

# Argus PVC and Vinyls

Formerly Argus Global Polyvinyl Chloride Global EDC, VCM, PVC prices and market analysis

# Issue 25-11 | Friday 28 February 2025

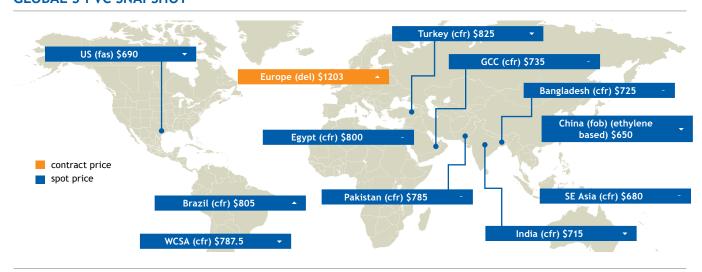
# **MARKET PRICES**

Contract prices				\$/t
	Timing	Contract price	e	Monthly
US				
S-PVC pipe del east of Rockies	Feb	131	2 🔺	+44.00
Europe				
S-PVC pipe del NWE	Feb	120	3 🔺	+37.00
S-PVC pipe del S Europe	Feb	123	7 🔺	+40.00
S-PVC pipe del CEE	Feb	120	1 🔺	+40.00
E-PVC homopolymer del NWE	Feb	148	4 🔺	+32.00

The monthly  $\boldsymbol{\Delta}$  (delta) is the assessed change in price from the previous month

Spot pricos		-	\$/t
Spot prices	Datas		
Product and basis	Price		Weekly ±
US			
S-PVC pipe Houston fas bagged	680-700	•	-17.50
E-PVC homopolymer cfr US east coast	1,279-1,764	-	0.00
Latin America			
S-PVC pipe, cfr, Brazil (US-Origin)	805		+15.00
S-PVC pipe, cfr, WCSA (US-Origin)	787.5	•	-2.50
Europe			
S-PVC pipe import price cif Europe	889		-6.00
Turkey, Egypt and Middle East			
S-PVC pipe cfr Turkey (Europe-origin)	820-830	•	-5.00
S-PVC k70 cfr Turkey (Europe-origin)	860-890	•	-20.00
S-PVC pipe cfr Turkey (US-origin)	730-750	•	-5.00
S-PVC pipe cfr Egypt (Europe-origin)	800-800	-	0.00
S-PVC pipe cfr GCC	710-760	-	0.00
Asia-Pacific			
S-PVC pipe fob China (ethylene-based)	640-660	•	-2.50
S-PVC pipe fob China (carbide-based)	615-630	•	-2.50
S-PVC pipe cfr China	665-725	•	-2.50
S-PVC pipe cfr India	690-740	-	-5.00
E-PVC homopolymer cfr India	930-960	•	-15.00
S-PVC pipe cfr Pakistan	770-800	-	0.00
S-PVC pipe cfr Bangladesh	700-750	-	0.00
S-PVC pipe cfr SE Asia	660-700	-	0.00

# GLOBAL S-PVC SNAPSHOT



# Markets remain plagued by oversupply

**EDC and VCM** 

**HIGHLIGHTS** 

## US

February contract prices rise

## Latin America

Demand declines ahead of Carnival

#### **Europe**

February demand remains flat

Turkey K70 demand increases

Middle East

Buying activity cools down

## China Prices soften on lower PVC futures

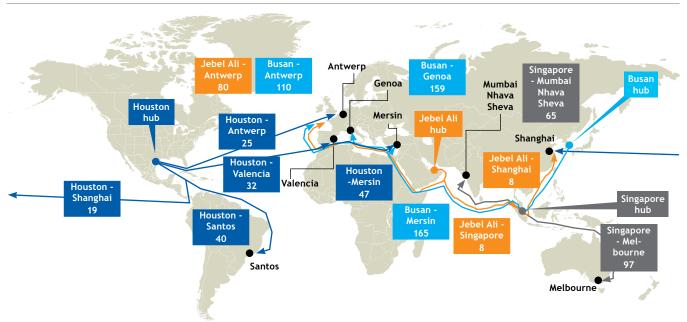
Prices soften on lower import demand

# Southeast Asia

South Asia

Lower demand season approaches

# POLYVINYL CHLORIDE ROUTES BY EXPORTING PORT



Global polyr	ner freight rates					\$
Origin	Destination	Argus Low	Argus High	1 week change	4 week change	Source
Americas						
Houston	Shanghai	14	23	+1.0	-2.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Houston	Mersin	46	48	0.0	-2.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Houston	Genoa	33	37	+2.0	+5.0 🔺	Freightos Derived
Houston	Valencia	31	33	0.0	-8.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Houston	Antwerp	17	32	0.0	+2.0 🔺	Freightos Derived
Houston	Santos	37	42	0.0	+2.0 🔺	Freightos Derived
Houston	Buenos Aires	42	55	0.0	+2.0 🔺	Freightos Derived
Houston	Buenaventura	62	68	0.0	+2.0 🔺	Freightos Derived
Houston	Callao	59	63	0.0	+2.0	Freightos Derived
Houston	Guayaquil	60	67	+1.0	+3.0	Freightos Derived
Houston	Valparaiso	64	74	0.0	-1.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Santos	Rotterdam	64	66	0.0	+7.0 🔺	Freightos Derived
Middle East an	d North Africa					
Jubail	China	2	7	+0.5	+0.5 🔺	Argus
Jubail	Indonesia	26	31	+0.5	-1.5 🝷	Argus
Jubail	Karachi	26	31	+0.5	+4.5 🔺	Argus
Jubail	Mumbai	30	35	+0.5	-13.5 🝷	Argus
Jubail	Turkey	80	100	0.0	-20.0 🔻	Argus
Jebel Ali	Shanghai	7	9	0.0	0.0 -	Freightos Derived
Jebel Ali	Singapore	7	9	0.0	0.0 -	Freightos Derived
Jebel Ali	Melbourne	111	116	-1.0	-12.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Jebel Ali	Tauranga	111	116	-1.0	-12.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Jebel Ali	Antwerp	70	90	+3.0	-17.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Jebel Ali	Buenaventura	124	184	0.0	-16.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Jebel Ali	Callao	121	181	0.0	-16.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Port Said	Mersin	10	20	0.0	0.0 -	Freightos Derived
Port Said	La Spezia	15	25	0.0	0.0 -	Freightos Derived
Port Said	Antwerp	20	30	0.0	0.0 -	Freightos Derived



