

# Europe & Americas Petrochemicalscan

Volume 48 / Issue 30 / July 28, 2023

## European Assessments

	Spot barges (\$/mt)		Weekly average (\$/mt)	NWE monthly (€/mt)	NWE Q3 quarterly (€/mt)
Benzene CP Jul		CIF ARA		895.00 (1)	
Benzene CP Jul		CIF ARA		818.00	
Benzene CP Indicator	873.50	CIF ARA			
Benzene	869.75-870.25	CIF ARA	876.75-877.25		
Benzene M1 Aug	869.75-870.25	CIF ARA	877.95-878.45		
Benzene M2 Sep	868.75-869.25	CIF ARA	865.65-866.15		
Toluene	1235.75-1236.25	CIF ARA	1215.60-1216.10		
Toluene M1	1232.75-1233.25	CIF ARA	1213.90-1214.40		
Toluene M2	1186.00-1186.50	CIF ARA	1179.05-1179.55		
Toluene M1 spread to EBOB swap	275.00	CIF ARA	275.00		
Toluene M2 spread to EBOB swap	275.00	CIF ARA	275.00		
Toluene TDI	1235.75-1236.25	FOB ARA	1215.60-1216.10		
Toluene TDI M1	1232.75-1233.25	FOB ARA	1213.90-1214.40		
Toluene TDI M2	1186.00-1186.50	FOB ARA	1179.05-1179.55		
Mixed xylene	1205.75-1206.25	CIF ARA	1185.60-1186.10		
Mixed xylene M1	1202.75-1203.25	CIF ARA	1183.90-1184.40		
Mixed xylene M2	1156.00-1156.50	CIF ARA	1149.05-1149.55		
Mixed xylene M1 spread to EBOB swap	245.00	CIF ARA	245.00		
Mixed xylene M2 spread to EBOB swap	245.00	CIF ARA	245.00		
Mixed xylene	1205.75-1206.25	FOB ARA	1185.60-1186.10		
Orthoxylene	1399.75-1400.25	FOB ARA	1359.75-1360.25	1270.00-1270.00	
Paraxylene	1189.75-1190.25	FOB ARA	1176.20-1176.70	NA-NA	
Paraxylene M1 Aug	1189.75-1190.25	FOB ARA	1176.20-1176.70		
Paraxylene M2 Sep	1189.75-1190.25	FOB ARA	1176.20-1176.70		
Styrene monomer	1396.25-1396.75	FOB ARA	1364.75-1365.25		
Styrene monomer M1 Aug	1395.50-1396.00	FOB ARA	1363.20-1363.70		
Styrene monomer M2 Sep	1300.75-1301.25	FOB ARA	1305.60-1306.10		
MTBE	1244.00-1244.50	FOB ARA	1225.15-1225.65		
MTBE factor	1.265	FOB ARA	1.277		
MTBE spread to EBOB swap	286.25	FOB ARA	286.25		
Methanol T2 (2)	213.00-213.50	FOB Rotterdam	206.60-207.10		360.00
Methanol T2 M1 (2)	213.50	FOB Rotterdam	207.25		
Methanol T2 M2 (2)	215.50	FOB Rotterdam	211.10		
eMethanol cost	2104.34	FOB Rotterdam	2216.23		
<b>Divd to vessel (\$/mt)</b>					
Methanol Bunker Rotterdam	270.24	Delivered Rotterdam	263.42		
Methanol Bunker Rotterdam (oil equivalent)	515.34	Delivered Rotterdam	502.34		
Methanol Bunker Rotterdam (LNG equivalent)	653.60	Delivered Rotterdam	637.11		

Notes: (1) \$/mt (2) €/mt.

## Platts NYMEX RBOB futures assessments 2:30 pm ET\*

	(¢/gal)
Aug	295.61
Sep	288.82
Oct	260.70

\*These assessments reflect prevailing futures value exactly at 2:30 pm ET.

## Platts Naphtha assessments (Jul 27)

	(\$/mt)
Cargoes FOB MED	594.75-595.25
Barges FOB RDAM	620.75-621.25
Cargoes CIF NWE	624.75-625.25
Cargoes FOB USG	589.63-589.73

## Brazil assessments

	(\$/mt)
Benzene FOB Brazil	744.00-746.00
Toluene FOB Brazil	1064.00-1066.00
Mixed Xylene FOB Brazil	1069.00-1071.00

## Benzene

### European Benzene & Styrene: Benzene prices soften on weak demand

- 37,000 mt of benzene heard traded during settlement window
- Third European styrene production outage set to begin in August

The European benzene market edged lower in the week to July 28 on lower demand amid downstream production maintenance.

