CIREC monthly NEWS

Chemical industry reporting for Central and South East Europe
Supplemented by developments in Russia & neighbouring states

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Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Slovakia
South East Europe & Baltic States
Eurasia Russia-Ukraine-Belarus-Kazakhstan-Uzbekistan-Azerbaijan

Product coverage including supply chains from olefins and aromatics to derivatives, organic chemicals, methanol and intermediates

Issue No: 416, 23 July 2025

Main points from this issue

Grupa Azoty Polyolefins-Orlen
After an extended timeline of negotiations between Orlen and Grupa Azoty, Orlen has not decided to add to its existing share of 17.5% in Grupa Azoty Polyolefins. For Grupa Azoty this is a set-back as it hoped that Orten might take a majority stake in an effort to offset some of the debt problems facing the group. The decision has resulted in a sharp drop in Grupa Azoty's share price.

Polish polyethylene market
Despite the fall in polyethylene production at Plock in the five months this year the market balance increased from 568,500 tons in January to May 2024 to 592,500 tons. Export volumes have been similar this year, whilst imports increased by around 23,000 tons. The outlook for polyethylene consumption has shown some tentative signs of improvement in 2025, although demand for recycled polyethylene is showing faster growth than virgin product.

Czech butadiene exports Jan-May 2025
The Czech Republic exported 49,103 tons of butadiene rubber in January to May this year against 36,375 tons in the same period in 2024. Average prices for butadiene rubber rose from €1561.2 per ton to €1930.9 per ton. Besides exports the Czech Republic also imported 11,594 tons of butadiene rubber in January to May 2025, sourced largely from Germany and the US.

Russian chemical production Jan-May 2025
Prospects of a recession in the Russian economy appear to be widening, which is only at this stage partially reflected in the production data for petrochemicals. Numerous products are showing declines in output in the first five months this year as the some of the problems come from drone-related disruptions, trade and technology sanctions, and increasing problems from payment arrears. These problems are only expected to grow.

Russian production of ethylene Jan-May 2025
Russian ethylene production totalled 1.926 million tons in the first five months in 2025 against 2.013 million tons in the same period in 2024. All regions saw lower production. ZapSibNeftekhim at Tobolsk reduced production from 679,436 tons in January to May last year to 626,737 tons in January to May 2025. Production in the Volga region amounted to 953,758 tons in January to May versus 959,948 tons in the same period in 2024.

Drone attack on Shchekinoazot July 2025
Russia's largest methanol producer Shchekinoazot was struck by at least four drones on 17 July, forcing most of the complex to stop production. The roof of a furnace on the methanol production line was damaged, but it is not clear if the methanol unit will be out of action longer than just a short period.

Russian synthetic rubber producers' involvement in defence sector
Synthetic rubber plants have become intertwined in Russia's war effort against Ukraine in supplying products for the military sector. The rubber industry is seeing increased monitoring from the Kremlin, and companies do not have the option of declining interest. Issues considered by the Kremlin includes organising the production of rubber and special polymer materials for the military-industrial complex. The problem for the synthetic rubber plants is that they become legitimate targets for Ukrainian drones.

CENTRAL and SOUTH EAST EUROPE

Czech Crude Imports (million tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Azerbaijan	1194.4	1072.3
Kazakhstan	456.7	428.7
Russia	526.9	1099.3
Norway	149.7	0.0
Saudi Arabia	111.6	0.0
Total	2524.9	2600.3
Av Price € per ton	444.8	595.9

Czech crude imports Jan-May 2025

The Czech Republic officially announced in April that it had ended its 60-year dependence on Russian oil. It marks the end of a process that has been ongoing since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Previously, the Czech Republic was dependent solely on the Druzhba pipeline which has now been replaced by TAL.

Imports of Russian crude into the Czech Republic dropped from 1.099 million tons in the first five months in 2024 to 526,900 tons in the same period this year. May imports from Russia amounted to zero, whilst new sources appeared from Norway and Saudi Arabia. Azerbaijan increased crude shipments to the Czech Republic to 1.195 tons against 1.072 million tons.

Hungarian Crude Imports (kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Croatia	127.4	0.0
Iraq	0.0	96.1
Russia	2,196.6	1,702.9
Others	57.1	241.5
Total	2,381.0	1,846.5
Av Price € per ton	443.5	514.1

Hungarian crude imports Jan-May 2025

Hungary imported a total of 2.381 million tons of crude from Russia in the first five months in 2025 against 1.846 million tons in 2024. Crude imports into Hungary rose from 1.847 million tons in the first five months last year to 2.381 million tons. Croatia provided a reasonable volume in May and this trend is expected to continue in 2025. MOL Group has recently taken delivery of a crude cargo from Azerbaijan, as part of an agreement signed earlier this year aimed at boosting imports of Azeri crude from the BP-operated Shah Deniz offshore field. The crude oil was delivered to the Omisalj terminal having departed from the Ceyhan terminal in Turkey.

