

HIGHLIGHTS

- The US May Argus prevailing BD CP settled down by 4.25¢/lb to 42.75¢/lb (\$943/t).
- Asia-Pacific prices are slightly lower this week as spot supplies emerge, while buyers exercise caution.
- Natural rubber futures appear to have stabilized after declining in early April.
- The euro's strength against the US dollar pressures exporters, weighing on price differentials.

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MARKET SNAPSHOT

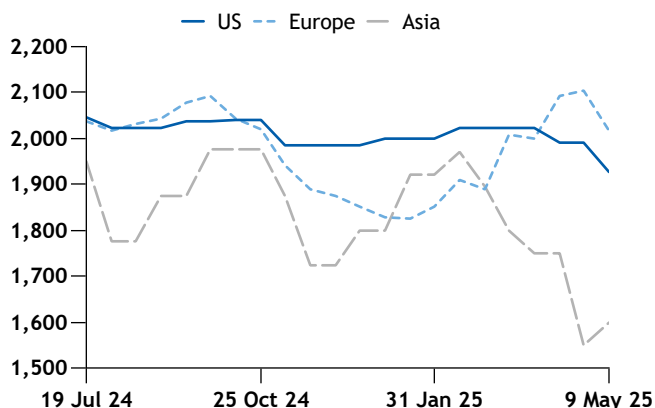
Key prices			
	Timing	Price	±
Americas			
Butadiene contract fob ¢/lb	May	41.00-44.00	-3.50
Butadiene prevailing contract fob ¢/lb	May	42.75	-4.25
Europe			
Butadiene contract delivered €/t	May	970.00	-60.00
Asia-Pacific			
Butadiene spot cfr NE Asia \$/t		1,020.00-1,070.00	-30.00

Global SBR			
	Timing	Price	±
US eSBR 1502	May	1,860-1,993	-64
Europe eSBR 1502	May	1,993-2,038	-88
Asia eSBR 1502		1,550-1,650	+50

Associated markets			
	Timing	Price	±
TSR20 SGX fob	Jun	1,711.00-1,731.00	+23.00
Naphtha 65 para NWE cif		549.75	+9.25
Naphtha Japan c+f		568.50	+10.25

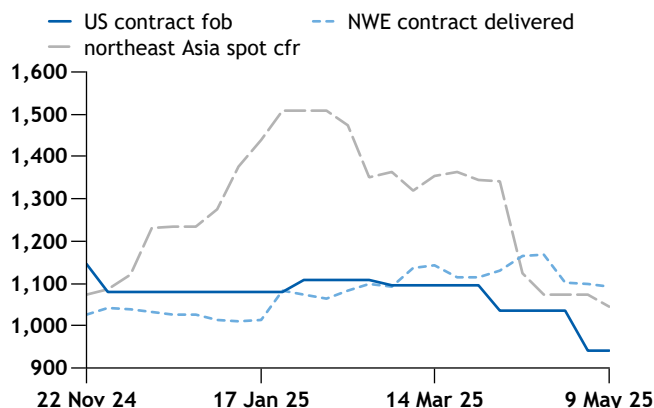
Global SBR

\$/t



Butadiene: Americas, Europe and Asia

\$/t



ENERGY AND FEEDSTOCKS

US crude benchmark WTI futures rose on 8 May on news that US and Chinese officials will meet to discuss trade issues, in the first high-level talks since the two sides started imposing bilateral tariffs in February. June Nymex WTI rose by \$1.84/bl to \$59.91/bl while July Ice Brent rose by \$1.72/bl to \$62.84/bl.

China's vice-premier He Lifeng and US treasury secretary Scott Bessent will hold talks in Switzerland, according to statements from China's commerce ministry (MoC) and the US Treasury Department.

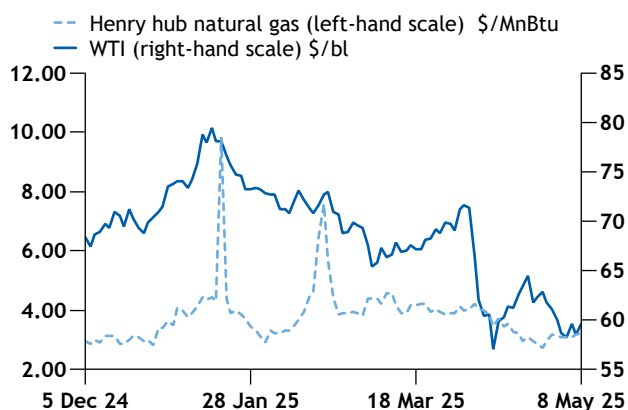
China hinted late last week that it was open to talks, after what it said were repeated approaches from US officials. "After fully considering global expectations, China's own interests, and appeals from US industry and consumers, China has decided to agree to engage with the US," the MoC said.

Elsewhere, the US imposed sanctions on an independent refiner and three port terminal operators in China, accusing them of accepting shipments of Iranian crude.

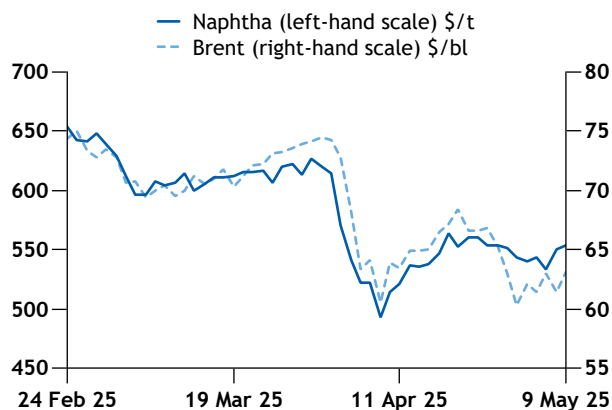
Market prices

	Timing	Price	±
Americas, 8 May			
Natural gas Houston Ship Channel All Index \$/mmBtu		2.74	-0.66
Ethane Mont Belvieu spot fob ¢/USG		25.56	+1.62
Propane Mont Belvieu spot fob ¢/USG		69.56	+0.06
Butane Mont Belvieu spot fob ¢/USG		85.1	-7.44
Naphtha 40 N+A USGC delivered ¢/USG		151.54	-3.63
Gasoline 87 conv USGC ¢/USG		204.04	+6.49
Gasoline 93 conv USGC ¢/USG		222.79	-2.01
Nymex WTI \$/bl		59.91	+0.67
WTI \$/bl		59.91	+0.67
Europe, 8 May			
Propane cif ARA large cargo \$/t		440.75	-14.50
Butane ARA/UK large cargo \$/t		455.00	+5.50
Naphtha 65 para NWE cif \$/t		549.75	+9.25
Ice Brent \$/bl		62.00	+0.29
Asia-Pacific, 8 May			
Naphtha Japan c+f \$/t		568.50	+10.25
Butane Argus Far East Index™ \$/t		530.25	+28.25
Propane Argus Far East Index™ \$/t		513.25	+18.25