Platts assessed the five- to 30-days forward-delivery laycan stable at \$870/mt on the day July 28, and down \$30/mt from July 25. Higher trade liquidity was heard in the last five days as the settlement window opened for the August industry contract price.

About 37,000 mt heard traded between July 24-27 while thin activity was heard on July 28.

Downstream, styrene prices rose on the week as sources indicated tight availability. Platts assessed the five- to-30 days forward-loading laycan down 25 cents on the day but up \$55/mt on the week.

Two outages were ongoing in the European market. The first was at the LyondellBasell and Covestro's joint-venture plant in Maasvlakte, the Netherlands, which Covestro said was due to low demand. The second was at Trinseo's Terneuzen, Netherlands, plant, heard from multiple sources in the market.

A third outage on styrene production was heard due at the BASF Ludwigshafen, Germany, chemicals production facility.

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### Platts European Benzene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed benzene for delivery five- to 30-days forward at \$870/mt CIF ARA July 28, stable on the day.

August was assessed stable at \$870/mt with no disproving indications.

September was assessed stable at \$869/mt with no disproving indications.

October, November and December were each assessed at \$869/mt, flat to September.

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### US Gulf Coast Benzene: Stable on day

- August contract pricing window closed
- RBOB futures little changed on day

US benzene prices were stable July 28 as RBOB was little changed on the day and trading had ceased for the August contract pricing window.

Platts assessed August DDP unchanged at 316 cents/gal.

September RBOB rose 0.61 cents to settle at 288.76 cents/gal.

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### United States Assessments (¢/gal)

	Spot market FOB USGC	Weekly spot averages	Eff USGC contract prices
Benzene M1 (Jul)	316.95-317.05	315.35-315.45	290.00
Benzene M2 (Aug)	315.95-316.05	316.15-316.25	
Benzene M1 DDP (Jul)	315.95-316.05	314.95-315.05	
Benzene M2 DDP (Aug)	314.95-315.05	315.15-315.25	
Toluene Comm	403.95-404.05		
NITN M1 (Jul)	415.95-416.05	403.95-404.05	
NITN M2 (Aug)	415.95-416.05	403.95-404.05	
Xylenes			
Isomer	418.95-419.05		
Mixed M1 (Jul)	418.95-419.05	406.95-407.05	
Mixed M2 (Aug)	418.95-419.05	406.95-407.05	
Ortho (¢/lb)	64.00-65.00		53.75 <sup>(3)</sup> -54.25
Para (\$/mt)	1154.51-1164.51	1123.71-1133.71	60.00-60.00 <sup>(3)</sup>
Cumene	375.99-376.09		
Styrene M1 (Jul) (¢/lb)	54.64-55.14	54.28-54.78	*43.13-43.63
Styrene M1 (Jul) (\$/mt)	1210.000	1202.000	
Styrene M2 (Aug) (¢/lb)	54.64-55.14	54.28-54.78	
Styrene M2 (Aug) (\$/mt)	1210.000	1202.000	
MTBE	307.04-307.14	302.49-302.59	
MTBE (\$/mt)	1090.170	1074.003	
MTBE vs NYMEX RBOB	18.330	17.642	
MTBE vs NYMEX RBOB (\$/mt)	65.070	62.628	
Methanol M1 (Aug)	65.75-66.25	65.95-66.45	109.20-111.30 <sup>(2)</sup>
Methanol M1 (Aug) (\$/mt)	218.95-220.61	219.62-221.28	156.00-159.00 <sup>(1)</sup>
Methanol M2 (Sep)	65.75-66.25	65.75-66.25	
Methanol M2 (Sep) (\$/mt)	218.95-220.61	218.95-220.61	
eMethanol cost (¢/gal)	377.057	382.872	
eMethanol cost (\$/mt)	1255.601	1274.964	
	<b>Divld to vessel (\$/mt)</b>	<b>Weekly</b>	
Methanol Bunker Houston	236.780	237.446	
Methanol Bunker Houston (oil equivalent)	451.534	452.804	
Methanol Bunker Houston (LNG equivalent)	572.677	574.288	

All CPs ex-tank basis; OX and PX ¢/lb FD. 1) USGC list prices. \*Domestic benchmark transaction price. 2) Net contract US assessment. 3) PX CP is typically settled retroactively. The most recent settlement (Jun) appears on this page.

### Platts USGC Benzene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed spot August DDP benzene at 316 cents/gal DDP USG on July 28, stable on the day.

The assessment was unchanged amid a lack of disproving indications.

August FOB was assessed stable on the day at 317 cents/gal.

The assessment maintained the spread with August DDP.

September DDP benzene was assessed at 315 cents/gal DDP USG, stable on the day.

