

Methyl Ethyl Ketone (MEK)

June 2025

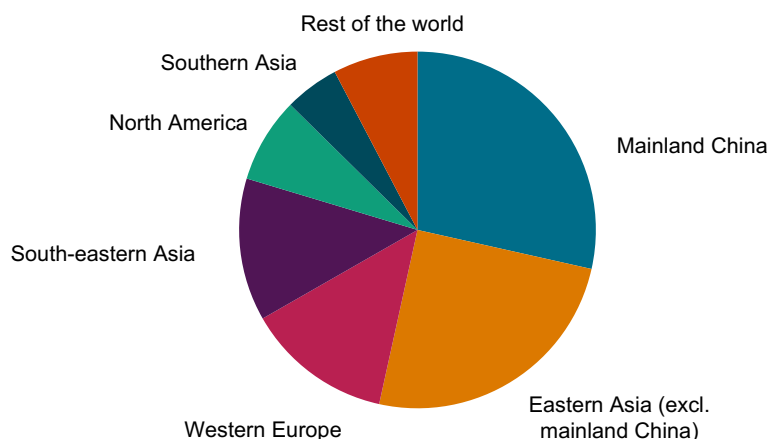
Abstract

Methyl ethyl ketone (also known as MEK or 2-butanone) is a powerful, commercially important industrial solvent for many substances, especially resinous materials, and has a wide variety of applications, including use in solvent-based adhesives, polyurethane slurry for synthetic leather, paints and coatings, printing inks and magnetic tapes, as well as use as a dewaxing agent during the refining of lube oils, a degreaser for metal surfaces and electronic devices, and a raw material for manufacturing methyl ethyl ketone oxime.

World MEK consumption is driven by demand in Asia, which accounts for more than 70% of the total consumption in 2025; mainland China is the major market. World MEK consumption is forecast to grow at 2%-3% per year during 2025–30. The strongest growth will be seen in India and South-eastern Asia, mainly driven by Vietnam. MEK consumption in the developed regions will increase only modestly during the forecast period. The slower world consumption growth (compared with previous years) reflects a slowing recovery of the global economy in addition to the competition from other solvents, and technology substitution in the coatings market, as powder and waterborne technologies are growing at the expense of their solvent-based counterparts.

The following pie chart shows world consumption of methyl ethyl ketone by region in 2025:

World consumption of methyl ethyl ketone — 2025



Data compiled April 20, 2025.
Source: S&P Global Commodity Insights.
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In 2025, paints and coatings continue to consume the majority of MEK, and little change in the world MEK market is expected through 2030. There are slight regional variations, however. Adhesives make up the second-largest share of the MEK market and synthetic leather held the third place in 2025.

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

S&P Global's Chemical Economics Handbook – Methyl Ethyl Ketone 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 – Methyl Ethyl Ketone has been compiled using primary interviews with key suppliers, organizations and leading representatives from the industry in combination with S&P Global's unparalleled access to upstream and downstream market intelligence, 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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