Henry Hub natural gas vs WTI

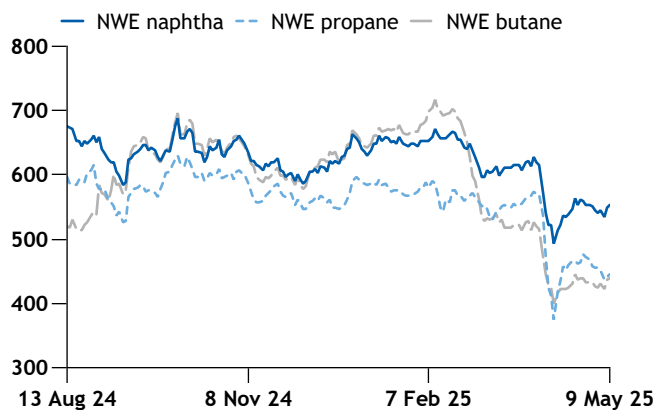


Naphtha vs Ice Brent



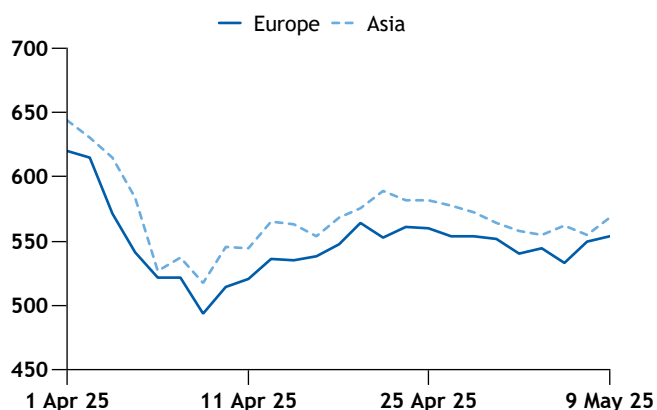
European cracker feedstock prices

\$/t



Europe and Asia naphtha

\$/t



ENERGY AND FEEDSTOCKS

With this action, Hebei Xinhai becomes the third independent refiner in China subject to US sanctions, joining Luqing that was sanctioned in March and Shandong Shengxing Chemical that came under US penalties in April.

US natural gas futures fell on forecasts for variable weather and on a US government report showing a large build in gas inventories. Nymex gas for June delivery at the Henry Hub fell on 8 May by 2.9¢/mmBtu, or 0.8pc, to settle at \$3.592/mmBtu. The 12-month strip declined by 0.4pc to \$4.235/mmBtu, while the 2026-calendar strip dropped by 0.7pc to \$4.346/mmBtu.

Prices faced downward pressure after the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported a larger-than-average increase in gas inventories because of last week's milder weather. US gas inventories in the week ended 2 May rose by 104 Bcf.

The EIA has said that it expects inventory growth to slow once summer cooling demand picks up. The agency has forecast that inventories will exit the injection season, when gas stockpiles are replenished to meet winter heating needs.

AUTO UPDATE

Americas

US sales of light vehicles in April slipped from a four-year high the prior month but still reflected robust purchasing ahead of planned implementation of more US tariffs on the automotive industry.

Sales of light vehicles — trucks and cars — dipped to a seasonally adjusted rate of 17.3mn units in April, down from 17.8mn in March, the Bureau of Economic Analysis reported. Last month's total still was above April 2024's annualized rate of 16mn and was the second-highest monthly reading since April 2021.

US consumers maintained steady purchasing last month in a rush to beat 25pc tariffs on imports of vehicle parts that were set to be implemented on 3 May. Those higher duties are expected to raise input costs for domestic automakers, and thus, prices for buyers.

US president Donald Trump signed an order that allows vehicle manufacturers to partially recoup tariff-related costs, helping to ease the burden. Still, Trump maintained his goal of forcing US automakers to become wholly reliant on auto parts made in the US. Trump already instituted 25pc tariffs on imports of foreign-made vehicles on 3 April.

Truck sales last month fell by 1.9pc sequentially to 14.4mn unit rate, while car sales dropped by 8.8pc to a 2.9mn unit rate.

US vehicle production fell to a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 10.07mn from an upwardly revised 10.09mn in February, according to US Federal Reserve data. That compares with 11.08mn in March 2024. Auto assemblies are reported with a one-month lag to sales.

Europe

Audi's electric vehicle (EV) sales increased by roughly a third in the first quarter, offsetting a drop in overall deliveries.

Audi sold 46,371 electric vehicles worldwide in the first quarter, a 30pc increase compared with the year-prior period. The German automaker experienced a surge in demand in its home European market, with French sales soaring by 169pc despite a slowdown in the country's EV sector.

In total, Audi sold 383,401 units in the first quarter, down by 3.4pc from last year. It cited competition in the Chinese market and changes in several North American models. Sales in the US and Canada fell by 2.1pc.

In China, where Audi's sales fell by 7pc, it is expanding its EV lineup and updating its regional fleet under a fully electric sister brand designed exclusively for that market.

Audi's total first quarter revenue rose by 12.4pc to €15.4bn (\$17.4bn) mainly because of the increase in EV sales and a wider selection of models, according to the company. Profits narrowed to €630mn from €736mn a year earlier.

Asia-Pacific

China's largest energy vehicle (EV) producer BYD has started building its first EV manufacturing factory in Cambodia on 28 April.

The factory is designed to produce 10,000 EVs/yr, which will be launched in the fourth quarter of this year. This project is expected to help promote Cambodia's new energy development, said the Chinese ambassador to Cambodia, Wang Wenbin.

BYD's orders in Cambodia surged by more than sixfold on

AUTO UPDATE

the year in this year's first quarter. The company plans to build 10 EV stores in Cambodia by the end of 2025.

The firm, along with other Chinese EV manufacturers, has accelerated overseas expansions to deal with potential oversupply and escalating geopolitical constraints from the US and Europe. BYD last year started production on an EV plant in Thailand for up to 150,000 EVs/yr, as well as a plant in Uzbekistan with a phase 1 capacity of 50,000 EVs/yr.

BYD sold a record-high of 206,084 units outside of China in January-March, more than doubling from a year earlier. Consumers in Brazil—BYD's largest individual overseas market—bought around 10pc of that at 21,390 units, according to Brazilian electric vehicle association ABVE.

Japanese domestic car producers' March output and shipments were unaffected by the US' across-the-board 25pc tariff on its car imports effective from 3 April, the country's trade

and industry ministry (Meti) said. But producers are growing increasingly concerned about future impacts.

