

Butadiene

December 2025

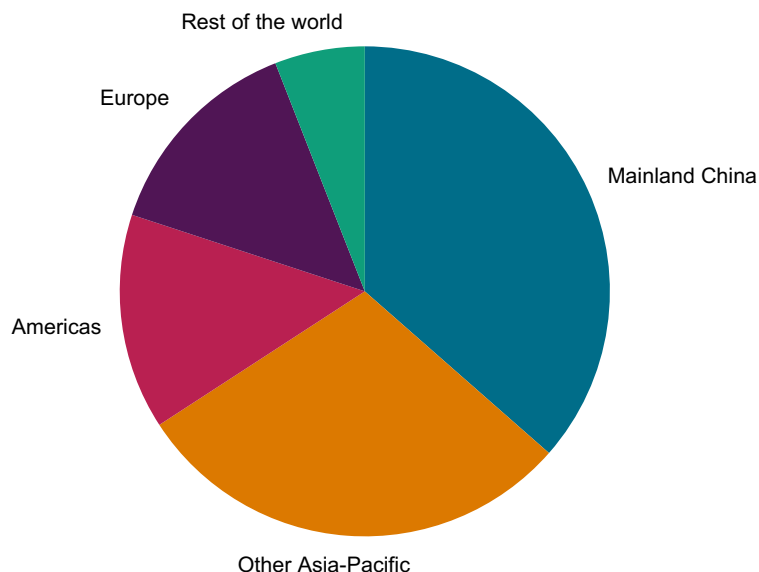
Abstract

1,3-Butadiene, commonly called butadiene, is a conjugated diene used in the production of polymers and as a chemical intermediate for several specialty products. The largest use for butadiene is in the production of synthetic elastomers including polybutadiene rubber (PBR) and styrene-butadiene rubber (SBR), both of which are primarily consumed in the manufacture of tires and auto parts. Other elastomer applications include nitrile rubber hoses, surgical gloves, mechanical belts, carpet backing, footwear and neoprene products. Butadiene is also copolymerized into plastics, the largest being acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene (ABS) resins, which are used in various markets such as appliances and the automotive industry.

Butadiene is primarily generated as a coproduct in the production of ethylene. It is extracted from crude C₄ cut after steam cracking operations. The largest butadiene yields are obtained when cracking heavier feeds such as naphtha and gasoil. Butadiene consumption is affected by various dynamics, including changes in the production of ethylene, fluctuations in energy markets, mobility trends, natural rubber markets and general economic cycles.

The following chart shows world consumption of butadiene:

World consumption of butadiene — 2024



Data compiled March 4, 2025.

Source: S&P Global Energy.

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Although butadiene consumption increased steadily in 2014–19, the downturn in the automotive industry followed by the COVID-19 pandemic and its effects on transportation activities led to a sharp market decline in 2020. During 2021–24, the global butadiene market recovered, primarily driven by rising demand in mainland China for the production of commodity rubbers and ABS resins. In 2024, butadiene demand was still dominated by Eastern Asia (including mainland China), followed by Europe and North America. Eastern Asia has become a major manufacturing center for cars and tires, leading to fast regional butadiene market development.

The short-term future of butadiene production and consumption will depend largely on the developments in the automotive sector and on economic developments particularly in emerging regions. This report provides an insight into the global markets for butadiene, including producers, capacity, process, demand by application and trade.

For more detailed information, see the table of contents, shown below.

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook — *Butadiene* is the comprehensive and trusted guide for anyone seeking information on this industry. This latest report details global and regional information, including:



Global summary;
regional coverage



Producers with
annual capacities
and plant sites



Production figures
and trends



Consumption and
forecasts by end use
application



Manufacturing
processes and
environmental issues



Trade – imports
and exports

Key benefits

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook — *Butadiene* has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers and organizations, and leading representatives from the industry in combination with S&P Global's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence and expert insights into industry dynamics, trade and economics.

This report can help you:

- Identify trends and driving forces influencing chemical markets
- Forecast and plan for future demand
- Understand the impact of competing materials
- Identify and evaluate potential customers and competitors
- Evaluate producers
- Track changing prices and trade movements
- Analyze the impact of feedstocks, regulations and other factors on chemical profitability

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