

Benzene Asia Price Forecast Methodology

6 October 2015



The ICIS Benzene Asia price forecast report (including styrene) is a brief monthly publication that can be accessed via the Dashboard.

- It provides a monthly forecast of the average benzene spot prices in northeast Asia, extending the full market range historical monthly average FOB Korea spot prices reported in the ICIS pricing report edited by Daphne Ho.
- It provides a monthly forecast of the average styrene spot prices in northeast Asia, extending the full market range historical monthly average CFR NE Asia spot prices reported in the ICIS pricing report edited by Clive Ong.
- It provides a price forecast for the following month and the next eleven months in the future, i.e. twelve months in total.
- The forecast is made by aromatics analyst Sashikant Madgula, based in the ICIS office in Singapore, with support from Rob Peacock (aromatics consultant), Stefano Zehnder (feedstocks) and Ian Elway (assumptions and methodology).
- Data is compiled in an ongoing process during the prior month (Month -1) and the first week of a month (Month 0) so that a report can be produced and published in the second full week of Month 0 covering the period Month 0 to Month 11.
- Prices are published in dollars.

Elements within the benzene price forecast can include:

- Oil and naphtha price forecasts in Asia and globally.
- Supply-demand data for Asian benzene including imports, exports and plant shutdowns.
- Benzene pricing in North America and Europe.
- Arbitrage opportunities for benzene between geographical regions based on (a) freight rates, (b) exchange rates, (c) new manufacturing units.
- Downstream benzene derivative demand forecasts.
- Movement of spot prices and spot margins.
- Benzene production margins.
- Where information is provided from a third party, this data is attributed in a footnote.

Elements within the styrene price forecast can include:

- Oil and naphtha price forecasts in Asia and globally.
- Supply-demand data for Asian styrene including imports, exports and plant shutdowns.
- Styrene pricing in North America and Europe.
- Arbitrage opportunities for styrene between geographical regions based on (a) freight rates, (b) exchange rates, (c) new manufacturing units.
- Downstream styrene derivative demand forecasts.
- Movement of spot prices and spot margins.
- Styrene production margins.
- Where information is provided from a third party, this data is attributed in a footnote.

ICIS compliance protocols:

- a) The information gathered in the process of making this ICIS price forecast does not flow back to the ICIS price reporting editorial staff.
- b) Confidential information that is gathered by ICIS editorial staff in the process of price reporting is not permitted to be included in the ICIS benzene or styrene price forecasting process.