The assessment maintained the structure with August DDP.

September FOB was assessed at 316 cents/gal, stable on the day.

The assessment maintained the spread with September DDP.

October FOB benzene was assessed at 316 cents/gal, stable on the day.

The assessment maintained the structure with September FOB.

Fourth-quarter FOB benzene was assessed at 316 cents/gal, stable on the day.

The assessment maintained the structure with October FOB.

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## Platts Latin American Benzene Weekly Commentary

- Asian benzene spot prices higher
- European benzene spot stable

Platts assessed Latin American benzene at \$745/mt FOB Brazil July 28, up \$62/mt from July 21, taking into consideration US Gulf Coast pricing, which was 23 cents/gal higher for prompt and 20 cents/gal higher for forward-month.

Prompt USG benzene was assessed at 317 cents/gal FOB and forward-month benzene at 316 cents/gal FOB USG.

In Brazil, the exchange rate for the real to the US dollar ended the week at Real 4,73/\$1 on July 28, compared to Real 4,77/\$1 the week prior.

In Asia, Platts assessed Asian benzene up \$6/mt on the day at \$872.83/mt FOB Korea July 28.

Asian benzene markets ended stronger on the day July 28, supported by a stronger domestic China market.

In Europe, Platts assessed benzene for delivery five- to 30-days forward at \$870/mt CIF ARA July 28, stable on the day.

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### Platts Latin American Benzene weekly Rationale

Platts assessed Latin American benzene at \$745/mt FOB Brazil July 28, up \$62 from July 21, taking into consideration US Gulf Coast pricing, which was 23 cents higher for prompt and 20 cents higher for forward-month.

Pricing was based on prompt and forward-month US Gulf Coast FOB assessments using a three- to 30-day netback formula that accounts for freight costs at \$200/mt, according to market feedback. Prompt USG benzene was assessed at 317 cents/gal FOB and forward-month benzene at 316 cents/gal FOB USG.

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### USGC Aromatics: Spot prices flat on the day

US Gulf Coast spot nitration grade toluene and mixed xylenes were assessed flat on the day July 28 and 35 cents higher on the week.

Platts assessed spot July nitration-grade toluene at 416 cents/gal FOB USG July 28, flat on the day.

July mixed xylenes was assessed at 419 cents/gal FOB USG, also flat on the day.

Prompt spot paraxylene was assessed at \$1,159.51/mt FOB USG, up \$27.75/mt on the day and up \$50.09/lb on the week. The assessment moved up with CFR Taiwan/China.

In Asia, CFR China toluene prices were assessed down \$15/mt on the day while FOB Korea was stable on the day. "Due to low operation rates and light feed of naphtha and also from LPG cracking, [there is] less toluene and xylenes produced ... and gasoline blending is good so there is no pygas we can buy in the market, which we can load up our aromatic unit as well," a South Korean producer said.

Asian paraxylene was assessed up \$27.75 on the day. Currently, the PX-Naphtha spread has remained firm above \$400/mt, providing ample incentive to producers, a trader in Singapore

said. This trend is likely to continue in the last quarter of the year as well, the trader said, adding that "next year [is] bullish and Q4 is good," referring to PX prices and demand.

Upstream, global refinery disruptions pile onto supply concerns. While elevated product prices were mostly driven in part by hot weather, power outages, and a refinery issue, "the real problem is that demand has been exceeding supply globally, keeping gasoline supply near the lowest levels since 2015," Phil Flynn, an analyst at PRICE Futures Group, said.

Refinery disruptions in the US led to a rise in RBOB contract prices, which limited arbitrage opportunities from Europe, according to sources.

NYMEX front-month crude was up 49 cents to settle at \$80.58/b, while ICE front-month Brent settled at \$84.99/b, up 75 cents. NYMEX front-month RBOB rose 53 points to settle at \$2.9558/gal and NYMEX front-month ULSD settled at \$2.9586/gal, up 4.17 cents.

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### Platts USGC Aromatics Daily Rationale

Platts assessed spot August nitration-grade toluene at 416 cents/gal FOB USG July 28, flat on the day.

The assessment came within the most recent August NGT bid/offer range heard at 415-450 cents/gal FOB ITC Deer Park.

Forward-month September NGT was assessed at 416 cents/gal FOB USG, also flat on the day. The assessment maintained the previous market structure.

August mixed xylenes was assessed at 419 cents/gal FOB USG, flat on the day.

The assessment came above an August MX bid heard July 27 after market close at 415 cents/gal FOB ITC Deer Park and maintained a 3-cent premium to July NGT.

The most recent August 2-4 MX offer heard at September RBOB +163 cents/gal DDP HTC was not considered as part of the assessment due to restrictive loading dates and a lack of corroboration.

