



## Polybutadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific)

By Ai Teng Lim  
09-Feb-2023

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Please click [here](#) for full details on the criteria ICIS uses in making these price assessments.

### OVERVIEW

- **Offers spike with upstream gains**
- **Some buying interest but majority buyers cautious**
- **Buy-sell gulf widens**

Asia's spot import market for polybutadiene rubber (PBR) gained grounds, as sellers separately [hiked](#) offers to mitigate cost pressures.

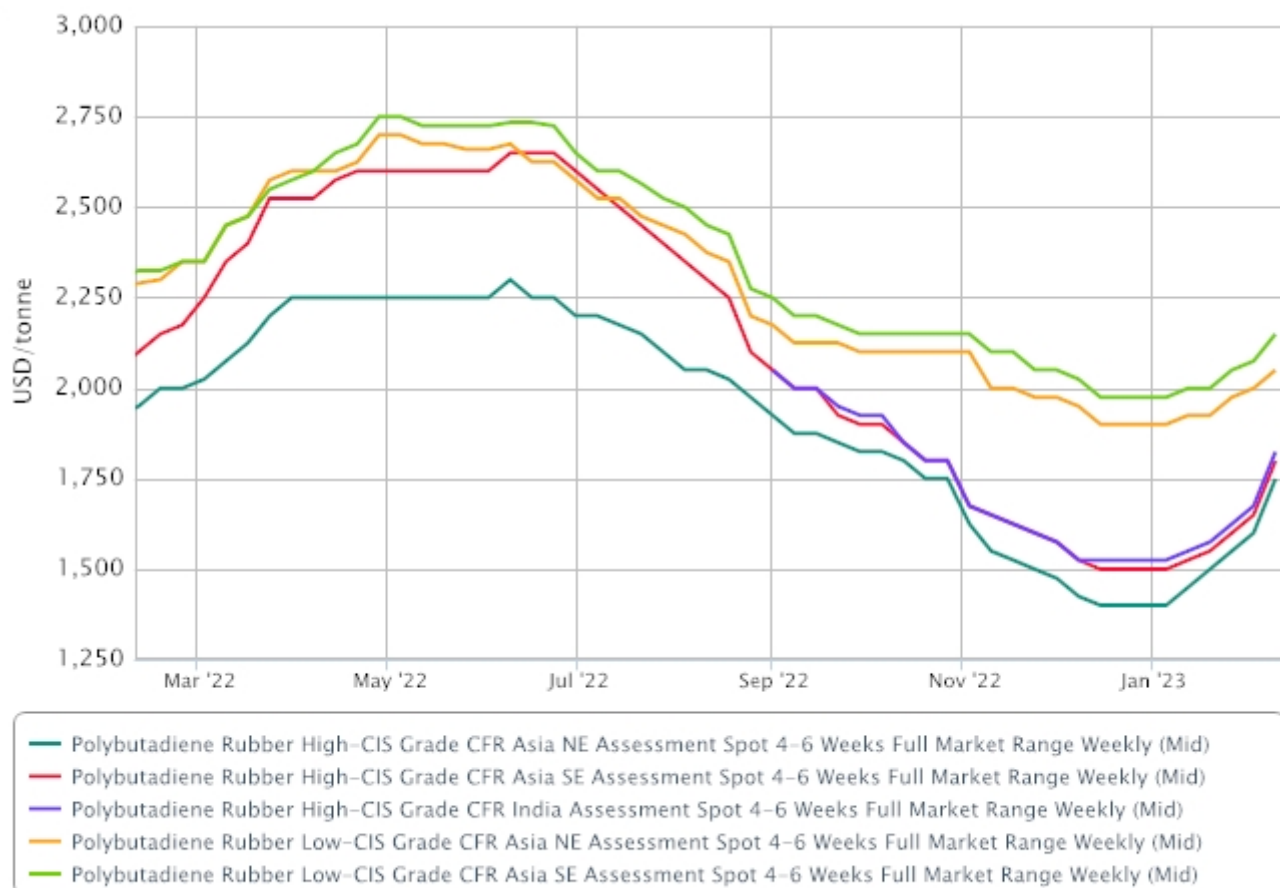
Some end-users were heard not averse to bidding higher to secure some volumes before offers climb any higher later, should BD's uptrend extends further with persistent supply constraints.

