



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

- **China softens with domestic losses**
- **Discussions broadly flat elsewhere**
- **Mixed sentiment in different wider Asian outlets**

Discussions for Asian spot imports of styrene-butadiene-rubber (SBR) were mixed across different Asian outlets – softer in China, but broadly flat in wider Asia

That said, even within wider Asia, sentiment varied, with discussions seemingly more upbeat in India than SE Asia, market players said.

In China, losses were registered in the domestic yuan-denominated market, tracking declines in yuan values of the upstream butadiene (BD) market.

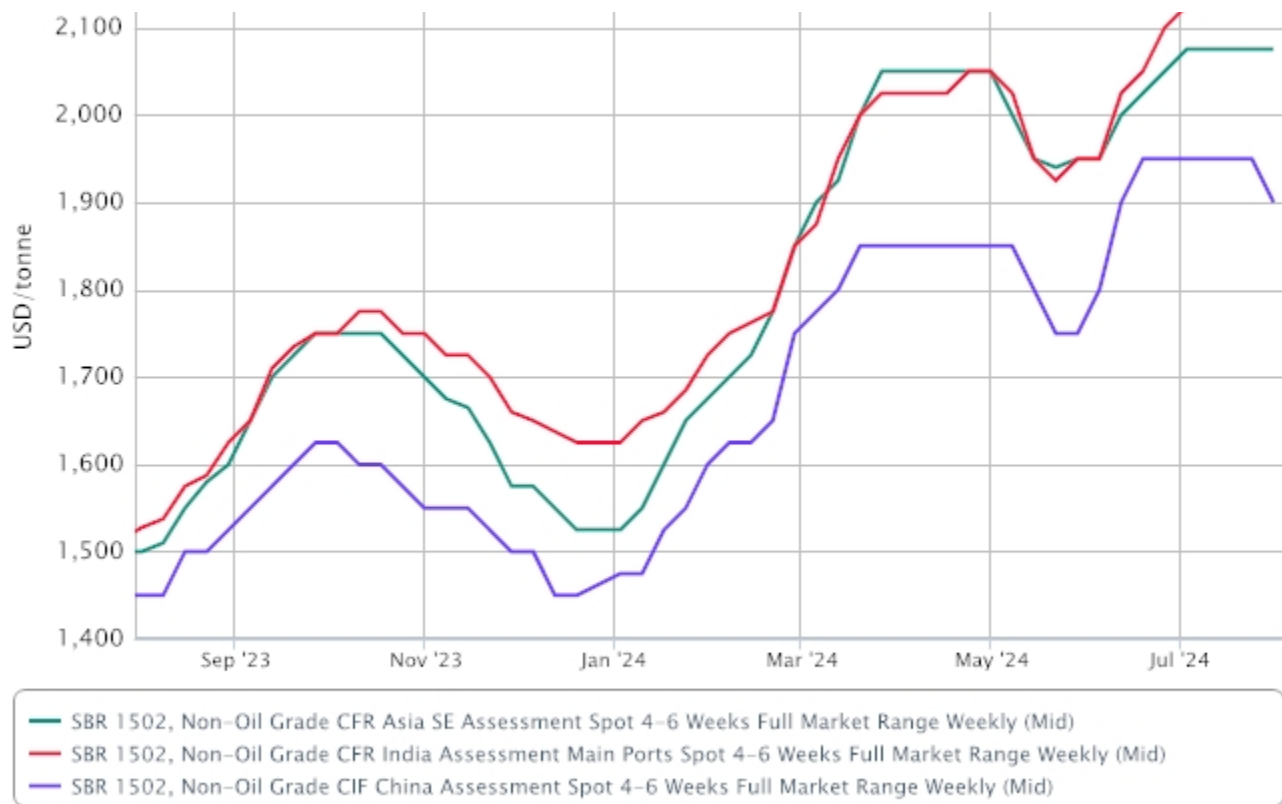
This also weighed down pricing indications for US dollar denominated imports into China.

In SE Asia, spot trade was stagnant, with many end-users heard already fully covered with contractual volumes. But fresh spot offers were scant too, with regional SBR makers mostly already sold out on contractual obligations, and not keen to engage in spot business unless buyers were willing to negotiate at closer to their terms.

In India, the mood is somewhat more upbeat, as firm local prices for natural rubber bolstered pricing appetite of Indian end-users for substitution products, including SBR imports.

But because operations at many downstream factories are still curtailed under the ongoing monsoon weather conditions, end-users there remained cautious in committing on fresh SBR import cargoes.





