



Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific)

By Ai Teng Lim

11-Aug-2021

[Overview](#) | [Prices](#) | [Upstream](#) | [Production](#) | [Other Regions](#)

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

OVERVIEW

- **Prices stable-to-firm**
- **Offers supported on cost push**
- **Demand mixed**

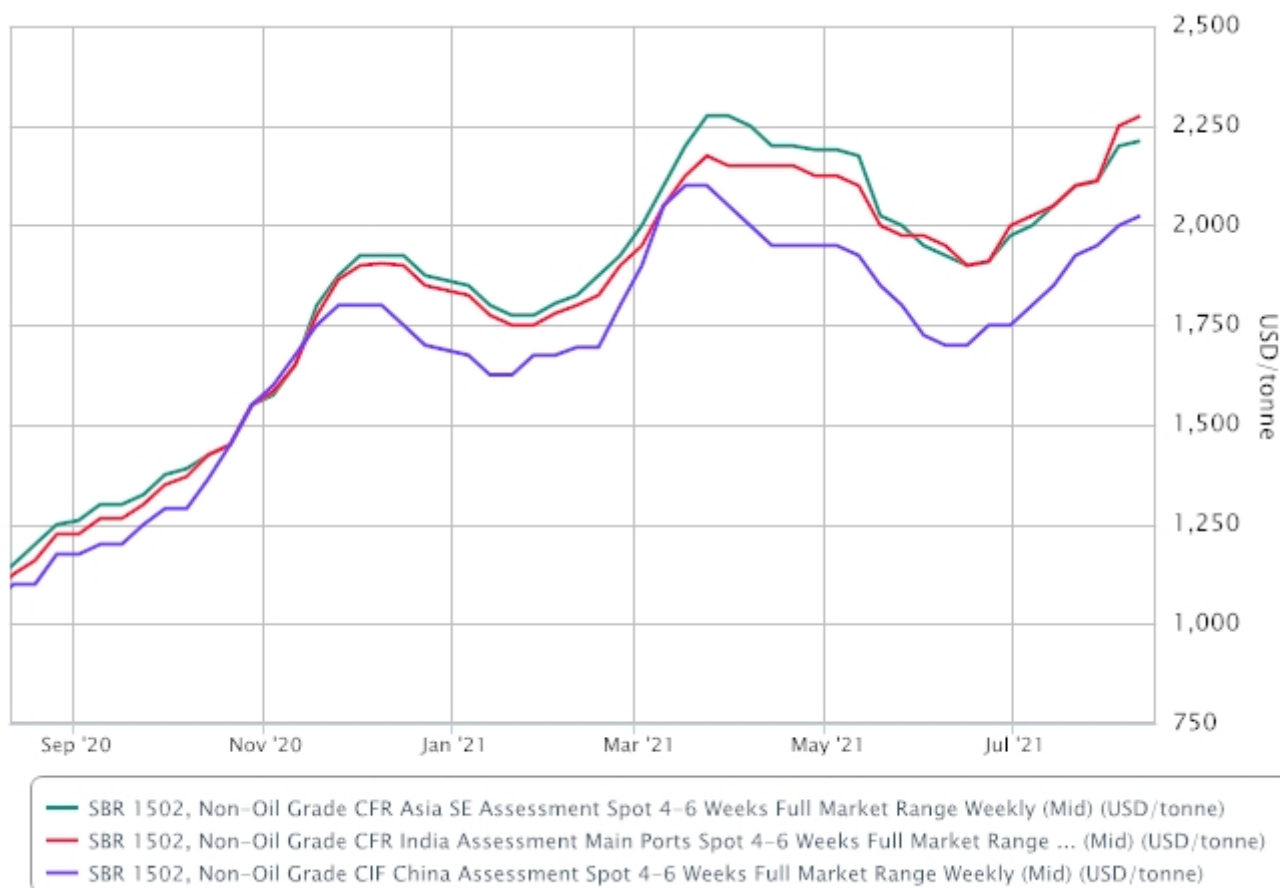
Asian spot discussions for styrene-butadiene-rubber (SBR) were stable-to-firm, with offers well supported by upstream strengths, but demand sentiment is mixed across the region.

