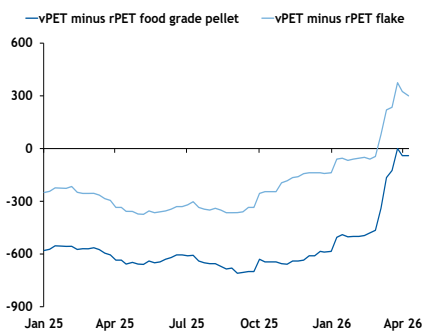
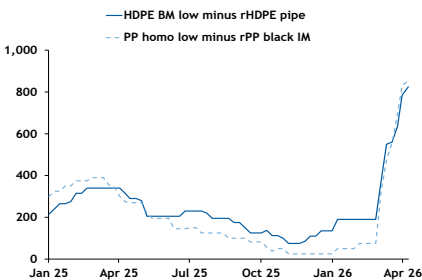


Hormuz's closure keeps pushing recycled polymers' cost advantage to new heights

vPET premiums to rPET, spot NWE €/t



vPE vPP prems to rPE PP, spot NWE €/t



EU virgin-recycled gaps extend record gains

Recycled polymers' competitiveness against virgin equivalents in Europe reached new highs in April, with exports of plastic and petrochemical feedstocks from the Middle East remaining severely disrupted.

Demand for recycled polymers increased, particularly for less-demanding and cost-saving applications. But many recyclers are concerned about the longer-term implications of an entirely supply-driven price rally on their demand and margins.

Based on spot prices, the cost comparison between virgin and recycled polyolefins and polyethylene terephthalate (PET) is the most skewed to recyclates since Argus began assessments. Data start in 2022 for polyolefins and in early 2024 for PET, when Argus launched its delivered northwest Europe PET resin spot assessment.

In polyolefins, firms buying low and linear low-density polyethylene (LDPE and LLDPE) on the spot market for the purpose of producing black or dark-coloured films could save more than 50pc by using recycled pellets, notwithstanding additional processing costs. Manufacturers of corrugated HDPE pipes could save 40-50pc by switching to recycled material.

rPET flake is now €300/t less expensive than virgin PET, having only become cheaper for the first time in two years in early March.

Higher virgin polymer prices result from growing tightness and rising production costs, with no end in sight to the disruption to Hormuz exports of polyethylene (PE), polypropylene (PP), crude and naphtha. Recyclate prices have risen to a much lesser extent than virgin equivalents, reflecting the war's much smaller impact on recycled supply chains.

Higher demand for recyclates is particularly notable in non-packaging applications where there are fewer technical barriers to substitution. It can also be seen in more complex applications where converters might not have maximised recycled content allowances in 2025 and early 2026 because of lower virgin prices.

Higher demand is leading recyclers to target margin gains, following a long spell when cheap virgin polymers squeezed the industry's profitability. Margins for rPET, rHDPE pipe and rLDPE/LLDPE have increased since the start of the war. Margins for rPP have not yet gained by much, owing to rising feedstock costs, but more upward pressure on rPP pellet prices is likely in the coming weeks.

CONTENTS


Editorial: EU virgin premiums	1
Regional market commentaries	2-10
Demand impact of price rises	11
News	13-16
Virgin polymer news	13
Chemical recycling	14
Pledges and targets	14
Mechanical recycling	15
News in brief	17

Downstream demand at risk

Recyclers might be benefitting from the geopolitical turmoil in the short term, but many are concerned about the longer-term effects.

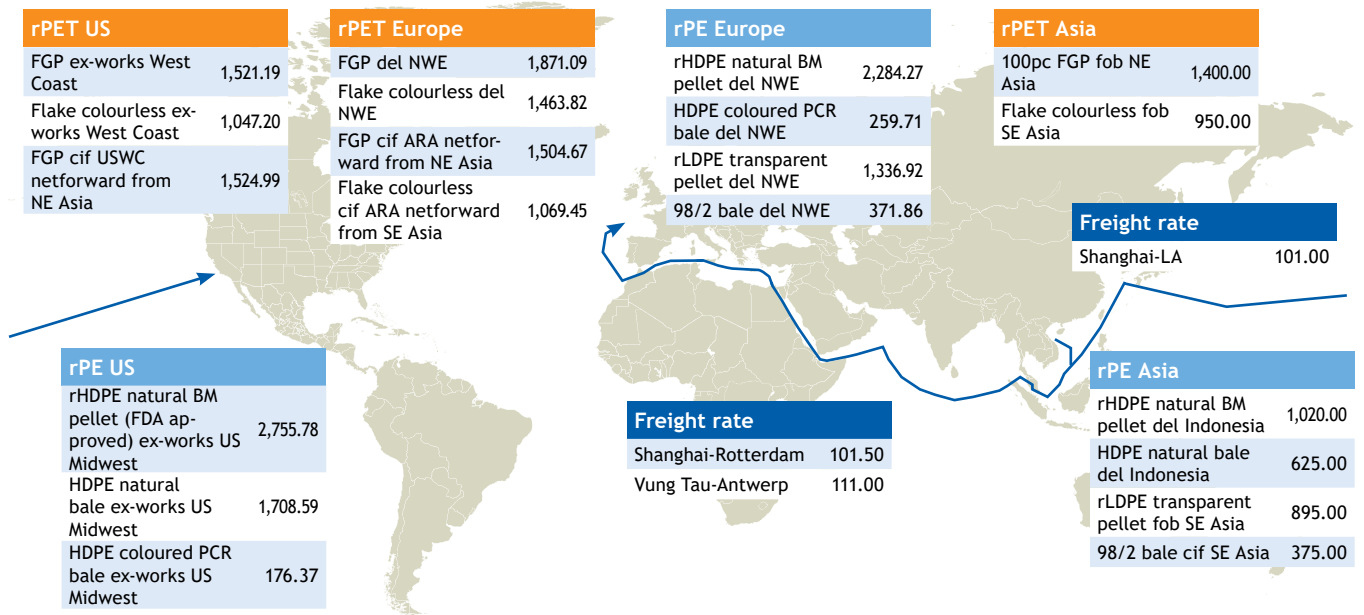
Unlike during the pandemic, when virgin prices rose in part because of higher consumer spending power, price inflation arising from the war is likely to erode demand. The latest S&P Global eurozone construction purchasing managers' index (PMI) survey showed the most pronounced fall in new orders since October, with firms pointing to surging energy prices as a key factor. Consumer confidence in the EU hit a two-and-a-half year low in March, Eurostat data show.

Converters are concerned about their ability to pass on recent cost increases down through supply chains. Many downstream customers may not yet have seen the full extent of the increases, which filter down the chain with a delay. Some converters say they are at a juncture, where some production lines would need to be stopped if downstream buyers are unwilling to pay higher prices.

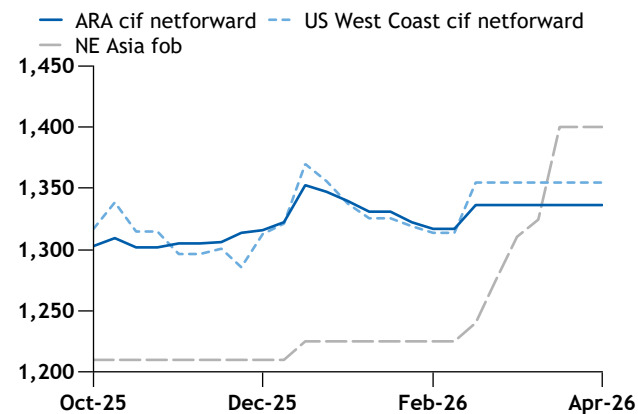
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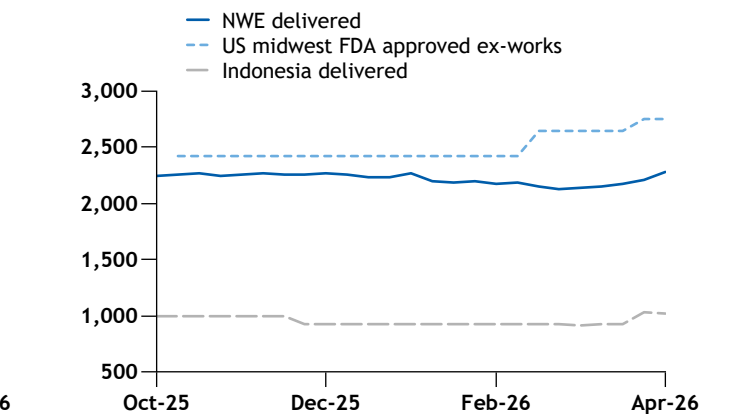
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Global rPET FGP netforwards (basis NE Asia)



