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Polyethylene Methodology

19 June 2014

Date of last formal consultation: 2 September 2013
Expiry date of this methodology document: 2 September 2016

General methodology

ICIS continuously develops, reviews and revises its methodologies in consultation with industry participants. The product specifications and trading terms and conditions used are intended to reflect typical working practices in the industry.
ICIS publishes market assessments based on information gathered from market participants about: spot transactions, spot bid and offer levels, contract price negotiations, prices of related commodities, and relevant freight costs.
ICIS does not make retrospective adjustments or changes to price assessments based on information received after publication time or after any cut-off point specified in individual methodology documents.
ICIS regards all arm's-length transactions which meet its specification criteria as carrying equal weight.
ICIS uses proprietary models where necessary to normalise data to the typical specifications for cargo size and date ranges given for each commodity.
Some ICIS assessments are the product of calculation alone, for example in markets where insufficient market activity takes place to permit price assessment, or where a market itself habitually sets prices according to a formula. Such calculated assessments are noted as such in their detailed methodology specifications.
ICIS endeavours to cross-check all the transaction information it gathers. ICIS will not use information for assessment purposes where such checks call into doubt the accuracy of the original information, or where a transaction appears to have occurred under circumstances that render it non-repeatable or otherwise markedly unusual.

Rationale for polyethylene methodology

All ICIS-published spot assessments in the weekly polyethylene reports are so-called "week's range" assessments. That is, they are intended to represent the tradable value throughout the week leading up to the date of the report. Similarly, in the daily reports they are for the whole day. ICIS will indicate days where closure of particular markets due to public holidays would result in non-publishing and non-assessment days. The full week is defined from the report's deadline, eg Friday 17.00 to the following Friday 17.00.

The value published is intended to reflect the real transactable value of a commodity during the course of the week. As such, transaction information would take precedence over bids and offers.

Where a confirmed deal is done for the same specification and loading range as confirmed bids and offers, and when all are declared to the market simultaneously, the deal will take precedence over the bids and offers. In illiquid markets, sole deals will be used together with bids and offers. In a liquid trading period, deals will form the basis of assessments. In an illiquid market, a single or small number of deals will be included in the range, together with bids and offers. In the absence of any deals,

bids and offers will be used. During the assessment process we may consider other information. However actual transactions, and bids and offers will always take precedence.

ICIS takes into account a wide range of market input in making such choices, and reserves the right to exclude from its analysis any price information deemed unreliable or unrepresentative of the market. ICIS commits to describing the information it deemed reliable in the market comment accompanying its assessments, including transactions, bids, offers and other market information used in making these assessments. This includes instances where ICIS typically makes assessments based on firm transaction or bid/offer information, but where that information was not available on a given day and alternative evidence was used.

Cargoes partially loading outside of the Assessed Trading Timeframe may be reflected in the assessment, but will not typically be used where there is deal/bid/offer information within the assessment period.

ICIS has adopted this "week's range" methodology for Polyethylene reports based on several decades of market observation and feedback. Other measurement strategies, for example weighted averaging, are vulnerable to random variation in transaction levels and volume, which can give rise to distortions.

In addition, the exact volume of transactions for any given product is unknowable in advance, and a volume-dependent methodology is exposed to: a) the charge that lower volumes will result in less accurate prices, and b) to the possibility of failure in the event no transactions occur.

Recent changes to this methodology:

Specifications for polyethylene

ICIS pricing quotes Polyethylene Europe, Asia-Pacific, Southeast Asia, China, the USA, Middle East/South Asia, Latin America, Africa and Turkey.
Published weekly on Fridays, and the Africa and Turkey report on Wednesdays.

Timing:

Cargoes typically loading or delivered two-four weeks forward from the date of publication. In the China and India domestic markets, cargoes are for delivery one week forward from the date of publication. In the Turkish market, cargoes are for loading or delivery from zero to six weeks.

In the Polyethylene Southeast Asia Domestic Markets (Asia Pacific) report, all the assessments on a DEL basis reflect cargoes for delivery to a buyer's factory or a buyer designated warehouse within 7 days from the date of publication.

Assessment window:

Price assessments are based on information supplied by market participants through the week up to close of business on Fridays at 1730 hours in London and Houston. The CFR China and CFR SE Asia assessments are based on information obtained through the week up to close of business on Fridays at 1700 hours in Singapore and China. The SE Asia domestic price assessments are based on information obtained through the week up to close of business on Fridays at 1730 hours in Singapore. For the African and Turkish report, price assessments are based on information supplied by market participants through the week up to close of business on Wednesdays at 1700 hours in London.

Terms:

Typically 30-60 days after bill of lading date.

Assessments for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and India are based on a LC at sight basis only, although deals with differing credit terms will be taken into consideration.

Spot delivered prices in Europe and USA are typically based on 30-60 days credit. In the China report, first-tier distributors' price quotes are for payment at sight. In Africa and Latin America, typically 30-90 days after bill of lading date

In the Middle East, the CFR GCC and East Med prices, and the DEL Saudi Arabia prices are for cargoes delivered 2-4 weeks from publication data.

In the Polyethylene Southeast Asia Domestic Markets (Asia Pacific) report, the price assessments for Manila, Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh (HCMC) are on an at sight basis. The price assessments for Java are on a LC 14 days basis, while the assessments for Malaysia take into account both LC 30 days and LC 60 days payment terms.

Normalisation:

In exceptional cases where the lack of liquidity represents a challenge in making assessments, editors can choose to adopt a normalisation process to include deals/trades information which falls outside the standard specifications listed in the methodology pertaining to, but not limited to, volume, timing, delivery, payment terms, import tariffs, product specifications and other operational matters. The normalisation process adopted should be in line with standard practices and will only be used either as a reference for assessments, or be included as part of the assessment range. Where normalisation has occurred and has been reflected in a published price assessment, this will be described in the text of the report and the process will be described and justified.

Assessment Basis:

The **Asia-Pacific** report carries information on spot CFR prices, for lots of 200 tonnes to 1,000 tonnes for China and Southeast Asia.