Other Druzhba news

Ukratransnafta restarted the transit of oil to European consumers in early July, using the Druzhba pipeline. This became possible after MOL conducted additional analysis of the oil currently held in the pipeline and confirmed their readiness to accept it. MOL estimates that if it stopped using Russian oil, it would cost Hungary an extra €450-540 million and claims that there is no guarantee that the Hungarian and Slovakian refineries would be able to operate without Russian oil. At the same time Hungary benefits from the new price cap imposed as part of the eighteenth package of EU sanctions. The EU is lowering the price cap for crude oil from $60 to $47.6 per barrel, to align it with current global oil prices. It is also introducing an automatic and dynamic mechanism to modify the oil price cap and ensure that this price cap is effective.

Tengizchevroil (TCO) in West Kazakhstan exported its first oil to Germany in June via the Druzhba pipeline, supplying a shipment of 100,000 tons. TCO is owned by Chevron with a 50% stake, ExxonMobil with 25%, KazMunayGaz with 20%, and Lukoil with 5%. Tengiz is Kazakhstan's largest oilfield and the use of the Druzhba could be an important development for European energy. Kazakhstan plans to export 1.5 million tonnes of oil to Germany in 2025, mirroring the 2024 target. In 2023, the volume reached 993,000 tonnes

Polish Crude Imports (kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Saudi Arabia	5041.0	5,303.5
Nigeria	512.5	645.3
Norway	2856.4	2,965.1
US	562.5	370.8
UK	381.3	611.8
Others	221.4	0.1
Total	10,194	11,059.2
Av Price € per ton	560.0	539.7

Polish crude imports Jan-May 2025

From the total of 10.194 million tons of crude imported into Poland in the first five months this year, supplies from Saudi Arabia totalled 5.041 million tons followed by Norway which provided 2.856 million tons. Other supplies came from the US, UK, Nigeria and Guyana.

Central European Olefin Production & Trade

Polish Petrochemical Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Ethylene	125.5	152.2
Propylene	166.1	168.8
Butadiene	24.378	24.585
Toluene	8.518	0.016
Phenol	16.561	17.148
Polyethylene	124.1	132.1
PVC	41.0	97.8
Polypropylene	183.1	143.0

Polish petrochemical production Jan-May 2025

Ethylene production in Poland dropped from 152,200 tons in January to May last year to 125,500 tons in January to May 2025 as Orlen reduced cracker utilisation. Polish propylene production dropped slightly from 168,800 tons to 166,100 tons.

Butadiene production at Plock dropped marginally to 24,378 tons from 24,585 tons last year. Nearly all of the butadiene produced at Plock is consumed by Synthos. In other areas of petrochemical production phenol dropped slightly from 17,148 tons to 16,561 tons, whilst the resumption of toluene production meant that volumes rose from only 16 tons in the first five months last year to 8,518 tons in 2025.

In the plastics sector polyethylene production in Poland amounted to 124,100 tons in January to May 2025 versus 132,100 tons in January to May 2024. By contrast, polypropylene production increased from 143,600 tons to 183,100 tons due to additional output from the Police plant. PVC production at Wloclawek decreased from 97,800 tons to 41,300 tons.

Polish Propylene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Bulgaria	0.000	1.005
Croatia	2.066	0.000
Czech R	0.002	4.162
Germany	32.674	39.939
Hungary	3.103	0.000
Others	1.010	0.935
Total	38.854	46.041
Av price	744.7	857.7

Orlen decides taking over Polimery Police

After an extended timeline of negotiations between Orlen and Grupa Azoty, Orlen has not decided to add to its existing share of 17.5% in Grupa Azoty Polyolefins. Challenges in the European petrochemical market involving energy costs and demand represent two of the underlying causes. Grupa Azoty was at minimum hoping for Orlen to become the majority stakeholder.

Orlen's current focus has been consolidating its position in renewables and downstream energy assets. This shift aligns with broader trends in European energy markets, where companies are prioritizing low-carbon investments over traditional petrochemicals. Technical challenges at Grupa Azoty's Polimery Police facility, particularly the underperforming PDH unit, may have deterred Orlen. Persistent operational disruptions could moreover signal higher-than-expected costs for maintenance or restructuring, making the asset less attractive.

Polish propylene imports, Jan-May 2025

Poland imported 38,854 tons of propylene in January to May this year against 46,041 tons in the same period in 2024. At the same time Poland exported 8,379 tons of propylene, supplied by Grupa Azoty Polyolefins from the Polimery Police plant. In the first five months this year Germany was the main supplier to Poland, shipping 32,674 tons against 39,939 tons in January to May 2024. Average import prices for propylene imports into Poland increased from €829.3 per ton to €960.4 in January to May 2025.

Polish Butadiene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Austria	15.819	15.815
Germany	17.314	9.110
Hungary	13.331	17.429
Others	2.206	0.043
Total	47.762	42.397
Av € per ton	930.8	798.1

Polish butadiene imports, Jan-May 2025

Butadiene import prices for Poland rose from €798.1 per ton on average in the five months last year to €930.8 in January to May 2025, with import volumes rising from 42,397 tons to 47,762 tons. Synthos is the major importer of butadiene in Poland.