Japan's domestic car output slightly increased by 1.1pc on the year to 682,096 units in March, according to data compiled by Argus based on reports from eight major domestic car producers. Production rose mostly because manufacturer Daihatsu increased output by 78pc on the year, after it limited operations a year earlier following alleged false reporting of safety test results.

Some manufacturers, including Toyota and Suzuki, partially halted their production during March after their component supplier Chuo Spring suspended production and shipments on 6 March, following an explosion at its plant.

Japan delivered around 1.3mn passenger vehicles to the US in 2024, and the US' share accounts for more than one-third of Japan's total passenger car exports.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Americas

The US economy contracted in the first quarter for the first time in three years, on less government spending and a surge in imports as companies stocked up on inventories before tariffs take effect.

Gross domestic product (GDP) contracted at an annual 0.3pc pace following growth of 2.4pc in the fourth quarter, the Bureau of Economic Analysis said on 30 April. GDP last fell by 1pc in the first quarter of 2022. Economists surveyed by Trading Economics had forecast 0.3pc GDP growth for the first quarter.

Businesses stocked up on imports to get ahead of tariffs that President Donald Trump has wielded to restructure the global trading system. Imports, which detract from GDP growth, expanded by 41.3pc after falling by 1.9pc in the fourth quarter. Exports grew by 1.8pc after declining by 0.2pc.

Consumer spending rose by an annual 1.8pc in the first quarter following 4pc growth in the fourth quarter. Domestic investment, which includes inventory builds, rose by an annual 21.9pc following a decline of 5.6pc in the prior quarter.

Government spending fell by 1.4pc after growth of 3.1pc. Federal spending fell by 5.1pc after growth of 4pc. Defense spending was down by an annual 8pc.

Mexico's economy expanded at an annualized rate of 0.6pc

in the first quarter, with solid growth in the agriculture sector offsetting a slowdown in industry.

The result came in at the high end of analyst estimates and slightly above the 0.5pc GDP growth reported by statistics agency Inegi for the fourth quarter of 2024. Still, it marks the second-slowest quarterly growth in the past 16 quarters.

Most of the first quarter's GDP growth came from a 6pc expansion in the agricultural sector, which more than reversed the 4.6pc contraction recorded in the fourth quarter of 2024.

The industrial sector — including mining, manufacturing and construction — shrank for a second straight quarter, contracting by 1.4pc after a 1.2pc drop in the previous quarter. Manufacturing faced tariff-related uncertainty during the quarter, though investment in the sector had already been slowing for months.

The contraction was softened by manufacturers ramping up production ahead of US tariffs, with the risk of trade-driven inflation also pushing builders to contain construction costs, according to market sources.

Europe

The Eurozone economy grew by 0.4pc in the first quarter compared with the previous one, according to preliminary figures from the EU's statistical office Eurostat.

ECONOMIC UPDATE

Seasonally adjusted GDP increased by 0.4pc in the single-currency bloc and by 0.3pc in the EU, compared with the previous quarter, it said.

Ireland recorded the highest increase compared with the previous quarter, with GDP growth of 3.2pc in the same period, followed by Spain and Lithuania with 0.6pc. Hungary was the only member state posting a decrease (-0.2pc) compared with the previous quarter.

The US will carve out import quotas for UK-produced cars and, eventually, reduce tariffs on UK steel and aluminum, under a preliminary deal US president Donald Trump and UK prime minister Keir Starmer announced on 8 May.

The Trump administration will allow UK car manufacturers to export 100,000 cars to the US at a 10pc tariff rate, instead of the 25pc tariff to which all foreign auto imports are subject. The US and the UK will negotiate a "trading union" on steel and aluminum that will harmonize supply chains, US commerce secretary Howard Lutnick said. Starmer, speaking after the ceremony, told reporters that US tariffs on the UK-sourced steel and aluminum would, in fact, fall to zero.

The UK would commit to buying \$10bn worth of Boeing airplanes, Trump said. He described the UK market as "closed" to US beef, ethanol and many other products, and said that the UK agreed to open its agricultural markets as a result of his deal.

Asia-Pacific

China has rolled out more positive fiscal policies to stimulate

its economy and help companies deal with the impact of US import tariffs.

The People's Bank of China (PBOC) will cut requirement reserve ratio (RRR) by 0.5 percentage points from 15 May, the governor of PBOC, Gongsheng Pan, said at a press conference on 7 May. This is expected to help unleash long-term liquidity of 1 trillion yuan (\$138bn) to commercial banks.

In particular, the central bank will cut the RRR to 0pc from the current 5pc for non-bank financial institutions, including car financing firms and finance renting firms, which are the institutions that typically provide financial support for China's consumer goods trade-in program.

The bank will also cut mortgage rate by 0.25 percentage points to 2.6pc for five-year loans for first-time home buyers. A series of stimulus measures have been taken since September 2024 to stabilize the real estate market, including giving bailout loans to some eligible firms to help them complete sold houses.

Commercial banks have issued Yn6.7 trillion loans to white-listed real estate projects, enabling the delivery of over 16mn houses, said National Financial Regulatory Administration's director Li Yunze.

Sales of newly built commercial houses fell by 3pc on the year with the decline slowing from the year-on-year drop of 19.4pc in January-March 2024, according to the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS). But the investment growth for the sector was still deeply negative at -9.9pc.

AMERICAS

Markets

The May Argus prevailing butadiene (BD) contract price (CP) settled down by 4.25¢/lb to 42.75¢/lb (\$943/t), its lowest level since March 2024. The CP decline was the steepest in almost two years.

Three major producers nominated at 44¢/lb, 43¢/lb and 43¢/lb, respectively, which represents a decrease of 3-4¢/lb from the prior month. The fourth producer nominated below the others at 41¢/lb, down by 4¢/lb, serving as a price floor.

The May settlement marked the third consecutive month to drop, owing to flat demand and persistent supply length. With that, buyers pulled back from the domestic spot market after

stock building between March-April. May spot prices were notionally lower as extra volume remained available. The Argus BD spot assessment edged down to 36-39¢/lb.

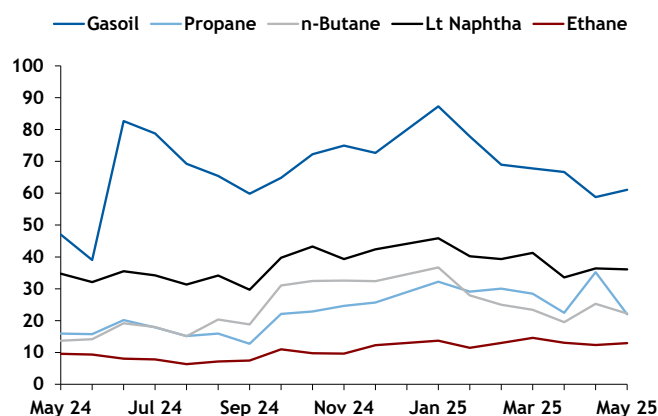
Export spot material was discussed in the high 20¢/lb range with no deals confirmed, in a moment when Asian prices have not recovered to levels before US tariffs and corresponding countermeasures went into effect.