For the Africa and Turkey reports, published price ranges include price ideas from producers, distributors and buyers. In the absence of confirmation from all sides, editorial judgement will be used in assessing price ranges.

In the Middle East, bagged parcels are in the range of 100-1,000 tonnes.

In the US, railcars are 170,000-195,000 lb. In Europe, standard cargo size is 25 tonnes in bags or bulk.

Bulk trucks are 45,000 lb and 65,000-75,000 lb in Canada. Export containers carry 40,000-50,000 lbs in bags or "super sacks".

In the Turkish market, the average cargo size for CFR parcels is 100-1,000 tonnes. The average cargo size for CPT parcels is 100-1,000 tonnes, made up of trucked cargoes of 23-25 tonnes per truck.

In Latin America, the standard cargo size for polyethylene is 200-300 tonnes. There are occasionally smaller or larger cargoes and truckload sales vary in size for each country between 20-34 tonnes.

In the China and India domestic markets, typical transaction volume for local and imported material is 5-100 tonnes in bags.

In the Polyethylene Southeast Asia Domestic Markets (Asia Pacific) report, the DEL Java quote reflects cargoes of 15-50 tonnes and the DEL prices for Bangkok and Ho Chi Minh (HCMC) reflect 50 tonne cargoes. The DEL Malaysia assessment reflects cargoes of 50-100 tonnes and the DEL Manila quote reflects cargoes of 50–200 tonnes.

In Africa, CFR bulk parcels are in the range of 100-500 tonnes. There is no FD standard size although typical parcel size is 4-20 tonnes in bag or bulk. FD standard size for truck loads is 33 tonnes in South Africa. CFR bulk parcels into Southern Africa are 100 tonnes.

The CFR China prices published in the Asia-Pacific and China reports reflect only dutiable supply origins. Assessments for China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Southeast Asia and India are based on a LC at sight basis only, and deals with differing credit terms are netted back to an at sight basis before they are reflected in the assessments. The differences between the LC at sight price and the price with credit terms are verified with market participants every week. Chinese prices usually set the trend in Asia. Domestic prices for China are mentioned in the text of the Asia report. China Main

Port covers Shanghai, Ningbo, Xiamen, Shenzhen, Huangpu, Guangzhou, Xingang and Qingdao ports.

In the China report, the price assessments for locally produced material in China and imported material in east China reflect transactions, bids/buying indications and offers/selling indications of local distributors, of which 70-80% are first-tier distributors and 20-30% are second-tier distributors. The price assessments for imported material in north and south China reflect transactions, bids/buying indications and offers/selling indications of local distributors, of which 10-20% are first-tier distributors and 80-90% are second-tier distributors. The ex-warehouse (EXWH) prices include VAT. A first-tier distributor is a company that buys directly from a local producer or a foreign supplier.

The All China price quotes are reflective of the ex-warehouse (EXWH) prices of imported and local materials in north, south and east China, depending on grades. North China prices cover Tianjin, Beijing and Shandong. East China prices cover Shanghai, Zhejiang and Jiangsu. South China prices cover Guangdong and Fujian.

The HDPE blow moulding ex-warehouse price quotes are reflective of materials used for producing containers of 50 litres or less. Offers, bids and transaction prices of HDPE blow moulding grade used in making containers of over 50 litres are mentioned in the text. The HDPE blow moulding ex-warehouse price quotes for south China may include netbacks from delivered prices to end-users.

The CFR China, tax & duty paid (RMB) price quotes are derived by adding 17% value-added tax and the corresponding import duties (see below tables) onto the China CFR prices published in the ICIS weekly Asia Pacific and China report. The prices do not include customs clearance and port charges. The applied currency exchange rate is the official US dollar/renminbi rate published by the People's Bank of China (www.pbc.gov.cn) on Friday afternoons.

	Year										
		Brunei	Cambodia	Indonesia	Laos	Malaysia	Myanmar	Philippines	Singapore	Thailand	Vietnam
LDPE	2013	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
HDPE	2013	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5
LLDPE	2013	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

	Year	Most favoured nations	Asia Pacific	Singapore	Hong Kong
LDPE	2013	6.5	6	6.5	0
HDPE	2013	6.5	6	6.5	0
LLDPE	2013	6.5	6.5	0	0

Due to a lack of trades, the CFR Hong Kong and CFR Taiwan spot prices in the Asia Pacific polyethylene report are assessed in line with the CFR China prices.

In the absence of confirmed transactions and/or bids and offers in southeast Asia, the CFR SE Asia (All origins) quote, the CFR SE Asia (non-dutiable) quote and the CFR SE Asia (dutiable) assessment in the Polyethylene (Asia Pacific) report will be assessed in line with the trends in the key China market.

The domestic DEL prices for Java, Manila, and Malaysia reflect imported and locally produced material. The domestic DEL prices for Bangkok reflect locally produced material. The domestic DEL prices for Ho Chi Minh (HCMC) reflect imported material.

The domestic DEL prices for Java, Manila and Bangkok exclude value added tax (VAT) and import duty. The domestic DEL prices for Ho Chi Minh (HCMC) include VAT. PE cargoes of all supply origins are duty free in Vietnam.

All PE resin grades of ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) origin are non-dutiable in Thailand, Malaysia, the Philippines and Indonesia.

PE cargoes from non-ASEAN origins are subject to import duties in Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines.

The LLDPE film, LDPE film and HDPE film CFR Indonesia (All origins) assessments reflect the import prices of cargoes subject to an import duty of 5-10%, and the import prices of non-dutiable cargoes.

Below are the import duty and VAT rates applicable to Southeast Asian markets –

Country	Resin grades	Import duties for non-ASEAN supply origins (%)	VAT (%)
Indonesia	LLDPE film, LDPE film, HDPE film	5-10	10
Thailand	LLDPE film, LDPE film, HDPE film	5	7
Vietnam	LLDPE film, LDPE film, HDPE film	0	10

Malaysia	LLDPE film, LDPE film, HDPE film	10	0
Philippines	LLDPE film, LDPE film, HDPE film	5-10	12

POLYETHYLENE (EUROPE)

The FD EU quote represents gross delivered prices, later discounted, throughout Europe. It does not reflect net business in any part of Europe.