Global polyme	er freight rates					
Origin	Destination	Argus Low	Argus High	1 week change	4 week change	Source
Southeast Asia						
Singapore	Karachi	65	79	-3.0	-16.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Singapore	Mumbai Nhava Sheva	55	75	-4.0	-12.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Singapore	Colombo	70	85	-2.0	-5.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Singapore	Melbourne	88	106	-3.0	-23.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Singapore	Tauranga	88	106	-3.0	-23.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Vung Tau	Antwerp	115	143	-12.0	-66.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Vung Tau	Genoa	165	182	-7.0	-49.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Northeast Asia						
Busan	Mersin	161	168	-4.0	-48.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Koper	166	174	-6.0	-53.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Genoa	151	167	-7.0	-48.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Valencia	157	171	-6.0	-46.0 -	Freightos Derived
Busan	Antwerp	105	115	-6.0	-65.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Durban	127	130	-5.0	-31.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Santos	125	155	-5.0	-45.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Buenaventura	70	86	0.0	-34.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Callao	70	86	0.0	-34.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Melbourne	104	143	-15.0	-57.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Busan	Tauranga	104	143	-15.0	-57.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Nagoya	35	40	-2.0	-8.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Laem Chabang	40	46	-2.0	-11.0 🝷	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Port Klang	46	51	0.0	-8.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Karachi	87	107	-8.0	-19.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Mumbai Nhava Sheva	85	92	-7.0	-21.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Chennai	71	95	-15.0	-33.0 🝷	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Colombo	93	116	-9.0	-16.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Chittagong	100	125	-7.0	-22.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Mersin	160	168	-9.0	-47.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Koper	170	176	-3.0	-51.0 🔻	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Genoa	151	164	-6.0	-47.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Valencia	160	167	-4.0	-41.0 -41.0	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Antwerp	104	118	-5.0	-59.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Rotterdam	104	120	-5.0	-58.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Durban	125	137	+1.0	-29.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Santos	120	138	-10.0	-46.0 -46.0	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Los Angeles	130	168	-13.5	-54.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Manzanillo	73	108	+1.0	-22.0 -22.0	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Buenaventura	72	112	0.0	-24.0 -24.0	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	Callao	76	107	+2.0	-23.0 -23.0 -	Freightos Derived
Shanghai	San Antonio, Chile	59	80	-6.0	-46.0 -46.0	Freightos Derived



Argus freight rates are as of the day of publication. Rates derived from Freightos data are of the previous day. Selected polymer spot freight rates are calculated by Argus methodology, based on underlying data from the online freight marketplace, Freightos. Visit www.freightos.com for complete lists of \$/FEU rates in the wider spot container market.

# Argus PVC and vinyls Trade Explorer

Review the Argus PVC and vinyls Trade Explorer visualization tools, allowing you to visualize the latest trade data for EDC, VCM and PVC across the globe.



# OIL FEEDSTOCKS

# Crude oil

Crude oil prices fell this week amid signs of increasing global supplies and as the US moves ahead with its tariff plans. As of 15:55 GMT on 28 February, the front-month Ice Brent contract was trading at \$72.92/bl, while the front-month Nymex WTI contract stood at \$69.83/bl.

# Naphtha

Naphtha prices in Europe fell this week amid weaker crude values, albeit naphtha's refining margins strengthened on refinery outages and gasoline blending demand. Naphtha averaged  $\pounds 2/t$  higher in February, compared with the January average of  $\pounds 627/t$ .

In Asia-Pacific, naphtha prices fell alongside weaker crude values to \$659.25/t on 28 February, from \$669.75/t on 21 February. The unexpected shutdown of two Korean naphtha crackers on 25 February had a limited impact on the physical market amid relatively tight supply.

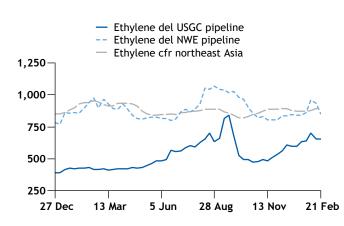
# Ethylene

Front-month ethylene at the Enterprise Products Partners (EPC) cavern at Mont Belvieu, Texas, traded between 27.25-27.625¢/lb on 27 February, down from levels last week. ExxonMobil and Sabic's Gulf Coast Growth Ventures cracker in Corpus Christi, Texas, restarted during the week.

The European ethylene market remains long but balanced because of high demand for propylene and ethylene derivative hick-ups. Incremental ethylene is being produced to support the propylene market which has tightened significantly. Ethylene demand is reasonable and incremental availability from imports is limited with the largest import tank in ARA off-line, a challenging arbitrage from the US and the Libya cracker off-line. The March 2025 northwest European monthly contract price (MCP) for ethylene settled

#### Global ethylene prices

\$/t



Crude					\$/bl
		Effective date	Price		Weekly ±
Ice Brent		27 Feb	74.04	•	-0.39
Nymex WTI		27 Feb	70.35	•	-0.05
Naphtha					\$/t
70 min paraffin l waterborne del	JSGC	27 Feb	616.41	•	-11.44
65 para NWE cif		27 Feb	647.75	•	-7.50
Japan c+f		28 Feb	659.25	•	-10.50
Ethylene					
	Basis	Effective date	Price		±
del USGC ¢/lb	Jan	4 Feb	38.00	•	+3.25
del Europe €/t	Mar	28 Feb	1,260.00	•	+2.50
cfr NE Asia \$/t	spot	28 Feb	900.00	-	0.00
Effective date is t	he date d	of last assessment	Change is compo	nred wi	th the previ-

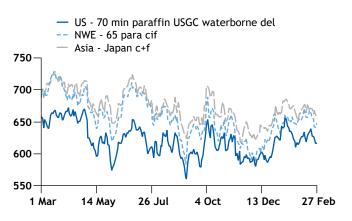
Effective date is the date of last assessment. Change is compared with the previous assessment.

# on 28 February at $\leq 1,260/t$ , a $\leq 2.50/t$ increase from February's MCP.

Ethylene prices in the northeast Asia market were stable this week as discussions stalled. Discussions stalled this week because of the wide gap between bids and offers. The sudden shutdown of LG Chem and Lotte Chemical crackers in Daesan, South Korea, because of electricity disruptions also reduced trader discussions this week.