September MX was assessed at 419 cents/gal FOB USG, also flat on the day, keeping the inter-month structure unchanged.

Prompt spot paraxylene was assessed at \$1,159.51/mt FOB USG, up \$27.75/mt on the day. The assessment moved up with CFR Taiwan/China.

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## Toluene

### European Toluene: Spot premium remains stable

- Availability of toluene low
- Appetite for toluene remains high

Spot toluene premium to Eurobob gasoline in Europe was assessed at \$275/mt July 28, flat on the week.

Market tightness was heard to be prevalent within the European toluene spot market, with sources indicating that not much has changed over the past week, leading to stable

premiums. "Toluene is quite tight still," a producer said, adding that it "hasn't really changed much since last week."

"It's easier to get a parcel of toluene than MX," a distributor said.

Despite the continued width of the gasoline naphtha spread, there was not a significant increase seen in the demand for blendstock. Market participants attributed this to a gloomy regional macroeconomic outlook, which is suppressing demand.

The arbitrage window to the US was also heard to be shut, largely due to the lack of availability of toluene, market participants indicated. With consumers searching the market for toluene, any excess would stay within Europe, rather than being sold abroad.

"The arbitrage is not open," a producer said, adding that "To get molecules out of Europe, makes no sense."

In the ARA region, naphtha stocks increased, with storage levels reaching 270,000 mt on July 27, according to the latest S&P Global Commodity Insights data. This was on the back of weak petrochemical demand, incentivizing storage activity.

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### Platts European Toluene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed the M1 August toluene CIF ARA premium to Eurobob gasoline at \$275/mt July 28, steady on the day, within a range of indicated value heard at \$260-\$290/mt from a distributor and within a range of indicated value heard at \$270-\$300/mt from a producer.

The M2 September toluene premium to Eurobob gasoline was also assessed at \$275/mt, stable on the day, at parity with August, pending fresh indications on the intermonth structure.

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### Platts Latin American Toluene/Xylenes Weekly Commentary

- Asian toluene spot prices stable; mixed toluene higher
- European toluene spot stable, along with mixed toluene

Platts assessed Latin American toluene at \$1,065/mt FOB Brazil July 28, up \$107/mt compared with July 21, taking into consideration US Gulf Coast pricing, which was 35 cents/gal higher for prompt and 35 cents/gal higher for forward-month.

Prompt USG toluene was assessed at 381 cents/gal FOB and forward-month toluene at 381 cents/gal FOB USG.

Platts assessed Latin American mixed xylene at \$1,070/mt FOB Brazil July 28, up \$106/mt compared with July 21, taking into consideration US Gulf Coast pricing, which was 35 cents/gal higher for prompt and 35 cents/gal higher for forward-month.

Prompt-month USG MX was assessed at 384 cents/gal FOB USG and forward-month was assessed at 384 cents/gal FOB USG.

In Brazil, the exchange rate for the real to the US dollar ended the week at Real 4.73/\$1 July 28, compared with Real 4.77/\$1 the week prior.

In Asia, Platts assessed Asia toluene stable day on day at \$975/mt FOB Korea, lower \$15/mt at \$940/mt CFR China and stable at \$985/mt FOB China July 28.

Asian isomer-grade mixed xylene rose \$51.50/mt week on

week to \$1,000/mt FOB Korea, at \$1,019/mt CFR Taiwan and at \$1,000/mt CFR China on July 28 amid renewed demand for MX from the US as well as firmer upstream and downstream prices.

In Europe, Platts assessed the M1 August toluene CIF ARA premium to Eurobob gasoline at \$275/mt July 28, steady on the day. Platts assessed the M1 August MX CIF ARA premium to Eurobob gasoline at \$245/mt July 28, steady on the day.

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### Platts Latin American Toluene/Xylenes Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed Latin American toluene at \$1,065/mt FOB Brazil July 28, up \$107/mt compared with July 21, taking into consideration US Gulf Coast pricing, which was 35 cents/gal higher for prompt and 35 cents/gal higher for forward-month.

Pricing was based on prompt and forward-month US Gulf Coast FOB assessments using a three- to 30-day netback formula that accounts for freight costs at \$200/mt, according to market feedback. Prompt USG toluene was assessed at 381 cents/gal FOB and forward-month toluene at 381 cents/gal FOB USG.

Platts assessed Latin American mixed xylene at \$1,070/mt FOB Brazil July 28, up \$106/mt compared with July 21, taking into consideration US Gulf Coast pricing, which was 35 cents/gal higher for prompt and 35 cents/gal higher for forward-month.