Weekly Price Assessments

LDPE GP Film Spot Prices (quoted on a net basis)

FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB NWE (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR Turkey (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

EXW Russia Rb/MT

LDPE GP Film Domestic Prices (quoted on a gross basis)

FD EU (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD UK (GBP/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE Spot Prices

FD NWE HEXENE C6 (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD NWE OCTENE C8 (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD NWE BUTENE C4 (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE Domestic Prices

FD EU HEXENE C6 (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD EU OCTENE C8 (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE GP Film Domestic Prices

FD EU (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD UK (GBP/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE But Cast Stretch Film Domestic Prices

FD NWE EU (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Injection Spot Prices

FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB NWE (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR Turkey (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

EXW Russia Rb/MT

HDPE Injection Domestic Prices

FD EU (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD UK (GBP/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Blow Moulding Spot Prices

FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB NWE (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR Turkey (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

EXW Russia Rb/MT

HDPE Blow Moulding Domestic Prices

FD EU (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD UK (GBP/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Film Spot Prices

FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB NWE (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR Turkey (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Film Domestic Prices

FD EU (EUR/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FD UK (GBP/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Polyethylene Feedstock Prices

ETHYLENE FD NWE Monthly (EUR/MT)

The European report includes a formal Russian rouble-denominated LDPE assessment. These figures are quoted on an ex-works/ex-warehouse (EXW/EXWH Central Russia) basis. The report also includes a formal Russian rouble-denominated HDPE assessment. These figures are quoted on an ex-works/ex-warehouse (EXWH Moscow Region) basis. Prices for both of these quotes include 18% VAT."

POLYETHYLENE (TURKEY)

The CFR Turkey quote represents prices throughout Turkey from the Middle East, excluding duty and VAT where applicable. Middle Eastern prices are subject to 6.5% duty.

The CPT Turkey quote represents prices of trucked cargoes from Iran throughout Turkey, excluding duty and VAT where applicable. Iranian prices are subject to 6.5% import duty.

The Turkey report includes prices for LDPE, LLDPE and HDPE film grade of Middle Eastern and Iranian origin within the price table. Other origins such as European, Egyptian, Israeli, central, north and southeast Asian, the US and Russia for the grades in the price table, as well as other grades such as HDPE injection moulding, HDPE blow moulding, and HDPE pipe 100 and 80 grades are included in the text, when available.

Below are details of import duty rates applicable to Turkey, effective from 1 June 2014.

Duty Rate	**Countries and products**
0%	European Union members, Serbia, Israel, Egypt, South Korea (HDPE, LLDPE and PP copolymer)
3%	India, Thailand, Indonesia, all developing countries able to produce a Form A certificate under the General Preferences System (GPS) (LLDPE, LDPE, HDPE)

4.3%	All South Korean LDPE
6.5%	All developed countries outside the EU, including Saudi Arabia, UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Taiwan, Japan, USA, Brazil, Russia, Mexico.
13%	Iranian LDPE is subject to 6.5% import duty plus 6.5% anti-dumping duty (ADD)

Weekly Price Assessments

HDPE Film spot prices

CFR Turkey (USD/MT)

CPT Turkey (USD/MT)

LDPE spot prices

CFR Turkey (USD/MT)

CPT Turkey (USD/MT)

LLDPE C4 BUTENE-BASED spot prices

CFR Turkey (USD/MT)

CPT Turkey (USD/MT)

Polyethylene (ASIA-PACIFIC)

Weekly Price Assessments:

LDPE Film Spot Prices (All origins)

CFR HONG KONG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR CHINA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR TAIWAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR S.E.ASIA (dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (non-dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE Film Spot Prices (All origins)

CFR HONG KONG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR CHINA (exclude non-dutied sources) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR TAIWAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR S.E.ASIA (dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (non-dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Film Spot Prices (All origins)

CFR HONG KONG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR CHINA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR TAIWAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB

HDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR S.E.ASIA (dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (non-dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Injection Spot Prices (All origins)

CFR HONG KONG/CHINA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR HONG KONG/CHINA (MELT FLOW INDEX ≤ 10 (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR HONG KONG/CHINA (MELT FLOW INDEX > 10 (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR TAIWAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB

HDPE Injection Spot Prices

CFR S.E.ASIA (dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (non-dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Blow Moulding Spot Prices (All origins)

CFR HONG KONG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR CHINA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR TAIWAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB

HDPE Blow Moulding Spot Prices

CFR S.E.ASIA (dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR S.E.ASIA (non-dutiable) (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Polyethylene Feedstock Prices

ETHYLENE CFR N.E.ASIA (USD/MT)

SUPPLEMENT:

Commodity Swaps - ICIS LLDPE Forward Curve Methodology (Asia Pacific)

Supplement: Commodity Swaps

The ICIS linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE) forward curve assessment is based on information gathered through the working week up to 16:00 hours on Fridays in Singapore.

Timing: 12 months forward.

Trading terms: CFR Southeast Asia (non-dutiable basis)

Standard volume: 150 tonnes per contract.

All the following information is considered, not in ranking order:

1) Over the Counter (OTC) swap deals confirmed by at least two counter parties, and firm bids and offers. A bid or an offer is considered to be firm when it is confirmed by at least two market stakeholders. In the absence of bids, offers and/or deals for OTC contracts, it will be stated as so.

2) The LLDPE futures closing prices on Fridays on the Dalian Commodity Exchange. ICIS models a CFR SE Asia curve in part from these closes, using a proprietary algorithm that adjusts for the three active contract months, namely January, May and September, foreign exchange variations and baseline differentials between the SE Asia and China markets.

Instrument function: Provides a basis for determining bid and offer prices for forward month contracts. It can also provide marked-to-market assessments for clearing over-the-counter and futures contracts.