Demand outlook remains more upbeat in [India](#), where factories are restarting, after protracted coronavirus-induced lockdowns between May and July.

But off-take is still slow in [southeast Asia](#), as well as in China, where a recent resurgence of coronavirus cases have triggered several [restrictions](#) on human and goods movements.

On the supply front, strong upstream butadiene values however provided good support for SBR offers.

Sellers were thus heard unwilling to price down to stimulate buying. Instead, some were heard mulling operating rate cuts to minimise upstream cost outlay if downstream buying fails to pick up more pace.



© 2021 ICIS

PRICES

SPOT PRICES

			Price Range	Four Weeks Ago	US CTS/lb	
SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade						
CIF China	USD/tonne	+50	1950-2100	n/c	1800-1900	88.45-95.25
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	+25	2175.00-2250.00	n/c	2000.00-2100.00	98.66-102.06
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	+50	2250.00-2300.00	n/c	2000.00-2100.00	102.06-104.33
SBR 1712, Oil-Extended						
CIF China	USD/tonne	+50	1850-2000	n/c	1700-1800	83.91-90.72
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	+25	2075.00-2150.00	n/c	1900.00-2000.00	94.12-97.52
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	+50	2150.00-2200.00	n/c	1900.00-2000.00	97.52-99.79

China

CIF China prices for the non-oil 1502 grade were assessed in a narrower range, with the low end lifted to capture the full range of trade heard.

Offers were heard at the high end of the range, but buying indications capped at the low end. Some limited volumes were heard sold at the low end, market sources said.

CIF China prices for the oil-extended 1712 grade were adjusted in tandem with changes for the 1502 grade, in the absence of any concrete business and discussions for the 1712 grade.

Domestic China prices of the 1502 grade materials also rose as prompt supplies tightened with ongoing turnarounds.

East China domestic SBR 1502 prices

Price (CNY/tonne)	12 Aug	04 Aug
E China Ex-Warehouse	13,200-13,300	13,000-13,200

Southeast Asia

CFR SE Asian prices for the non-oil 1502 grade were assessed in a narrower range to capture the full range of offers heard.

Deals were heard closed within the published range.

Assessments for the oil-extended 1712 grade was also adjusted in line with changes seen in the 1502 grade assessments, in the absence of any concrete business.

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

Aug (1-11) 2021	July 2021	June 2021	May 2021	Apr 2021	Mar 2021	Feb 2021	Jan 2021	Dec 2020	Nov 2020	Oct 20 20	Sep 2 020
171.51	164.32	164.51	169.09	164.72	175.25	169.16	158.41	157.61	156.50	152.31	136.85

India

CFR Indian prices for the non-oil 1502 grade were stable-to-firm, with the low end reflecting deals heard.

Offers were heard steady at the published high end of the range.