Pricing was based on prompt and forward-month US Gulf Coast FOB assessments using a three- to 30-day netback formula that accounts for freight costs at \$200/mt, according to market feedback. Prompt month USG MX was assessed at 384 cents/gal FOB USG and forward-month was assessed at 384 cents/gal FOB USG.

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## Xylenes

### European Xylenes: PX prices rise amid tightness and increased demand

- OX prices climb on netback to South Korea
- Mixed xylenes market moves sideways

European spot paraxylene prices rose \$60/mt on the week to \$1,190/mt in the seven days to July 28 amid tightness and increased demand heard in the spot market.

Market participants indicated that tightness and demand from PTA producers were driving prices within the PX spot market.

"There is more demand in Europe," a trader said.

"There is more demand from PTA producers," a producer said.

"Europe is quite tight on supply," a second producer said.

Prices increased further as activity returned to the European PX Platts Market on Close assessment process July 27.

STR had bid for 1,000 mt at \$1,182/mt for August delivery dates during the MOC.

The mixed xylenes spot market, however, moved sideways over the week, with the market remaining at an elevated level

due to steady demand. "More or less the same as last week," a producer said.

Spot demand within Europe for orthoxylene remained weak, due to weaker downstream demand from the PA market, amid limited use of construction within Europe. However, due to a strengthening market in Asia, the netback to South Korea increased the spot price of orthoxylene in Europe. "In paper, they are moving up," a trader said, adding that this was "Based on netback to [South] Korea."

Platts assessed European orthoxylene spot prices up \$50/mt on the week at \$1,400/mt in the week to July 28.

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### Platts European Xylenes Daily Rationale

Platts assessed the M1 August MX CIF ARA premium to Eurobob gasoline at \$245/mt July 28, steady on the day, within a range of indicated value heard at \$240-\$250/mt from a distributor and within a range of indicated value heard at \$230-\$260/mt from a producer.

The M2 September MX CIF ARA premium was assessed at \$245/mt, stable on the day, maintaining parity with August levels and pending fresh indications on the intermonth structure.

The M1 August paraxylene FOB ARA spot price was assessed up \$7.75/mt on the day at \$1,190/mt, moving toward an indication heard at close to \$1,200/mt from a distributor and toward an indication heard at \$1,220/mt for blend value heard from a producer, amid tightness heard in the spot market, and pending further corroboration.

M2 September paraxylene FOB ARA was assessed up \$7.75/mt on the day at \$1,190/mt, at parity with August.

The paraxylene FOB ARA five- to 30-day forward spot price was assessed as the average of the period at \$1,190/mt, up \$7.75/mt on the day.

The orthoxylene FOB ARA five- to 30-day forward spot price was assessed at \$1,400/mt, up \$50/mt on the day, in line with an indication heard from a trader and a producer, moving toward an indication heard at \$1,450/mt from a second trader, and weighing an indication from a distributor heard at \$1,350/mt against an increasing netback from South Korea.

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## Orthoxylene

### Platts US Gulf Orthoxylene: US prices up 5 cent/lb on week

Upstream spot prices rise 35 cents/gal on the week

Downstream, demand for phthalic anhydride continues to be below normal. A source said it has been 10%-20% lower compared with last year.

Upstream, spot prices for mixed xylenes saw a sharp increase of 35 cents/gal (9.11%) on the week.

Earlier this week, Exxon confirmed maintenance on one unit at its 522,500 b/d Baton Rouge, Louisiana refinery. A market source

said it was a gasoline-making fluid catalytic cracking unit.

A trader attributed Exxon recent outage as an important driver for the upward trend on mixed xylenes.

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### Platts USGC Orthoxylene Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed US orthoxylene spot prices at 64.50 cents/lb July 28, higher by 5 cents on the week, in line with movements in the spot mixed xylenes market.

Feedstock MX spot prices were assessed at 419 cents/gal July 28, higher by 35 cents on the week.

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## Styrene Monomer

### Platts European Styrene Daily Rationale

Platts assessed styrene for loading five- to 30-days forward at \$1,396.50/mt FOB ARA July 28, down \$0.25/mt on the day, based on the existing backwardated structure through August into September.

August was assessed stable at \$1,395.75/mt, based on a curve.

Aug. 2-15 dates were assessed stable at \$1,401/mt with no disproving indications.

Aug.16-31 dates were assessed unchanged at \$1,391/mt with no disproving indications.

September was assessed stable at \$1,301/mt with no disproving indications.

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### USGC Styrene Monomer: Exports resume to Europe

- Arb to Europe opens, exports demonstrate
- Bid/offer spread wide, but no trades reported

US exports of styrene monomer to Europe have resumed, sources told S&P Global Commodity Insights during the week ending July 28.