Global rHDPE natural prices



COMMENTARY HEADLINES

- rPET Europe: prices rise as demand climbs
- rPET US: Prices hold steady
- rPET Asia: Demand and prices rise
- rPE/rPP Europe: rPE/rPP demand remains strong
- rPE/rPP US: Pellet prices climb in April
- rPE Asia: SEA PE film bale prices rise
- PPO still slow, bionaptha premium up
- Petrochemical markets

NEWS HEADLINES

- 3 Tanker owners wary after Hormuz reopening pledge 13
- 4 Borouge sells most of Mar output despite Iran war 13
- 4 Koksan to expand PET resin capacity in Turkey 14
- 6 Vitol's WPU plans Rotterdam pyrolysis unit 14
- 7 Vitol gets permit guidance for Rotterdam PPO project 14
- 8 LyondellBasell sustainable polymer sales inch up 14
- 8 WM opens Indianapolis recycling facility 15
- 9 US recycled HDPE prices start to track virgin 15

MARKETS UPDATE – rPET – EUROPE

Prices rise as demand climbs

European rPET markets remain under upward pressure across the value chain, driven by tightening feedstock availability, rising fixed costs, typical seasonal demand and growing substitution from virgin PET (vPET).

Market sentiment has shifted rapidly since the beginning of the conflict in the Middle East, from low pricing and oversupply in the first quarter to stronger activity, tightening availability and increased competition as the peak season approaches. Competition for flake is intensifying as more buyers turn to rPET for cost savings and better availability than in the vPET market. Bale and flake availability is falling with high level inventories that were previously built up, being drawn down. Recyclers are not yet sold out, but the uncertainty in the market has led to some panic and pre-buying has emerged. Seasonal demand is also building. As a result, prices are climbing and sentiment has is bullish.

Bale prices in Europe and the UK have continued to rise this week. Polish bale prices have increased to around €600-700/t delivered, following the upward trend in the Italian market and tightening supply. Italian bale pricing is widely viewed as artificially inflated and not fully justified by current fundamentals, but these higher prices have encouraged further increases in the wider region. Across the rest of Europe prices below €450/t are rapidly falling away and sellers expect further gains in the coming weeks. Spanish bale prices for May increased around €70/t from April. UK bale prices continued to steadily climb this week, rising to £330-390/t on better demand and seasonality.

Clear flake prices are typically in the €1,150-1,300/t range domestically, with most spot deals confirmed at €1,200-1,250/t delivered. Some higher offers for small prompt-delivery volumes have been reported already and sellers expect further increases into May.

rPET pellet prices have also strengthened. Offers range broadly from €1,650-1,900/t delivered, with limited confirmed spot transactions higher than €1,600/t delivered but bullish sentiment persists. Most buyers continue to rely on contract volumes for pellet, so demand has not risen as sharply as in the flake market.

vPET prices firmed again this week and spot availability remains very limited. Current European vPET spot prices are €1,470-1,600/t. The flake discount to vPET remains significant at about €300/t, while the premium of pellet to vPET has narrowed to €0-50/t. This is encouraging additional buying of recycled material. Buyers of flake and food grade who stepped away earlier in the year – such as sheet producers – are returning, adding pressure and paying the highest

Recycled PET Europe bottle market prices					€/t
	Timing	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Bale prices					
PET bottle colourless, del W Europe	17-Apr	420.00	550.00	485.00	nc
PET bottle colourless, del N Europe	17-Apr	420.00	550.00	485.00	nc
PET bottle colourless, del UK £/t	17-Apr	330.00	390.00	360.00	+15.00
PET bottle colourless, del central Europe	17-Apr	570.00	700.00	635.00	+10.00
PET bottle colourless, del eastern Europe	17-Apr	450.00	550.00	500.00	nc
PET bottle bale colourless, yellow container, ex-works	May 26	61.10	162.20	122.66^	+70.51
Flake prices					
Bottle flake colourless, del NWE	17-Apr	1,180.00	1,300.00	1,240.00	+15.00
Bottle flake colourless, del S Europe	17-Apr	1,180.00	1,350.00	1,265.00	+15.00
Bottle flake colourless, del CEE	17-Apr	1,180.00	1,300.00	1,240.00	+15.00
Bottle flake colourless, del UK £/t	17-Apr	850.00	900.00	875.00	+10.00
Food grade pellet					
del NWE	17-Apr	1,480.00	1,690.00	1,585.00	+20.00
del S Europe	17-Apr	1,480.00	1,690.00	1,585.00	+20.00
del CEE	17-Apr	1,480.00	1,690.00	1,585.00	+20.00

Recycled PET Europe tray market prices					€/t
	Timing	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Bale prices					
Monolayer colourless, del W Europe	27-Mar	-30.00	30.00	0.00	nc
Multilayer colourless, del W Europe	27-Mar	-300.00	-150.00	-225.00	-25.00
Flake price					
Colourless, del W Europe	27-Mar	825.00	925.00	875.00	+25.00

prices to secure material, resulting in wide ranges.

Looking ahead, many market participants expect further increases into May and June, with some predicting food-grade pellet prices could approach €2,000/t in summer if the Middle East conflict and its global impact persist. But concerns remain that end-use demand may not support sharp increases across the value chain. Buyers pre-purchasing material to avoid further gains are weighing the risk of holding high-cost inventories if seasonal demand proves lacklustre and the market normalises, which could trigger a sharp correction after the peak season if global conditions ease.

MARKETS UPDATE – rPET – AMERICAS

rPET US: Prices hold steady

West Coast PET A-grade bale prices remained steady at 12-15¢/lb. Demand has improved, both seasonally and because of future supply uncertainty tied to ongoing geopolitical disruptions, while supply is adequate.

West Coast PET B-grade bale remained steady at 1-3.5¢/lb. Mexican buyers have re entered the West Coast market, absorbing increasing volumes and reducing excess US inventories that had built up earlier in the year. Rising domestic demand in Mexico from bottle consumption and anticipation of potential anti dumping measures affecting Southeast Asia may all be contributing to this buying behavior from Mexico.

East coast PET prices remained unchanged at 7¢/lb through mid-April with no meaningful change in demand to drive market movement.

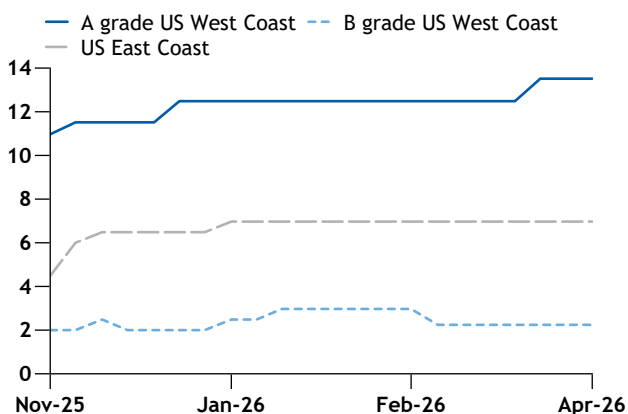
West Coast rPET flake and pellet prices for April remain steady. Geopolitical disruption that has lifted global vPET prices and tightened availability in some regions has not yet begun to materially affect the US rPET market, participants said.