There are currently no fixed cargoes from the Americas to Asia-Pacific, even though the US held its position as the lowest priced region. Asian rubber producers were little interested in deep-sea imports, with buyers preferring to run down inventories and rely on contractual volumes, sources said.

AMERICAS

US ethylene vs cash costs

¢/lb



A Texas producer has lifted allocation on customers after completing a turnaround last month. Meanwhile, one BD consumer scheduled routine maintenance for June. It plans to curtail operating rates during this planned work.

Apart from this, some unplanned cracker outages recently emerged at Chevron Phillips Chemical's Cedar Bayou and ExxonMobil's Baytown sites, according to emissions filings. The latter unit is expected to resolve its operational issue sometime next week.

High water levels due to recent flooding has limited barge movement along the Mississippi and Ohio Rivers, causing loading delays for barge carriers. Marine traffic continues to weigh on transit of product upriver.

Petrochemical producer Braskem said its first quarter chemical exports increased by 24pc from the previous quarter, driven partly by higher sales of BD. Brazil exported 26,700 metric tonne (t) of BD in January-March, up by 18,800t from the fourth quarter of 2024, or 238pc. But exports were only slightly higher by around 1pc from the same period a year earlier. The US, Asia-Pacific and Mexico were the top export destinations for Brazilian-origin material.

In politics, a bipartisan group of US lawmakers reintroduced legislation – the SHIPS for America Act – to promote the US maritime industry through taxes on foreign ships and incentives to boost domestic shipbuilding. It also proposes a tax of \$5/net ton (nt) to be applied to vessels owned, operated or registered to "foreign entities of concern" – namely Russia, China, Iran and North Korea – and to vessel operators

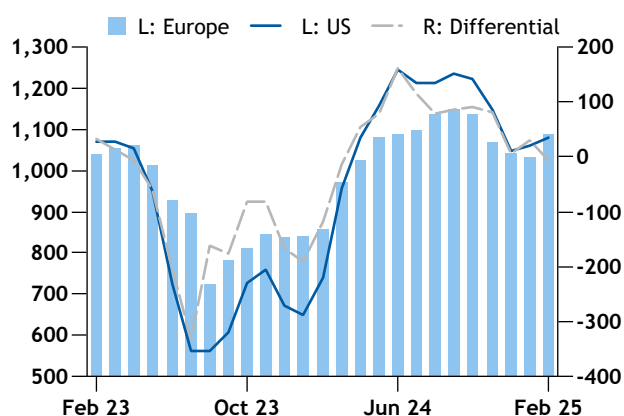
Americas prices

¢/lb

	Timing	Price	±
Butadiene US contract fob	May	41.00-44.00	-3.50
Butadiene US prevailing contract fob	May	42.75	-4.25
Butadiene US spot fob		36.00-39.00	-4.00
Butene-1 US domestic fob	Apr	65.00-70.00	-1.00
Isobutylene 99% pure US fob	Apr	45.00-50.00	-2.00
Raffinate-1 (45% iC4=) US formula		38.20-38.90	-1.10
Crude C4 spot USGC cif		893.00-966.00	-12.50

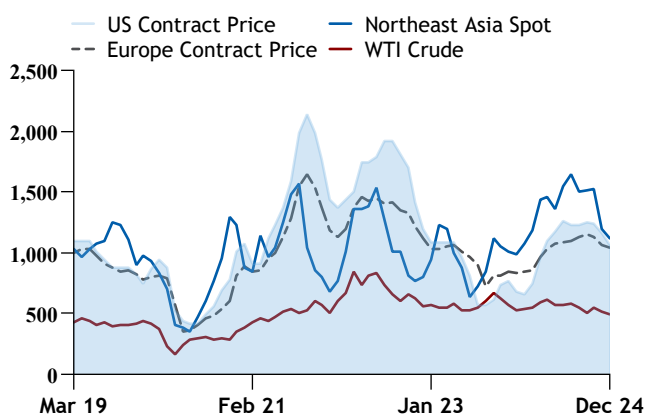
US vs Europe butadiene contract, fob basis

\$/t



Global butadiene price history

\$/t



and owners who have 50pc or more of their newbuild orders in Chinese shipyards. The proposed law also requires that a certain percentage of US crude and LNG exports be carried on US-built vessels.

EUROPE

Markets

European butadiene (BD) demand remains steady, with spot volume available, but there are a handful of outages that have kept the market balanced.

Some market participants were anticipating stronger domestic spot demand in the current quarter, yet most consumers have covered their requirements with term volume. In addition, the export arbitrage to Asia-Pacific has closed. Spot activity has therefore been slow to pick-up.

A May BD spot deal was done at a 7pc discount to the monthly contract price (MCP) on a fob basis, totaling 2,500t. Another spot inquiry was heard, but no deal was confirmed done at this time.

Discussions for export spot sales were muted. The MCP for May settled down by €60/t at €970/t (\$1,089/t), placing Europe at a premium to northeast Asia spot BD for the first time in two years. Asian BD prices have tumbled at a faster pace because of market uncertainties over US-China tariffs.

The price movements in Europe and Asia have coincided with the Euro strengthening to 1.12/USD, which is up close to 10pc since the start of this year. The weakening of the dollar between March-April has muted the decrease in the European MCP, in dollar terms.

BD consumers are concerned about the new spread, because the flow of Asian-origin acrylonitrile butadiene styrene (ABS) and styrene block copolymer could increase. At the same time, exports of European synthetic rubber to other regions could be blocked.

If these scenarios are realized and Asian prices remain at

Europe prices			
	Timing	Price	±
Butadiene NWE contract delivered €/t	May	970.00-970.00	-60.00
Butadiene NWE formula netback fob US \$/t		447.00-513.00	-88.00
Isobutylene NWE delivered €/t	Apr	850.00-900.00	-110.00
Raffinate-1 NWE incremental cfr \$/t		703.00-737.00	-14.50
Naphtha factor \$/t		1.28-1.34	0
Crude C4 NWE spot dlvd USGC \$/t		593.00-616.00	-12.50
Naphtha factor \$/t		1.08-1.12	0.00

a discount, then European domestic BD demand will fall. This will force producers to manage inventories by co-cracking, hydrogenating or exporting spot at a heavily discounted price.

