



Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific)

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

OVERVIEW

- **Domestic China prices surge**
- **Discussions upbeat on China-bound shipment**
- **Sentiment also up in wider Asia**

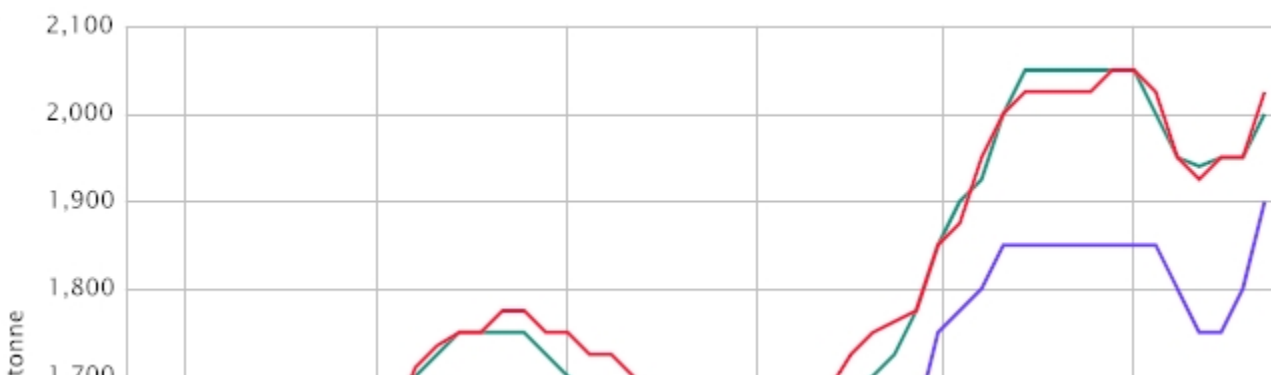
Discussion for spot imports into China of styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) spiked, tracking robust gains in yuan-denominated values for the product in the domestic China market.

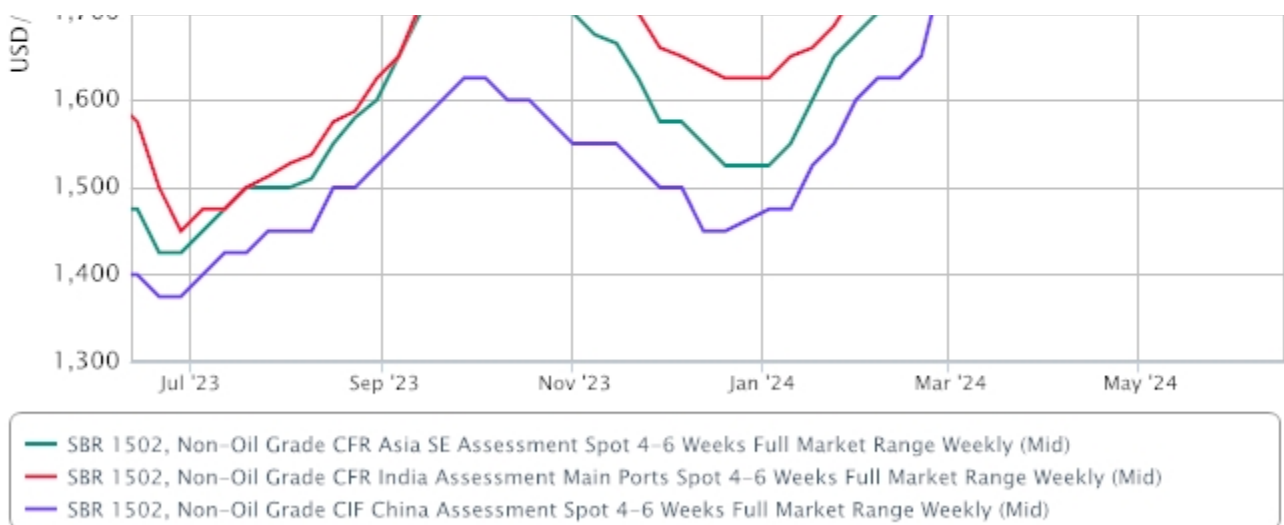
Domestic China prices rose with support from sustained buoyancy in local futures markets, from natural rubber to polybutadiene rubber (PBR). The bullish yuan market in turn boosted discussions for US dollar-denominated imports into China.

In the wider Asia market, sentiment also improved as recent increases in prices for feedstock [butadiene](#) (BD) exerted heavier cost pressures on SBR makers, shoring up in turn their determination to chase higher targets to recoup costs and protect margins.

Freight rate hikes of late are another factor weighing on SBR import offers.

But spot trade has been limited, with many end-users pulling back to wait for the China market to stabilize before they decide further on fresh import bookings.





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OUTLOOK

- Slower [GDP growth projections](#) in Asia may weigh on demand sentiment
- But offers could tap sustained upstream strength for support
- Buy-sell pricing disparity may deepen

PRICES

SPOT PRICES

			Price Range		Four Weeks Ago	US CTS/lb
SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade						
CIF China	USD/tonne	+100	1850-1950	+100	1750-1850	83.91-88.45
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	+50	1950.00-2050.00	+50	1900.00-2000.00	88.45-92.99
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	+50	1950.00-2100.00	+100	1850.00-2050.00	88.45-95.25
SBR 1712, Oil-Extended						
CIF China	USD/tonne	+100	1800-1900	+100	1700-1800	81.65-86.18
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	+50	1900.00-2000.00	+50	1850.00-1950.00	86.18-90.72
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	+50	1900.00-2050.00	+100	1800.00-2000.00	86.18-92.99

China

CIF China prices for the non-oil 1502 grade are up, with firmer selling indications reflected at the high end and

buying indications capped at the low end.