Germany was the largest supplier in the five months this year, shipping 17,331 tons against 9,110 tons in 2024. The increase in butadiene imports has been driven primarily by the increase in synthetic rubber production at Oswiecim.

Hungarian Propylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	38.496	46.383
Av € per ton	1040.4	1047.9

Hungarian Butadiene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	19.032	27.840
Av € per ton	832.3	802.3

Hungarian propylene and butadiene imports, Jan-May 2025

Exports of propylene from Hungary amounted to 38,496 tons in January to May 2025 against 46,383 tons in 2024. Shipments from MOL's plant at Tiszaujvaros to Slovnaft in Slovakia dropped from 45,347 tons to 28,678 tons. Prices averaged €1040.4 per ton in the first five months this year, down slightly against €1047.9 per ton in the same period in 2024.

Hungarian butadiene exports dropped to 19,032 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 27,840 tons in the same period in 2024. Shipments into Poland dropped from 17,432 tons in January to May 2024 to 16,112 tons whilst exports to Germany dropped to zero from 6,139 tons in the same period in 2024. Average prices for Hungarian butadiene exports increased to €832.3 per ton versus €802.3 in 2024.

Czech Olefin Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Ethylene	1.814	0.951
Propylene	27.421	16.132
Butadiene	33.240	18.059

Czech Imports of Propylene (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Germany	16.251	14.079
Poland	8.380	2.046
Others	2.014	0.008
Total	28,197	16.132
Av € per ton	913.0	853.1

Czech olefin monomer trade, Jan-May 2025

Czech propylene imports amounted to 27,421 tons in January to May 2025 against 16,132 tons in January to May last year. Imports came from Germany and Poland. Shipments from Poland increased to 8,380 tons in the first five months this year from 2,046 tons last year, which was mainly due to the extra availability from the Polimery Police plant. Butadiene imports amounted to 33,240 tons in January to May, rising from 18,059 tons last year.

Ethylene exports from the Czech Republic amounted to 5,870 tons in the first five months this year, up from 4,696 tons in 2024 whilst propylene dropped from 5,388 tons to just 77 tons.

Orlen Unipetrol suffered a power outage at the refinery and petrochemical plant at Litvinov on 4 July which interrupted production for several days. The company announced a force majeure event, but the disruption was minor in the end. This follows a planned turnaround at Litvinov for two months which started in April.

Hungarian styrene imports (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	25,533	27,923
Av € per ton	1313.8	1435.1

Polish Styrene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Belgium	10.228	14.295
Czech Republic	0.726	6.897
Finland	3.747	0.309
Netherlands	7.508	16.992
Germany	5.766	3.394
Saudi Arabia	10.563	7.578
US	2.713	4.187
Total	41.251	53.651
Av € per ton	1175.8	1371.0

Central European styrene market Jan-May 2025

Styrene imports into Hungary totalled 25,533 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 27,923 tons in the same period in 2024. Italy accounted for 23,276 tons of styrene imports into Hungary which was down from 25,022 tons in 2024. Prices for styrene imports into Hungary amounted to €1313.8 per ton against €1435.1 per ton in 2024.

Styrene imports into Poland totalled 41,251 tons in the period January to May 2025 against 53,651 tons in the same period in 2024. The largest supplier was Saudi Arabia which shipped 10,563 tons against 7,578 tons in the same five months last year. Belgium reduced shipments to Poland from 14,295 tons in the five months last year to 10,228 tons this year. Average prices for imports into Poland dropped from €1371.0 per ton in the five months last year to €1175.8 ton this year.

Czech Styrene Imports		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	17.013	7.565
Av € per ton	1244.8	1314.8

Styrene imports into the Czech Republic amounted to 17,013 tons in the first five months in 2025, of which the Netherlands supplied 8,678 tons. Styrene is used by Synthos at Kralupy to produce different grades of synthetic rubber.

Central European Polyolefin Trade

Czech Polyethylene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
LDPE	45.094	45.571
LLDPE	9.288	9.541
HDPE	50.638	51.157
EVA	6.372	4.748
Other	14.033	17.887
Total	125.424	128.903
Av € per ton	1543.5	1501.4

Czech Polyethylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
LDPE	13.705	15.386
LLDPE	3.008	2.373
HDPE	117.822	143.908
EVA	1.692	1.612
Other	5.766	6.080
Total	141.992	169.359
Av € per ton	1402.6	1392.2

Czech polyethylene trade Jan-May 2025

For imports of all forms of polyethylene, Czech inward shipments amounted to 125,424 tons in January to May 2025 against 128,903 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices rose from €1501.4 per ton to €1543.5 per ton. Germany was the largest source of polyethylene imports, followed by the Netherlands and Belgium.

Polyethylene exports from the Czech Republic amounted to 141,992 tons in the first five months measured against 169,359 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices increased from €1392.2 per ton to €1402.6 per ton in this year.

HDPE export shipments from Litvinov comprised 117,822 tons in the first five months against 143,908 tons in the same period last year. Germany was the largest destination for Czech HDPE supplied from Litvinov. Other important markets for Czech polyethylene exports include Poland, Italy and Belgium.