Several cargoes could be observed in the Gulf Coast area with destinations in Europe, according to Kpler data.

Platts assessed August FOB styrene at \$1,210/mt July 28, up \$20 on the week, in line with price indications from earlier in the week. No trades were reported during the week, as sources reported that bids and offers had stayed in a wide spread.

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### Platts US Gulf Styrene Monomer Weekly Rationale

Platts assessed front-month July spot styrene stable on the day July 28 at \$1,210/mt FOB USG.

The assessment maintained the structure with August FOB.

Platts assessed forward-month August spot styrene stable on the day at \$1,210/mt FOB USG.

The assessment was unchanged amid a lack of disproving indications.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

## MTBE and ETBE

### **European MTBE/ETBE: Prices soar on upstream gains**

- MTBE premium stable on day
- Gasoline-naphtha spread widens by \$12.75/mt  
European spot MTBE outright prices surged July 28, tracking gasoline and crude uptrend.

European flat prices climbed \$13/mt to \$1,244.25/mt July 28, in line with higher gasoline prices.

Nevertheless, the MTBE premium over the front-month August gasoline remained steady on the day at \$286.25/mt, as activity during the Platts Market on Close assessment process did not disprove the premium over the August gasoline swap from the day before.

Turkey imported 20,281 mt of MTBE in June, marking an increase of 16% on the month, and of 7.5% year on year, according to the latest Turkstat data, released July 28.

The Netherlands remained net exporter to Turkey in June, shipping around 20,136 mt, up 18% on the month and accounting for 99.3% of total MTBE imports of Turkey in June.

The front-month gasoline-naphtha spread widened by \$12.75/mt day on day to \$329.25/mt, amid favorable blending margins.

Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp gasoline stocks fell 3.5% to 1.351 million mt in the week to July 27, while naphtha inventories rose 16.8% to 270,000 mt, data from Insights Global showed.

Gasoline stocks fell amid prompt front-month backwardation levels touching nine-month highs, S&P Global reported earlier.

Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

### **Platts European MTBE/ETBE Daily Rationale**

Platts assessed the European MTBE FOB ARA premium over the front-month Eurobob gasoline swap at \$286.25/mt July 28, stable from July 27.

No changes to the market fundamentals were heard and activity during the Platts Market on Close assessment process did not disprove the premium over the August gasoline swap from the previous assessment.

Platts assessed ETBE FOB AR at an \$80/mt premium over MTBE, stable on the day, pending fresh market feedback.

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### **US MTBE: Price mostly stable on day**

- Differential steady at 18.33 cents/gal
- Outright price at three-month high

The US MTBE price was mostly stable July 28 as the differential was steady against little-changed gasoline futures.

Platts assessed MTBE at NYMEX September RBOB plus 18.22 cents/gal. The outright price increased 0.61 cents to 307.09 cents/gal, the highest since 310.4 cents/gal on April 17.

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### **Platts US MTBE Daily Rationale**

Platts assessed US Gulf Coast spot MTBE 0.61 cents higher on the day July 28 at 307.09 cents/gal FOB USG.

The MTBE differential to forward-month September RBOB was stable at plus 18.33 cents/gal.

No bids, offers or trades were reported during the Platts Market on Close assessment process.

September RBOB settled 0.61 cents higher at 288.76 cents/gal. Platts is part of S&P Global Commodity Insights.

## Methanol

### **European Methanol: Spot prices continue to rise**

- At least 15,000 mt traded in week to July 28
- Russia remains top exporter to Turkey in June: Turkstat  
The European methanol prices rose July 28, on trading activity amid stable fundamentals.

Platts assessed the FOB Rotterdam five- to 30-day forward methanol spot price at Eur213.75/mt July 28, up Eur1.50/mt on the day.

A deal for 3,000 mt was heard done for August at Eur213.50/mt,

At least 15,000 mt were heard changing hands in the week to July 28.

Turkey imported 57,468 mt of methanol in June, falling 71% on the month and down 2.6% year on year, according to the latest Turkstat data, released July 28.

Russia remained the major exporter to Turkey in June, shipping 33,230 mt, up 7% on the month.

The second-largest exporter of methanol to Turkey was Egypt which sent 20,972 mt, up 4.5% on the month, with both Russia and Egypt together accounting for 94.3% of total Turkish imports in June.

Egypt was followed by Azerbaijan at 3,251 mt, down 70% on the month.

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### **Platts European Methanol Daily Rationale**

Platts assessed the FOB Rotterdam five- to 30-day forward methanol spot price at Eur213.75/mt July 28, up Eur1.50/mt from July 27.

August was assessed up Eur1.50/mt at Eur213.50/mt, taking direction from a corroborated deal heard done for 3,000 mt at Eur213.50/mt.