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OUTLOOK

- Feedstock market movements to drive SBR spot offers
- Demand outlook [hazy](#)
- Supply may [tighten](#) going into Q3 2024

PRICES

SPOT PRICES

			Price Range		Four Weeks Ago	US CTS/lb
SBR 1502, Non-Oil Grade						
CIF China	USD/tonne	-50	1850-1950	-50	1900-2000	83.91-88.45
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	n/c	2050.00-2100.00	n/c	2050.00-2100.00	92.99-95.25
			0			
CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	n/c	2100.00-2200.00	n/c	2050.00-2200.00	95.25-99.79
			0			
SBR 1712, Oil-Extended						
CIF China	USD/tonne	-50	1800-1900	-50	1850-1950	81.65-86.18
CFR Asia SE	USD/tonne	n/c	2000.00-2050.00	n/c	2000.00-2050.00	90.72-92.99
			0			

CFR India Main Ports	USD/tonne	n/c	2050.00-2150.00	n/c	2000.00-2150.00	92.99-97.52
			0			

China

CIF China prices for the non-oil 1502 grade are down, taking into consideration softer buy-sell indications.

Buying interest for US dollar denominated imports also tapered, following losses seen in the domestic yuan-denominated market.

CIF China prices for the oil-extended 1712 grade are adjusted lower too, tracking changes for the 1502 grade assessments.

Domestic China prices fell, alongside weaker upstream pricing.

East China domestic SBR 1502 prices

Price (CNY/tonne)	This week's close	Previous week's close
E China Ex-Warehouse	14,700-15,000	15,000-15,200

Southeast Asia

CFR SE Asian assessments for the non-oil 1502 grade remained unchanged, supported by limited deals heard within the range.

Buy-sell indications were also heard rangebound.

CFR SE Asian prices for the oil-extended 1712 grade are rolled, along with stable 1502 grade assessments.

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

Jul 2024	Jun 2024	May 2024	Apr 2024	Mar 2024	Feb 2024	Jan 2024
168.65	176.00	170.03	162.99	165.36	156.66	154.20

Source: Malaysian Rubber Board

India

CFR Indian assessments for the non-oil 1502 grade are unchanged, with buying indications for northeast Asia-origin materials heard capped at the low-end, against selling indications heard at the high-end and up.

But buying interest stays soft as before, in part because of a constant inflow of more competitively priced alternatives, albeit from non-conventional, and non-Asia, origins.

Local end-users also turned to tapping the domestic supply pool more for cargoes, at the expense of imports.

CFR India assessments for the oil-extended 1712 grade are left unchanged, alongside stable 1502 grade.