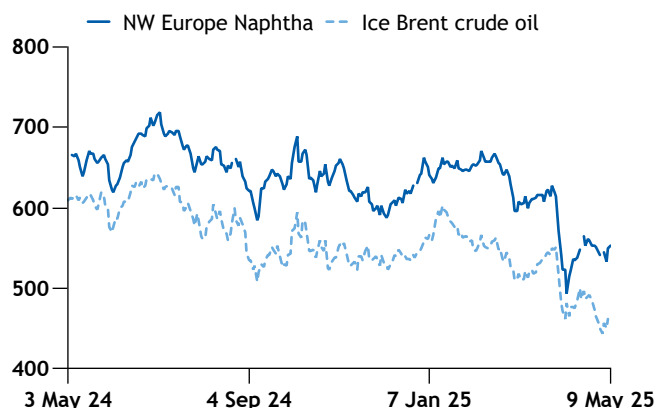
Power outages caused widespread disruption across most of Spain and Portugal on 28 April. Two crackers in Tarragona went offline, as well as one inland cracker at Puertollano. The shutdowns may have caused some damage so restarts could take time.

Apart from this, technical issues disrupted operations at a cracker in France since late April. The unit is expected to return to service in the coming weeks. A power failure at a separate petrochemical complex in the Netherlands led to a controlled shutdown, and the restart of the cracker was delayed, sources said. A cracker in Libya remains offline.

Crude C4 spot availability was varied across Europe. While coastal material was limited due to cracker outages, spot was still being offered at “attractive” prices further inland, one buyer said. Crude C4 spot was discussed around 1.1-1.15 times naphtha.

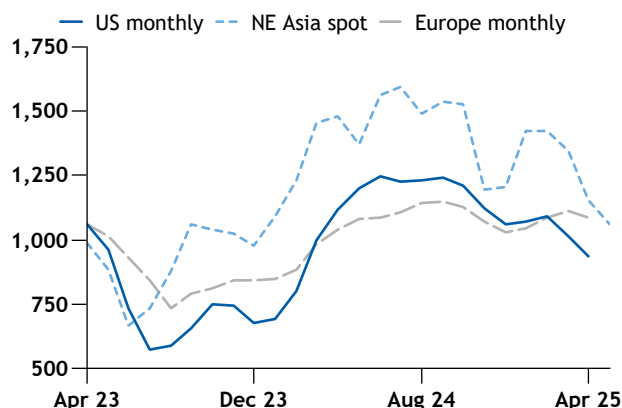
Europe butadiene MCP vs NWE naphtha

€/t



Global butadiene prices

\$/t



EUROPE

No crude C4 or raffinate-1 spot deals were done.

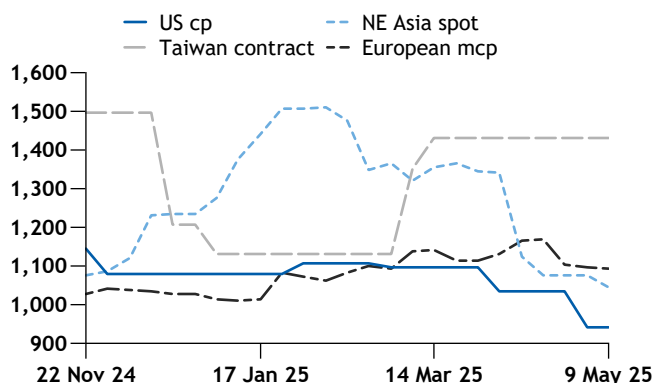
In logistics, water levels at the key measuring point of Kaub on the Upper Rhine mostly remained above the 100cm mark last

week, data from monitoring service Elwis show. Kaub levels are forecast to increase more dramatically over the coming days, reaching the 180cm threshold for full-capacity shipments.

ASIA-PACIFIC

Butadiene prices: US, WE and Asia-Pacific

\$/t



Markets

Asia butadiene (BD) prices dropped, despite rising prices in the domestic China market, with emerging spot butadiene in northeast Asia.

A northeast Asian producer floated a potential spot cargo at \$1,070/t cfr China equivalent and was met with \$1,000/t buying interests. There were no firm offers placed otherwise. In Taiwan, buying indications were placed at mid-\$900s/t cfr.

Hyundai Chemical issued a tender to sell 4,000t of BD for loading in June. The tender is due to close on 12 May.

The majority of buyers were still adopting the wait-and-see position as the US and China start trade tension de-escalation talks over the weekend.

In the domestic China market, spot molecules ranged between 9,200-9,500 yuan/t, or the import parity equivalence of \$1,121/t. This represented a \$76/t premium to the cfr north-east Asia assessment this week.

Sinopec raised its list BD price further by Yn200/t to Yn9,300/t, or the import parity equivalence of \$1,115/t.

Asia-Pacific prices			\$/t
	Timing	Price	±
Butadiene			
fob NE Asia spot	prompt	980.00-1,020.00	0.00
fob NE Asia month average	Apr	1,121.25	-196.88
cfr NE Asia spot	prompt	1,020.00-1,070.00	-30.00
cfr NE Asia spot month average	Apr	1,153.75	-193.00
cfr southeast Asia spot	prompt	1,015.00-1,045.00	-30.00
cfr southeast Asia spot month average	Apr	1,088.13	-176.00
fob southeast Asia spot	prompt	930.00-970.00	-30.00
fob southeast Asia month average	Apr	1,073.75	-165.00
Taiwan contract month	Feb	1,431.00-1,433.00	0.00
Sinopec price Yn/t	prompt	9,300.00	+200.00
Sinopec price import parity	prompt	1,115.00	+29.00
Raffinate-1			
Naphtha cfr Japan premium		60.00-100.00	0
fob Asia		626.25-667.25	+11
cfr China		716.25-747.25	+11

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.

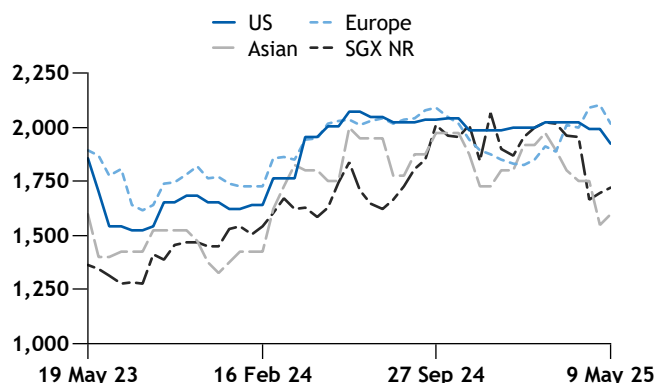
Announcement

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>

C4 DERIVATIVES

Global SBR 1502 and TSR20 NR prices

\$/t



Americas

Tire manufacturer Goodyear's first quarter tire unit volumes fell by 4.8pc from the same period a year earlier, driven by weak performance of replacement consumer tires in the Americas and Asia-Pacific. Tire volumes in the last quarter dropped to 38.5mn units, down by 1.9mn units from 40.4mn units in the first quarter of the prior year.