# Global naphtha prices

\$/t



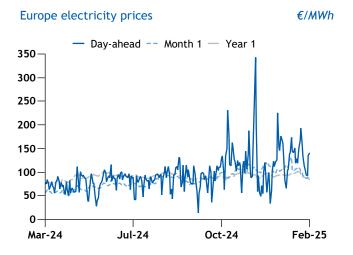


# GAS, ELECTRICITY AND COAL

European gas prices have eased lower as warmer weather heating demand, but low levels of wind generation pushed power prices higher.

The European Commission aims to prolong the EU's gas storage regulation, currently due to expire at the end of this year, but it will be "a few weeks" until there are more details, EU energy commissioner Dan Jorgensen said this afternoon.







# CAUSTIC SODA, EDC, VCM

# Americas

US ethylene dichloride (EDC) export prices fell once again in February, ending the month with a range between \$130-145/ metric tonne (t) fob US Gulf coast.

February's range was \$22.5/t lower than January, and marked the seventh-straight month of falling prices. Prices remain under pressure in Asia in particular, as US producers indicated higher pricing could be achieved in other parts of the world. Export availability was still limited for some producers due to planned or unplanned outages, but some PVC maintenance and rising co-product caustic soda prices did provide incentive for some US producers to export EDC in February.

Exports were spread across five main countries to end

Caustic soda				
	Effective date	Price		±
fob USGC contract \$/dst	Feb 25	613.00	•	-5.00
fd NWE contract €/dmt	Q1-2025	630.00	•	-20.00
fob NE Asia export \$/dmt	Week 9	475.00	•	-8.00
EDC				\$/t
EDC fob USGC (\$/t)	Feb 25	138.00	•	-22.00
EDC cfr Europe (\$/t)	Feb 25	250.00	•	-30.00
EDC cfr NE Asia (\$/t)	Feb 25	213.00	•	-37.00
EDC cfr SE Asia (\$/t)	Feb 25	225.00	•	-24.00
VCM				\$/t
VCM cfr NE Asia (\$/t)	Feb 25	500.00	-	0.00
VCM cfr SE Asia (\$/t)	Feb 25	543.00	•	+0.50
Effective date is the date of	last assessment. Cha	ange is compar	ed with	the previ-

Effective date is the date of last assessment. Change is compared with the previous assessment.

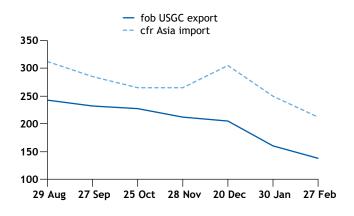


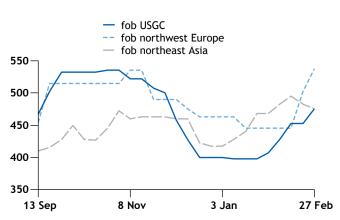


\$/dmt

#### **Global EDC prices**







Global caustic soda export prices

2024, according to US Census Bureau data compiled by the Global Trade Tracker (GTT). Egypt, India, South Korea, Brazil, and France were the main destinations with each of them importing at least 6,000t of EDC in December 2024. South Korea, India, and Egypt each imported 10,000t or more.

# Europe

The European EDC market remains lengthy in February, with spot prices discussed notionally lower this month compared to January.

Argus assessed EDC spot prices on Thursday 27 February, with the monthly European spot index assessed at \$240-260/t cfr Europe. This was down by \$30/t since the previous months' range, in line with weakening global prices and sluggish EDC and PVC demand. European EDC producers were heard turning to the export market as a means to destock on EDC, indicating a lengthy balance in Europe and limited appetite for additional spot cargoes.

EDC production in Poland remains offline following technical issues in mid-February. It remains unclear when chlor-vinyl production operations at the site will restart, with some market participants expecting a potential restart in March. An EDC production site in Runcorn, England is expecting to start production in the coming months.

Current EDC imports remain primarily from contractual discussions between Kem One's and Olin's tolling agreement, which is expected to continue until Kem One completes its ECU membrane conversion at Fos-Sur-Mer. As part of the agreement, Kem One is currently providing PVC to Olin to sell to the US market.

On the other hand, the European VCM market has somewhat tightened in recent months, despite a lack of trading activity on spot. Downstream PVC demand has so far remained steady, with PVC operating rates currently noted at around 65pc on most general-purpose grade production.

# **Asia-Pacific**

Asia-Pacific EDC and VCM spot prices were steady-to-lower in February, with the downtrend remaining driven by rising caustic soda output, contributing to chlorine and feedstock vinyl supply length, and weakening PVC prices and demand across Asia-Pacific.

February EDC cfr northeast Asia spot prices were assessed at \$210-215/t cfr northeast Asia, \$37.50/t lower than the January spot price range and attributable to several deals concluded into China. On the other hand, February VCM cfr northeast Asia spot prices were assessed steady at \$500-500/t cfr northeast Asia, in line with several spot deals also concluded at this level into China. EDC supply length remains driven by higher margin returns on caustic soda, which is consecutively resulting in higher chlorine and feedstock vinyl output. This is also the case in the US, with producers there remaining aggressive in the EDC export market and sending parcels to northeast Asia where demand is greatest, albeit still lower because of weakening downstream demand. Rising ethylene costs and lower EDC import prices in February are further contributing to a decline in chlorine netbacks in northeast Asia, with current values currently surpassing - \$100/t, meaning that ECU operators would need to make up for these losses and increase ECU margins via caustic soda. While VCM margins against ethylene remain positive, it remains difficult to sell excess volumes in a weakening PVC demand environment.

While the EDC supply length is expected to somewhat diminish from the second quarter because of planned maintenance, VCM spot supply could potentially tighten beforehand, following an ongoing unplanned maintenance in south Korea because of a recent power outage in Daesan. This forced one producer to shut their VCM and s-PVC lines until

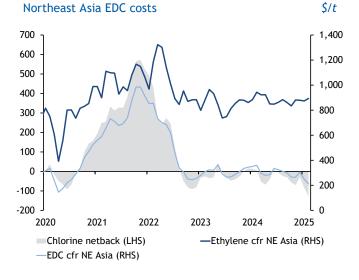
Page 6 of 16



the issue is resolved.