Non-assessment days: When the LLDPE futures contract on the Dalian Commodity Exchange and/or the Brent crude futures contract on the Intercontinental Exchange are not traded.

Note: ICIS reserves the right to exercise editorial discretion in not including certain information in its assessment either for lack of clarity or lack of details required to confirm the information.

Product specifications:

Density (at 20 deg C): 0.916-0.94

Vicat softening point(deg C): 101

Melting index (g/10 minutes): 0.13-2.5

Tensile strength (Mpa): 10-11

Tensile elongation at rupture (%): 811

Hardness (Rockwell D): 50-60

Material certification:

The forward price assessment is for prime LLDPE resin understood to be certified as such by a producer.

Polyethylene Southeast Asia Domestic Markets (Asia Pacific)

Weekly Price Assessments:

Domestic Spot Prices

LDPE FILM

- DEL JAVA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL BANGKOK (BT/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL HCMC (D/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL MALAYSIA (M$/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL MANILA (PS/LB & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE FILM

- DEL JAVA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL BANGKOK (BT/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL HCMC (D/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL MALAYSIA (M$/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL MANILA (PS/LB & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE FILM

- DEL JAVA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL BANGKOK (BT/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL HCMC (D/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL MALAYSIA (M$/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- DEL MANILA (PS/LB & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Import Spot Prices

LDPE FILM (All origins)

CFR INDONESIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE FILM (All origins)

CFR INDONESIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE FILM (All origins)

CFR INDONESIA (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Polyethylene (CHINA)

Weekly Price Assessments:

Import Prices (spot) – CFR China

LDPE FILM (USD/MT)

LLDPE FILM (USD/MT)

HDPE FILM (USD/MT)

HDPE BLOW MOULDING (USD/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (USD/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (MELT FLOW INDEX ≤ 10 (USD/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (MELT FLOW INDEX > 10 (USD/MT)

Import Prices (spot) – CFR China, Tax & Duty Paid (CNY)

LDPE FILM (CNY/MT)

LLDPE FILM (CNY/MT)

HDPE FILM (CNY/MT)

HDPE BLOW MOULDING (CNY/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (CNY/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (MELT FLOW INDEX ≤ 10 (CNY/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (MELT FLOW INDEX > 10 (CNY/MT)

Domestic Prices (spot)

LDPE FILM EXWH (CNY /MT)

LLDPE FILM EXWH (CNY /MT)

HDPE FILM EXWH (CNY /MT)

HDPE BLOW MOULDING EXWH (CNY /MT)

HDPE INJECTION EXWH (CNY/MT)

HDPE YARN EXWH (CNY/MT)

Regional Spot Prices

China Produced LDPE Film (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Imported LDPE Film (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

China Produced LLDPE Film (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Imported LLDPE Film (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

China Produced HDPE Film (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Imported HDPE Film (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

China Produced HDPE Blow Moulding (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Imported HDPE Blow Moulding (spot)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

China Produced HDPE Injection (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Imported HDPE Injection (Spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

China Produced HDPE Yarn (spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

SOUTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Imported HDPE Yarn (Spot)

NORTH CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

EAST CHINA EXWH (CNY /MT)

Polyethylene (USA)

Weekly Price Assessments:

LDPE Film Liner Grade Contract Prices (DEL)

BULK (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

LDPE Film Hi-Clarity Homo Contract Prices (DEL)

BULK (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE Blow Moulding Contract Prices (DEL)

BULK (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE Injection Contract Prices (DEL)

BULK (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE HMW Film Contract Prices (DEL)

BULK (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

LLDPE Contract Prices (DEL)

FILM (BUTENE) (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

FILM (HEXENE) (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

INJECTION (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

Export Spot Prices FOB USG

LDPE FILM (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

LLDPE BUTENE (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE BLMLDG (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE INJECTION (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HMW HDPE BIMODL (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

Polyethylene (MIDDLE EAST/SOUTH ASIA)

Weekly Price Assessments

LDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR GCC* (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR EAST MED (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR PAKISTAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB Saudi Arabia (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

DEL Saudi Arabia (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

DEL west India (INR/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LDPE lamination Spot Prices

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR GCC* (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR EAST MED (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR PAKISTAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB Saudi Arabia (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

DEL Saudi Arabia (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

DEL west India (INR/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR GCC* (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR EAST MED (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR PAKISTAN (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

FOB Saudi Arabia (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

DEL Saudi Arabia (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

DEL west India (INR/KG & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Blow Moulding Spot Prices

CFR GCC* (USD/MT &amli; conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR EAST MED (USD/MT &amli; conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR PAKISTAN (USD/MT &amli; conversion to US CTS/LB)

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT &amli; conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Injection Spot Prices

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Monofilament Yarn Spot Prices

CFR INDIA MAIN PORT (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LDPE Film List Prices

DEL India (Rs/kg & conversion to US CTS/LB)

LLDPE Film List Prices

DEL India (Rs/kg & conversion to US CTS/LB)

HDPE Film List Prices

DEL India (Rs/kg & conversion to US CTS/LB)

* Cooperation Council for Arab States of the Gulf, excluding Saudi Arabia.

Polyethylene (LATIN AMERICA)

Weekly Price Assessments:

LDPE Film Linear Grade Domestic Prices

DEL ARGENTINA (ARS/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT BRAZIL (BRL/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

DEL CHILE (CLP/KG & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT COLOMBIA (COP/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT MEXICO (MXN/KG & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT VENEZUELA (VEF/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

LLDPE Butene Domestic Prices

DEL ARGENTINA (ARS/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT BRAZIL (BRL/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT MEXICO (MXN/KG & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT VENEZUELA (VEF/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE Blow Moulding Domestic Prices

DEL ARGENTINA (ARS/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT BRAZIL (BRL/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT MEXICO (MXN/KG & conversion to USD/MT)

FOT VENEZUELA (VEF/MT & conversion to USD/MT)