Recycled PET US weekly market prices						ex-works
	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Weekly						
PET bottle bale						
A grade US west coast	17-Apr	¢/lb	12.00	15.00	13.50	nc
		\$/t	264.55	330.69	297.62	nc
PET bottle bale						
B grade US west coast	17-Apr	¢/lb	1.00	3.50	2.25	nc
		\$/t	22.05	77.16	49.61	nc
PET bottle bale						
US east coast	17-Apr	¢/lb	5.00	9.00	7.00	nc
		\$/t	110.23	198.42	154.33	nc

Recycled PET US monthly market prices						ex-works
	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Monthly						
rPET flake colourless US west coast	Apr 2026	¢/lb	45.00	50.00	47.50	nc
		\$/t	992.08	1,102.31	1,047.20	nc
rPET pellet US west coast	Apr 2026	¢/lb	66.00	72.00	69.00	nc
		\$/t	1,455.05	1,587.33	1,521.19	nc

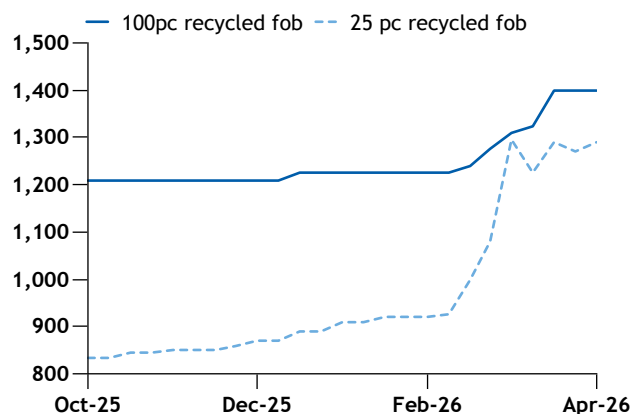
PET bottle bale ex-works prices

¢/lb



rPET food grade pellet prices NE Asia

\$/t



MARKETS UPDATE – rPET – ASIA-PACIFIC

rPET Asia: Demand and prices rise

Asia-Pacific rPET demand and prices rose this week as buyers returned to the market to discuss May requirements in a higher virgin PET price environment.

In northeast Asia, mainland Chinese producers offered 100pc rPET pellets at \$1,400-1,450/t fob China and concluded a few small deals at \$1,350-1,400/t fob. Transaction volumes remained limited, as most buyers were non-beverage companies.

Taiwanese producers said several US and Japanese buy-

ers enquired about May-shipment cargoes. Selling indications for 100pc rPET pellets were at \$1,450-1,480/t fob, while discussion levels were at \$1,400-1,450/t fob. Overall transaction volumes were thin, but sellers expected more deals to conclude next week.

Meanwhile, domestic Chinese rPET flake trading slowed slightly, as major consumers had already covered requirements in late March and early April. Selling indications for premium-grade rPET flakes were at Yn6,700-7,300/t. Deals were mainly at Yn6,400-6,700/t for chemical-fibre applica-

MARKETS UPDATE – rPET – ASIA-PACIFIC

tions and at Yn7,000-7,200/t for packaging applications.

Argus assessed 25pc rPET pellet prices higher at \$1,260-1,320/t fob China, tracking firmer virgin PET resin values.

In southeast Asia, prices rose, with participants linking solid demand to high prices and tight virgin PET availability because of the US-Iran conflict, prompting buyers to consider recycled alternatives.

The assessed range for rPET mixed-colour flakes fob southeast Asia increased this week to \$800-880/t from \$800-860/t last week. Trade levels this week were at \$880/t fob Indonesia.

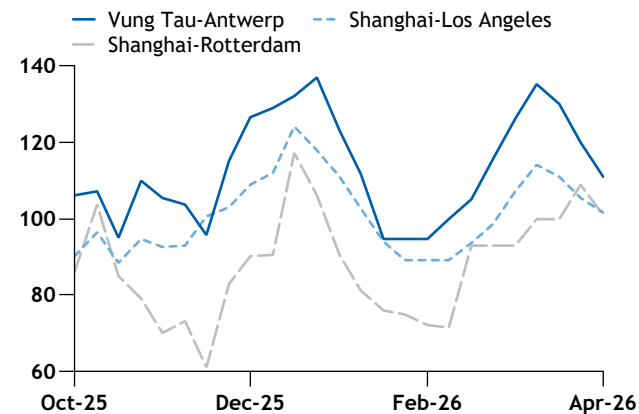
The assessed range for rPET colourless flakes fob southeast Asia increased to \$900-1,000/t from \$840-960/t last week. A deal was placed at \$1,000/t fob Vietnam to a UK destination for late May loading. Trade levels were also at more than \$900/t fob Thailand this week.

Prices for rPET pellets fob southeast Asia were unchanged at \$1,200-1,350/t this week. Trade levels were at \$1,325/t fob Thailand this week.

In Indonesia, domestic bale availability remained limited, as collection activity was subdued with most collectors staying off the market. Domestic bale prices in Thailand continued to rise on stronger consumption for the Songkran holiday.

Indonesian domestic colourless and mixed-colour bale prices increased to 8,800-10,000 rupiah/kg and 7,500-8,000 rupiah/kg this week, from 8,300-9,400 rupiah/kg and 7,200-7,500 rupiah/kg last week, respectively.

Container freight rates



Recycled PET Asia-Pacific market prices

	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
North East Asia rPET						
rPET food grade pellets 25pc fob NE Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	1,260.00	1,320.00	1,290.00	+20.00
rPET food grade pellets 100pc fob NE Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	1,350.00	1,450.00	1,400.00	nc
rPET flakes domestic China	17-Apr	Yuan/t	6,400.00	7,200.00	6,800.00	+50.00
South East Asia rPET						
PET bottle bale colourless domestic Indonesia	17-Apr	IDR/kg	8,800.00	10,000.00	9,400.00	+550.00
		\$/t	510.00	580.00	545.00	+25.00
PET bottle bale mixed colour domestic Indonesia	17-Apr	IDR/kg	7,500.00	8,000.00	7,750.00	+400.00
		\$/t	440.00	470.00	455.00	+25.00
rPET food grade flakes colourless fob southeast Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	900.00	1,000.00	950.00	+50.00
rPET food grade flakes mixed colour fob southeast Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	800.00	880.00	840.00	+10.00
rPET pellets fob southeast Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	1,200.00	1,350.00	1,275.00	nc

Calculated rPET netforwards

	Timing	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
rPET food grade pellet cif USWC - netforward from NE Asia \$/t (20t/FEU)	17-Apr	1,460.14	1,589.84	1,524.99	-9.90
rPET food grade pellet cif ARA - netforward from NE Asia \$/t (24t/FEU)	17-Apr	1,442.81	1,566.53	1,504.67	-4.13
€/t	17-Apr	1,222.20	1,327.01	1,274.61	-10.75
rPET flake cif ARA - netforward from SE Asia \$/t (23t/FEU)	17-Apr	1,004.38	1,134.51	1,069.45	+40.32
€/t	17-Apr	850.81	961.04	905.93	+29.21

Route	Low	High	Midpoint	Source
Shanghai-Los Angeles	89.00	113.00	101.00	Freightos
Shanghai-Rotterdam	90.00	113.00	101.50	Freightos
Vung Tau-Antwerp	97.00	125.00	111.00	Freightos

*Freight rates used in net forward calculations are adjusted for the specified shipment size per FEU



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.

MARKETS UPDATE – RPE/RPP – EUROPE

rPE/rPP demand remains strong

European polyolefin recyclers continue to see strong demand in April, with recyclates unusually competitive after the recent steep virgin PE/PP increases.

European virgin PE and PP prices have continued to rise during April. Most imports from the Middle East remain disrupted and prices remain firm for US-origin imports for forward delivery in June. Crude oil prices fell by more than 10pc on the afternoon of 17 April after Iran announced the strait of Hormuz is open to all commercial vessels for the duration of the US-Iran ceasefire, following a ceasefire in Lebanon. Many buyers are contemplating if European PE prices could have now reached a peak, while still awaiting clarity on whether a lasting resolution to the conflict will be reached. But, even in the scenario of a permanent ceasefire, normalisation of supply of polymers from the Middle East could take a while as operations at many plants in that region were disrupted in previous weeks.

In spot terms virgin PE and PP prices are at by far their highest level relative to rPE and rPP since Argus Recycled Polymers launched in mid-2022. So far, this has led to higher demand, particularly for cost-saving applications, with recyclers seeing notably stronger order intake and - in some cases - enquiries from long-forgotten customers showing renewed interest. In this environment, most expect to target price increases for pellets heading into May. In the longer term, there will be concerns about the impact of higher prices on underlying demand (see News and Analysis on p11).