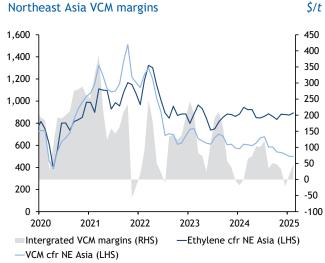
In China, two EDC import deals were concluded between \$210-215/t cfr for US origin cargoes, destined to domestic traders and vinyl producers in east China. Domestic EDC producers in east China reduced their offers to 2,080-2,100 yuan/t, 120 yuan/t lower than the previous week, following lower EDC import prices and a lengthy supply balance. On VCM, two deals were concluded at \$500/t cfr for Japanese origin cargoes this week, destined to PVC producers in northern China. In the domestic market, VCM producers maintained their ex-tank price offers in east China steady at 4,450-4600 yuan/t this week, in view of stable import price and manageable inventories. But lower EDC costs and weakening PVC prices could potentially exert some downward pressure on VCM prices in the coming months, should these trends continue.

February EDC cfr southeast Asia spot prices were assessed at \$225-225/t cfr southeast Asia, \$24/t lower than



the January spot price range and attributable to a US origin spot cargo transacting into Thailand at the assessed level. February VCM cfr southeast Asia spot prices were assessed \$0.50/t higher at \$543-543/t cfr southeast Asia, also in line with one spot deal concluded at this level into Vietnam. EDC requirements from Thailand are expected to rise later in the first quarter, following the start of new PVC capacity in the country which is expected to be licensed before the expansion of chlor-alkali and EDC production at the site.

In the Middle East, spot EDC trades were mostly waning throughout February, with some deals noted done into India on a formula-basis. EDC production in the Middle East is currently operating well, with only one maintenance schedule currently expected in Saudi Arabia in March. VCM output from the Middle East will be gradually reduced ahead of upcoming PVC capacity in Qatar, but this should not be too problematic for Indian PVC producers as they have already mitigated these losses with other supply options.



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# US

Argus assessed US suspension-grade polyvinyl chloride (S-PVC) contracts  $2 \notin /lb$  higher for February compared to the previous month. Export prices fell to \$680-700/t fas Houston this week.

Producers and buyers debated the size of the increase for most of the month, as producers sought as much as a 5¢/ lb increase for February while buyers favored a rollover to a slight increase. Buyers said domestic demand had slowed down from January to February after much of the restocking activity had already passed. Buyers also retained cautious near-term outlooks for resin consumption after housing construction starts for January pointed to a slow start to the year.

Housing starts in January were at a seasonally-adjusted annual rate of 1.366mn units, 9.8pc below December and 0.7pc lower than January 2024 according to data from the US Census Bureau and the Department for Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Single-family starts were at a rate of 993,000 units, 8.4pc below December and 1.8pc lower than the previous year.

But producers cited various planned and unplanned outages which stretched from January into February, a higher average monthly export price compared to January, and squeezed operating margins to support some level of price increase.

Producers were unable to realize the full extent of the proposed price increases in February, in part because some of the factors they pointed to were easing as the month progressed.

Cost pressure on operating margins, which was being driven in large part by rising feedstock ethylene prices from November to January, was slowly deflating as spot ethylene prices slowly declined. Spot EPC ethylene prices for Mont

North America PVC contracts				
	Timing	Contract ∆	Contract price	∆ range
S-PVC pipe del east of Rockies	Feb	+2.0	+59.5	0.0/0.0

The Argus  $\Delta$  (delta) is the assessed change in price from the previous month

North America PVC spot				
Product and basis	Price		±	
S-PVC pipe fas/Houston bagged	31-32	•	-0.8	
E-PVC homopolymer cfr US east coast	58-80	-	0.00	

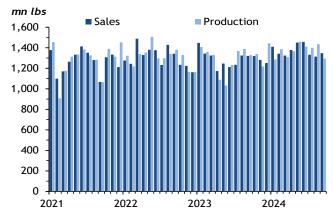
Belvieu declined from a peak of  $37.75 \notin lb$ , or roughly \$830/ metric tonne (t), in late January to  $27.25 \notin lb$ , or \$600/t, by the end of February.

Several producers ran at lower operating rates during February, but supply was improving by the end of the month and buyers said inventories were already sufficient even while operating rates were lower.

The improvement in supply was most noticeable in the export market, where some producers began participating in the market for the first time in weeks. Export prices were pressured down to end February as a result of the lengthening supply, and some US buyers expected this trend to continue into March and limit domestic price increases as well.

Export prices were assessed between \$680-700/t fas Houston this week. US availability was improving compared to previous weeks, and some traders worried that early efforts to move volume by some US producers in key markets like the Middle East and Latin America would leave traders with fewer outlets for demand in the weeks ahead.

Falling freight rates out of Asia were also making Chinese PVC competitive in parts of the Atlantic, particularly in Africa, according to traders. Participants said demand in most regions was still poor, with Turkey being one of the few recent bright spots.



## PVC sales v Production (ACC)

#### North America S-PVC prices





\$/t

PVC resin imports into Turkey did not face the same duties if it was used for finished goods being exported to third party countries, compared to finished goods made for consumption within Turkey, according to a trader. US PVC demand to Turkey was fairly strong under this system in recent months, but orders were starting to slow and US suppliers were competing over the demand that was left, according to participants.

US emulsion-grade PVC (E-PVC) import prices were stable this week between 58-80¢/lbc fr US East coast. Demand is still stable for most customers, but the looming threat of tariffs could have adverse effects on key end use products depending on how such tariffs are implemented.

Steep tariffs levied against Canada and Mexico could complicate the functionality of the North American auto industry's supply chain, which often shifts production and part acquisition between plants across Canada, Mexico, and the US.

While this could serve as a headwind for automotive production, and thus demand for E-PVC usage in that sector, some flooring producers are hoping steeper tariffs on finished goods could open up market share for domestic flooring companies.

# Latin America

Prices of imported polyvinyl chloride (PVC) into South American markets were mixed this week.

Argus assessed US-produced PVC in Brazil at the \$790-820/t range, up \$15/t week-on-week. In the West coast South America (WCSA), prices were quoted at \$775-800/t, down \$2.5/t. All prices are cfr main ports.

PVC demand was considered stable to lower in Brazil this week, as most customers postponed their purchases until after the 5-day Carnival Holiday next week. The same happened in the WCSA, but as import volumes to that region are usually lower than Brazil, demand was considered stable.

Meanwhile, logistics problems in Houston, the main shipping port for PVC exports to Latin America, are still causing concerns.