September was assessed up Eur1.50/mt at Eur215.50/mt, taking direction from August, pending fresh indications.

A structure in contango with a daily increase of Eur0.069/mt was drawn between mid-August and mid-September dates and was extended to all remaining laycans.

Methanol bunker fuel delivered to Rotterdam was assessed at a \$35/mt premium to methanol FOB Rotterdam, stable on the day, pending fresh market feedback.

FOB Rotterdam eMethanol cost was assessed unchanged, at a \$70/mt premium to eMethanol cost at the gate of the facility, pending fresh market feedback.

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## US Methanol: Prices fall 1 cent on the week amid high inventories in Atlantic markets

- Prices steady on the day, 1 cent lower on the week
  - High inventories push exports to Europe further east
- US Gulf spot methanol was assessed steady on the day on July 28, for the third consecutive trading session.

US prices fell 1 cent on the week amid no indications of a change to market fundamentals, a source said.

"I am not seeing any signs this will be picking up in the near term," a second source said.

Ample supply in the US market continues to pressure spot prices as low natural gas prices encourage producers to run their facilities at high operating rates.

"I think we've seen one of the highest operating rate quarters in North America on record this last quarter. The industry operated at well over 90% operating rates, which we've never seen before," Methanex CEO Rich Sumner said in a quarterly earnings call July 27.

Europe has been a key export destination for the US, a net exporter of methanol. Exports to European countries accounted for 43.8% of all US exports for January-May, USITC data shows. However, the strong operating rates for methanol producers has resulted in the Atlantic markets sitting on high inventories, Sumner said. A prolonged heat wave in Europe has also caused concern over the Rhine water levels and the impact that could have on supply to petrochemical markets, sources in Europe said.

"Thankfully the Rhine water levels are better so tonnes can move inland, but tanks in Rotterdam are pretty full so North and South American producers are going to have to push further

east," a third source said.

Prices in China were up \$9/mt on the week to about a \$42 premium over US material. European rose about \$10/mt on the week, approximately \$15 higher than US prices.

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## Platts US Methanol Daily Rationale

Platts assessed August spot methanol at 66 cents/gal FOB USG on July 28, steady on the day.

The assessment came below an August spot offer heard at 69 cents/gal FOB ITC that did not challenge the previous assessment.

Forward month September spot methanol was assessed at 66 cents/gal FOB USG, also steady on the day.

The assessment came within a September bid/offer heard at 58-69 cents/gal FOB ITC.

The assessment maintained the previous market structure.

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## Subscriber Notes

### Platts launches production cost-based renewable methanol prices

Platts, part of S&P Global Commodity Insights, has launched daily production cost-based renewable methanol prices for North America, Europe and Asia, in response to market feedback and maritime industry's need for price valuations for sustainable methanol, effective June 19, 2023.

A consultation note to the industry seeking feedback was published Feb. 8, 2023 here and a decision note on May 31, 2023 here.

The new assessments are on a FOB Rotterdam, FOB USG and FOB Shanghai basis and appear in the following pages and publications: PCA 242, 346, 347, 348, 447, 653, 541, 872, 1160 and

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### Contact Client Services:

E-mail: ci.support@spglobal.com; Americas: +1-800-752-8878; Europe & Middle East: +44-20-7176-6111; Asia Pacific: +65-6530-6430

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Platts Market Center, Solvents Wire, Asian Petrochemicalscan, Europe & Americas Petrochemicalscan and Platts Dimension Pro.

The symbols for the assessments are as follows:

Symbol	Currency	UOM	Description
FRGME00	EUR	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam Eur/mt
FRGME03	EUR	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam Eur/mt MAvg
FRGME04	EUR	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam Eur/mt WAvG
FRGMD00	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam \$/mt
FRGMD03	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam \$/mt MAvg
FRGMD04	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Rotterdam \$/mt WAvG
FGGMD00	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast \$/mt
FGGMD03	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast \$/mt MAvg
FGGMD04	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast \$/mt WAvG
FGGMC00	USC	GAL	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast cents/gal
FGGMC03	USC	GAL	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast cents/gal MAvg
FGGMC04	USC	GAL	eMethanol cost FOB US Gulf Coast cents/gal WAvG
FAGMD00	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Shanghai \$/mt
FAGMD03	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Shanghai \$/mt MAvg
FAGMD04	USD	MT	eMethanol cost FOB Shanghai \$/mt WAvG

**Product Specification:** Product must conform to the International Methanol Producers and Consumers Association (IMPCA) reference specification with a minimum purity of 99.85%, maximum water content of 0.1% by weight and maximum ethanol content of 50 mg/kg.