In the Americas, sales volumes declined by 3.1pc to 18.4mn units. Low-cost replacement tire imports rose by 10pc, while US tiremakers comprised a shrinking share of the market. Original equipment (OE) volumes held flat even as the consumer segment contracted.

However, it captured US market share in high margin areas of the business, including tires with rim diameters of at least 18 inches.

Goodyear plans to ramp-up domestic manufacturing by 10mn premium tires through next year, primarily consisting of high-rim diameter tires. Increasing US capacity will lessen tariff exposure to imports from non-USMCA countries.

Trade disruptions from US tariffs brought uncertainty into the market, with impacts to trade flows likely to be felt closer to the third quarter. The expected drop in ocean freight rates from southeast Asia have not yet materialized, which would be an indication of slowing import demand, the Ohio-based firm said.

The company's strategic review of the chemicals business is underway, that includes engagement with multiple interested parties on the potential sale. In the current environment, "this business for us is more valuable today than say it was six

Synthetic rubber general

	€/lb		€/t		\$/t	
	Low	High	Low	High	Low	High
Americas						
eSBR 1502 US	84.38	90.38	1,652	1,769	1,860	1,993
eSBR 1712 US	84.08	90.48	1,646	1,771	1,854	1,995
Polybutadiene US	76.50	81.50	1,498	1,596	1,687	1,797
Europe						
eSBR 1502 NWE	90.41	92.46	1,770	1,810	1,993	2,038
eSBR 1712 NWE	86.58	89.14	1,695	1,745	1,909	1,965
Polybutadiene NWE	92.46	95.01	1,810	1,860	2,038	2,095
Asia-Pacific						
eSBR 1502 Asia	70.31	74.84	1,375	1,463	1,550	1,650
eSBR 1712 Asia	68.04	70.31	1,330	1,375	1,500	1,550
Polybutadiene Asia	71.67	77.11	1,401	1,508	1,580	1,700

Natural rubber

	Low	High	Settle	±
TSR20 fob SGX futures \$/t	1,711.00	1,731.00	1,713.00	+15.00

months ago," said chief financial officer Christina Zamarro. "It's the only major synthetic rubber manufacturing site supplying tires manufactured in the US," she added.

XBRI Tires, a high-performance tire brand under the umbrella of Sunset Tires, plans to build Brazil's largest tire factory in Ponta Grossa, Parana state.

The commercial tire plant has a prospective capacity to manufacture 14.5mn tires/yr. This will be split between passenger car tires and truck tires at 12mn tires/yr and 2.5mn tires/yr, respectively.

"This initiative aims not only to meet the growing local demand but also to position itself as an export platform for strategic markets," China's Shandong-based Sunset Tires said in a post on LinkedIn.

Europe

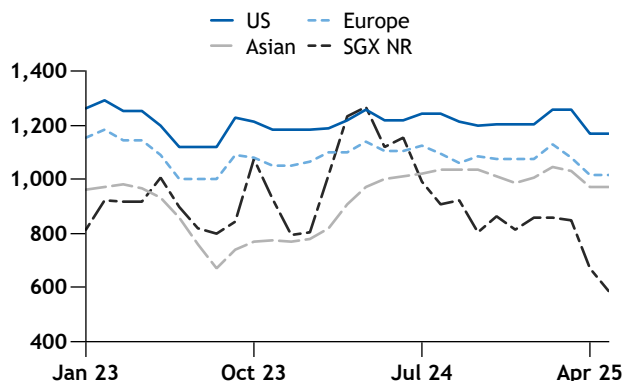
Indian tire manufacturer Apollo Tyres has announced plans to stop tire production at its plant in Enschede, the Netherlands, by summer 2026.

The tire maker cited high cost of production, a decline in demand of agriculture tires and pricing pressure from low-cost competitors as factors in the decision.

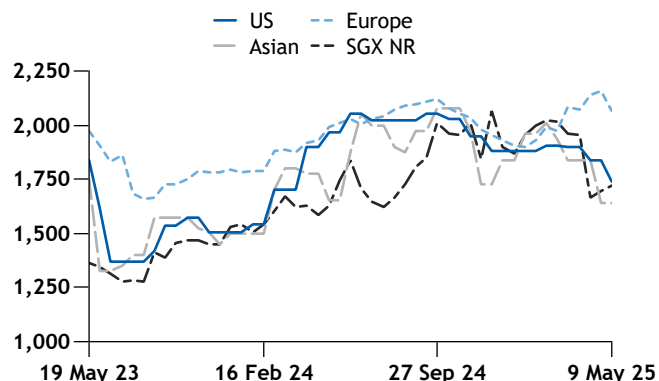
The date of closure is subject to a consultation process with the works council and approval by the supervisory board. The Enschede plant produces passenger car and light truck (PCLT) and agricultural tires.

C4 DERIVATIVES

European base petrochemicals, free delivered basis €/t



Global polybutadiene vs TSR20 NR prices \$/t



The board of Italian tiremaker Pirelli held a majority vote to end Chinese Sinochem's control over it.

Pirelli's management said that removing Sinochem's control represented "a first, but not decisive, step" in changing their governance structure to avoid regulatory constraints in the US. Pirelli views the US as a key market in the premium tire segment and aims to grow its market share there while reducing exposure to standard tires worldwide, where it faces pressure from low-cost imports.

Pirelli had previously said that nothing had been decided on desired capacity increases in the US because of issues over its governance and shareholder structure – Sinochem's ownership of the largest number of shares in Pirelli was a stumbling block to increasing US investment.

German tiremaker Continental reported an increase of 0.6pc in tire sales volumes in the first quarter of 2025, led by replacement tire demand worldwide.

Continental had tire sales of €3.4bn (\$3.9bn) in the first quarter of 2025, up by 3.7pc from €3.3bn during the same period last year. The company saw firm demand in the replacement tire segment, while original equipment (OE) tires for passenger car and light truck (PCLT) vehicles saw weak demand.

For truck bus and radial (TBR) tires, sales volumes for replacement and OE segments were flat. However, Continental noted signs of stabilization in Europe, the Middle East and Africa (EMEA) and North America.

The company forecasts flat to slight growth in tire sales volumes for the rest of this year. Chief executive Nikolai Setzer said that although the tire business had a "good start"

for replacement tires, "the geopolitical situation and potential trade barriers continue to cause a lot of volatility and uncertainty" which impacts planning.

Asia-Pacific

Synthetic rubber prices rose, with BR futures in China rebounding.

The BR futures in China closed at 11,520 yuan/t on 9 May, compared with Yn11,310/t on 6 May, which is the first trading day after the Labour Day holiday.

In the domestic market, eSBR1502 was transacted at Yn12,100-12,300/t this week, compared with Yn11,700-12,000/t in the previous. eSBR 1712 ranged between Yn11,100-11,200/t, from Yn10,800-11,000/t in the same period.

PBR rose to Yn11,500-11,800/t, from Yn11,350-11,600/t.