*Argus* heard that Houston is having to deal with full warehouses, which are impacting delivery times. One market participant told *Argus* that deliveries from Houston are available only starting in 15 April. The extreme delay is making buyers look to other origins when deciding to acquire imports.

Another trader acting in the region said that the situation in Houston's warehouses is becoming better, but the port itself is still seeing bookings being rolled.

In Brazil, local plastic resins manufacturer Braskem announced on 27 February a \$2.2bn loss for 2024. In an earn-

Latin America PVC spot			\$/t
Product and basis	Price		±
S-PVC pipe cfr Brazil US-origin	805	•	+15.00
S-PVC pipe cfr WCSA US-origin	787.5	•	-2.50

ings call, Braskem anticipates a prolonged downturn in the petrochemical cycle, which has reduced its polymers market share in Brazil from around 60pc to a little over 40pc in the past two years.

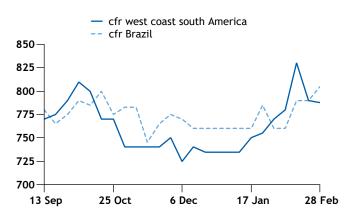
To address this, Braskem announced strategic initiatives, including asset rationalization, and pushes for higher import tariffs and anti-dumping investigations.

Braskem expects a slight improvement in domestic polymer demand this year, and has already seen some improvement in January, but the company does not anticipate a significant increase in plant utilization from the current 72pc.

In January, Brazil's PVC imports rose by 3.7pc yearon-year. PVC imports in January rose to 55,008t, up from 53,045t in the same period last year, according to data from Brazilian trade ministry database Comexstat. In terms of value, January PVC imports rose by 2.19pc on the month to \$45mn.

Colombia remained the top PVC supplier to Brazil, followed by the US, Egypt, and Argentina.

#### Latin America S-PVC prices



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\$/t

## Europe

The European PVC market is in the process of finalising February contract prices, following steady demand so far in the first quarter, albeit within lower levels.

Argus has finalised February suspension PVC (s-PVC) and emulsion PVC (e-PVC) contract delta assessments on Thursday 27 February. In northwest Europe, s-PVC contract delta assessments were assessed within a range of +  $\leq$ 25-30/t, with the delta assessment noted at +  $\leq$ 27.50/t. Buyers had been keen to limit attempt from producers to increase PVC prices higher and regain PVC margins in February, with many continuing to point to underlying sluggish demand as the reason for lower volume offtake and smaller price increases.

On the other hand, demand in southern Europe was noted firmer than in northwest Europe, reflecting on February contract price discussions. *Argus* has finalised the s-PVC contract delta assessment for southern Europe within a range of  $+ \notin 30-35/t$ , with the delta assessment noted at  $+ \notin 30/t$ . Pricing here was noted similar to central eastern Europe, with *Argus* finalising the s-PVC contract delta assessment at  $+ \notin 30/t$  and within a range of  $+ \notin 25-35/t$ .

The February e-PVC market saw softer price increases than s-PVC, following weak downstream demand. Argus assessed the e-PVC contract delta assessment for northwest Europe at +  $\notin$ 20/t, and within a range of +  $\notin$ 15-25/t. Recent Eurostat data is also indicative of a contraction in European automotive sector performance in 2024, which remains one of the key demand drivers of e-PVC. Overall yearly automotive manufacturing in Europe was down by 5.4pc in 2024, but still above historically low output in 2020.

There is a broader expectation that the regional s-PVC balance may tighten in the second quarter following a heavy production maintenance schedule, but this will largely remain reliant on demand developments. European s-PVC demand remains flat in February, following heightened restocking activity in January, but volume offtake from key consuming segments like pipe and profiles remains below

S-PVC a	S-PVC anti-dumping (Europe) %					
Country	Company	Dumping Margin	Injury Margin	Provisional ADD		
Egypt	Egyptian Petrochemical Company	109.5	100.1	100.1		
Egypt	TCI Sanmar S.A.E.	86.1	74.2	74.2		
Egypt	All other companies	109.5	100.1	100.1		
US	Formosa Plastics Corporation	71.1	90.6	71.1		
US	Westlake Chemicals	58.0	87.2	58.0		
US	Oxy Vinyls, LP	63.7	88.3	63.7		
US	Shintech Incorporated	63.7	88.3	63.7		
US	All other companies	78.5	90.6	78.5		

Europe PVC contracts €/t						
	Timing	$Contract\Delta$	Contract price	∆ range		
S-PVC pipe del NWE	Feb	27.5	1148.5	25/30		
S-PVC pipe del S Europe	Feb	+30.0	1181	30/35		
S-PVC pipe del CEE	Feb	+30.0	1146	25/35		
E-PVC paste del NWE	Feb	+20.0	1416	15/25		

The Argus  $\Delta$  (delta) is the assessed change in price from the previous month

Europe PVC spot			€/t
Product and basis	Price		±
S-PVC pipe import price cif Europe	855	-	0.00

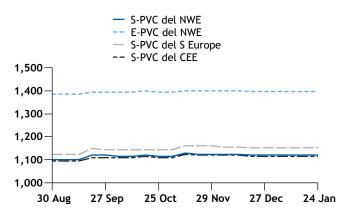
expectations. Easing interest rates across Europe are doing little to stimulate additional PVC buying interest, with many noting that recent election results in Germany may also do little to induce additional spending on new construction projects, and therefore higher PVC demand, in the short to medium-term.

Supply in Europe remains lengthy. An s-PVC production site in Poland remains shut on technical issues, following an incident two weeks ago which halted production. Deliveries to customers remain uninterrupted for now, from previouslybuilt stocks at the site. An s-PVC production unit in the Netherlands will undergo planned maintenance in March.

The s-PVC spot market remains quiet, with import prices holding steady at &830-880/t cif Europe following limited appetite for imports and additional contractual offtake from European producers. Asian s-PVC cargoes remain offered within the assessed range, following the implementation of anti-dumping duties (ADDs) on US and Egyptian s-PVC supply

#### Europe PVC contract prices

€/t





into Europe, but longer lead times associated with Asian supply are limiting buying interest among European converters.

# Turkey

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) import prices into Turkey decreased this week. Demand for K67 grade is weak but demand for K70 started to pick up seasonally. Limited availability of K70 material is further lifting demand for the grade. For other grades, the market was quiet.

Buyers are waiting for the announcement of new monthly offers, but the market is expected to be generally quiet during the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan from 28 February-30 March. Demand for PVC grades will probably increase after Ramadan, with the arrival of the season.