**Standard Cargo Size:** 500-750 mt for FOB USG; 300 to 1,000 mt for FOB Rotterdam; and 500-1,500 mt for FOB Shanghai

**Timing:** 5-30 days forward

The assessments represent the cost of production, transportation and storage for renewable methanol, underpinned by the Platts daily electricity (IERHM01, IERHP01, AADMN00) and natural gas assessments (IGBAP00, GTFWD00, LJNCG00). The new assessments are aligned with the assumptions of the Process Economics Program (PEP) formula which provides a calculation of production costs for renewable methanol,

produced via electrolysis and direct air-captured carbon dioxide. The PEP report is available for S&P Global Connect subscribers following this link: <https://connect.ihsmarkit.com/>

As spot activity emerges in these nascent markets, Platts intends to launch spot assessments that reflect that activity and invites feedback on the nature and timing of such assessments.

The variable and fixed inputs including capital and operating assumptions such as energy conversion efficiency and plant capacity will be reviewed on an annual basis, or more frequently if required, to ensure they are representative of current market dynamics.

Please send any further feedback to [petchems@spglobal.com](mailto:petchems@spglobal.com) and [pricegroup@spglobal.com](mailto:pricegroup@spglobal.com). For written comments, please provide a clear indication if comments are not intended for publication by Platts for public viewing.

Platts will consider all comments received and will make comments not marked as confidential available to the public upon request.

### **Platts publishes weekly methanol assessments for April 14, April 28 and May 5**

Platts, part of S&P Global Commodity Insights, has published its US/Americas Methanol Weekly Assessments for April 14, April 28 and May 5.

The pages had not been published on the original date due to a technical error that has since been resolved.

The affected pages appear in Platts Petrochemical Alert page 347.

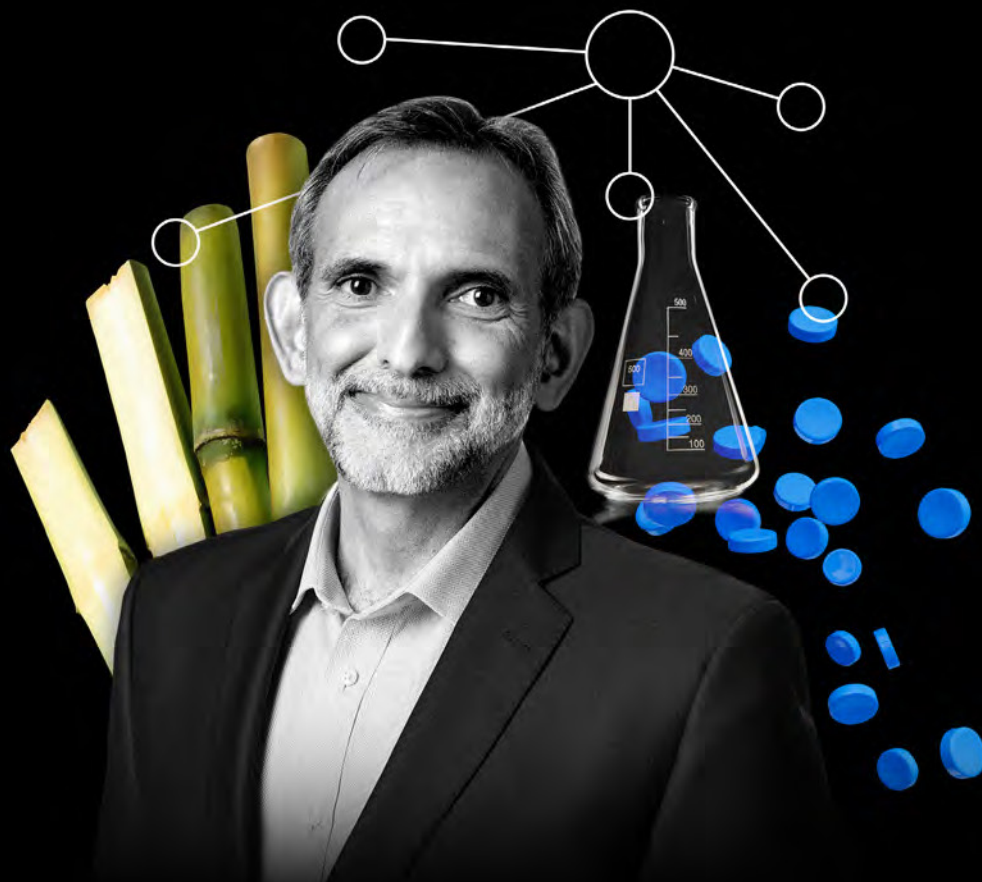
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