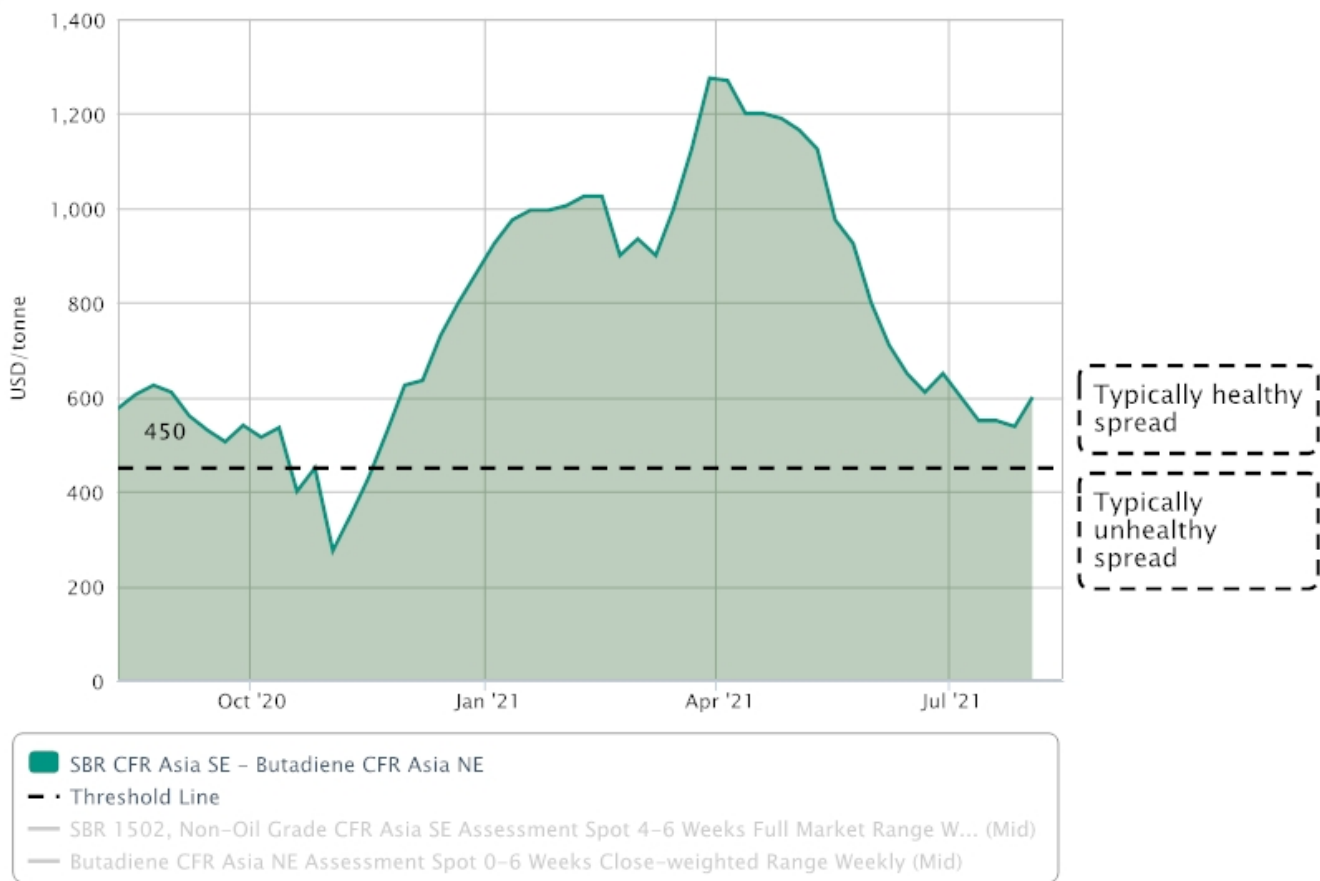
CFR Indian assessments for the oil-extended 1712 grade was adjusted in line with changes for the 1502 grade, in the absence of concrete 1712 business.

UPSTREAM

Discussions in Asia's **butadiene** (BD) import market remains well supported by arbitrage demand and limited prompt supplies, but lacklustre downstream margins may weigh on buying appetite moving forward.