LDPE Film Linear Grade International Prices

FOB BRAZIL (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

CFR CHILE (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

CFR COLOMBIA (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

DAF MEXICO (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

LLDPE Butene International Prices

FOB ARGENTINA (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

FOB BRAZIL (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

CFR CHILE (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

CFR COLOMBIA (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

DAF MEXICO (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

HDPE Blow Moulding International Prices

FOB ARGENTINA (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

FOB BRAZIL (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

CFR CHILE (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

CFR COLOMBIA (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

DAF MEXICO (US CTS/LB & conversion to USD/MT)

Polyethylene (AFRICA)

Weekly Price Assessments

LDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR EGYPT (USD/MT)

CFR NORTHERN AFRICA (USD/MT)

FD SOUTH AFRICA (ZAR/MT)

CFR EASTERN AFRICA (USD/MT)

LLDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR EGYPT (USD/MT)

CFR NORTHERN AFRICA (USD/MT)

FD SOUTH AFRICA (ZAR/MT)

CFR EASTERN AFRICA (USD/MT)

HDPE Film Spot Prices

CFR EGYPT (USD/MT)

CFR NORTHERN AFRICA (USD/MT)

FD SOUTH AFRICA (ZAR/MT)

CFR EASTERN AFRICA (USD/MT)

Polyethylene (RUSSIA AND FORMER SOVIET UNION)

Russia, CPT Moscow Spot Prices USD/TONNE

LDPE

HDPE

EBM

IM

Films

LLDPE

Ukraine, CPT Kiev Spot Prices USD/TONNE

LDPE

HDPE

EBM

IM

Films

LLDPE

Belarus, FCA, Spot Prices USD/TONNE

LDPE

HDPE

EBM

IM

Films

LLDPE

Uzbekistan, FCA, Spot Prices USD/TONNE

HDPE

EBM

IM

Films

Pipes

LLDPE

Kazakhstan, FCA Alma-Aty, Spot Prices USD/T0NNE

LDPE

HDPE

EBM

IM

Films

Domestic prices

Countries:

Russia, CPT Moscow RB/TONNE, USD/TONNE

Ukraine, DDP Kiev, HRN/TONNE, USD/TONNE

Belarus/Kazakhstan, FCA, BRB/TONNE, USD/TONNE

Uzbekistan, FCA Kengsoy, SOM/TONNE, USD/TONNE

HDPE

EBM

IM

Films

Pipe, PE100

Pipe, natural grade

LDPE

Films

Shrinkable

LLDPE

Hexane

European

Butene

Import offers

HDPE

LDPE

LLDPE

Other principles and guidelines

Changes to methodology

All markets evolve and ICIS has a duty to ensure its methodologies for market-reporting evolve in step with markets.

ICIS therefore regularly conducts internal reviews of the appropriateness of its methodologies, based on industry feedback.

Draft changes are then made public and comment requested from industry participants, with a minimum one-month notice period, except where, exceptionally a *force majeure* event (natural disaster, war, bankruptcy of a trading exchange etc.) makes necessary a shorter notice period.

ICIS is committed to reviewing all comments on proposed methodology changes, but in some cases may find it necessary to alter its methodologies against the wishes of some market participants.

In addition, ICIS has a formal methodology consultation process. The company commits to holding this consultation every three years for the Polyethylene Reports. The date of the last consultation launched and the expiry date by which the company commits to conducting the next consultation can be seen at the top of the methodology document.

Please also refer to the Methodology Consultation Process section of the company's Compliance Manual. This contains detailed flow charts documenting the internal and external review and consultation process.

Consistency

ICIS achieves consistency between its assessors in exercising their judgement by requiring all assessors to follow this detailed methodology as well as the company's Editorial Standards document. In addition, ICIS reporters are required to complete standard training before undertaking the work of a market reporter. Every reporter's work is spot checked.

Data standards

ICIS has a public Data Standards Policy which covers the type and quality of information we ask market participants to report.

The following principles relate to ICIS polyethylene assessments and commentaries:

- *Where possible, please allow access to active market traders and allow them to comment on active news stories.*
- *Where possible, please provide market data from both front and back-office functions.*
- *Where possible, please provide complete data and not a subsection.*
- *Flag inter-affiliate transactions.*
- *Flag sleeve trade.*
- *Flag spread trades.*

- *When a source or contact leaves the organisation please contact ICIS to the replacement (ICIS requests that both the source and the organisation contacts them).*
- *Where information is not validated by the source (i.e. rumour) please indicate as such.*

Delivery locations for price assessments

Locations for ICIS polyethylene assessments are chosen to reflect the concentration of liquidity on the traded markets.

Exercise of judgement

Apart from instances where data may be excluded (see below), ICIS will typically exercise judgement where market information about firm bids and offers or transactions is not available.

In most cases this will involve the application of spread trade information or prevailing market relationships, detailed in the specifications section for each grade in this document.

ICIS will also exercise judgement where only a bid or offer is available, or where a bid/offer spread is so wide as to be unhelpful in establishing tradable value. In both instances, spreads to other grades or prevailing market relationships will typically be used to assess the price. In these cases the assessment will still fall above the highest firm bid and below the lowest firm offer, as long as the bid and/or offer information meets all other criteria specified in this methodology.

Exclusion of data

In line with its Editorial Standards policy, ICIS reporters actively seek to identify anomalous market information and exclude it from the assessment process. For crude market assessments, this is done by the daily information gathering and verification process carried out by reporters, whereby market transaction, bid and offer information is confirmed and verified by multiple sources.

In assessing polyethylene markets, ICIS takes into consideration only arms-length transactions between non-affiliated parties.

ICIS does not accept bids or offers that are not firm. Any bid or offer which is demonstrably not firm will be disregarded and further bids or offers from the same counterparty may also be disregarded.

ICIS also excludes from its assessments transactions where ICIS market reporters have reasonable grounds to doubt that a transaction is representative of typical market behaviour: for example, where a deal is concluded disregarding the best bid or offer on the market; where there is evidence that a market participant has disclosed only part of its market activity to ICIS; or where a transaction lies outside the prevailing range of typical market activity.

ICIS records instances of anomalous data and reviews these instances on a regular basis with a view to determining if a pattern exists.