Polish Polyethylene Supply/Demand Balance (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Production	124.1	132.1
Exports	130.0	131.2
Imports	598.2	567.6
Market Balance	592.3	568.5

Polish Polyethylene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
LDPE	145.870	145.056
LLDPE	105.531	89.326
HDPE	188.309	179.530
EVA	9.073	9.049
EAO	128.487	120.001
Others	20.965	24.678
Total	598.235	567.640
Av € per ton	1279.4	1310.6

Polish Polyethylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
LDPE	26.830	22.228
LLDPE	7.996	11.372
HDPE	83.870	81.081
EVA	0.739	1.590
EAO	5.789	12.041
Other	4.822	2.910
Total	130.047	131.222
€ per ton	1187.6	1143.4

Polish polyethylene trade Jan-May 2025

Despite the fall in polyethylene production at Plock in the five months this year the market balance increased from 568,500 tons in January to May 2024 to 592,500 tons. Export volumes have been similar this year, whilst imports increased by around 23,000 tons. The outlook for polyethylene consumption has shown some tentative signs of improvement in 2025, although demand for recycled polyethylene is showing faster growth than virgin product.

Polish imports of polyethylene totalled 598,325 tons in January to May 2025 against 567,640 tons in the same period in 2024, with average prices falling from €1310.6 per ton to €1279.4 per ton. In addition to the European suppliers to Poland, Saudi Arabia and the US provided 65,260 tons and 75,371 tons respectively in the five months.

HDPE is the largest category of imported polyethylene into Poland, amounting to 188,309 tons in January to May 2025 versus 179,530 tons in January to May 2024. Germany is the largest supplier of HDPE to the Polish market.

LLDPE imports rose from 89,326 tons in January to May last year to 105,531 tons in the corresponding period in 2025. Most of the LLDPE imports were sourced mostly from West Europe, including France, the Netherlands and Germany. LDPE imports increased to 145,870 tons versus 145,056 tons in January to May last year. Imports from ethylene alpha olefins increased to 120,001 tons against 128,487 tons.

Polish polyethylene exports amounted to 130,047 tons in January to May this year, slightly down from 131,222 tons in the first five months in 2024. A total of 48,370 tons was exported to Germany in the five months and was the largest destination. Average prices for polyethylene exports from Poland increased in the five months to €1187.6 per ton versus €1143.4 per ton in the same period in 2024. Exports of HDPE from Poland amounted to 83,870 tons in the five months slightly down from 81,081 tons last year whilst LDPE exports rose from 22,228 tons to 26,830 tons. Exports of ethylene alpha olefins amounted to 5,789 tons.

Hungarian Polyethylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
LLDPE	17.512	2.241
LDPE	18.243	30.461
HDPE	93.720	93.799
Total	132.417	133.841
Av € per ton	1216.4	1241.9

Hungarian polyethylene trade Jan-May 2025

Hungarian polyethylene exports amounted to 132,417 tons in January to May this year against 133,841 tons in 2024, whilst average prices dropped from €1241.9 per ton to €1216.4 per ton. Revenues for polyethylene exports in January to May declined slightly from €166.216 million in 2024 to €161.072 million in 2025.

Hungarian Polyethylene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
LLDPE	10.751	10.570
LDPE	14.070	18.458
HDPE	30.488	37.659
EAO	7.476	5.048
EVA	2.675	2.710
Other	3.947	13.612
Total	69.407	86.617
Av € per ton	1567.5	1596.1

In terms of category HDPE exports amounted to 93,720 tons in the first five months in January to May 2025 whilst LDPE exports dropped from 30,461 tons to 18,243 tons.

Hungary remains a net exporter of LDPE and HDPE, whilst continues to be a net importer of LLDPE and ethylene copolymers. Imports of all grades of polyethylene into Hungary amounted to 69,407 tons in January to May this year against 86,617 tons in 2024. Hungarian import prices for polyethylene decreased from €1596.1 per ton to €1567.5 in 2025. The largest category of polyethylene imports comprised HDPE, which dropped from 37,659 tons to 30,488 tons.

Polish PP Supply/Demand Balance (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Production	183.1	143
Exports	134.0	154.4
Imports	397.7	391.2
Market Balance	446.8	379.8

Polish PP Trade Jan-May 2025

Polypropylene consumption in Poland amounted to 446,800 tons in the five months against 379,800 tons in the same period last year. Polish polypropylene imports, including homo grade and copolymers, amounted to 397,698 tons in the five months against 391,206 tons last year, with prices rising from €1435.3 per ton to €1453.4 per ton.

Polish Polypropylene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Category	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
PP homo	255.530	244.934
Polyisobutylene	1.088	1.296
Propylene copolymers	131.642	134.919
Other	9.438	10.057
Total	397.698	391.206
Av € per ton	1453.4	1435.3

Homo grade polypropylene imports rose from 244,934 tons in January to May last year to 255,530 tons, whilst copolymer imports dropped from 134,919 tons to 131,642 tons. Total import costs of propylene polymers were slightly higher, amounting to €577.978 million against €560.284 million in 2024. In terms of pricing, imports into Poland usually face a higher premium than exports primarily due to the volumes of propylene copolymers than enter the country.