But even so, this buying appetite still lagged well behind sellers' expectations, contributing to a wide buy-sell gap that crimps substantive spot trade liquidity.

Also, sentiment in the wider buy-side community is truly still mixed, with many other end-users still unconvinced that they could afford to pay more for PBR.

Even if hopes remain high that downstream demand will only pick up from here, , amid more upbeat GDP growth forecasts for major regional outlets like [China](#) and [India](#), market players said that to date, actual progress on this front is still far slower than anticipated.

That domestic PBR prices have in fact softened this week in China also heightened such anxieties.



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## OUTLOOK

- Upstream strengths will lend support to offers
- Supply may tighten if sellers calibrate production to contain costs
- Eyes still on China as the regional demand recovery catalyst

## PRICES

### SPOT PRICES

			Price Range		Four Weeks Ago	US CTS/lb
<b>Polybutadiene Rubber Low-CIS Grade</b>						
<b>CFR Asia NE</b>	USD/tonne	+50	1950.00-2150.00	+50	1850.00-2000.00	88.45-97.52
<b>CFR Asia SE</b>	USD/tonne	+100	2100.00-2200.00	+50	1950.00-2050.00	95.25-99.79
<b>Polybutadiene Rubber High-CIS Grade</b>						
<b>CFR Asia NE</b>	USD/tonne	+150	1700.00-1800.00	+150	1400.00-1500.00	77.11-81.65
<b>CFR Asia SE</b>	USD/tonne	+150	1750.00-1850.00	+150	1500.00-1550.00	79.38-83.91
<b>CFR India</b>	USD/tonne	+150	1750.00-1900.00	+150	1500.00-1600.00	79.38-86.18

## Northeast Asia

### High-cis

CFR NE Asian assessments rose with firmer offers, and buying indications for deliveries to non-China destinations formed the low-end.

Domestic PBR prices in east China softened, with slower-than-expected buying from downstream sectors.

Price (CNY/tonne)	9 Feb	2 Feb
E China Ex-Warehouse	11,300-11,500	11,600-11,700

### Low-cis

CFR NE Asian assessments for low-cis were up at the high-end with firmer offers. The low-end tracks limited buying indications.

## Southeast Asia

### High-cis

CFR SE Asian assessments surged with higher asking prices for March cargoes, while remnant discussions and deals for limited February cargoes were reflected at the low-end.

### SMR 20 Natural Rubber Reference Price (US cents/kg) FOB Malaysia

Feb 2023	(1-9) Jan 2023	Dec 2022	Nov 2022	Oct 2022	Sep 2022	Aug 2022
141.12	140.11	135.03	127.32	130.52	134.12	149.74

### Low-cis

CFR SE Asian assessments for low-cis tracks firmer offer at the high-end for March cargoes, and some transactions transpired at the low end for February shipment.

## India

Like with SE Asia, CFR Indian assessments also surged with higher March offers at the high-end.

Buyers were hesitant and buying indications were heard at the low-end, similar to their last highest trades for February cargoes.

## UPSTREAM

### Butadiene (BD)

- Domestic China stays on a bull run
- Firm China demand for imports to plug domestic shortfall
- Import discussions spike in line

The chart below shows the spread between butadiene and PBR.

[Downstream spread – butadiene NE Asia and PBR SE Asia](#)

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## PRODUCTION

A 65,000 tonnes/year unit in Japan [restarted](#) after repair work was completed. Another 72,000 tonnes/year unit in Malaysia, which was shut in 2022 after a fire, is expected to [resume](#) operations in the late March/April period, market sources said.

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