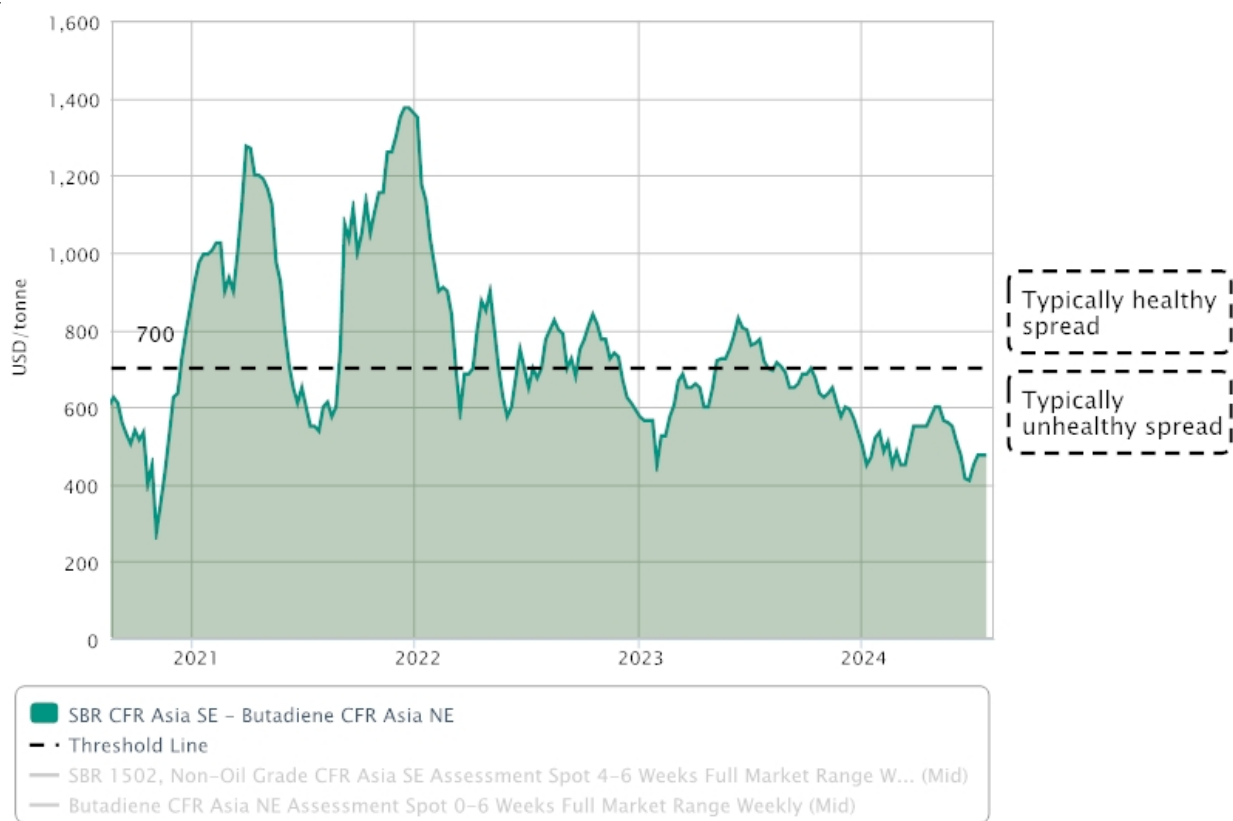
UPSTREAM

Butadiene

- Buy-sell sentiment mixed
- Regional supplies lengthen [after plant restart](#) and renewed deep-sea flows
- No selling pressure for sellers who wait and see

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](#)

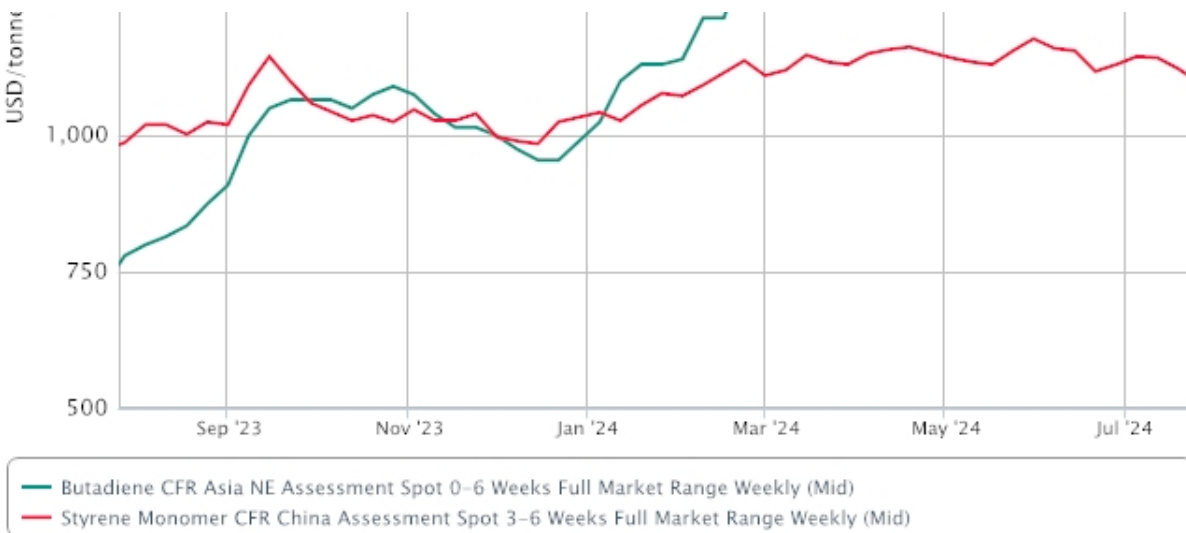


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Styrene

- China SM market sentiment remains weak amid softer cost supports, sluggish demand
- More backwarddated prompt/forward market curve in China reflects back-end market concerns
- S Korea import market decelerates; buyers yet to start Sept procurement





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PRODUCTION

Japan's [Zeon](#) plans to discontinue a portion of its emulsion-SBR production at the Tokuyama site in 2026, according to the company's report published on 11 June. Its total SBR production capacity at Tokuyama is 135,000 tonnes/year, according to ICIS data.

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

OTHER REGIONS

Europe

- Upstream BD contract price increases
- SBR spot prices hold steady
- Demand subdued ahead of August

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