South Korean eSBR1502 and PBR were offered at \$1,650/t cfr and \$1,700-1,750/t respectively.

Natural rubber

TSR20 natural rubber (NR) futures on the SGX continued to post little activity, settling up by about 1pc at \$1,713/t on 9 May. The May month-to-date average was \$1,704/t from \$1,711/t in April. NR futures remained steady on the back of rangebound price indications over the past few weeks.

Continental announced continued support to smallholder natural rubber cultivation, as part of a move to secure responsibly sourced rubber material, which fits with the EU Regulation on Deforestation-Free Supply Chains (EUDR) policy.

The program is co-funded by Continental and the German

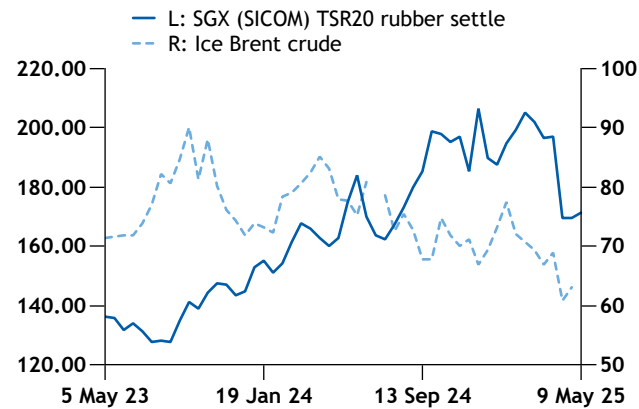
C4 DERIVATIVES

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development.

By 2027, the tiremaker aims to increase participation by 1,000 smallholders. There are already an estimated 5,000 local smallholders in Borneo, Indonesia, which received training to cultivate natural rubber. The use of sustainable methods allows for better quality rubber, yield improvement and higher farmer incomes, the German-based company noted in a press release.

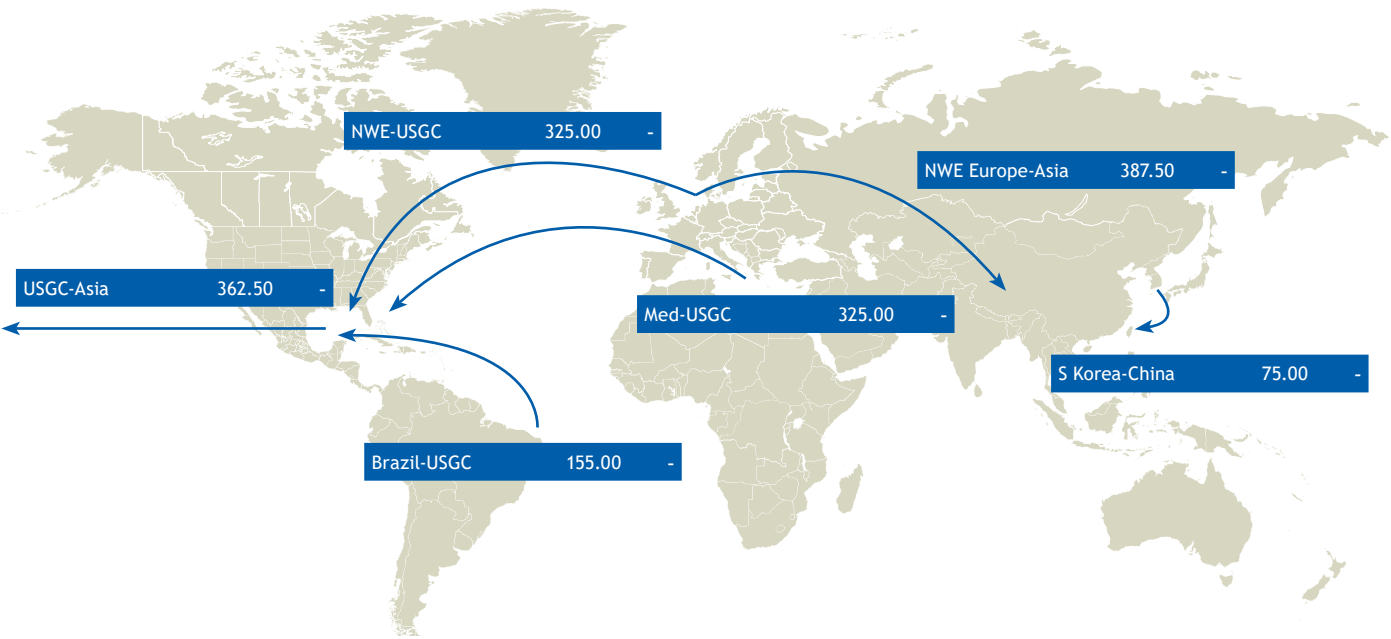
“As one of the largest tire manufacturers in the world, we have a particular responsibility in the natural rubber supply chain. That is why we are committed at all levels and are building capacity locally,” the head of sustainability in purchasing, Dr. Michael Radke, said.

SGX natural rubber vs Ice Brent crude, first month



C4 FREIGHT RATES

\$/t



IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

North America C4 imports

Ship name	BD '000t	CC4 '000t	C4 RAF/IB	Load Port	Laycan	Destination
Ithacki	4.0			US	Jan	Mexico
Navigator Leo	4.0			Brazil	early Feb	Mexico
Navigator Leo	5.1			Brazil	early Feb	US
Gaschem Arctic	3.0			US	Feb	Mexico
Ithacki	2.5			Brazil	Mar	Mexico
Ithacki	5.1			Brazil	Mar	US
Gaschem Arctic	3.0			US	late Mar	Mexico
Etagas	6.5			Brazil	Apr	Mexico
Total 2025	33.2	0.0	0.0			
Total 2024	117.3	6.4	0.0			
Total 2023	188.7	3.4	1.7			
Total 2022	391.1	5.5	0.0			
Total 2021	331.9	5.3	0.0			
Total 2020	96	0.0	2			
Total 2019	150.2	95.5	13.4			
Total 2018	250.0	134.0	0.0			

* with butene-1

**with propylene

Europe, Mediterranean C4 exports

Ship name	BD '000t	CC4 '000t	C4 RAF/IB	Load port	Laycan	Destination
Celtic Gas	13.5			Europe	early Jan	Asia-Pacific
Trans Iberia			6.0	Europe	Jan	Middle East
Epic Sardinia		4.2		Turkey	Jan	Europe
Epic Breeze		4.2		Turkey	Jan	Europe
Epic Sardinia		6.5		Libya	late Jan	Europe
Epic Bali		4.2		Turkey	Feb	Europe
Epic Madeira		4.2		Turkey	Feb	Europe
Enable	13.5			Europe	Feb	Asia-Pacific
Dilos	7.0			Middle East	Feb	Asia-Pacific
Happy Osprey			6.0	Europe	Mar	Middle East
Epic Madeira		4.2		Turkey	Mar	Europe
Eco Frost	13.3			Europe	early Apr	Asia-Pacific
Kalolimnos			6.0	Europe	Apr	Middle East
Epic Sardinia		4.2		Turkey	Apr	Europe
Epic Madeira		4.2		Turkey	Apr	Europe
Total 2025	47.3	35.9	18.0			
Total 2024	109.7	146.7	52.2			
Total 2023	168.4	115.0	48.9			
Total 2022	182.6	79.8	13.0			
Total 2021	243.2	30.4	73.2			
Total 2020	356.0	24.0	51			
Total 2019	287.2	127.5	38.6			
Total 2018	290.5	146.5	0.0			