Incremental availability of PP bales is tight in the UK, leading to sharp increases of £100/t in the past two weeks, despite a relatively stable PRN component. Increases have been more subdued in northwest Europe in April, after large rises in March. Many market participants have also locked in prices for April, and will renegotiate in the next two weeks for May supply. But there was less evidence of prices at the lower end of the bale range this week, and some higher deals heard for rPP regrind. The northwest European PP bale price rose to €175-250/t this week, and rPP regrind to €600-680/t.

In the rPP pellet market, prices set for the month of April remain valid. But there was evidence in the past two weeks that higher prices would need to be paid this week for incremental volumes, particularly with feedstock prices rising. We raised our assessment range for rPP black and rPP flower pot grade by €20/t at the high end and €50/t at the low end since 2 April, taking this into account.

In rHDPE, we lifted the low end of our price assessments for white and natural BM grades by €100/t this week. Demand has not risen as much as it has for pipe grades, as

Europe recycled polyolefins					
	Timing	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Bales del NWE (€/t)					
HDPE rigid bale (D329 or equivalent)	17-Apr	200.00	240.00	220.00	+5.00
PP rigid bale PCR (D324 or equivalent)	17-Apr	175.00	250.00	212.50	+17.50
Shrink hood flexible PE bale	17-Apr	725.00	800.00	762.50	nc
98/2 flexible PE bale post-commercial	17-Apr	280.00	350.00	315.00	+7.50
80/20 flexible PE bale post-commercial	17-Apr	100.00	135.00	117.50	+2.50
Mixed colour flexible PE bale post-commercial	17-Apr	70.00	80.00	75.00	+10.00
Kerbside flexible bale (D310)	2-Apr	-215.00	-140.00	-177.50	+7.50
Mixed plastic waste (D350 fraction) del German incinerator*	2-Apr	-185.00	-150.00	-167.50	nc
Bales del UK (£/t)					
HDPE natural PCR bale	17-Apr	825.00	925.00	875.00	+12.50
HDPE coloured PCR bale	17-Apr	480.00	510.00	495.00	nc
PP PCR bale	17-Apr	600.00	670.00	635.00	+55.00
98/2 flexible PE bale post-commercial	17-Apr	490.00	530.00	510.00	+10.00
Bales ex-works Spain (€/t)					
HDPE bottle bale coloured PCR	2Q26	161.00	300.00	242.71^	nc
Regrind del NWE (€/t)					
HDPE regrind mixed colour household packaging	17-Apr	590.00	650.00	620.00	nc
PP regrind mixed colour household packaging	17-Apr	600.00	680.00	640.00	+10.00
Regranulate prices del NWE (€/t)					
rHDPE BM white, from PCR, deodorised	17-Apr	1,600.00	1,770.00	1,685.00	+50.00
rHDPE BM natural from PCR deodorised del NWE	17-Apr	1,800.00	2,070.00	1,935.00	+50.00
rHDPE pipe dark/black	17-Apr	850.00	1,050.00	950.00	nc
rPP light, packaging, deodorised	17-Apr	1,580.00	1,830.00	1,705.00	nc
rPP grey, high MFI, plant pot and bucket	17-Apr	870.00	970.00	920.00	+10.00
rPP IM dark/black	17-Apr	850.00	960.00	905.00	+10.00
rLDPE/LLDPE shrink film transparent	17-Apr	1,375.00	1,600.00	1,487.50	+20.00
rLDPE/LLDPE stretch film transparent	17-Apr	1,145.00	1,380.00	1,262.50	nc
rLDPE/LLDPE standard film transparent	17-Apr	1,015.00	1,250.00	1,132.50	nc
rLDPE/LLDPE standard film dark/black	17-Apr	715.00	830.00	772.50	nc

*Prices are negative when payment is made to the recipient to take the material

^Price is a Volume Weighted Average

raising recycled content in consumer packaging applications often needs layers of tests and approvals. But Italian recyclers - which were often cited as setting the low end of the market pre-conflict - have lifted their sales prices owing to a rise in Italian HDPE bale prices this month. Options to export HDPE bales to Italy may also create some upward momentum in the northwest European market in the coming weeks.

PE film bale prices have climbed incrementally since Indonesian recyclers began to be granted import licences at the end of March. The restart of exports to Indonesia has cleared the overhang of supply in the market, combined

with solid demand in Europe. The price range for 98/2 bales climbed to €280-350/t this week, from €265-350/t last week. Demand for exports to southeast Asia is expected to be strong in the coming weeks, as buyers look to procure material ahead of the 21 May deadline beyond which cargoes must be shipped under notification. But some southeast Asian buyers reportedly remained cautious in the past two weeks, likely concerned about booking cargoes with long lead-times in the current volatile geopolitical situation.

As in the rigids market, many flexible PE recyclers set prices on a monthly basis. Many indicated that they will target price increases when negotiations begin in the next

two weeks, but most have not yet made firm offers yet to customers. Some that implemented price increases of less than €100/t heading into April indicated that converters placing new orders from mid-month would need to pay higher prices. But it was not clear how much volume traded at higher levels and we maintained our price ranges for most rLDPE grades this week.

We raised our assessment range for rLDPE/LLDPE low-MFI grade by €20/t, as evidence of higher prices emerged this week. The gap between high and low in the market remains wide, with evidence of prices above and below our assessment range.

MARKETS UPDATE – RPE/RPP – AMERICAS

rPE/rPP US: Pellet prices climb in April

US rHDPE natural and rPP grey pellet prices rose this month, tracking recent rises in HDPE natural and PP bales.

Natural HDPE bale prices were unchanged at 75-80¢/lb, having risen from below 60¢/lb at the end of February, as suppliers resisted price cuts after recent gains, citing higher operating, transport and compliance costs. Demand remained muted, but the feedstock increase led prices for rHDPE natural FDA pellets to increase to 125¢/lb in April.

Mixed-colour HDPE bale prices were also stable at 6-10¢/lb. Demand into end-use markets such as outdoor goods and builders' products is improving seasonally, but unremarkable. Virgin HDPE spot prices were around 75-83¢/lb, roughly double the level for general-purpose rHDPE black pellets. But, despite the widening spread, recyclers have not reported significant incremental demand for recycled HDPE. Converters may be delaying the switch to recycled grades because of approval and qualification requirements. Prices for rHDPE colour non-FDA and rHDPE PIR black at 47.50¢/lb and 35.5¢/lb, respectively, in April.

PP bale prices were stable this week, after rising to 17-22¢/lb on an ex-works US Midwest basis on 10 April, up by 10.5¢/lb from early March. Higher costs for unsorted waste and transport prompted the increase. Following the bale price rise – and accounting for yield losses and higher bale freight costs – recyclers raised rPP grey non-FDA pellet prices for April by 17.5¢/lb on the month, to 70-80¢/lb. The move was driven by higher costs rather than stronger demand, although some converters engaged in precautionary buying on expectations of further increases given current virgin PP trends. The rPP IM dark/black grade climbed by 4.5¢/lb to 45¢/lb. This grade includes post-industrial material and is less directly affected by PP post-consumer bale prices.

Recycled polyolefins US Midwest weekly market prices						
	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Weekly						
HDPE natural PCR bottle bale	17 -Apr	€/lb	75.00	80.00	77.50	nc
		\$/t	1,653.47	1,763.70	1,708.59	nc
HDPE coloured PCR bottle bale	17 -Apr	€/lb	6.00	10.00	8.00	nc
		\$/t	132.28	220.46	176.37	nc
PP PCR bale	17 -Apr	€/lb	17.00	22.00	19.50	nc
		\$/t	374.79	485.02	429.91	nc

Recycled polyolefins US Midwest monthly market prices						
	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Monthly						
rHDPE BM natural, FDA approved	Apr 2026	€/lb	120.00	130.00	125.00	+5.00
		\$/t	2,645.54	2,866.01	2,755.78	+110.23
rHDPE BM light grey, non-FDA approved	Apr 2026	€/lb	45.00	50.00	47.50	nc
		\$/t	992.08	1,102.31	1,047.20	nc
rHDPE dark/black general purpose	Apr 2026	€/lb	33.00	38.00	35.50	nc
		\$/t	727.52	837.76	782.64	nc
rPP light grey, FDA approved	Apr 2026	€/lb	75.00	80.00	77.50	nc
		\$/t	1,653.47	1,763.70	1,708.59	nc
rPP light grey, non-FDA approved	Apr 2026	€/lb	70.00	80.00	75.00	+17.50
		\$/t	1,543.23	1,763.70	1,653.47	+385.81
rPP dark/black, general purpose IM	Apr 2026	€/lb	40.00	50.00	45.00	+4.50
		\$/t	881.85	1,102.31	992.08	+99.21

MARKETS UPDATE – RPE/RPP – ASIA-PACIFIC

rPE Asia: SEA PE film bale prices rise

Southeast Asian rLDPE prices continued to strengthen this week, supported by higher virgin polymer costs and rising uncertainty from the escalating Middle East conflict.