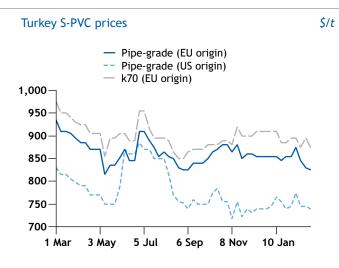
Northwest Europe-origin K67 was assessed at \$820-830/t cfr, \$5/t lower than last week. Offers from South Korea were heard at \$820/t cif and Egyptian offers were at \$820/t cif. Domestic producer Petkim offered its material at \$920/t plus value-added tax (VAT). Northwest Europe-origin K70 was assessed at \$860-890/t cfr, \$30/t lower on the low end and \$10/t lower on the high end compared with last week. Petkim offered its material at \$950/t plus VAT. US-origin pipe grade was assessed at \$730-750/t cfr, \$10/t lower on the low end and stable on the high end.

# **Middle East**

Middle Eastern s-PVC import prices were steady this week at \$710-760/t cfr GCC, despite higher Chinese import offers, as most participants prepare to step away from the market and reduce purchases ahead of the month of Ramadan.

New offers into the Middle East were scarce this week, primarily driven by weakening demand from converters who are looking to destock ahead of the Holy Month of Ramadan. US offers were scarce into the Middle East, with most converters remaining disinterested in these cargoes because of higher freight costs, while few Chinese ethylene-based s-PVC offers were noted between \$720-730/t cfr. These would be slightly higher than the previous week, despite easing export prices from China and steady container freight costs at much lower levels than in previous months, but buying appetite is clearly cooling down across the Middle East as most converters remain adequately stocked on prompt resin supply.

Most converters will also be anticipating new price offers from local s-PVC producers in Saudi Arabia in the coming weeks, thereby delaying further import purchases from other exporting regions. The sole s-PVC producer in Saudi Arabia is expected to conduct planned maintenance on s-PVC



production sometime this year, with the original planned date of March continuously being pushed back, but it remains unclear whether this could potentially increase import requirements from customers during the maintenance, as s-PVC supply from the producer will likely be accounted for with restocking prior to the maintenance schedule.

# Egypt

Polyvinyl chloride (PVC) import prices into Egypt rolled over this week. Demand is very weak and the market is quiet. Market participants are waiting for the announcement of new monthly offers, but no increase in demand is expected after they are announced.

Europe-origin PVC was assessed at \$800/t cfr this week, unchanged from last week's assessment.

Turkey and Middle East PVC spot			\$/t
Product and basis	Price		±
S-PVC pipe, cfr Turkey (Europe-origin)	820-830	•	-5.00
S-PVC k70, cfr Turkey (Europe-origin)	860-890	•	-20.00
S-PVC pipe, cfr Turkey (US-origin)	730-750	•	-5.00
S-PVC pipe cfr GCC	710-760	-	0.00
Egypt PVC spot			\$/t
Product and basis	Price		±



## China

Chinese PVC prices eased this week, suppressed by substantially lower PVC futures. Price losses were somewhat softened by higher domestic PVC demand.

PVC futures remained on a downward trend during the first half of the week, dragged down by lower crude oil futures and coal-related product futures. But PVC futures rose slightly on 27 February, following depleting inventories among social warehouses in east China and restocking efforts among PVC converters. Average operating rates among Chinese converters rose by 4pc this week to 48pc.

Ex-works prices for carbide-based PVC ranged between 4,850-5,150 yuan/t this week, down by 25 yuan/t since the previous range. Ethylene-based PVC prices were noted between 5,050-5,650 yuan/t ex-works, 50 yuan/t lower than the previous week.

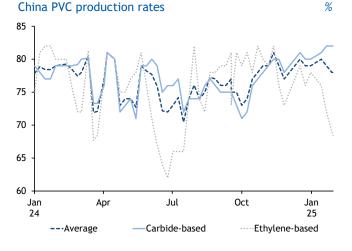
Export trades from China shrank further this week, resulting from limited buying interest from India. Offers for carbide-based PVC exports were noted at \$620-630/t fob China, with trades concluded at \$615-630/t fob China and \$3/t lower than the previous week. Ethylene-based PVC exports were offered at \$645-660/t fob China, with transactions concluded at \$640-660/t fob China and \$3/t down since last week. Freight rates from north China to Vietnam were noted around \$25/t, while freight rates from north China to India were noted around \$55-60/t, both steady since the previous week.

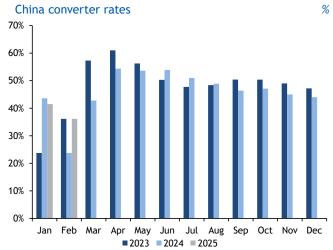
Average PVC production rates in China were stable this week at 78pc. Carbide-based PVC production was noted running at a steady average of 82pc, while average operating rates at ethylene-based PVC plants were noted down by 2pc at 67pc.

On the production side, Zhejiang Oceanking extended an ongoing maintenance schedule at their 300,000 t/yr PVC plant to early March, from their origin restart plan in late February. Suzhou Huasu is planning to restart their 130,000 t/yr PVC plant in early March. Bohai Chemical will shut down production at their 800,000 t/yr PVC unit for an alternative maintenance schedule in late March for 20 days.

Import offers into China were absent this week. The workable price level to import suspension PVC (s-PVC) pipegrade ranged between \$665-725/t cfr China this week, \$3/t lower than the previous range and attributable to lower domestic prices in China.

Asia-Pacific PVC spot			
Product and basis	Price		±
China (Yn/t)			
S-PVC pipe ex-works China (ethylene-based)	5,050-5,650	•	-50.00
S-PVC pipe ex-works China (carbide-based)	4,850-5,150	•	-25.00
China (\$/t)			
S-PVC pipe fob China (ethylene-based)	640-660	•	-2.50
S-PVC pipe fob China (carbide-based)	615-630	•	-2.50
S-PVC pipe ex-works China import parity	560-629	•	-6.44
S-PVC pipe cfr China	665-725	•	-2.50
South Asia (\$/t)			
S-PVC pipe cfr India	690-740	•	-5.00
E-PVC homopolymer cfr India	930-960	•	-15.00
S-PVC pipe cfr Pakistan	770-800	-	0.00
S-PVC pipe cfr Bangladesh	700-750	-	0.00
Southeast Asia (\$/t)			
S-PVC pipe cfr SE Asia	660-700	-	0.00





South Asia

\$/t

### South Asia S-PVC prices

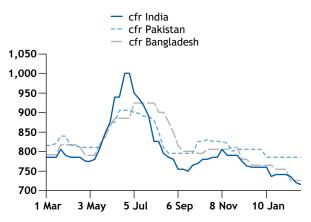
Indian s-PVC import prices fell slightly by \$5/t this week to \$690-740/t cfr India, resulting from slightly lower offers from China and slow demand during Maha Shivratri festival celebrations.