Polish Polypropylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Category	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
PP homo	95.317	113.879
Polyisobutylene	0.242	0.852
Propylene copolymers	33.494	35.314
Other	4.907	4.342
Total	133.959	154.387
Av € per ton	1327.8	1672.3

Exports of homo polymer grade polypropylene from Poland amounted to 95,317 tons in January to May against 113,879 tons last year. Homo polymer grades comprised the main category of Polish polypropylene exports, where Germany was the largest destination. Exports of all grades of polypropylene amounted to 133,959 tons in January to May 2025 against 154,387 tons in January to May last year. Prices of Polish exports dropped to €1327.8 per ton from €1672.3.

Orlen decides against buying shares in Grupa Azoty Polyolefins

Despite deciding against buying shares in Grupa Azoty Polyolefins, Orlen still intends to talk about possible cooperation with Grupa Azoty around Polimery Police. After many months of assessment Orlen has decided against taking over the project. The official announcement of this information resulted in a relatively sharp decline in the stock market valuation of Grupa Azoty due to its multi-billion debt. This is largely due to the construction of Polimery Police, and the lack of prospects for the sale of the project does not bode well for the chemical group's finances.

Due to its difficult financial situation, Grupa Azoty would be happy to sell part or even all of the project to Orlen. The problem is that Orlen is not considering a greater ownership involvement in Grupa Azoty Polyolefins, which owns the Polimery Police project. Orlen may think it can extract some benefits from Azoty as a competitor rather than a partner.

The potential abandonment of Orlen's acquisition of Grupa Azoty's polyolefins stake marks a pivotal moment for Poland's petrochemical sector and raises critical questions about strategic divestitures in an uncertain macroeconomic environment. While formal confirmation of Orlen's withdrawal remains pending, the repeated delays in negotiations and shifting market dynamics suggest a recalibration of priorities that could reshape competition in polyolefins, pricing trajectories, and investor confidence in regional energy conglomerates.

Hungarian Polypropylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
PP homo	52.103	54.922
Propylene copolymers	45.743	34.304
Others	2.915	10.862
Total	100.761	100.438
Av € per ton	1327.2	1339.3

Hungarian polypropylene trade Jan-May 2025

Exports of all forms of polypropylene from Hungary amounted to 100,761 tons in January to May 2025 versus 100,438 tons in the same period in 2024, with average prices adjusting to €1327.2 per ton from €1339.3. Homo-grade PP provides the main category of Hungarian polypropylene exports, amounting to 52,103 tons in the first five months versus 54,922 tons in 2024. The major destinations for Hungarian polypropylene exports included Poland, Italy and Romania.

Hungarian Polypropylene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
PP homo	57.527	59.904
Propylene copolymers	18.105	22.638
Others	5.479	9.471
Total	81.110	92.014
Av € per ton	1338.3	1369.5

For imports of all forms of polypropylene, Hungarian inward shipments dropped to 81,110 tons in January to May 2025 from 92,014 tons in 2024, with average prices dropping from €1369.5 per ton to €1338.3 per ton. Imports of propylene copolymers dropped from 22,638 tons to 18,105 tons whilst homo grade polypropylene imports dropped from 57,527 tons to 59,904 tons.

Czech Polypropylene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
PP Homo	97.527	99.422
Propylene Copolymers	21.193	20.422
Other	2.132	2.587
Total	120.852	122.431
Av € per ton	1512.7	1462.8
Czech polypropylene imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
PP Homo	114.069	123.058
Propylene Copolymers	94.814	91.979
Other	4.992	7.136
Total	213.875	222.173
Av € per ton	1535.8	1570.6

Czech polypropylene trade Jan-May 2025

Exports of all forms of polypropylene from the Czech Republic amounted to 120,852 tons in the first five months versus 122,431 tons in January to May 2024, with average prices rising from €1462.8 per ton to €1512.7 per ton. Homo-grade PP provides the main category of Czech polypropylene exports, amounting to 99,422 tons in January to May versus 97,527 tons in January to May 2024.

For imports of all forms of polypropylene, Czech inward shipments amounted to 213,875 tons in January to May 2025 from 222,173 tons in January to May 2024, with average prices dropping very slightly from €1570.6 per ton to €1535.8 per ton. Imports of propylene copolymers increased from 91,979 tons to 94,814 tons whilst homo grade polypropylene imports dropped from 123,058 tons to 114,069 tons.

Central European Rubber Markets

Czech butadiene rubber exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Total	49.103	36.375
Revenues €	94.876	75.550
Av € per ton	1930.9	1561.2

Czech butadiene rubber trade Jan-May 2025

The Czech Republic exported 49,103 tons of butadiene rubber in January to May this year against 36,375 tons in the same period in 2024. Average prices for butadiene rubber rose from €1561.2 per ton to €1930.9 per ton. Besides exports the Czech Republic also imported 11,594 tons of butadiene rubber in January to May 2025, sourced largely from Germany and the US.

