



Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific)

By Ai Teng Lim
29-May-2024

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

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

ICIS is currently consulting readers about the methodology used for this report. To respond, [click here](#).

OVERVIEW

- **Some uptick in discussions in SE Asia and India**
- **Freight cost increases lent support to offers**
- **Trade liquidity capped amid downstream demand uncertainties**

Discussions for Asian spot imports of styrene butadiene rubber (SBR) saw an uptick in import-reliant markets like SE Asia and India, but held steady in China.

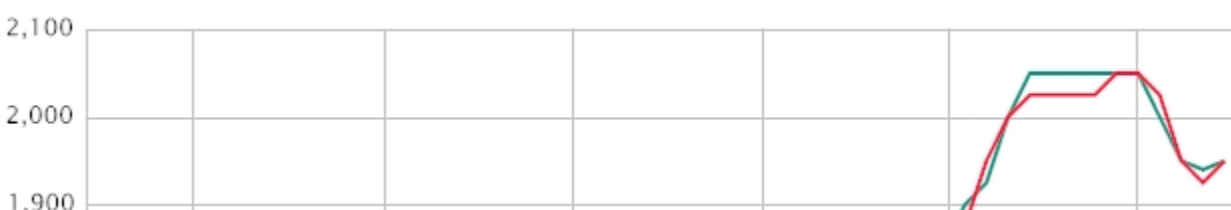
In China, there were minimal discussions on US dollar denominated imports, with players there mostly focused on monitoring movements in the yuan-denominated domestic China market for now.

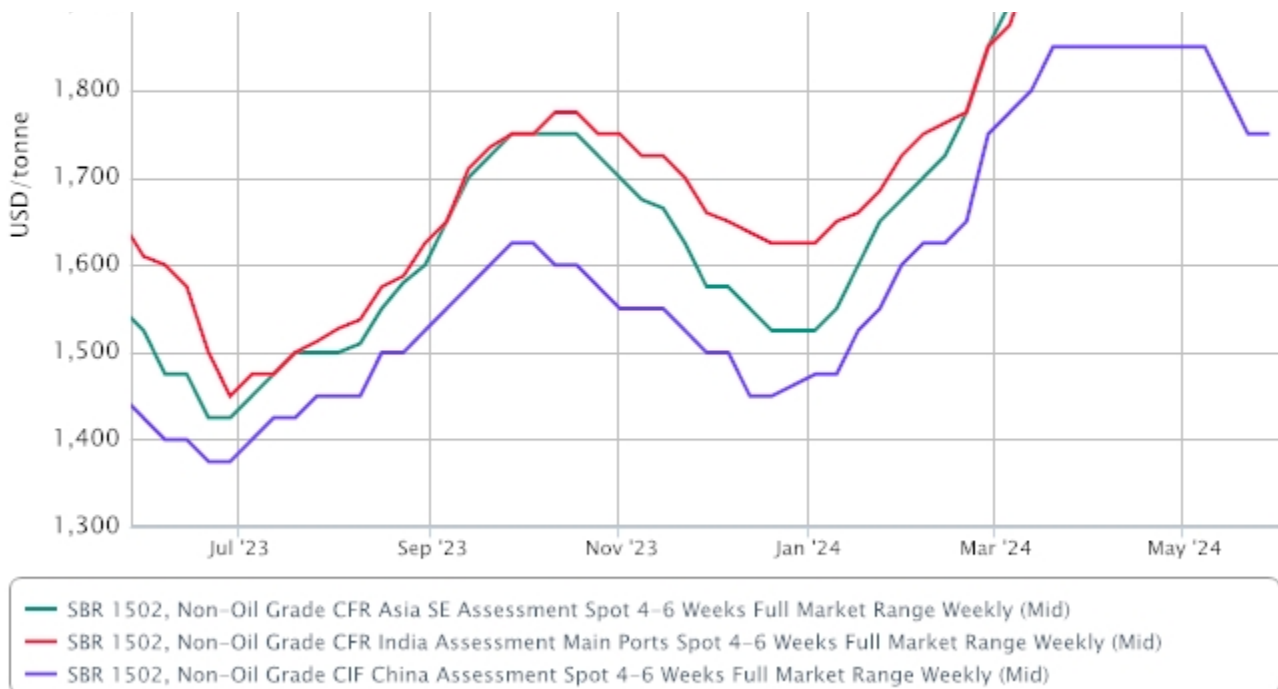
Domestic prices of SBR in China surged this week, on the back of strong natural rubber prices, as well as buoyant futures, market sources said.