Where market reporters have concerns over the behaviour of a market participant, this will be escalated using the ICIS Escalation Process for Compliance and Regulatory Issues. This can be found in the company's Compliance Manual.

Market communication

ICIS communicates with a broad range of market participants – traders, brokers, back-office employees, supply managers, operations personnel and company executives – to obtain market information.

ICIS communicates with participants by telephone, email, instant messenger and in person. All instant messenger, email communication and notes of any face-to-face communication are archived and details of telephone communication are logged and data-based.

ICIS does not accept instant messenger communication from unknown parties, and reporters are required to verify a market participant's identity prior to using IM communication.

ICIS does not regard in any way as binding attempts by companies to restrict ICIS communication with their employees. ICIS has a duty to its subscribers to obtain the maximum possible amount of market information. ICIS treats all communication from market participants as confidential.

ICIS reporters are bound by a Code of Conduct to report to their superiors any coercive or threatening communication from market participants, or any offers of inducements of any kind intended to influence an assessment.

Where improper communication appears to have taken place, ICIS will communicate in the first instance with senior management at the company or companies involved, and if necessary with relevant market authorities.

ICIS expects the highest standards of propriety from all market participants, and regards all communications from market participants as representative of the views of an individual's employer.

ICIS is committed to the highest levels of customer service, and has a formal feedback and complaints policy, which can be viewed here: http://www.icis.com/about/icis-feedback-policy/.

Market data verification

ICIS will always make best endeavours to confirm bids, offers and transactions with the relevant party/parties. ICIS attempts to cross-check all market data received from a buy or sell-side participant with a participant's trading counterparty.

Where both counterparties to a transaction cannot or will not confirm the data, ICIS seeks corroboration from other market sources.

Where transaction or bid/offer information has been received from a trader rather than from a company's back office, ICIS always seeks confirmation from other sources.

Where ICIS has grounds to doubt an item of market data, it may request further evidence that a transaction has taken place, including documented evidence.

ICIS treats transaction data received from active brokerages as confirmed.
On occasion, in markets with low liquidity and a low number of counterparties, ICIS may choose to use unconfirmed data, but only in so far as it is aligned with other market information and comes from a source deemed reliable by ICIS based on previous interactions.

Minimum data threshold

Because of the sometimes thinly traded nature of some markets, ICIS does not have a minimum data threshold for its assessment methodologies in this market.
ICIS makes clear in its daily market comments whether it has assessed a price based on transaction or bid/offer data or whether it has used other forms of evidence or calculation.

Selection of participants

ICIS policy on general market data is that we welcome all information regardless of source or constitution as long as it is provided in good faith as true.
However, only active market participants verified as such by existing active industry participants and verified as a viable business by ICIS investigations will be allowed to contribute price data to ICIS for the purpose of assessing tradable market value under this methodology.

Unit prices and credit terms

Polyethylene in all regions is generally traded in US dollars/tonne, cents/lb or euros/tonne and therefore all price assessments are quoted on these bases.
Typical credit terms for polyethylene are 30-90 days from Bill of Lading date.

Volumes

For each region ICIS publishes the standard cargo size, found in the specifications sections of this methodology document. Market information for cargoes conforming to these standards will be fully considered in the assessment process, providing the information conforms to all other specifications and conditions published in this methodology.
As indicated earlier, if ICIS has market information regarding cargoes outside of these published ranges, it will be normalised together with any standard-sized cargo information. In this case, ICIS will seek to establish whether there is a market price premium or discount for the non-standard cargo and apply this for the purpose of making its assessment.

General Methodology Guide for ICIS Chemicals

ICIS endeavours to provide a fair and timely representation of traded prices, which could be used as an effective reference point for market participants. As no two

markets are the same, ICIS hopes to tailor methodologies which reflect the needs of each specific commodity market it covers based on factors such as, but not limited to, geography, trade flows/logistics, market size, product characteristics, participants and regulation. ICIS adopts an open policy to feedback regarding its methodology and will conduct reviews on a regular basis.

Spot range assessments

Published daily and weekly, these delineate the typically tradable range for a full working day or week.

The range is normally established using verified typical transactions and standardized atypical transactions.

In the event that no relevant transactions have occurred in the assessed period, ICIS will establish a range using bids and offers for typical spec material; and using established market relationships resulting from manufacturing economics, product linkages, freight and forward markets.

ICIS Mid-Point

Established referencing to ICIS prices often refer to the mid-point of the range as the fair representation of the commodity's traded value.

Weekly range assessments are marked in some ICIS reports with a "+" to distinguish them from spot close assessments (see below).

Instrument function: In liquid markets, ICIS would typically focus on the majority traded principle which would typically exclude deals considered to be outlier deals and unrepresentative of the general market consensus. Provides overview of market activity over course of one day in the case of daily reports, or one week in the case of weekly reports. Any change in assessment periods as a result of public holidays arising in any given week will be indicated via subscriber notes. Width of range offers insight into current levels of market volatility, and could also infer associated differentials caused by logistical and product variances.

ICIS endeavours to keep a tight range through maintaining detailed methodologies but this is difficult in thinly traded markets. Variable range width means assessment trades off accuracy for inclusivity, and transparency is reduced vis-a-vis spot close assessment. Suitable for inclusion in averaging mechanisms and market analysis tools.

Spot close assessments

Published daily and weekly, these reflect the transactable market value of the assessed product at the close of business for the assessed period (daily or weekly).

Assessments are nevertheless shown as a low-high range, indicating the "space" in which a transaction is deemed to have been possible at the specified time. This low-high is typically tighter than that shown in a Spot Range assessment. The assessment is established taking into account:

· typical, repeatable transactions at arm's length between non-affiliated market participants;
· standardized "atypical" transactions, where it is possible to derive a typical equivalent market value for a transaction which does not conform to standard specifications;
· bids and offers for typical spec material;
· movements in related markets. In the absence of reliable, confirmable market information for a specific commodity, ICIS reserves the right to compute changes in specific assessments based on established relationships derived from manufacturing economics, product linkages, freight, and forward markets.