The 98/2 PE bale cif southeast Asia import price climbed to \$330-420/t this week from \$330-400/t last week. A deal was placed at \$420/t cfr Port Kelang for 10 loads of Europe-origin material.

rLDPE/LLDPE transparent pellets fob southeast Asia were unchanged at \$870-920/t this week, after rising by \$30/t at the low end last week.

Indonesia's HDPE rigid bale and rHDPE natural-colour pellet prices were unchanged at 9,000-12,500 rupiah/kg and 15,500-19,500 rupiah/kg this week, compared with 8,000-9,500 rupiah/kg and 14,500-16,500 rupiah/kg two weeks ago, respectively.

Indonesian participants noted tight domestic supply for HDPE and rHDPE materials, citing that many firms are looking for raw-material waste.

In northeast Asia, demand for rHDPE increased because of firmer virgin HDPE prices. One recycler said general-purpose rHDPE trade was active over the past two weeks, with discussion levels at around Yn7,000-8,000/t across different grades.

Selling indications for food-grade rHDPE blow moulding (BM) material increased to \$1,400-1,450/t fob China, while notional discussion levels rose to \$1,330-1,400/t fob. But transaction volumes increased only marginally, as recyclers focused on boosting output of general-purpose grades to

Recycled polyolefins Asia Pacific market prices

	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
South East Asia rPE						
HDPE rigid bale PCR domestic Indonesia	17-Apr	IDR/kg	9,000.00	12,500.00	10,750.00	nc
		\$/t	520.00	730.00	625.00	-5.00
98/2 flexible PE bale, post commercial cif SE Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	330.00	420.00	375.00	+10.00
rHDPE natural, from PCR, domestic Indonesia	17-Apr	IDR/kg	15,500.00	19,500.00	17,500.00	nc
		\$/t	900.00	1,140.00	1,020.00	-5.00
rLDPE/LLDPE standard film, transparent. fob southeast Asia	17-Apr	\$/t	870.00	920.00	895.00	nc
North East Asia rPE						
rHDPE BM natural colour from PCR, food contact, fob China	17-Apr	\$/t	1,330.00	1,400.00	1,365.00	+35.00

grow sales.

Domestic negotiations for food-grade rHDPE also strengthened, with discussion levels rising to Yn11,200-11,500/t, up by Yn300-400/t from late March.

SUSTAINABLE FEEDSTOCKS

PPO still slow, bionaphtha premium up

Demand for circular feedstocks remained weak in Europe in the past fortnight. One polymer producer indicated that they have seen some renewed demand for circular polyolefins, leading to some new spot and contract deals. But this was not reflected by others yet, and not sufficient to increase incremental demand for feedstocks in the market as a whole.

In the mass-balanced circular naphtha market, market participants indicated offers of \$1,100-1,250/t premium to fossil naphtha for promptly available volumes. But no firm bids or deals were reported. We maintained our assessment of the premium at \$1,050-1,250/t.

In the plastic-derived pyrolysis oil (PPO) market, we

Advanced Recycling/Bio-feedstocks

	Timing	Currency	Low	High	Midpoint	Δ
Europe						
Pyrolysis oil plastic-derived refinery grade fca Europe	17-Apr	€/t	1,050.00	1,300.00	1,175.00	nc
Pyrolysis oil plastic-derived light fraction fca Europe	17-Apr	€/t	1,250.00	1,450.00	1,350.00	-15.00
Circular naphtha premium	17-Apr	\$/t	1,050.00	1,250.00	1,150.00	nc
Bionaphtha chemical feedstock UCO-based fob ARA	17-Apr	\$/t	2,105.00	2,115.00	2,110.00	-70.00
Asia-Pacific						
Bionaphtha cfr Northeast Asia	Apr 2026	\$/t	2,200.00	2,220.00	2,210.00	+275.00

SUSTAINABLE FEEDSTOCKS

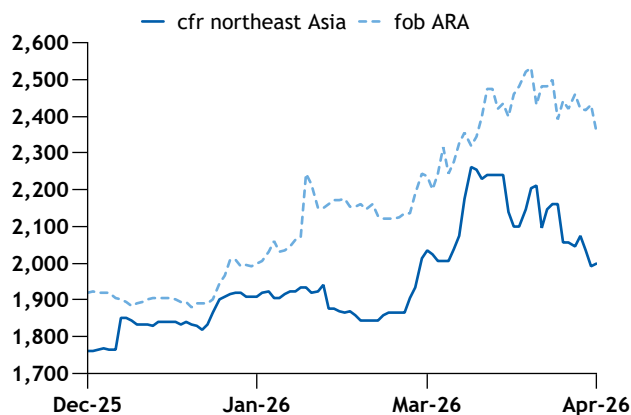
maintained our assessment range for refinery-grade PPO at €1,050-1,300/t fca Europe, and lowered our light fraction PPO assessment to €1,250-1,450/t fca Europe, a reduction of €30/t at the lower end. Offers for light fraction material were heard at €1,250-1,300/t fca Europe, but a buyer indicated that the upper end of the range remained valid for the highest quality of material. A small spot deal was heard at around €1,150/t fca for a light fraction PPO with some elevated contaminants, again intended for upgrading.

In the biobased feedstocks market, the ARA premium for ISCC+ UCO-based bionaphtha rose by \$50/t during the past fortnight to \$1,250/t, with a wide range of indications from \$1,200-1,400/t reflecting uneven demand. Some buyers were reported to be drawing down previously secured volumes, while others were selectively testing the market for near term deliveries.

In northeast Asia, subsiding fossil naphtha values prompted some bionaphtha participants to prepare re-enter the market, though there was still little firm activity this week. A South Korean buyer made initial price inquiries with sellers, and expects to open a buy tender next month for cargoes delivering in June-July. While a trader active in the

Bionaphtha

\$/t



region was also paying attention to the market once again after over a month's hiatus, expecting inquiries may pick up if naphtha values continue to fall in May.

Bionaphtha delivered to northeast Asia fell by \$95/t from the previous fortnight to \$2,000/t cfr, although this represented an increase in the premium to fossil naphtha, which fell by \$196.75/t over the same period.

PETROCHEMICAL MARKETS

Europe

European virgin PE and PP spot prices have continued to rise during April, climbing by €25-100/t this week, depending upon grade. And producers are aiming to increase April contract prices by more than feedstock.

Many buyers are contemplating whether prices may have reached a peak after crude oil prices fell by more than 10pc on the afternoon of 17 April following Iran announcement that the strait of Hormuz is open to all commercial vessels. But, even in the scenario of a permanent ceasefire, normalisation of supply of polymers from the Middle East could take a while as operations at many plants in that region were disrupted in previous weeks.

Last week European PET resin spot prices were unchanged but with the trend remaining bullish. Producers are facing higher fixed and transport costs, while spot material availability remains very tight. European calculated contract prices for March rose by €140/t, supported by a €225/t increase in the Argus PX reference price. Further significant increases are expected in April prices at the end of the month, given continued volatility in raw material costs.