In SE Asia and India, discussions edged up slightly too, as recent [hikes in freight rates](#) exerted upside pressures on offers.

Sellers were determined to minimally maintain current asking prices, if not chase higher targets, to protect their frail margins, market sources said.

But substantive spot transactions were still limited, as buyers remained cautious, citing concerns about how demand conditions in their own downstream markets may change with developing geo-political issues, including a recent US move to slap higher [tariffs](#) on several categories of China imports, from electric vehicles to batteries.





© 2024 ICIS

OUTLOOK

- Players may minimise buy-sell exposure for the near term
- Automotive sector demand may waver with US tariffs on China EVs
- Feedstock butadiene movements to shape offers too

PRICES

SPOT PRICES

			Price Range		Four Weeks Ago	US CTS/lb
SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade						
CIF China	USD/tonne	n/c	1700-1800	n/c	1800-1900	77.11-81.65
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	n/c	1900.00-2000.00	+20	2000.00-2100.00	86.18-90.72
			0			
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	+50	1900.00-2000.00	n/c	2000.00-2100.00	86.18-90.72
			0			
SBR 1712, Oil-Extended						
CIF China	USD/tonne	n/c	1650-1750	n/c	1750-1850	74.84-79.38
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	n/c	1850.00-1950.00	+20	1950.00-2050.00	83.91-88.45
			0			
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	+50	1850.00-1950.00	n/c	1950.00-2050.00	83.91-88.45
			0			

China

The CIF China prices for both the non-oil 1502 and the oil-extended 1712 grades were kept unchanged on rangebound talks, and in the absence of fresh transactions.

Domestic China prices surged with buoyant futures.

East China domestic SBR 1502 prices

Price (CNY/tonne)	This week's close	Previous week's close
E China Ex-Warehouse	13,700-13,900	13,400-13,500

Southeast Asia

The CFR SE Asia prices for the non-oil 1502 grade were stable-to-firm, with the high-end adjusted up to reflect firmer asking prices.

But substantive discussions were minimal with many end-users still in a wait-and-see stance.

The CFR SE Asia assessments for the oil-extended 1712 grade are adjusted up on the high-end with changes in 1502 grade.

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

May (1-29) 2024	Apr 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Jan 2024	Dec 2023	Nov 2023
168.95	162.99	165.36	156.66	154.20	146.31	148.42

Source: Malaysian Rubber Board

India

The CFR India prices for the non-oil 1502 grade were unchanged at the high-end, in the absence of any fresh offers for northeast Asian origin materials during the week.

The low-end was up with firmer buying indications heard for northeast Asia-origin materials, although no deals were heard closed. Market sources said that this came as offers from non-Asia origin, such as Europe, have also edged up recently with increases in freight costs.

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

UPSTREAM

Butadiene

- Domestic China recovery [lifts](#) sentiment in import market

- Buy-sell gap for import trades narrowed somewhat
- Some spot availabilities emerge, but supply outlook stays mixed

