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ARGUS RECYCLED POLYMERS OUTLOOK REFERENCE AND MODELLING GUIDE

Contents:

Overview	2
Publication and timing	2
Forecast prices	2
Forecast process	2
Approval process	2
Change process	2
Corrections to outlook	2
Ethics and compliance	2

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The most up-to-date Argus Recycled Polymers Outlook Reference and Modelling Guide is available on www.argusmedia.com

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Overview

Argus publishes a monthly 24-month price outlook for PET and polyolefin bales, intermediate products and recycled resins for the main global regions: North America, Northwest Europe, Northeast Asia and Southeast Asia. Argus price forecasts are based on a combination of cost and margin modelling, seasonality analysis, and fundamental adjustments by our market experts. No specific weighting is given to these elements.

Publication and timing

Argus Outlook data is published in a monthly PDF format, via the Argus Direct online platform and are available through various Argus data feeds. A downloadable spreadsheet containing the key price outlook is also available via Argus Direct.

Publication is on the fourth Friday of the month.

Forecast prices

Argus forecasts freely negotiated prices in this outlook.

Northwest Europe forecasts are on a delivered basis.

North America forecasts are on an ex-works basis.

Northeast Asia rPET flake forecasts are on a delivered basis and rPET pellet forecasts are fob.

Southeast Asia PET bale forecasts are on a delivered basis. rPET flake and rPET pellet forecasts are fob series. 98/2 flexible PE bale forecasts are cif and rLDPE/LLDPE pellet forecasts are fob. HDPE bale and rHDPE pellet forecasts are delivered to domestic Indonesia.

PET bale, rPET flake and rPET pellet forecasts are derived from post-consumer waste (PCR). All rPET pellet forecasts are based on food compliant grades, which are considered an industry benchmark for comparison between regions.

HDPE and PP rigid bale and rHDPE and rPP pellet forecasts are derived from post-consumer waste (PCR) cost estimates. 98/2 flexible PE bale and rLDPE and rLLDPE pellet forecasts are derived from post-commercial waste cost estimates.

Forecast process

Our market experts analyse factors they consider relevant to providing a credible forecast. These may include but are not limited to: analysis of spreads between virgin PET and polyolefin

forecasts, current market prices, supply and demand outlook and regulatory changes. Consideration is given to different production costs in the regions with electricity forecasts integrated for Northwest Europe and North America. Supply and demand dynamics include but are not limited to estimates of plant operating rates, inventories, international trade flow, and regional events.

Approval process

Argus price forecasts undergo a peer review process. Under this process, the lead forecaster will submit and outline their forecast and assumptions to the wider Argus recycled polymers team. At least one member of the wider group will sign off on the forecast before publication.

Change process

Argus welcomes feedback on its reference and modelling approach and will continuously engage informally with clients and the wider industry on best practices. At its discretion, Argus may undertake a formal consultation on changes. Argus commits to communicating any material changes in the reference and modelling approach in the first publication after it has been made.

Corrections to outlook

Argus will never adjust its price forecasts and modelled numbers after publication because of new information or a change of opinion. On rare occasions Argus may publish corrections after the publication date. We will correct errors that arise from clerical mistakes, calculation errors, or a misapplication of our stated modelling approach.

Ethics and compliance

Argus operates according to the best practices in the publishing field, and maintains thorough compliance procedures throughout the firm. We want to be seen as a preferred provider by our subscribers, who are held to equally high standards, while at the same time maintaining our editorial integrity and independence. Argus has a strict ethics policy that applies to all staff. The policy can be found on our website at www.argusmedia.com. Included in this policy are restrictions against staff trading in any energy commodity or energy related stocks, and guidelines for accepting gifts.

Argus also has strict policies regarding central archiving of email and instant messenger communication, maintenance and archiving of notes, and archiving of spreadsheets used in the forecasting process.