Olefin monthly contracts & Polymer spot			
	Timing	Midpoint	Δ
Ethylene contract			
del NWE €/t	Apr 26	1,595.00	+450.00
cfr Taiwan \$/t	Feb 26	1,160.00	+398.00
Pipeline USGC ¢/lb	Mar 26	32.50	+2.25
Polymer grade propylene (PGP) contract			
del Europe €/t	Apr 26	1,465.00	+465.00
del Taiwan \$/t	Feb 26	1,090.00	+332.00
fob US ¢/lb	Mar 26	46.50	+10.00
HDPE IM spot			
del NWE \$/t	17 -Apr	2,479.00	+87.00
cfr China \$/t*	17 -Apr	1,100.00	nc
fas Houston bagged \$/t	17 -Apr	1,775.00	nc
Polypropylene spot			
homopolymer del NWE \$/t	17 -Apr	2,420.00	+28.50
raffia cfr China \$/t	17 -Apr	1,235.00	+10.00
LLDPE butene-1 spot			
del NWE \$/t	17 -Apr	2,420.00	+43.00
fas Houston \$/t	17 -Apr	1,731.00	+44.50
cfr China \$/t	17 -Apr	1,135.00	-30.00

*Main origin

PETROCHEMICAL MARKETS

Americas

Spot domestic and export prices in the US/Canada PE market continued to move higher during the week, but some market participants believe prices may be nearing at least a temporary peak due to lower prices out of China and prospects for global supplies to improve with the announcement of the re-opening of the strait of Hormuz.

US/Canada PP market participants are anticipating a double-digit increase again this month as feedstock costs are expected to jump higher and as producers continue to press for higher margins. Spot polymer-grade propylene (PGP) prices have declined during the week, tracking declines in crude on hopes of a quick resolution to the war between the US and Iran.

US March PET resin contract prices were supported by increases from producers and war surcharges. Downstream, two of the world's largest beverage makers also warned higher operational costs because of the war in the Mideast Gulf – including higher prices for PET bottles – may soon be passed onto consumers.

Asia-Pacific

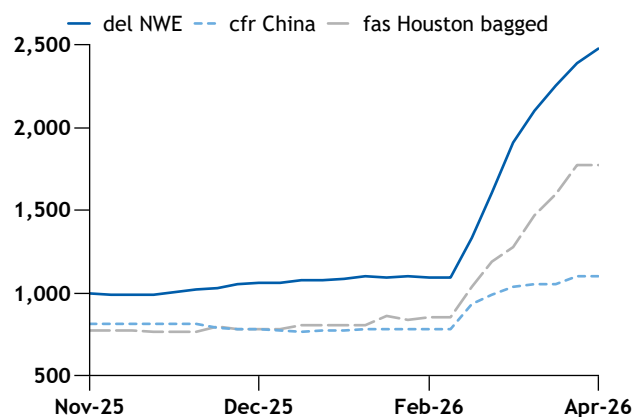
The PE spot market in China generally weakened amid softening futures week on week. Ex-works PE prices held stable or decreased variably by 100-200 yuan/t (around \$15-30/t), and cfr China PE prices held stable or fell by \$30-35/t. Trading activity was sluggish and price volatility has been moderated by ample inventories. On the Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE), the main LLDPE futures contract rolled over from the May contract to the September contract.

PP prices export China were stable-to-firm amid tight supply overseas while domestic prices were weighed down by weaker sentiment. The Dalian Commodity Exchange (DCE) PP main contract switched to the September contract early this week, and it inched up in the second half of the week, tracking higher spot prices as well as the recovery of crude oil futures after a drop during first half of week.

Asia PET resin prices fell last week due to weaker feedstock costs. Domestic China PET resin prices initially extended gains, but prices fell sharply after the news of a US-Iran ceasefire triggered a sell-off across various chemical markets. Feedstock PTA prices fell by more than 10pc, prompting PET producers to lower offering levels. Market sentiment improved slightly this week. Several beverage companies made purchases after delaying procurement for a few weeks.

HDPE spot

\$/t



Argus Global Polyethylene and Polypropylene



Argus Global Polyethylene and Polypropylene is a weekly pricing service with global resin prices and detailed commentary on key polymer grades.

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NEWS AND ANALYSIS

continued from p1

Recyclers are already facing higher energy costs, with tighter global natural gas supply because of Emirati and Qatari LNG outages. European gas and electricity price increases have been capped since the start of the conflict by higher year-on-year supply from elsewhere, relatively warm recent temperatures and market expectation of a return to 'normal' supply in the coming months. In a scenario where a ceasefire is agreed and supply starts to normalise within the next four to six weeks, *Argus Consulting* projections suggest Europe can avoid a significant storage deficit into the winter. But the risk of major tightness increases the longer the war continues, and the risk of low EU natural gas storage levels heading into next winter is a concern for the recycling industry, with gas-fired generation setting the marginal power price in most of Europe.

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

Concerns have started to focus on winter, with its attendant rise in gas prices, writes Will Collins

Economic round-up: Where are the risks?

Price inflation and supply disruption because of the Middle East war are likely to sap demand in polymer-consuming sectors, with some more exposed than others.

Inflation

Virgin polymer and fuel prices have risen sharply in recent weeks, owing to their links to crude oil and the importance of Middle East exports to global balances. The outlook depends on the reopening of the strait of Hormuz. *Argus Consulting's* latest crude forecast – published in early April – notes that most commentators were working on the assumption that the situation will start to normalise in May or June. But cautioned that this may be optimistic and even in a best case scenario it may take many more months for global supply chains to fully return to normal. As of 17 April, even after Iran announced that the strait was open for the duration of the US-Iran ceasefire, **shipowners remained wary of security risks** and terms of passage remained unclear.

Electricity prices have also risen, although the rise has been capped in Europe by increased LNG supply from elsewhere, warmer weather and expectations of a return to "normality" in the coming months. The concern centres on further inflation in winter, when heating demand drives up gas prices. In a scenario where a ceasefire is agreed and supply starts to normalise within the next 4-6 weeks, *Argus'* projections suggest Europe can avoid a significant storage deficit heading into winter, but a longer conflict carries a greater risk.

Consumer goods

Essential goods – food, personal care, household cleaning – are typically seen as relatively inflation-proof, and have even seen a jump in demand during previous times of uncertainty as consumers stock up. But Eurostat data show that price can still affect demand in the longer term. During the inflation crisis of 2022, there was a pronounced inverse relationship between sales volumes and turnover of food, beverages and tobacco in the EU, suggesting consumers were holding back. Sales volumes of fast-moving consumer goods also fell.

Durable and non-essential goods – particularly big-ticket items – are more exposed when consumers hold back. This may already be happening, with Eurostat's EU-27 consumer confidence index at a two-and-a-half year low in March, although sector-by-sector data since the war started is yet to emerge. Consumption is likely to be affected by "weaker household sentiment, more precautionary savings, and



NEWS AND ANALYSIS

higher interest rates” in addition to the impact of higher energy prices on consumer spending power, Oxford Economics’ chief Italy economist Nicola Nobile said. A quick end to the war might mitigate but will not offset the negative impact, he added.

For the recycling industry, sales into consumer packaging, appliances and automotive could be affected.

Industrial production

“Order frontloading as firms sought to secure inputs ahead of further price increases and supply disruptions”, meant confidence in industry and services sectors was more resilient than consumer/retail confidence in March, Oxford Economics said. But it added that this resilience is not expected to last.

The firm reduced its 2026 eurozone GDP growth forecast by 0.2 percentage points to 0.8pc between early March and mid-April, owing to a near-doubling of its annual inflation expectations.

Within recycling, lower industrial production is likely to particularly impact secondary packaging and logistics – applications such as pallets and palletisation films, boxes and sacks. Tight supply of post-commercial waste – particularly important for the PE film recycling industry – could be another consequence.

Construction

The construction industry – already subdued in Europe prior to the outbreak of war – is particularly exposed to rising commodity and energy prices.

In previous downturns, construction has endured a slower, but longer-term, decline than other industries, because of delays to new projects entering the pipeline. For example, eurozone construction output had only just returned to pre-2008 financial crash levels in early 2020, when the pandemic hit.

Already in March, the S&P Global eurozone construction PMI was showing the most pronounced fall in new orders since October, with firms pointing to surging energy prices as a key factor. And several converters say existing projects could also be impacted by the current situation, given how sharply commodity prices have risen in the past six weeks and with increases not yet necessarily passed down the supply chain in full. “Having strengthened to a four-year high in February, the outlook for the eurozone construction sector weakened. Germany, France and Italy all registered negative sentiment in the latest period,” S&P Global chief economist Usamah Bhatti said.