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

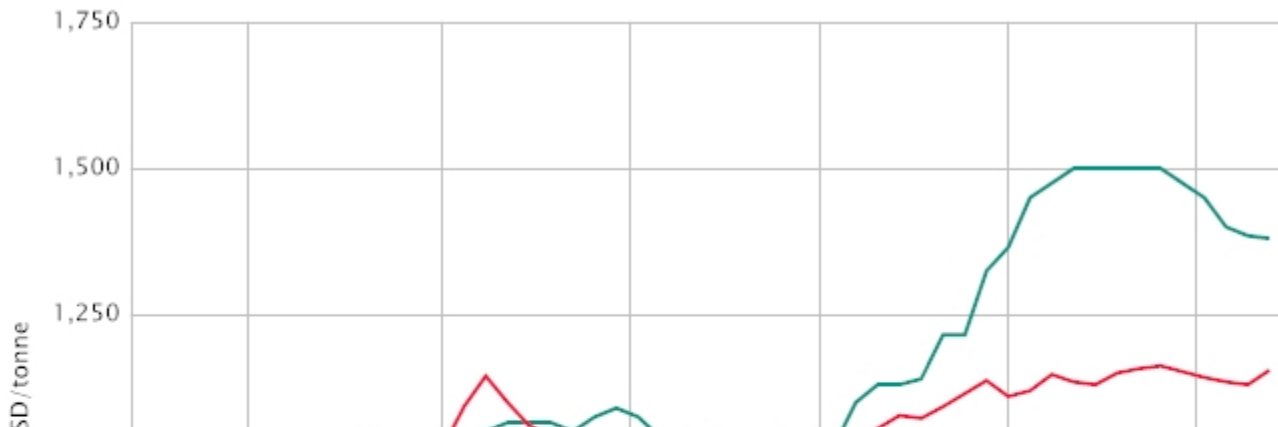
[Downstream spread – butadiene NE Asia and SBR SE Asia](#)

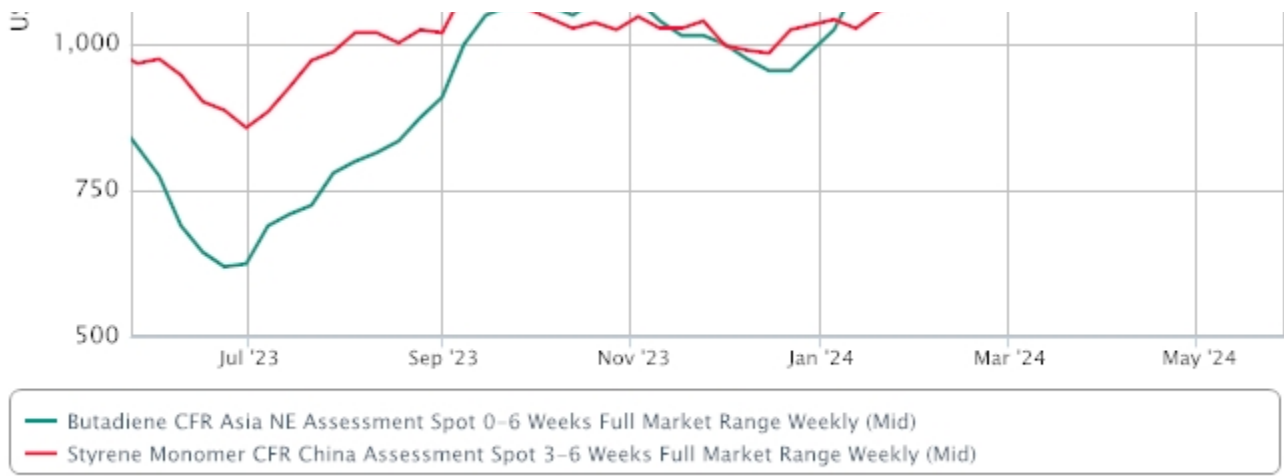


© 2024 ICIS

Styrene

- China SM market sees high sentiment-driven volatility
- Overall regional market fundamentals remain in tight balance
- China-S Korea discussions continue; price disparity keeps some market players on sidelines





© 2024 ICIS

PRODUCTION

A 100,000 tonne/year unit in Taiwan is due to restart end-May after a month-long maintenance.

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

OTHER REGIONS

Europe

- Dry grade SBR spot prices stable to firm
- European BD June contract increases
- Demand levels mostly unchanged

Styrene Butadiene Rubber (Asia-Pacific) | 29-May-2024. 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.

© 2024 Reed Business Information Limited. ICIS is a member of RELX Group. www.icis.com

RELX™