



## Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific)

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

The China prices in the weekly analysis on 14 February have been based on information collated up to 13:00 Singapore/Shanghai time on 9 February. Please click [here](#) for the ICIS publishing schedule.

### OVERVIEW

- **Discussions subdued by holiday market closures**
- **Procurement limited to need-to basis**
- **Upstream rally keeps offers firm**

Discussions were muted in Asia's styrene-butadiene-rubber (SBR) import market as many regional outlets were shut for the extended Lunar New Year holidays.

China is observing the Lunar New Year from 10-17 February and many expect trade momentum there to resume full normalcy even later into H2 February after the 15 day festivities are completely over.

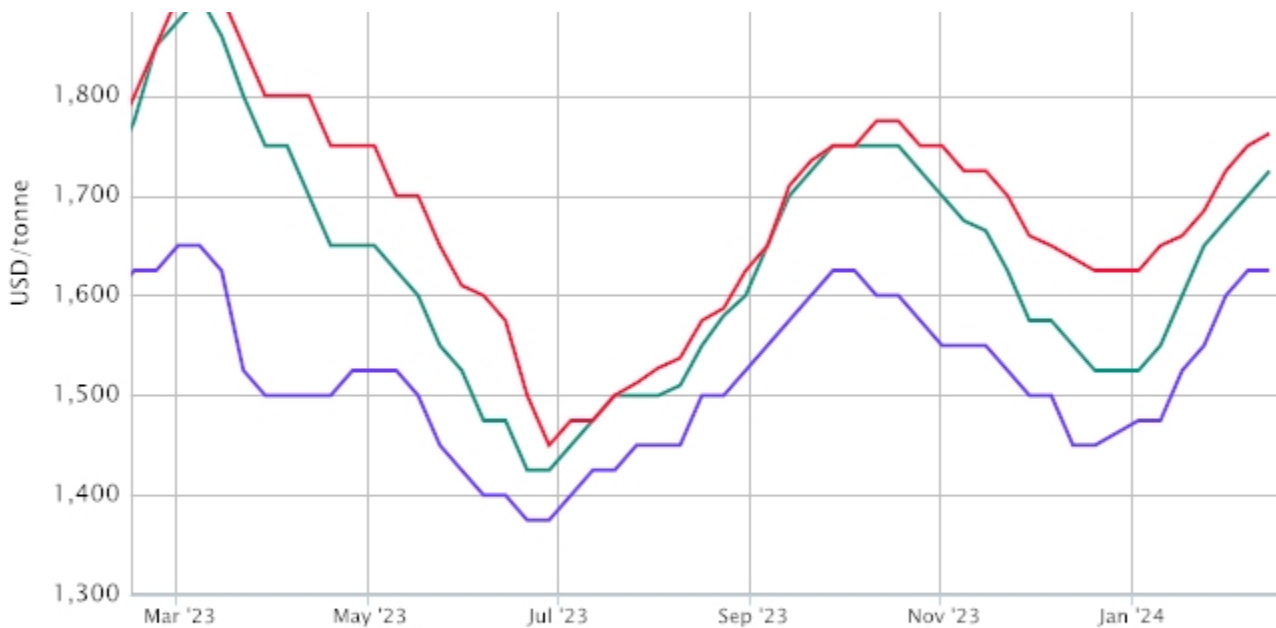
Even though holiday closures were comparatively shorter in other regional outlets, players there were wary not to over-commit without clarity of how the post-holiday market in China would trend.

Some end-users did proceed to procure limited volumes just before the start of the holidays in China, at levels closer to sellers' terms just to ensure they would have sufficient materials to sustain operations.

On the sell-side, as feedstock [butadiene](#) (BD) prices continued to register fresh gains, SBR producers were separately heard to be mulling over the need to separately set higher targets so as to recoup costs and protect margins.

Fresh offers were limited this week with many makers in northeast Asia away for the holidays.





— SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade CFR Asia SE Assessment Spot 4-6 Weeks Full Market Range Weekly (Mid)  
 — SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade CFR India Assessment Main Ports Spot 4-6 Weeks Full Market Range Weekly (Mid)  
 — SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade CIF China Assessment Spot 4-6 Weeks Full Market Range Weekly (Mid)

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## OUTLOOK

- Uncertainties in China's [post-holiday demand](#) outlook
- Issues such as ongoing Mideast conflicts may dent expectations
- Production margins could be whittled away further with [upstream market rallies](#)

## PRICES

### SPOT PRICES

			Price Range		Four Weeks Ago	US CTS/lb
<b>SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade</b>						
<b>CIF China</b>	USD/tonne	n/c	1600-1650	n/c	1500-1550	72.57-74.84
<b>CFR Asia SE</b>	USD/tonne	+50	1700.00-1750.00	n/c	1550.00-1650.00	77.11-79.38
<b>CFR India Main Ports</b>	USD/tonne	+25	1725.00-1800.00	n/c	1620.00-1700.00	78.24-81.65
<b>SBR 1712, Oil-Extended</b>						
<b>CIF China</b>	USD/tonne	n/c	1550-1600	n/c	1450-1500	70.31-72.57
<b>CFR Asia SE</b>	USD/tonne	+50	1650.00-1700.00	n/c	1500.00-1600.00	74.84-77.11
<b>CFR India Main Ports</b>	USD/tonne	+25	1675.00-1750.00	n/c	1570.00-1650.00	75.98-79.38

## China

CIF China prices for both the non-oil 1502 grade and the oil-extended 1712 grades were rolled over in a holiday-shortened trading week.

