Paraffin waxes are classified according to oil content, melting point, and the amount of processing put in. At the simplest level, Slack Wax, a by-product of base oil refining, is the feedstock from which different grades of more sophisticated waxes are produced. Fully-refined waxes are white, odourless and tasteless, and typically have less than 1% oil content. They are widely used for candle making and in the packaging industry as wax coatings for paper, film and foil substrates including corrugated board, cups and container. Waxes are marketed in either liquid or solid state.

Common uses are for corrugated boxes, waxed papers, frozen food cartons and wrappers, paper cups, candles, cosmetics, rubber antioxidants, lumber end seal, adhesives, protective coatings, food additives, cheese dipping, crayons, moisture barriers, polishes, modelling clay, plus many others.

ICIS pricing quotes Paraffin Wax in Europe, Asia-Pacific and the US Gulf.

Frequency:
Published weekly on Wednesdays

Paraffin Wax (EUROPE)

Weekly Price Assessments:

Paraffin Wax Domestic Prices

Melt Point 52/54C
- FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to USD/TONNE)

Melt Point 56/58C
- FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to USD/TONNE)

Melt Point 56/58C Candle Grade
- FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to USD/TONNE)

Melt Point 60/62C
- FD NWE (EUR/MT & conversion to USD/TONNE)
Paraffin Wax Spot Prices (Chinese Origin)

- CIF NWE (USD/Tonne)

Semi Refined Paraffin Wax Spot Prices

- CPT Poland/Belarus border (EUR/Tonne)

Paraffin Wax (ASIA-PACIFIC)

Weekly Price Assessments:

Bulk Liquid Wax Spot Prices

Melt Points 58/60C,

- FOB CHINA MAIN PORT Fully-Refined (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Slab (Solid) Wax Spot Prices

Melt Points 58/60C

- FOB CHINA MAIN PORT Fully-Refined (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)
- FOB CHINA MAIN PORT Semi-Refined (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Import Spot Prices

Melt Points 58/60C,

- CFR S.E.ASIA MAIN PORT Fully-Refined Slab
- CFR S.E.ASIA MAIN PORT Semi-Refined Slab
- CFR INDIA Fully-Refined Slab
- CFR INDIA Semi-Refined Slab

Feedstock (Typical oil content 10-15%)

- FOB ASIA MAIN PORT Slackwax Bulk Liquid
Paraffin Wax (US GULF)

Weekly Price assessments:

Paraffin Wax Spot Prices

*Fully-refined liquid wax melt point 125F (52C) to 140F (60C)*

- FOB USG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

*Fully-refined liquid wax melt point 150F+ (65C+)*

- FOB USG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

Slackwax Bulk Liquid

- FOB USG (USD/MT & conversion to US CTS/LB)

General Information:

Assessment window: Price assessments are based on information supplied by market participants through the week up to close of business on Wednesdays at 1700 hours in London, Singapore and Houston.

Specification: In the US, ICIS pricing assesses both fully refined liquid paraffin wax with a 52-60°C melting point range, and fully refined liquid paraffin wax with a melting point range above 65°C. Fully refined wax has an oil content below 0.5%. US spot prices for bulk liquid slackwax have an oil content range of 1.5% to 10%. In Asia, fully refined wax has an oil content of around 0.5%, while semi-refined wax has an oil content of about 1.5%.

In Europe, domestic prices are for fully-refined liquid wax with melt points ranging from 52-62°C, and oil content typically below 1%. The Candle Grade domestic reference reflects the higher quotes common within the candle industry compared with non-candle makers. Candle-grade wax, which is most commonly used to produce indoor candles complying with the RAL industry quality assurance standard, typically has an oil content of up to 0.7%.

The CPT Poland/Belarus border quote is for semi-refined liquid paraffin wax of oil content less than 5%, and most commonly for melt points ranging from 52-54°C.

Timing: Cargoes loading or delivered four-six weeks forward from the date of publication.
Terms: 30-60 days after bill of lading date, and in Asia L/C at sight.

**Standard cargo size:** Generally bulk liquid shipments are around 3,000-5,000 tonnes; slab wax shipments up to 100 tonnes. Price assessments in the US are based on domestic bulk sales in 7,000 gal tank trucks up to 25,000 gal railcars. In Europe, ICIS assessments are focused on the following volume sizes: domestic market, by trucks in lots of 20-22 tonnes; semi-refined Poland/Belarus border market, by rail in 50-55 tonne lots; Chinese slab wax, in container lots upwards of around 20 tonnes; Chinese liquid wax in cargoes upwards of 1,000 tonnes.

**Assessment basis:**

The report market commentaries detail transactions or offers/bids within the Asia-Pacific region and trade flows from Asia to Europe or the US.

In Europe, the domestic prices are assessed on a weekly basis, which is also reflected in weekly deltas. The report also includes details on Chinese imported spot material. Chinese spot prices include liquid and slab product. Chinese slab wax, which is more actively traded in Europe, enjoys a premium over liquid wax because of the extra processing involved and the fact it is traded in smaller quantities.

Chinese refineries are the world’s largest suppliers due to the high wax content of their crude feedstock. Bulk liquid exports move from China to the US and Europe. Solid paraffin wax in the form of slabs is exported to the rest of the world. As such, the price tables and the text of the Asia-Pacific report focus on Chinese exports. However, details of transactions, bids/offers and demand and supply fundamentals of other wax origins, like Taiwanese, Japanese or Indonesian wax, are also mentioned in the text of the report.

The US report regularly includes pricing information for Latin America, particularly Asian wax being imported into the region.

15 November 2012