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS

Asia-Pacific C4 imports						
Ship name	BD '000t	CC4 '000t	C4 RAF/IB	Load port	Laycan	Destination
Celtic Gas	13.5			Europe	early Jan	Asia-Pacific
Enable	13.5			Europe	Feb	Asia-Pacific
Dilos	7.0			Middle East	Feb	Asia-Pacific
Arctic Gas	13.5			US	late Feb	Asia-Pacific
Navigator Leo	12.5			US	early Mar	Asia-Pacific
Navigator Vega	10.0			Brazil	late Mar	Asia-Pacific
Eco Frost	13.3			Europe	early Apr	Asia-Pacific
Total 2025	83.3	0.0	0.0			
Total 2024	193.1	0.0	0.0			
Total 2023	216.6	5.0	0.0			
Total 2022	63.9	7.2	15.0			
Total 2021	111.5	44.0	0.0			
Total 2020	501	12	9.0			
Total 2019	470.4	88.2	6.5			
Total 2018	331.5	43.5	0.0			

US butadiene exports						
Ship name	BD '000t	CC4 '000t	RAF '000t	Load port	Laycan	Destination
Ithacki	4.0			US	Jan	Mexico
Gaschem Arctic	3.0			US	Feb	Mexico
Arctic Gas	13.5			US	late Feb	Asia-Pacific
Navigator Leo	12.5			US	early Mar	Asia-Pacific
Gaschem Arctic	3.0			US	late Mar	Mexico
Total 2025	36.0	0.0	0.0			
Total 2024	109.9	0.0	6.5			
Total 2023	101.9	28.7	3.2			
Total 2022	73.6	40.7	1.7			
Total 2021	8.0	25.2	6.6			
Total 2020	68.3	0.0	0.0			
Total 2019	48.5	3.5	0.0			
Total 2018	48.0	0.0	0.0			

Asia-Pacific C4 exports					
Ship Name	BD '000t	CC4 '000t	Load port	Laycan	Destination
Total 2025					
Seapeak Camilla		3.0	Singapore	Feb	Middle East
Total 2024	0.0	3.0			
Marie	5.0		S. Korea	H1 Jan	US
Gas Exelero	2.1		Taiwan	H2 Mar	Europe
Total 2023	7.1	0.0			
Kalolimnos	7.6		S. Korea	Mid Jan	Mexico, USGC
Penelope M	5.5		S. Korea	mid Feb	USGC
Gaschem Arctic	5.0		S. Korea	Early Mar	USGC
Marie	5.0		S. Korea	Mid Mar	USGC
Clipper Hermes	4.5		Thailand	End Mar	USG
Fortunato	5.0		S. Korea	Early Apr	USG
DL Poppy		2.0	Asia	End Mar	Middle East
Sabrina	2.9		Indonesia	H1 April	India
Kamilla Kosan	5.0		S. Korea	mid Aug	US
Total 2022	40.5	2.0			
Coral Furcata	5.0		S. Korea	Ely June	USGC
Navigator Umbrio	5.0		China	H1 June	Mexico
Navigator Europa	5.0		S. Korea	mid-July	USG
Thekla Schulte	4.0		Thailand	H1 Aug	USG
Napa Spirit	6.0		S. Korea	H2 Aug	USG
Pacific Venus	6.0		S. Korea	End Aug	USGC, Mexico
JBU Schelde	6.0		S. Korea	End Aug	USG
Kamilla Kosan	6		S. Korea	H1 Sept	USG
Happy Bird	5		S. Korea	Mid Oct	USG
Total 2021	47.1	0.0			
L Kosan	5.0		S. Korea	Mid Mar	USGC
Sonoma Spirit	5.0		S. Korea	Mid Mar	USGC
Total 2020	10.0	0.0			
Navigator Centauri		6.0	Philippines	Jun	USGC
Total 2019	0.0	6.0			
Penelope M	5.0		S. Korea	1H May	USGC
PGC Eirini	5.0		Singapore	1H May	USGC
Norgas Shasta		6.0	S. Korea	End Aug	USGC
Total 2018	10.0	6.0			

FREIGHT

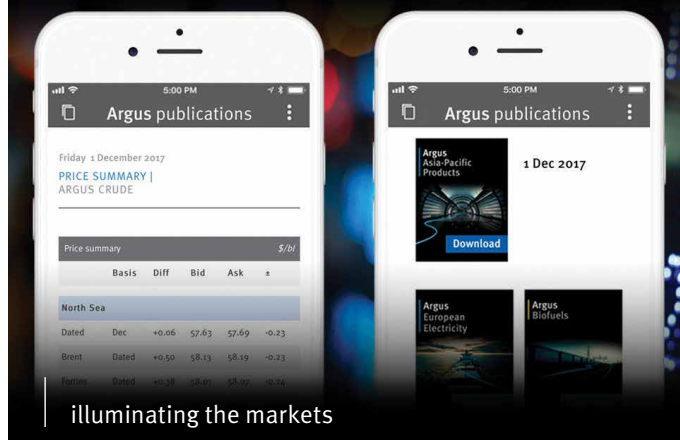
Cargo bookings to North America			
	Feb	Mar	Apr
Ex-Europe			
Butadiene	0	0	0
Crude C4	0	0	0
C4 raffinate	0	0	0
Ex-Asia			
Butadiene	0	0	0
Crude C4	0	0	0
Ex-Rest of World			
Butadiene Brazil	9	8	7
Crude C4 Mexico	0	0	0
Crude C4 Turkey	0	0	0
Crude C4 Brazil	0	0	0
Butadiene Other	3	3	0
Totals			
Butadiene	12	11	7
Crude C4	0	0	0
C4 raffinate	0	0	0
Freight rates			
	Rate		\$/t
			±
C4 freight NWE - USGC	325.00		0.00
C4 freight Med - USGC	325.00		0.00
C4 freight Brazil - USGC	155.00		0.00
C4 freight USGC - Asia	362.50		0.00
C4 freight NWE Europe - Asia	387.50		0.00
C4 freight S Korea - Taiwan	75.00		0.00

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