](#).

For long-term viewpoints, including a 10-year supply and demand forecast, read [Argus Chlor-Alkali Analytics](#).

You can learn about all our chlor-alkali services [here](#).

To see the Chemicals forecast service publishing schedule, [click here](#).

Chlor-alkali experts

George Eichenbauer, VP, Argus' chlor-alkali services are led by VP **George Eichenbauer**. He has over 30 years' experience with roles in acquisition and asset management as well as operations control and strategy, prior to his consulting career.

Stephanie Koenig, Head of European Chlor-Alkali for Argus and brings a strong regional focus to our services. An expert with over 15 years' experience of the industry, she draws on deep understanding of local and global market forces to oversee content all Argus Chlor-Alkali services for Europe.

Bernard Lee, Editor and covers the chlor-alkali and vinyl markets in Asia. Bernard has more than 25 years of experience in the chemical industry in Asia, in roles including market and competitive analysis, benchmarking, sales, marketing, and business development. He spent 13 years working for specialty and commodity chemicals businesses in

Global caustic soda price forecasts

1M 2M 3M 6M 1Y 5Y Custom

- US Gulf coast caustic soda contract
- Northwest Europe caustic soda domestic contract
- Northwest Asia caustic soda FOB
- Southeast Asia caustic soda FOB
- Middle East caustic soda FOB

Chlor-alkali news

Analysis: Caustic soda Chlor-alkali Chlorine News 28 May 26 - 22:27

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- 20 May 26 Chlor-Alkali 24 Month Price Outlook - May 2026
- 06 May 26 Argus Chlor-Alkali Analytics 2026 H1 - 10 year price forecast

Americas ECU cash cost forecast

1M 2M 3M 6M 1Y 5Y Custom

- Electrochemical unit cash cost US USD/t of ECU

Europe ECU cash cost forecast

1M 2M 3M 6M 1Y 5Y Custom

- Electrochemical unit cash cost northwest Europe USD/t of ECU

Asia ECU cash cost forecast

1M 2M 3M 6M 1Y 5Y Custom

- Electrochemical unit cash cost China USD/t of ECU
- Electrochemical unit cash cost northeast Asia USD/t of ECU

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George leads the global chlor-alkali team. He has 30+ years' experience with roles in acquisition and asset management as well as operations control and strategic objectives, before his consulting career. Before joining Argus in 2012, he was director of Chlor-Alkali for HIS. George's experience also includes roles at FMCTechnologies, Dow Chemical and Union Carbide. He holds a BSc in Chemical Engineering from the University of Texas and an MBA from Rice University.

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Argus Chlor-Alkali Outlook

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