Demand for recycled polymers into pipe and profile is up since the war began. But this is probably as customers have tried to offset rising virgin polymer prices and supply shortages, rather than being an indicator of underlying demand.

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

Virgin polymers news

Tanker owners wary after Hormuz reopening pledge

Iran's announcement that the strait of Hormuz is open to commercial vessels is unlikely to trigger an immediate pickup in tanker traffic through the waterway, as shipowners remain wary of security risks and the terms of passage remain unclear, market sources told *Argus*.

Iran said on Friday that the strait would be [open for commercial shipping](#) for the duration of the US-Iran ceasefire, following a halt to fighting in Lebanon. But the limited timeframe and lack of detail are likely to deter shipowners from resuming transits straightaway, participants said.

Owners would probably still have to "co-ordinate with Iran and adhere to their rules, unless of course the conditions are specified and more clarity appears, in which case more ships would consider the transit", one market participant said.

Questions also remain around routing and tolls. Iran said passage would be permitted on the "co-ordinated route as already announced", which is likely to refer to the channel between the islands of Qeshm and Larak. This could imply that Iran will continue charging transit tolls.

Transits through the strait have continued despite the US naval blockade on ships entering or leaving Iranian ports, which President Donald Trump has said will remain in place until peace talks with Iran are concluded. But the blockade is focused on the mouth of the Gulf of Oman rather than the strait itself, raising concerns that vessels exiting the waterway could still be intercepted further downstream, participants said.

At least 10 vessels crossed the strait of Hormuz with their AIS transponders active in the past 24 hours, most of them westbound into the Mideast Gulf. Of those crossings, three were eastbound. These included the *Shalamar*, a Pakistani-flagged Aframax tanker that loaded at Das Island on 12 April and is heading to Karachi, according to Kpler data.

The announcement about reopening the strait may be aimed primarily at allowing vessels already in the Gulf to exit, easing vessel availability constraints, rather than encouraging ships to enter for new business, according to one market participant.

The International Maritime Organisation (IMO) is assessing Iran's announcement for compliance with freedom of navigation and use of the IMO-recognised traffic separation scheme.

Shipping association Bimco, meanwhile, said the announcement does little to change the risk outlook for vessels. Trump's claim that the strait is "fully open" is inaccurate, as the status of mine threats within the traffic separation scheme remains unclear, Jakob Larsen, Bimco's chief safety and security officer, said. The scheme has not

been declared safe for transit, and shipping companies should "consider avoiding the area", he added.

By Rhys van Dinther

UAE's Borouge sells most of Mar output despite Iran war

UAE-based petrochemicals firm Borouge was able to sell most of its cargoes in March via alternative routes despite the logistical disruptions caused by the Iran War, it said on 6 April.

The company achieved high utilisation rates in the first quarter and has additional inventories sitting in storage spaces awaiting shipment, it said in a stock exchange filing.

"A global shortage of polyolefins is driving a strong recovery in prices in March which has continued in April," chief executive officer Hazeem Sultan Al Suwaidi said in the filing.

The Borouge chief's statements come at a time when Gulf-Cooperation Council (GCC) producers are exploring different routes to bypass the strait of Hormuz.

Some producers are shipping limited volumes via Saudi Arabia's west coast ports of Yanbu and Jeddah, and through Oman's Salalah and Sohar in the east coast. But widespread vessel rerouting is affecting their ability to make firm offers to buyers. Constraints regarding inland truck availability is also affecting freight movement within the GCC.

Borouge also confirmed that falling debris from an interception by air defence resulted in fires at its facilities at the Ruwais Industrial Area. It added that no injuries have been reported, and that the resulting fires have been brought under control.

Earlier, Abu Dhabi authorities said that several fires [broke out](#) at the Borouge petrochemicals facility after debris from an intercepted drone fell on the site early Sunday.

Borouge, majority owned by Abu Dhabi's state-owned Adnoc, said that production activity in affected areas has been suspended while damage assessment and repairs are being carried out. The company has the capacity to produce 350,000 t/yr of low-density polyethylene and has linear low-density polyethylene/high density polyethylene swing units with a total capacity of 2.38mn t. Borouge also produces 2.24mn t of polypropylene at Ruwais.

Sunday's attack on Borouge added to the growing list of petrochemicals facilities in the Middle East affected by the ongoing conflict. Several facilities in Iran's key Pars petrochemical complex in Assaluyeh were damaged in US-Israeli strikes on Monday.

Earlier in March, Qatar's state-owned QatarEnergy [shut production](#) of "some downstream products", including polymers and methanol. Sadara Chemical Company, a joint-venture between US-based chemical company Dow and Saudi Arabia's Aramco, has also [halted production](#) at its Jubail site in Saudi Arabia.

By Sourasis Bose

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

Koksan to expand PET resin capacity in Turkey

Thyssenkrupp Uhde will deliver a new polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plant for Turkish packaging producer Koksan in Yumurtalik, southern Turkey, with a nameplate capacity of around 350,000 t/yr.

Start-up is scheduled for 2028. The plant will use Uhde's Melt-To-Resin (MTR) process, which combines several production stages in a single set-up and lowers emissions compared with conventional PET manufacturing routes.

The new project will focus on PET resin production rather than fibre, in line with Koksan's core positioning in packaging applications. The investment targets export markets, with volumes planned for Europe, the Middle East, Africa and the Americas, as the company seeks to expand its international reach, a market source said.

Market participants expect the new project to significantly increase Koksan's overall capacity, with some indicating that it could effectively double its existing PET resin output once fully operational.

By Dila Odluyurt

Chemical recycling

Vitol's WPU plans Rotterdam pyrolysis unit

Trading company Vitol's plastic recycling business WPU plans to build an 80,000t/yr pyrolysis chemical recycling facility at the Port of Rotterdam, the Netherlands.

The plant will be constructed alongside Vitol's 85,000 b/d refinery at the port, and will use the batch pyrolysis process that WPU employs at its existing site in Farevejle, Denmark. The Faravejle unit is "currently operating close to full capacity", Vitol said. It gave Faravejle's capacity as 20,000 t/yr, slightly lower than the 25,000 t/yr stated in May 2025.

The firm did not guide on when the Rotterdam unit is expected to start up, saying the project remains subject to regulatory approvals and that a comprehensive stakeholder consultation will be undertaken.

By Will Collins

Vitol gets permit guidance for Rotterdam PPO project

DCMR Milieudienst Rijnmond, the joint environment service for the Province of South Holland, has granted the first "declaration of permitability" to Vitol Plastic Recycling (VPR) for its Rotterdam pyrolysis project.

The declaration clarifies what is likely to be required for a project to succeed from an environmental and permitting perspective. This guidance helps to substantiate further development steps such as finance/investment decisions and subsidy applications.

"At an early stage, plans are often not yet sufficiently detailed for a complete permit application. Nevertheless,

at that point, there is usually already enough information available to make guiding statements—with the aid of a declaration of permitability—that help the company make choices", DCMR Milieudienst Rijnmond managing director Daan Molenaar said.

"It is important to have clarity regarding the feasibility of innovative projects at an early stage. This permitability statement helps us make more targeted choices and further develop our plans", VPR chief executive Jeffrey van Geloof said.

By Will Collins

Pledges and targets

LyondellBasell sustainable polymer sales inch up in 2025

Chemicals producer LyondellBasell produced and marketed roughly 206,000t of recycled and renewable-based polymers in 2025, slightly higher than the 203,000t the company reported for 2024.

The company aims to produce and market 800,000 t/yr of recycled and renewable-based polymers by 2030. This target was revised down in February 2026 from a previous goal of 2mn t/yr.

Part of the progress towards the target will come from the start-up of its first MoReTec pyrolysis plant in Wesseling, Germany, which will have a capacity of 50,000 t/yr, the firm said.

LyondellBasell also expects regulatory frameworks, increased consumer focus and voluntary commitments from brands to support stronger demand. But it said that "greater clarity on how chemically recycled content can be attributed to products, including the use of mass-balance accounting, is an important next step for EU policymakers to strengthen certainty and drive investment in chemical recycling".