In synthetic rubber trade the Czech Republic exported a total of 58,444 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 58,296 tons in the same period in 2024. Imports at the same time decreased from 61,729 tons to 60,804 tons, which were supplemented by imports of natural rubber where imports dropped from 39,594 tons to 33,913 tons.

Hungarian synthetic rubber Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Butadiene Rubber	12.446	10.994
SBR	22.049	24.096
Other	5.568	10.000
Total	40.670	46.316
Revenues € mil	102.265	113.941
Av € per ton	2514.5	2460.1

Hungarian synthetic rubber trade Jan-May 2025

Hungarian imports of synthetic rubber amounted to 40,670 tons in January to May 2025 against 46,316 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices increased from €2460.1 per ton to €2514.5 in 2024. The largest source of synthetic rubber imports came from Indonesia in the five months, amounting to 15,644 tons. Hungary previously imported a large part of its synthetic rubber from Russia.

Butadiene rubber imports into Hungary increased from 10,994 tons to 12,446 tons, with the largest source coming from Indonesia. SBR imports into Hungary dropped from 24,096 tons to 22,049 tons.

Polish Synthetic Rubber Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
ESBR	2.887	12.422
Block SBR	12.628	24.145
S-SBR	11.869	13.581
Butadiene Rubber	21.428	43.149
Butyl Rubber	1.546	1.792
HBR	5.295	3.799
NBR	2.541	4.470
Isoprene Rubber	0.822	30.152
EPDM	11.107	18.190
Others	23.324	21.368
Total	93.446	173.069
Av € per ton	2337.7	1745.6

Synthetic rubber exports from Hungary amounted to 25,471 tons in the first five months this year of which SBR grades accounted for 25,112 tons. Prices rose from €2460.1 per ton last year to €2515.5 per ton. Production of solution styrene-butadiene rubber takes place in Hungary at Tiszaujvaros with capacity of 60,000 tpa.

Polish synthetic rubber imports Jan-May 2025

Poland imported a total of 93,446 tons of synthetic rubber in January to May 2025 against 173,069 tons in January to May 2024. By category, butadiene rubber was the largest product to be imported in the five months, although dropping from 43,149 tons last year to 21,428 tons this year. Block SBR was the second largest product but still dropping from 24,145 tons against 12,628 tons in the same period last year. The largest suppliers of all grades of synthetic rubber included Germany and South Korea, in addition to the US, Belgium, Saudi Arabia.

Polish Exports of Synthetic Rubber (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
SBR	88.618	93.685
Butadiene Rubber	20.587	40.516
Isoprene Rubber	0.827	28.246
Others	7.890	9.724
Total	117.922	172.170
Av € per ton	1740.0	1599.8

Polish synthetic rubber exports Jan-May 2025

Synthetic rubber exports from Poland amounted to a total of 117,922 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 172,170 tons in the same period in 2024. In contrast to the rise in 2024 this year exports of butadiene rubber from Poland almost halved in the first five months to 20,587 tons against 40,516 tons. At the same time SBR exports dropped from 93,685 tons to 88,618 tons. Although Europe comprises the largest regional destination for Polish synthetic rubber exports, India is the largest single country export destination.

Central European aromatics and derivatives

Polish Benzene Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Czech Republic	3.241	13.575
Germany	52.367	55.017
Others	14.388	4.298
Total	69.995	72.889
Av €/ton	815.0	871.4

Polish benzene exports Jan-May 2025
Polish exports of benzene totalled 69,995 tons in January to May 2025 against 72,889 tons in January to May last year. Benzene exports from Poland are supplied largely from Petrochemia Blachownia at Kedzierzyn-Kozle.

In addition to benzene Poland exported 9,288 tons of toluene in the first five months this year against only 614 tons in 2024. The increase has been made possible through the restart of production at Plock.

Polish Exports of PTA (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Belgium	0.871	1.259
France	0.000	2.508
Germany	104.304	123.362
Lithuania	1.461	4.022
Turkey	1.470	3.561
Others	5.021	8.044
Total	113.395	142.756
Av Price € per ton	730.7	791.1

Polish PTA exports Jan-May 2025
Exports of PTA from Poland amounted to 113,395 tons in January to May this year against 142,756 tons in January to May 2024. Germany took 104,304 tons against 123,362 tons last year. Prices fell from €791.1 per ton in the five months last year to €730.7 per ton. From the total sales, exports totalled 381,700 tons in 2024 against 238,800 tons in 2023, reflecting in an increase in revenues from €196.2 million to €286.9 million. PTA is also imported into Poland, amounting to 22,930 tons in January to May this year.

Polish aromatic imports Jan-May 2025
Styrene imports into Poland totalled 41,251 tons in the period January to May 2025 against 53,651 tons in the same period in 2024. The largest supplier was Saudi Arabia which shipped 10,563 tons against 7,578 tons in the same five months last year. Belgium reduced shipments to Poland from 14,295 tons in the five months last year to 10,228 tons this year. Average prices for imports into Poland dropped from €1371.0 per ton in the five months last year to €1175.8 ton this year.