Weekly/Daily Spot Close assessments are marked in some ICIS reports with a "*" to distinguish them from Spot Range assessments (see above).

Where possible, editors will indicate any weightage used for spot close assessments which are weighted towards an active period.

Instrument function: Reflects most recent tradable market value with high transparency and high accuracy. Suitable for inclusion in averaging mechanisms and market analysis tools.

Indexes

In some markets, ICIS publishes volume-weighted averages– known as "indexes" or "indices" – of verified typical transactions over specified periods, either daily or weekly.

Inputs to an index are checked editorially for conformity to specification and statistical outliers are eliminated. See individual methodologies for details.

Instrument function: An index is a mathematically derived indicator of typical traded value over a given period. Because it is an average, the deviation from the last transacted value at the close of business could be substantial, depending on the time period assessed hence does not always provide a currently transactable price indication.

Contract reference prices

These are publicly announced, often single number, reference contract prices, agreed in multilateral negotiations and used as a base price for contractual sales of

material by producers, typically between major producers and large end-users. ICIS publishes Contract Reference prices once confirmation is obtained of at least two agreements between recognised contract partners of significant size. Note that the date of publication can vary for each contract period depending on the speed of industry negotiations.

It is common for discounts to be associated with announced contract prices, which are usually not common knowledge.

Instrument function: Contract reference prices are used in some markets as the basis for monthly or quarterly contracts and form the basis for further negotiations between producers and buyers on volume-related discounts or premiums.

Contract price assessments

Published weekly, these reflect the achievable "base price" for contractual sales of material by producers, either to onward "distributors" or direct to end-users. Prices, typically valid either for one month or for three, are arrived at by negotiation between producers and buyers, and are updated by ICIS once confirmation is obtained of agreement between major producers and typical buyers of the size indicated in individual specifications. Note that most contract prices are agreed as a base from which discounts or premiums are given to individual buyers, and that the size of these discounts typically varies based on the volume purchased over the contract period by the buyer.

In the event that market participants fail or decline to confirm outright contract price levels to ICIS, ICIS reserves the right to make its assessments of achievable contract prices based on established market relationships derived from manufacturing economics, product linkages, freight, and forward markets.

Instrument function: Provides view of baseline for currently prevailing contract mechanisms, where these are statically determined – that is, bilaterally negotiated contracts not based on automated averaging of spot market prices.

Distribution indicators

Published weekly for some markets, these reflect contract prices net of known discounts to typical-sized product distributors. See individual methodology statements for details.

Instrument function: Provides additional insight into typical prices paid by buyers in statically determined (ie bilaterally negotiated contracts not based on averaged spot market prices).

Margins

Published in ICIS Margin Reports, margin prices reflect computed differentials between different products related through the processing chain.

Instrument function: Provides insight into supply chain economics and industry profitability. A useful reference for baseline production cost calculations, particularly by tracking the margin shifts across different periods. Theoretically determines scope of pricing further along processing chain. Note that market behaviour sometimes violates apparent margin economics. Suitable for in-depth market and industry analysis.

List or posted prices

Published weekly for some markets, these are released by manufacturers as suggested selling prices. In many cases, these prices are reduced after negotiations with buyers. Price changes are sometimes used as important references for negotiations in thinly traded markets.

Price changes

The change in prices from the previous period is indicated in blue as an increase (+), in red as a decrease (-) or no change (n/c) or not assessed (n/a). Changes for prices at the low end of each range are shown at the left and changes for prices at the high end of each range are shown at the right. Changes in weekly spot prices represent the changes from the previous week and changes in monthly or quarterly contract prices represent the change from the previous month or quarter.

Report name

Some reports cover a range of products. Trade in product of inferior quality (off-spec) is taken into consideration when it affects the market for material that meets standard specifications. Reference to off-spec/distressed cargo is at the discretion of the editor.

Periods referred to in contract price quotations are either months (noted by standard abbreviations) or quarters of the calendar year.

Q1 January February March
Q2 April May June
Q3 July August September
Q4 October November December

Feedstock prices

Contract prices for certain feedstocks are shown where appropriate. In all cases where feedstock prices are shown, they have been taken from the current ICIS pricing report for the product.

Date

ICIS pricing reports are written on the day of publication. The only exceptions are when a public holiday impacts the market. In some circumstances reports will be compiled one or a maximum two days early. When this occurs, it is clearly marked on the report. ICIS pricing provides daily and weekly pricing reports. Deadlines (unless otherwise specified in the methodology) are 1700 hours local time in London, Singapore, Shanghai and Houston. Market close prices refer to this deadline, unless specified otherwise.

Contract price assessments are updated in reports as soon as possible after confirmation is obtained of contract settlement. Because the amount of time required to reach contract agreement varies from month to month, it is not possible to guarantee publication of monthly contract prices at the same point in each month.

Note that information received after the relevant close cannot be used for assessment purposes, nor can a correction be issued based on subsequently received information.

The date of publication is not altered in the event of public holidays. All weekly reports are published at least 50 times per year. Certain reports are not published during a two-week period in late December/early January. Daily reports are published five times per week, but may not appear on certain days due to public holidays. Please refer to the ICIS pricing publishing schedule for more detailed information.

Geographical regions

ICIS pricing normally covers products on a regional basis to ensure the main drivers impacting the market in any given area are adequately covered. Reports are currently issued covering Europe, the Middle East, Asia or Asia-Pacific, China, India, West Asia, the United States or North America, Latin America, and the Former Soviet Union.

Within these broad areas the most common quotations comprise:

NWE	mainland Northwest Europe (N.France, N.Germany, Benelux)
Med	Southern France, Spain, Italy
NE Asia	Taiwan, Korea, Japan, China
SE Asia	Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam
West Asia	Pakistan, India
East Asia	NE Asia & SE Asia
GCC	Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, UAE
E.Med	Greece, Israel, Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon
FSU	Former Soviet Union: Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan
USG	US Gulf
CMP	China Main Port

Northern Africa	Morocco, Algeria, Tunisia, Libya, Egypt, Sudan
Eastern Africa	Eritrea, Djibouti, Somalia, Kenya, Tanzania
Southern Africa	Namibia, Mozambique, South Africa
Western Africa	Mauritania, Senegal, The Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Togo, Benin, Nigeria.