Chief executive Peter Vanacker said that "durable demand signals and willingness to adopt circular and lower-carbon materials are needed to justify large-scale infrastructure and technology deployment across the value chain".

In December 2025, LyondellBasell said it had paused plans to build a plastic recycling hub in Knapsack, Germany, "due to the broader economic environment". It also deferred a final investment decision on a second MoReTec pyrolysis plant in Houston, Texas, until market conditions improve.

The company said in its latest report that the deferral reflected "capital discipline, and the expected pace of demand growth".

"This provides us more time to engage with regulators, customers and brand owners in North America," it said.

LyondellBasell highlighted stronger demand for circular plastics from the automotive sector. "Most of our automo-

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

tive customers have introduced circular solutions, actively staying ahead of upcoming end-of-life vehicle mandates,” said Torkel Rhenman, executive vice-president of the company’s Advanced Polymer Solutions segment.

Sales of mechanically recycled polymers marketed under the Circulen Recover brand to the automotive industry tripled in 2025 compared with 2024, Rhenman said.

By George Barsted and Will Collins

Mechanical recycling

WM opens Indianapolis recycling facility

US company Waste Management (WM) opened its fourth new recycling facility this year with the startup this month of a \$60mn materials recovery facility (MRF) in Indianapolis, adding upstream sorting capacity as US recycled plastics demand remains uneven.

The Indianapolis facility can process up to 200,000 metric tonnes (t)/yr of recyclables and forms part of WM’s plan to invest more than \$1.4bn between 2022 and 2026 to expand and modernize recycling infrastructure across North America. The opening of the Indianapolis site follows facility openings earlier this year in Orange, California; in Pembroke Pines, Florida, and in Ontario, Canada, according to the Houston-based company.

The Indianapolis site uses optical sorting technology for plastics and fiber, upgraded glass recovery systems, and fire-detection equipment, according to the company.

As an MRF, the Indianapolis site expands upstream sorting capacity rather than producing recycled resin. The facility is designed to sort and bale recyclable materials for downstream recycling markets, with any increase in recycled resin supply dependent on reclaimer run rates rather than sorting capacity alone. WM has not disclosed specific bale grades that will be produced at the site.

The expansion comes as recycled plastics pricing has been driven largely by cost pressure rather than demand growth, with higher freight and operating costs supporting bale prices while downstream buying remains cautious, market participants said. Several sources cautioned that while improved sorting and bale quality are supportive for the system, additional MRF capacity alone does not resolve downstream challenges such as weak end-market demand, margin pressure, and limited incentives for reclaimers to increase run rates.

Infrastructure investments of this scale are more likely to benefit vertically integrated or contracted supply chains, while independent reclaimers may remain constrained by margin pressure and uneven demand, market participants said.

The facility is intended to strengthen recycling infra-

structure and supply chain resilience in Indiana, WM said. In 2024, the Indiana Department of Environmental Management awarded Waste Management of Indiana a \$500,000 grant toward glass recycling equipment, which is expected to recover and divert about 23,400 t/yr of glass.

The opening of the Indianapolis facility was welcomed by manufacturing groups in the state. “The opening of the WM Indianapolis Recycling Facility is a significant milestone for Indiana’s manufacturing ecosystem,” said Andrew Berger, president and chief executive officer of the Indiana Manufacturers Association.

“By investing in advanced optical sorting and glass recovery technology, WM is providing our state’s manufacturers with a reliable, local source of high-quality recycled materials,” Berger said. “This facility strengthens supply chain resilience and helps Indiana companies meet growing global demand for sustainable production.”

WM’s expansion follows other recent investments in recycling infrastructure by large waste haulers, including Republic Services’ expansion of its Peabody recycling center in greater Boston announced earlier this month. The investments suggest large operators are positioning for longer term growth in recycling volumes despite near-term weakness in recycled plastics markets, market participants said.

WM declined to comment further ahead of its upcoming quarterly earnings call on 29 April.

By Dona Davis

US recycled HDPE prices start to track virgin

Sharp increases across US virgin resin markets are beginning to support recycled plastics prices, although the impact remains uneven and higher virgin prices have yet to broadly boost demand for recycled resins.

Bales of natural, or uncolored, high-density polyethylene (HDPE) prices rose by around 5¢/lb in early April to the mid- to upper-70s¢/lb range, the clearest response from the recycled market so far to rapidly rising virgin polyethylene (PE) prices. US and Canadian PE contract prices settled up by 10¢/lb for March, [the largest one-month increase in at least a decade](#). Producers have nominated additional increases of 20-30¢/lb for virgin PE contracts for April because the US-Iran war has disrupted global supplies and heightened concerns about supply security.

Some buyers that rely on the spot virgin market are re-evaluating recycled options based on availability more than on material cost, as the war has boosted export demand for US virgin material, tightening the domestic market.

Prices and demand for recycled grades besides natural HDPE have been more stable. Mixed-color HDPE bales have held steady near 8¢/lb, while PET B-grade bales remain at low price levels. Early bottle-season activity and restocking interest supported a 1¢/lb rise in PET A-grade bales follow-

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

ing a few months of stability, but margins remain compressed.

Contract protections, lengthy qualification timelines and pricing lags are slowing any immediate substitution from virgin to recycled resin, participants said. Many buyers are still working through lower-priced virgin contracts, limiting the incentive to switch to recycled materials.

Recycled pricing support will likely become more visible later in the spring and into May if virgin supply tightness persists, and natural HDPE will probably continue to lead any broader move higher, most sources said.

By Dona Davis

Chemical recycling project tracker

Keep a track of the global chemical recycling project pipeline, including a view on capacities and pyrolysis oil off-take agreements, with our chemical recycling project tracker, available on Argus Direct at <https://direct.argusmedia.com/dataanddownloads>.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

US company Republic Services opened its upgraded Peabody Recycling Centre with advanced technology in Boston, Massachusetts, adding recycling capacity and helping reduce waste. The facility can process 35-40t of recyclables per hour and includes AI powered technology for increased accuracy and efficiency, which the company says will produce cleaner and higher-quality material for end markets.

Promix Solutions introduced a new microcellular foaming technology, which introduces gas during extrusion to create a fine-pored cell structure which reduces packaging weight by up to 20pc. This means reduced carbon emissions during transport and less raw material usage, without affecting the packaging's performance or recyclability, the firm said.

French plastic recycling industry association SRP mooted increased use of recycled content as a way of guarding against supply vulnerabilities in the plastics industry such as the current Iran war crisis. Using recyclates, particularly those produced in France and Europe, would reduce dependence upon extra-EU raw material imports, it said, along with contributing to European Green Deal decarbonisation policies. The association highlighted incentives to use recycled content in household packaging, which are currently built into France's EPR scheme, as well as upcoming imperatives to use the material under EU regulations such as PPWR and the ELV Directive.

The UK Country Land and Business Association (CLA) said

that it successfully applied for an upper tier waste carrier licence in the name of a cow called Beau Vine, to highlight a lack of background checks in the system. The registration for "sole trader" Beau Vine, dated 9 March, is visible in the UK Environment Agency public register. An upper tier carrier/dealer is authorised to transport, buy or sell waste, including construction and demolition waste, and arrange for waste from other businesses to be transported and disposed of. CLA said that a lack of checks in the permitting system is leading criminals to appear legitimate before illegally dumping waste, causing a rise in fly-tipping in the UK countryside.

Exchange for Change published its material specification for drinks containers included in the UK Deposit Return Scheme (DRS). The specification sets out the criteria packaging must meet to be accepted by reverse vending machines (RVMs). The guidance gives producers clarity on any required packaging changes ahead of the schemes planned launch in October 2027. Producers must register products in advance, and the specifications also identify low volume production exemptions to reduce the impact on small producers. The specification applies to drinks containers made from PET plastic, aluminum and steel, and outlines requirements for barcodes and product identification to ensure containers can be efficiently processed through RVMs and the wider collection network. The early publication of the specification helps producers plan ahead, align packaging changes with existing production cycles and avoid disruption ahead of the scheme's launch, Exchange for Change said.



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