Polish Aromatic Product Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Adipic Acid	6.054	5.454
Bisphenol A	5.309	3.719
Caprolactam	6.200	5.498
Ethylbenzene	39.633	38.724
Paraxylene	2.966	9.104
Phenol	42.369	31.930
Phthalic Anhydride	12.316	15.374
PTA	22.930	4.893
Styrene	41.251	53.651
TDI	32.767	32.791
Toluene	10.173	9.473

Ethylbenzene imports amounted to 39,633 tons in January to May 2025 against 38,724 tons in January to May 2024. All the ethylbenzene was shipped from Kralupy to Oswiecim, all within the structures of the Synthos Group.

In other areas of aromatic derivatives imports of caprolactam increased in the first five months to 6,200 tons versus 5,498 tons in the same period last year. Imports of phthalic anhydride dropped from 15,374 tons to 12,316 tons, whilst TDI inward shipments remained virtually unchanged at 32,767 tons. PTA imports into Poland increased from 4,893 tons to 22,930 tons due to lower production at Wloclawek, which reduced the demand for imported paraxylene dropping from 9,104 tons to 2,966 tons.

Polish Phenol Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Finland	0.964	2.767
Germany	36.562	23.122
Spain	2.477	2.098
Others	2.367	3.942
Total	42.369	31.930
Av Price € per ton	968.6	1338.3

Average prices for phenol imported into Poland dropped to €968.6 per ton in the first five months this year measured against €1338.3 per ton in January to May 2024. Phenol imports into Poland amounted to a total of 42,369 tons in January to May 2025 which was up from 31,930 tons in the same period in 2024. Germany remains the dominant supplier of phenol to Poland, shipping 36,562 tons in the five months against 23,122 tons in the same period in 2024. Spain and Finland accounted for smaller shipments.

Czech Aromatic Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Aniline	32.963	50.832
Benzene	9.564	3.300
Toluene	0.678	1.735
Ethylbenzene	31.595	20.301
Styrene	7.256	1.768
Caprolactam	0.818	12.112
Czech Aromatic Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Benzene	11.486	30.218
Toluene	2.050	2.482
Styrene	17.013	7.565
Bisphenol A	13.331	14.361

Czech aromatic trade Jan-May 2025

Benzene imports into the Czech Republic dropped in January to May this year to 11,486 tons against 30,218 tons in January to May 2024, whilst exports increased from 3,300 tons to 9,564 tons. Toluene imports dropped from 2,482 tons to 2,050 tons.

Imports of bisphenol A into the Czech Republic dropped from 14,361 tons in January to May 2024 to 13,331 tons in the five months this year. South Korea accounted for most of the imports.

Aniline exports from the Czech Republic dropped to 32,963 tons in January to May 2025 against 50,832 tons last year. All of the aniline shipped from the Czech Republic is produced at Ostrava by BorsodChem-MCHZ, and most of the exports are shipped to BorsodChem in Hungary. Shipments to Hungary dropped from 45,193 tons last year to 25,148 tons in January to May 2025. Average prices for Czech aniline exports dropped from €1452.3 per ton to €1372.9 per ton this year. Ethylbenzene exports from the Czech Republic increased from 20,301 tons in the first five months last year to 31,595 tons in January to May.

Czech Bisphenol A Imports		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Total Ktons	13.331	14.361
Av Price per ton	1328.1	1360.4
Czech Epoxy Resin Exports		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Total Ktons	22.837	21.248
Av Price per ton	2657.4	2529.0

Czech epoxy resin exports Jan-May 2025

Czech exports of epoxy resins amounted to 13,679 tons in January to May against 13,082 tons in January to May 2024. Prices rose from €2494.0 per ton to €2610.4 per ton. Germany remains the largest market for Czech epoxy resins, accounting for 5,288 tons in January to May 2025 which was up from 4,134 tons in January to May 2024. Czech exports of epoxy resins amounted to 49,063 tons in the twelve months of 2024 against 46,888 tons in 2023.

Czech Epoxy Resins (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Austria	1.514	1.692
Germany	8.712	7.371
Spain	1.730	1.832
France	1.862	1.743
Italy	2.409	2.300
Poland	1.181	0.805
Others	2.201	2.991
Total	22.837	21.248
Av Price per ton	2657.4	2529.0

Hungarian aromatic trade Jan-May 2025

Hungarian benzene exports dropped in the first five months to 6,165 tons in January to May 2025 against 22,571 tons in the same period in 2024. Benzene production in Hungary takes place at the Danube refinery at Szazhalombatta but exports have dropped due to higher domestic demand.

By contrast imports of benzene into Hungary increased in the first five months to 18,513 tons against 10,419 tons in the same period last year. Poland increased shipments to 9,340 tons against 6,377 tons in 2024.

Hungarian Benzene Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Czech Republic	1.209	1.017
Germany	0.681	2.997
Poland	9.340	6.377
Serbia	4.270	0.000
Others	3.014	0.027
Total	18.513	10.419

Toluene imports into Hungary amounted to 19,333 tons in January to May this year for costs of €17.914 million. This represented a fall from 23,342 tons in the first five months in 2024 for costs of €25.375 million. The main source of toluene supply includes Germany, followed by Romania and Slovakia.