Most northeast Asian s-PVC producers, who already offered cargoes into the Indian market last week, maintained their price indications steady this week. The higher end of the price range remains deduced by offers from Taiwan and south Korea, while Japanese s-PVC producers are currently targeting a price range of \$760-800/t cfr for the month of March, equivalent to \$703-740/t cfr after accounting for duty benefits for Japanese s-PVC cargoes into India. Selling import volume allocations is reportedly slow for the month of March, primarily because of the end of the financial year for most converters in India and the need for them to reduce inventories prior to this, but more cost-competitive Chinese s-PVC cargoes are also contributing to slower import sales from other northeast Asian producers.

Chinese ethylene-based s-PVC cargoes were offered between \$690-700/t cfr this week, slightly lower than the previous week and reflective of the lower price range to the Indian market. Chinese carbide-based s-PVC cargoes were offered between \$670-685/t cfr, with only limited volumes destined for the Indian market in recent weeks as converters in the country remain speculative of quality issues associated with these grades. The implementation of BIS quality controls in India in June would primarily stop imports of carbide-based s-PVC in the country, as they would exceed the residual vinyl chloride monomer (RVCM) content in PVC of 2 parts per million.

The market balance remains lengthy in India, primarily due to the abundance of s-PVC supply from various regions, but slowing demand during Maha Shivratri festival celebrations also further exacerbated this trend and resulted in lower import prices. The same can also be noted for the wider Asia-Pacific market, with lower Chinese s-PVC demand, despite some restocking activity there, and easing container freight costs from China to major import markets further contributing to a regional downward price trend. Port congestion and higher freight costs from the US are keeping US s-PVC cargoes away from the Indian market for now, helping to limit supply length into India.

On paste PVC (e-PVC), import prices fell by \$15/t this week to \$930-960/t cfr India, primarily driven by lower demand and difficulty in importing e-PVC into India because of already-implemented anti-dumping duties (ADDs). European e-PVC offers were noted at \$950/t cfr, matching similar price indications from Taiwan. A Malaysian e-PVC producer offered prices into India at \$960/t cfr, with some deals noted at this



price level, but for limited quantities. Lower priced deals at \$920/t cfr from Malaysia could not be widely confirmed during the time of writing, as was the case for lower prices and deals from Thailand. One Thai e-PVC producer offered e-PVC cargoes into India between \$930-950/t cfr, with unconfirmed indications of deals below \$900/t cfr remaining speculative for now.

In Pakistan, s-PVC import prices were steady this week at \$770-800/t cfr Pakistan, with limited trading activity noted across the country because of weakening demand and ongoing import restrictions associated with the obtainment of letters of credit (LCs). Similarly in Bangladesh, s-PVC import prices were stable at \$700-750/t cfr Bangladesh, with limited new offers in the market because of slowing demand, foreign currency shortages and difficulty in obtaining LCs.

E-PVC anti-dumping (India) \$/t					
Country of origin	Country of export	Producer	Duty		
China	Any	Formosa Industries (Ningbo) Co., Ltd.	546		
China	Any	Shenyang Chemical Co. Ltd	115		
China	Any	Other Chinese producers except abovc	600		
Any	China	Any	600		
South Korea	Any	Hanwha Solutions Corporation	0		
South Korea	Any	Other South Korean producers	41		
Any	South Korea	Any	41		
Malaysia	Any	Kaneka Paste Sdn. Bhd.	317		
Malaysia	Any	Other Malaysian producers	375		
Any	Malaysia	Any	375		
Taiwan	Any	Formosa Plastics Corporation	118		
Taiwan	Any	Other Taiwanese producers	168		
Any	Taiwan	Any	168		
Thailand	Any	TPC Paste Resin Co. Ltd.	195		
Thailand	Any	Other Thai producers	252		
Any	Thailand	Any	252		
Norway	Any	Any	328		
Any	Norway	Any	328		



# Southeast Asia

Southeast Asian s-PVC import prices retained stability this week at \$660-700/t cfr southeast Asia, with the market remaining plagued by ongoingly weak demand and high inventories among converters.

The market balance remains lengthy across southeast Asia, primarily dominated by excess supply from domestic s-PVC producers and Chinese producers, with the former struggling to sell allocated export volumes because of lower demand from other typical import markets. Inventories among s-PVC converters and further down the value chain are also elevated, with many large PVC consumers in Vietnam noting ample s-PVC stock levels at their manufacturing sites which would allow them to maintain production until at least the beginning of the second quarter. Buyers in other southeast Asian countries are noting a slightly shorter time frame in comparison, but are seeing no real issue in securing current s-PVC requirements in an already lengthy market. The beginning of several public holidays across southeast Asia in March and April, including Ramadan and Thai New Year celebrations, will also contribute in curbing PVC demand and additional resin purchases in the coming months.

Offers remained primarily active into Vietnam, but other countries across southeast Asia saw similar price indications throughout the week. US cargoes were offered into Vietnam at \$660-680/t cfr, with some deals noted done between \$660-670/t cfr, but for very small quantities. Thai offers were mainly noted between \$695-700/t cfr, with deals concluded within these levels. Despite easing export prices from China, Chinese ethylene-based s-PVC offers were mostly steady between \$660-690/t cfr.

There are currently limited s-PVC production issues occurring in the southeast Asian market, with most producers there continuing to benefit from higher caustic soda prices and returns, while consequently maintaining production of chlorine and s-PVC during the weakening demand season.