Quotation basis

Prices are quoted with reference to the terms and location of delivery. The period of delivery is also quoted for contract prices. Assessment windows vary from product to product for spot sales. See specific product entries in the Methodology for further details.

Incoterms devised by the International Chamber of Commerce are mainly used to indicate what costs are included in the price. Assessments do not include Value Added Tax (VAT). Terms regularly used in ICIS pricing reports can be found in the Glossary.

Units

Prices are quoted in the currency and unit measure relevant to the particular market. Most chemicals are quoted in US dollars per metric tonne ($/MT), although euros per metric tonne (€/MT), US cents per pound (US CTS/LB) or US cents per gallon (US CTS/GAL) are frequently used. Historical data includes assessments previously measured in European currencies superseded by the euro.

Conversions (weights and measures)

Prices are converted to other currencies and unit measures for ease of reference. Conversions are derived from the quoted price assessments using standard rates of

conversion and current exchange rates. Conversions involving weights and volumes are calculated within industry acceptable ranges, which vary from product to product according to specific gravity (e.g. USD/MT to CTS/GAL).

Foreign exchange rates

ICIS provides exchange rates for a variety of international currencies that are time aligned with publication of our pricing reports and consistent for analytical use when applied to historical pricing data. Because of our publishing schedule, certain rates used in some reports may be changed as data moves into a historical database. The ICIS methodology used is as follows:

Rates are not established by ICIS pricing but are published by arrangement with Xenon (www.xe.com). The exchange rates shown are those in effect at the time and date indicated, normally around 17:15 hours in London on the day of publication. They are not a mean or average of exchange rates in effect during the period since the report was last published, but reflect a mean of the bid/offer at the time taken for that particular day. Exchange rates published by ICIS pricing are intended only as a reference and rates offered by local banks or other financial institutions may vary.

- Exchange rates quoted at the foot of the text in ICIS pricing reports are mid-market rates, quoted to two decimal places, applicable on the date of publication. ICIS pricing also offers a real-time currency conversion tool via XE.com, with a click-through link from the pricing reports, to enable subscribers to make quick exchange calculations.

- Exchange rates used for the current day's price assessments in compiling the charts contained within ICIS pricing reports are mid-market rates issued at 01:00 UTC on the date of publication. This preliminary exchange rate is used to allow charts to be produced ahead of 16:00 UTC.

- Exchange rates applied to historical data are mid-market rates issued at 16:00 UTC on the date of publication.

- ICIS China reports use exchange rates from The People's Bank of China (www.pbc.gov.cn) on the day of the report.

ICIS pricing also offers a real-time currency conversion tool, with a click-through link from the pricing reports, to enable subscribers to make quick exchange calculations.

Non-market price adjustments

Non-market price adjustments are necessary on the rare occasions when after careful consideration it is determined that the level of a price assessment is deemed to have become unrealistic. Before any decision is taken to adjust a price level, a broad spectrum of market participants is polled for their views on both the necessity and potential impact of any planned change and its timing.

Once it is clear an adjustment is required, ICIS pricing posts a notice telling subscribers it intends to make the change, and asks for any feedback over a two week period. After two weeks, and if it is decided to proceed, a second notice is posted informing subscribers that the adjustment will be made two weeks later. All price adjustments take place with a minimum four weeks public notice to subscribers.

Once the adjustment has taken place it is prominently mentioned in the price report it applies to. ICIS also adds a note to the online Price History to explain the apparent step-change in prices. It is important to note that price change deltas remain unaffected by any adjustment and the price trend remains accurate.

Contract Price Change Deltas

In some markets, contract settlements - especially quarterly ones - can evolve further after the initial assessment. This may mean that the actual market movement to the next settlement may not be fully aligned with the mathematical difference between the reported prices in one period and the next. In such cases, ICIS may make an editorial decision to publish the new period's price range without including a delta value in the price table. The reasons for doing so and the indications of the actual market movement would be discussed in the text of the report. The delta box in these cases would show as “not assessed” (n/a).

Price history - key changes to methodology for contract prices

ICIS price history has been modified such that contract price assessments now relate to the period to which they apply irrespective of their settlement date. This change has been applied retrospectively to all quotes, including discontinued quotes.

As a result:

For a monthly contract (or quarterly) quote selected as frequency ‘C’ and downloaded as csv or displayed as a table in the original quoted currency the report date is given as the first of the month (or quarter). For a contract selected as frequency ‘C’ and displayed as a graph, a ‘stepped’ chart of the value (or average of the low and high where applicable) is displayed with the steps occurring on the first of the month (or quarter).

For a contract quote selected as frequency 'C' in any currency other than the original a single monthly (or quarterly) value (low, high and average) is displayed. This value is derived using an average of the foreign exchange rates taken at 16:00 UTC (GMT) on each of the publication dates within the month (or quarter). For the current period, the average foreign exchange rates for all the publication dates within the period to date are used.

For a contract quote selected as frequency 'W', the report date is given as the ICIS pricing weekly report publication date – the contract value (low, high and average) applicable to that month (or quarter) is displayed (which, depending on settlement date, may differ from the contract value reported at the time in that week's ICIS pricing report). For a contract quote selected as frequency 'W' and displayed as a graph, a 'stepped' chart is displayed with the steps occurring on the first publication date within the month (or quarter).

For a contract quote selected as frequency 'W' in any currency other than the original, the contract value is converted for each week using the foreign exchange rate taken at 16:00 UTC (GMT) on the publication date.

Where a contract for the current period has not yet settled, no contract value shows in a weekly price history series – price history terminates at the end of the period to which the last settled contract price applies.

Where a contract settles for a future period, it does not display in price history until publication of the first ICIS pricing report within that period.

Where an initial contract value is reported for a period, and subsequently revised, the latter (or latest) value is taken as the contract value for the whole period.