CIF China prices for the oil-extended 1712 grade have also been adjusted up, in line with changes for the 1502 grade.

Domestic China prices spiked, alongside sustained gains in related futures market, as well as on the back of bullish yuan-denominated prices for feedstock BD.

East China domestic SBR 1502 prices

Price (CNY/tonne)	This week's close	Previous week's close
E China Ex-Warehouse	15,500-15,700	14,100-14,300

Southeast Asia

CFR SE Asian assessments for the non-oil 1502 grade are up, with firmer offers and discussions heard from cargoes from a range of regular suppliers.

CFR SE Asian prices for the oil-extended 1712 grade are also moved up, in line with changes for the 1502 grade, and in the absence of concrete spot transactions for 1712 grade materials.

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

Jun (1-12) 2024	May 2024	Apr 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023
180.06	170.03	162.99	165.36	156.66	154.20	146.31

Source: Malaysian Rubber Board

India

CFR Indian prices for the non-oil 1502 grade are up on the high end with firmer offers on northeast Asia-origin material.

Local buyers pulled out of the market, focusing instead on domestic product, which many said is competitively priced versus higher-priced imports. Increases in buying indications for imports meanwhile rose more moderately at the low end, tracking transactions for domestic cargoes.

CFR India prices for the oil-extended 1712 grade are adjusted in line with changes for the 1502 grade.

UPSTREAM

Butadiene (BD)

- [Domestic China](#) prices rally further
- China's buying interest in imports piqued
- Regional supplies still structurally tight

The chart below shows the spread between BD and SBR, which remains in the unhealthy zone.

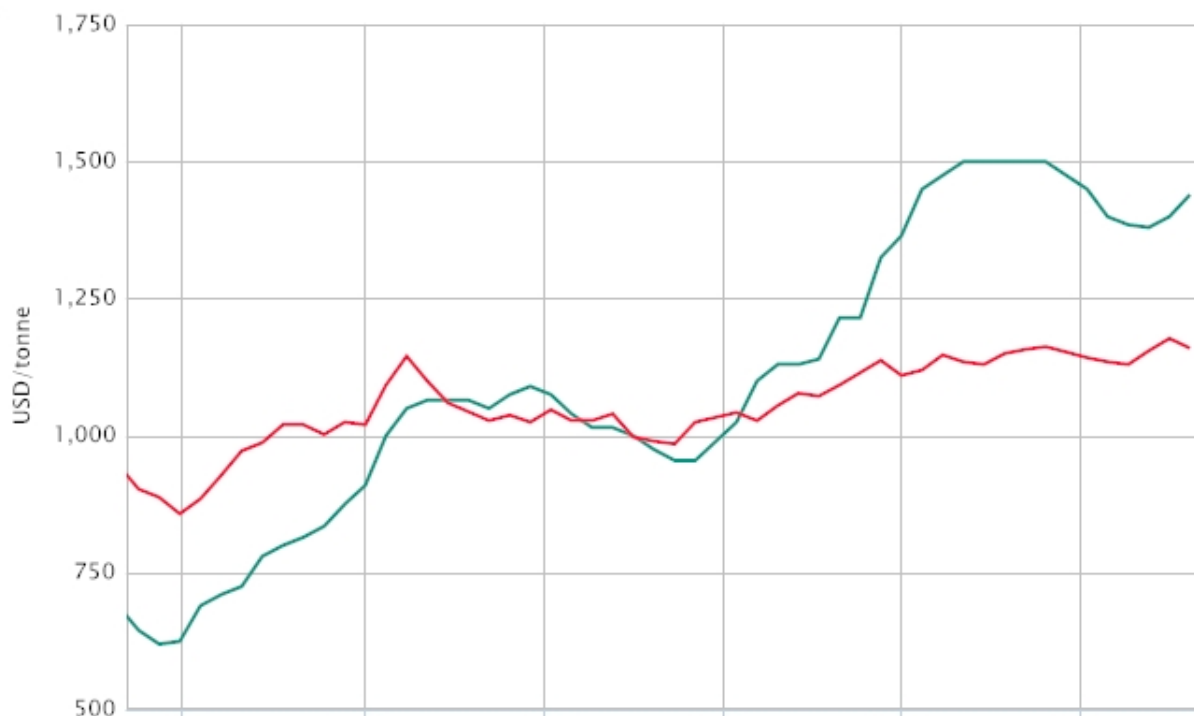
Downstream spread – butadiene NE Asia and SBR SE Asia

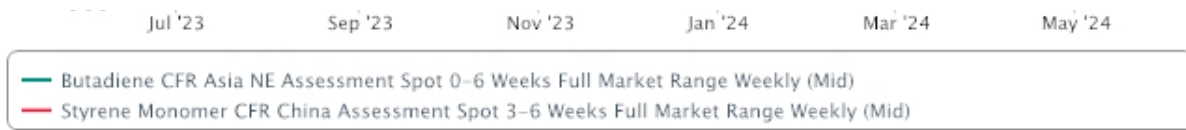


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Styrene

- High volatility in regional market tracking feedstock market fluctuations
- Speculative capital sentiment retreats in China's futures market, adding downward pressure
- Limited liquidity for China-S Korea trade due to holidays, cautious buying appetite





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PRODUCTION

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

OTHER REGIONS

Europe

- Feedstock costs move in diverging directions
- 1500 dry grade spot prices stable to soft
- Demand levels appear largely unchanged

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