India s-PV	C ADD list		\$/t
Country of origin	Country of export	Producer	Duty
China	China	Chiping Xinfa Polyvinyl Chloride	125
China	China	Chiping Xinfa Huaxing Chemical	125
China	China	Tianjin Bohua Chemical	82
China	China	Qingdao Haiwan Chemical	92
China	China	Non-sampled producers	97
China	Any	Any	167
Any	China	Any	167
Indonesia	Indonesia	PT Asahimas Chemical	73
Indonesia	Indonesia	PT TPC Indo Plastic & Chemical	61
Indonesia	Any	Any	200
Any	Indonesia	Any	200
Japan	Japan	Kaneka Corporation	54
Japan	Japan	Shin-Etsu Chemical	73
Japan	Japan	Non-sampled producers	66
Japan	Any	Any	147
Any	Japan	Any	147
Korea PR	Korea PR	LG Chem	51
Korea PR	Korea PR	Hanwha Solutions Corporation	(
Korea PR	Any	Any	161
Any	Korea PR	Any	16 <sup>-</sup>
Taiwan	Taiwan	China General Plastics Corporation	25
Taiwan	Taiwan	CGPC Polymer Corporation	25
Taiwan	Taiwan	Ocean Plastics Co.	4(
Taiwan	Taiwan	Formosa Plastics Corporation	74
Taiwan	Any	Any	163
Any	Taiwan	Any	163
Thailand	Thailand	Thai Plastics and Chemicals	53
Thailand	Thailand	AGC Vinythai Public Company	80
Thailand	Any	Any	184
Any	Thailand	Any	184
USA	USA	Westlake Chemicals & Vinyls	164
USA	USA	Westlake Vinyls	164
USA	USA	Westlake Vinyls Company	164
USA	USA	Shintech Incorporated	104
USA	Any	Any	339
Any	USA	Any	339



T terre II	naintenance, outages and	-and appendix			Constit	Nature of shut	
Status	Plant	Product	Location	Grade	Capacity '000t/yr	Nature of shut- down	Duration
	Formosa	EDC	US	Oxychlorination	625	Adverse Weather	19-23 Jan. Extended but ramping
	Formosa	VCM	US	Ethylene-based	682	Adverse Weather	19-23 Jan. Extended but ramping
	Formosa	PVC	US	Suspension	675	Adverse Weather	19-23 Jan. Extended but ramping
	Westlake	EDC	US	Various	1882	Maintenance	Q1 for several weeks
	Westlake	VCM	US	Ethylene-based	726	Maintenance	Q1 for several weeks
	Westlake	VCM	US	Ethylene-based	989	Maintenance	Q1 for several weeks
	Westlake	PVC	US	Suspension	750	Maintenance	Q1 for several weeks
NEW	Olin Corporation	EDC	US	Direct chlorination	925	Maintenance	Mar, 4-6 weeks
NEW	Olin Corporation	EDC	US	Oxychlorination	1555	Maintenance	Mar, 4-6 weeks
	Braskem	PVC	Brazil	Suspension	250	Fire damage	18 Nov. Restart delayed to Mar
	Karpatnaftochim	VCM	Ukraine	Ethylene-based	300	Temporary closure	State of emergency in Ukraine
	Karpatnaftochim	PVC	Ukraine	Suspension	300	Temporary closure	State of emergency in Ukraine
	Inovyn	PVC	UK	Suspension	280	Mothballed	2 out of 4 lines since early Jul
	Kem One	EDC	France	Various	630	ECU conversion	Q4 23 - Feb 2025
	Spolana	VCM	Czech	Ethylene-based	135	Permanent closure	From 1H 2025
	Spolana	PVC	Czech	Suspension	135	Permanent closure	From 1H 2025
	Fortischem	EDC	Czech	Direct chlorination	100	Permanent closure	From Jan 2025
	Fortischem	VCM	Czech	Carbide-based	64	Permanent closure	From Jan 2025
	Fortischem	VCM	Czech	Ethylene-based	40	Permanent closure	From Jan 2025
	Fortischem	PVC	Czech	Various	83	Permanent closure	From Jan 2025
NEW	Vestolit	EDC	Germany	Various	630	Maintenance	Apr
NEW	Vestolit	VCM	Germany	Ethylene-based	400	Maintenance	Apr
NEW	Vestolit	PVC	Germany	Various	455	Maintenance	Apr
NEW	Shinetsu	PVC	Netherlands	Suspension	450	Maintenance	Mar for 6 weeks
	Sadaf (Sabic)	EDC	Saudi Arabia	Direct chlorination	840	Maintenance	End Mar, 70 days
UPDATE	Sadaf (Sabic)	PVC	Saudi Arabia	Suspension	380	Maintenance	Postponed to Q2 2025
	Sinopec Qilu	PVC	China	Ethylene-based	360	Fire damage	23 Dec 23 - 17 Aug 24, half restarted
	Jvlong Chemical	PVC	China	Carbide-based	120	Maintenance	25 Apr 2024, restart unclear
	Inner Mongolia Elion Chlor- Alkali Company	PVC	China	Carbide-based	250	Maintenance	15 May 2024, restart unclear
	Jvlong Chemical	PVC	China	Ethylene-based	400	Reduced rates	Running at 30pc of current
	Guangxi Huayi	PVC	China	Ethylene-based	400	Maintenance	capacity 10 Feb for one month
	Ningbo Oceanking	PVC	China	Ethylene-based	300	Maintenance	13 Feb - early Mar
	Suzhou Huasu	PVC	China	Ethylene-based	130	Maintenance	27 Jan - Mar
UPDATE	Bohai Chemical	PVC	China	Ethylene-based	800	Maintenance	End Mar, 20 days. Alternative.
	Yibin Tianyuan	PVC	China	Carbide-based	380	Maintenance	End Mar for one week
NEW	Xinjiang Zhongtai (Shengx-	PVC	China	Carbide-based		Maintenance	End Mar. Alternative.
NEW	iong) Anhui Huasu	PVC	China	Carbide-based	640	Maintenance	Apr
NEW	Eli Nangang	PVC	China	Carbide-based		Maintenance	Apr
NEW	Sinopec Qilu	PVC	China	Ethylene-based		Maintenance	May - Jun
	Toagosei	PVC	Japan	Suspension		Permanent closure	From Dec 2025
	Taiyo Vinyl	PVC	Japan	Suspension		Maintenance	Early Mar - mid Apr
	Hanwha Chemical Corp.	EDC	South Korea	Various		Maintenance	Mid-Feb to mid-Mar
	Hanwha Chemical Corp.	VCM	South Korea			Maintenance	Mid-Feb to mid-Mar
NEW	LG Chem	VCM	South Korea	Ethylene-based	240	Power outage	Feb 25, ongoing
NEW	LG Chem	PVC	South Korea			Power outage	Feb 25, ongoing
			Journal of Cu		270		1 00 20, 01150115



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