The China market is shut from 10-17 January for the extended Lunar New Year holidays.

Before the market shut, domestic prices in east China edged up, tracking handsome pre-holiday gains in the upstream BD market.

### East China domestic SBR 1502 prices

Price (CNY/tonne)	This week's close*	Previous week's close
E China EXWH	12,500-12,600	12,300-12,600

\*As at 9 February as China is shut from 10-17 February.

## Southeast Asia

CFR SE Asia assessments for the non-oil 1502 grade narrowed, with the low end lifted to capture the full spectrum of trade and discussions heard earlier in the trading week.

Overall trade liquidity was curbed as many outlets in the region were shut late in the week for the Lunar New Year holidays.

CFR SE Asia assessments for the oil-extended 1712 grade were adjusted in line with changes for the 1502 grade.

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

Feb (1-14) 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Nov 2023	Oct 2023	Sep 2023	Aug 2023	Jul 2023
152.99	154.20	146.31	148.42	145.26	142.65	130.22	131.31

Source: Malaysian Rubber Board

## India

CFR India prices for the non-oil 1502 grade were also assessed in a tighter range, with the low end up on firmer buying indications heard.

Offers for northeast Asia-origin materials hovered at the high end and upwards.

In addition, positive [January economic indicators](#) for India buoyed demand sentiment.

However, market sources said many local end-users were reluctant to commit readily as yet to procuring Asia-origin SBR imports, preferring instead to wait for comparisons with the pricing of alternatives supplies, such as those from Europe.

Assessments for the oil-extended 1712 grade were adjusted in line with changes for the 1502 grade.

## UPSTREAM

### Butadiene

- Bullish turn in discussions
- Supply concerns prompted some higher bids
- Buying still below par amid downstream margin worries

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

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

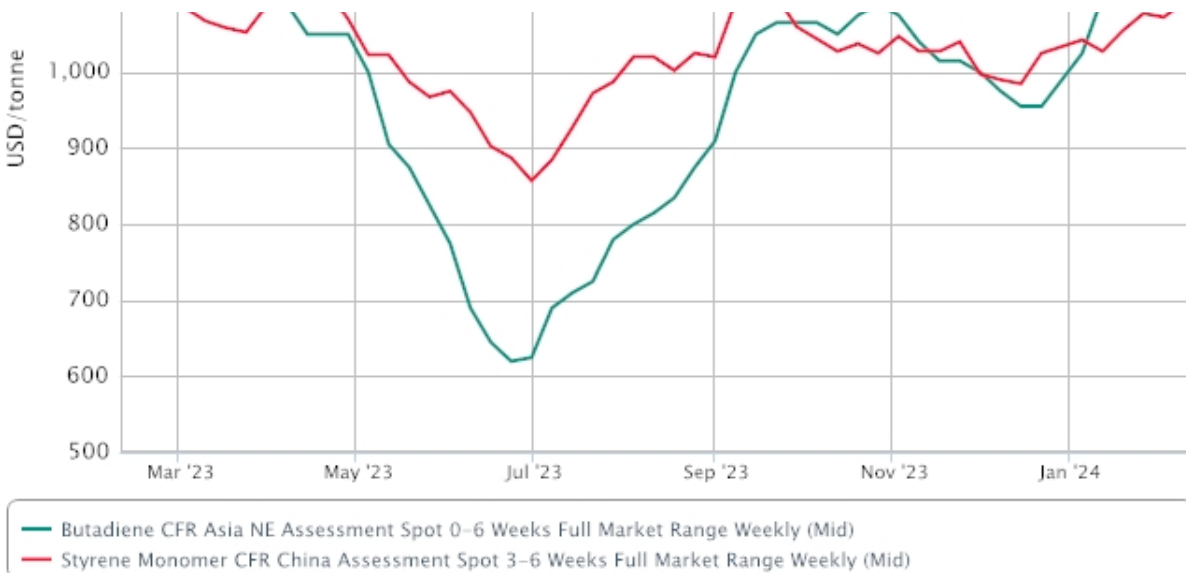


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### Styrene

- Asia SM market continues to see cost supports
- China market atmosphere improves following macro sentiment pick-up
- Market players await further clarity after Lunar New Year holidays





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## PRODUCTION

A 100,000 tonne/year unit in [Hangzhou](#), China, has shut from early February for three weeks for planned servicing. In northeast Asia, a 100,000 tonne/year unit in [Taiwan](#) will shut for maintenance in April.

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

## OTHER REGIONS

### Europe

- SBR spot prices increase by double digits
- Firmer feedstock costs in Feb; improved demand
- [Upstream styrene Feb contract at four month high](#)

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