

GLOBAL COMMENTARY

North America

Bulk DEF assessments were steady on flat indications, after moving earlier in the month, despite mid-month price changes from certain primary suppliers.

Yara raises ex-terminal prices

Yara raised its ex-terminal DEF price by \$110/st fot on 12 February, buyers said, equivalent to 16c/USG. The increase comes after it lowered prices by around 14c/USG fot at the start of the month, in line with others at the time.

Yara did not respond to comment on this development.

This mid-month change has not influenced bulk DEF pricing at terminals in Argus' assessed metros, but operators said it has added complexity to their pricing models, with most setting fot levels at the start of the month.

Waggaman taken offline due to technical fault

Cornerstone Chemicals has stopped output at its 800,00 t/yr ammonia plant with integrated DEF production in Waggaman, Louisiana, owing to a hydrogen release.

Initial examinations show that there has been no chemical release to the environment nor any offsite impact, its parent company IPL said, and it has been given clearance to start investigations into the cause of the hydrogen release. The firm is assessing any damage to the plant, with a restart date still to be confirmed.

Argus estimates that the plant produced 8mn USG/yr of 50pc urea liquor and 6mn USG/yr of DEF in 2021.

N-7 posts 13pc growth in DEF sales in 2021

N-7 reported that its DEF sales totalled 974,000t (236mn USG) in January-December 2021, up by 13pc on the previous

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- Global DEF producers
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PRICE SUMMARY

Price summary				
	Feb*	18 Feb	11 Feb	4 Feb
Germany - AdBlue® bulk €/100l				
fot North	40.55	40.55		
week/month change	na	nc		
fot South	37.75	37.75		
week/month change	na	nc		
fot Germany	39.15	39.15		
week/month change	na	nc		
US - DEF bulk €/USG				
fot Atlanta	151.50	149-154	149-154	149-154
week/month change	-20.00	nc	nc	-20.00
fot Chicago	142.50	139-146	139-146	139-146
week/month change	-26.00	nc	nc	-26.00
fot Dallas	139.50	138-141	138-141	138-141
week/month change	-34.50	nc	nc	-34.50
fot Denver	144.00	143-145	143-145	143-145
week/month change	-23.50	nc	nc	-23.50
fot Los Angeles	171.50	158-185	158-185	158-185
week/month change	-14.00	nc	nc	-14.00
fot Philadelphia	155.00	150-160	150-160	150-160
week/month change	-22.50	nc	nc	-22.50
	Feb*	17 Feb	10 Feb	3 Feb
Granular urea \$/st				
fob Nola	563.34	515-545	520-575	575-650
month change \$/st	-41.04			
month change, €/USG	-6.06			

* Averages are month to date until last week of current month

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Weekly spot price comparison

€/USG



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year. This figure included sales from OCI's Wever plant that totalled 612,000t (148mn USG) over the period, down by 4pc on a year prior. Meanwhile, output from its sales partners Dyno Nobel and Dakota Gasification increased by 59pc year on year to 362,000t (88mn USG) in 2021.

N-7 is a marketing joint venture between OCI, Dyno Nobel and Dakota Gasification, which was renewed for three years in November 2021. OCI said that DEF represented around 35pc of its sales volumes at its nitrogen complex in Wever, Iowa.

OCI said that it expects its DEF sales to grow further in 2022, owing to a continued recovery in truck sales and freight activity. It also reported that it has increased its contractual volumes for 2022. This is unlike most other US urea producers, which have lowered or kept contracted volumes unchanged compared with the previous year.

Europe

Ex-work AdBlue prices in Germany were steady on last week, after suppliers moved prices earlier in the month. *Argus* assessed mid-prices at €40.55/100l for north Germany and €37.75/100l for south Germany, and a German average at €39.15/100l.

Yara declares force majeure on AdBlue at Ferrara

Yara declared force majeure on AdBlue and industrial ammonia at its facility in Ferrara, Italy on 17 February, owing to a production outage since 10 February. But Yara told *Argus* that AdBlue loading has been uninterrupted.

The production outage was brought about by a local 30-minute blackout on 10 February that caused the ammonia unit at the Ferrara facility to "trip". When attempting a restart on 14 February, abnormal vibrations led to an inspection, which revealed that the coupling between the driving turbine and compressor had broken.

Repairs are ongoing, with production expected to resume late next week. Yara said AdBlue is also being stored and delivered from its site in Ravenna, Italy.

Ferrara is the only integrated AdBlue production facility in Italy, with a capacity of 215,000 t/yr of AdBlue. *Argus* estimates that the plant met over 50pc of Italian AdBlue demand in 2021, producing the equivalent of 170mn l over the period.

NEWS

EU January car sales at historic low

Car manufacturers association Acea registered a "historic" low for new passenger car registrations in January, down 6pc in January 2022 compared to a year ago. Sales reached 682,596 units last month.

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Nola urea prices edge higher on March trade

US granular urea prices jumped today by upwards of 6pc from yesterday's values on trade for shipment through March.

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