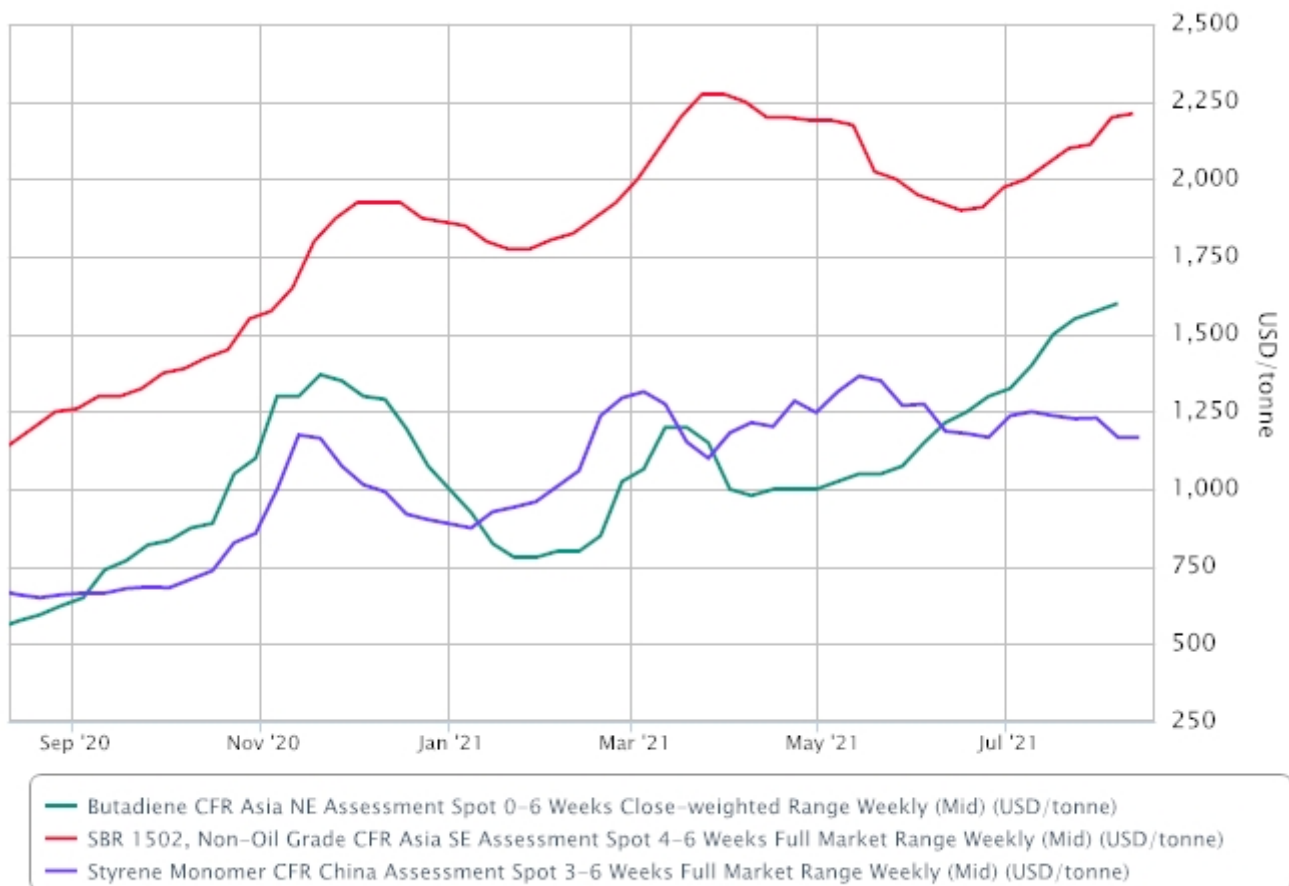
The chart below shows the spread between butadiene and SBR.

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



© 2021 ICIS

Asian **styrene** prices were more [volatile](#), with early week bearish sentiment emerging on the back of weak feedstock benzene demand performance and a sell-off in the yuan-denominated SM futures market. A recovery emerged on talks of unexpected upstream plant problems, which could extend into September.



© 2021 ICIS

PRODUCTION

In China, average operating rates of local SBR plants fell to 72% in the week ended 6 August, compared to 79% for the week prior, market sources said.

This came as nearly 400,000 tonnes/year of capacity went [offline](#) since last week for regular maintenance.

Click [here](#) for the Asian SBR Live Disruption Tracker.

OTHER REGIONS

In [Europe](#), SBR spot prices were stable-to-firm, amid strong upward feedstock pressures.

In the [US](#), August SBR contracts rose to four-year high, tracking BD increases.

[US automakers](#) also eyed increases in H2 volumes amid improving chip supply.

Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific) | 11-Aug-2021. ICIS accepts no liability for commercial decisions based on the content of this report. Unauthorised reproduction, onward transmission or copying of the Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific) Report in either its electronic or hard copy format is illegal. Should you require a licence or an additional copy of the Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific) Report, please contact ICIS at sales.uk@icis.com

ICIS, Quadrant House, The Quadrant, Sutton, Surrey, SM2 5AS. United Kingdom. ICIS accept no liability for commercial decisions based on the content of this report. Copyright violation is a serious offence. Any distribution or forwarding of information that is not

expressly permitted by your subscription agreement is a copyright violation. ICIS uses software to monitor unauthorised electronic redistribution of reports.

© 2023 Reed Business Information Limited. ICIS is a member of RELX Group. www.icis.com