Hungarian styrene imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Italy	23.276	25.022
Netherlands	2.257	2.801
Others	0.000	0.041
Total	25.533	27.923
Av € per ton	1313.8	1435.1

Styrene imports into Hungary dropped to 25,533 tons in the first four months in 2025 against 27,923 tons in the same period in 2024. Imports from Italy dropped from 25,022 tons in the first five months last year to 23,276 tons due to lower processing into polystyrene. Average prices dropped from €1435.1 per ton to €1313.8 per ton.

Central European isocyanates & polyols

Hungarian TDI Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Austria	1.321	1.492
Belgium	19.804	16.865
Germany	7.142	5.147
Italy	15.086	13.940
Poland	14.628	13.000
Portugal	5.283	4.195
Romania	4.053	5.750
Spain	5.566	4.461
Turkey	14.638	20.617
Others	36.566	31.680
Total	124.087	117.146
Av € per ton	1837.9	1981.1

Hungarian TDI-MDI exports Jan-May 2025

Hungarian TDI exports increased from 117,146 tons in January to May in 2024 to 124,087 tons in the same period this year. Average prices dropped from €1981.1 per ton in 2024 to €1837.9 per ton.

In Central Europe shipments of TDI from Hungary to Poland increased from 13,000 tons in the first five months in 2024 to 14,628 tons in the same period in 2025 and to Turkey reduced from 20,617 tons to 14,638 tons. Shipments to Romania fell from 4,053 tons to 5,750 tons. The major user of TDI in Romania is Chimcomplex. In West Europe exports of TDI from Hungary to Belgium rose from 16,865 tons in the first five months last year to 19,804 tons in January to May 2024, whilst volumes to Italy increased from 13,940 tons to 15,086 tons in the same period in 2025.

For the MDI sector, exports from Hungary amounted to 103,959 tons in January to May 2025 against 92,150 tons in 2024. MDI export prices increased from €1914.8 per ton in the first five months last year to €1827.0 per ton this year.

Hungarian MDI Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Austria	1.568	0.874
Switzerland	1.668	1.513
Czech Republic	4.094	4.803
Germany	10.186	10.118
Denmark	0.290	0.278
Algeria	1.845	2.126
Italy	8.378	1.513
Finland	0.085	0.151
France	1.984	4.313
Spain	2.820	2.034
Latvia	0.310	1.671
Netherlands	1.286	2.737
Poland	25.543	16.861
Romania	10.592	8.464
Slovakia	1.562	0.178
Serbia	2.544	0.000
Turkey	8.813	15.363
Ukraine	1.948	0.630
Others	18.443	17.996
Total	103.959	91.626
Av € per ton	1827.0	1914.8

Prices could see upward movement in the third quarter due to higher production costs. BASF increased prices for all its Lupranat MDI in July by €70 per ton and for its Lupranat® TDI by €50 per ton in the EMEA region. This increase is driven by high raw material costs and a strong demand from major business segments. Covestro may follow on TDI prices from its production plant at Dormagen which is Europe's largest. Earlier this year Covestro completed a major modernisation this year which has helped reduce energy costs in addition to reducing CO2 emissions.

In terms of geographical breakdown, Poland was the largest destination for Hungarian MDI exports, taking 25,543 tons in the first five months in 2025 versus 16,861 tons in the same period in 2024. Exports to Germany increased slightly from 10,118 tons to 10,186 tons, and to Turkey from 1,154 tons to 8.813 tons. Shipments to Romania rose from 8,464 tons to 10,952 tons.

Central European isocyanate trade Jan-May 2025

TDI imports into Poland amounted to 32,767 tons in January to May against 32,791 tons in January to May 2024. Prices of TDI imported into Poland dropped from €2035.6 per ton to €1930.0 per ton. Hungary was the largest supplier in the five months, shipping 16,906 tons to Poland followed by 9,099 tons to Germany. Poland previously produced TDI at Bydgoszcz, but the plant was closed in 2013 after its acquisition by BASF from Ciech.

Polish TDI Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Belgium	0.281	4.077
Germany	9.099	7.752
Hungary	16.906	12.446
Netherlands	0.281	3.788
South Korea	1.150	2.493
Others	2.105	2.236
Total	32.767	32.791
Av € per ton	1930.0	2035.6

MDI imports into Poland totalled 71,945 tons in January to May this year against 67,193 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices dropped slightly from €1900.4 per ton to €1896.1 in January to May this year.

Germany increased MDI shipments to Poland to 22,684 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 19,533 tons in January to May

2024, whilst imports from Hungary increased to 22,545 tons against 16.639 tons in 2024. Other suppliers included the Netherlands, Belgium and South Korea.

Polish MDI Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Germany	22.684	19.533
Netherlands	6.033	7.091
Hungary	22.545	16.639
Belgium	14.039	15.287
South Korea	5.680	4.423
Others	0.964	4.220
Total	71.945	67.193
Av € per ton	1896.1	1900.4

MDI imports into the Czech Republic totalled 17,475 tons in January to May 2025 against 17,414 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices decreased from €2081.7 per ton to €2045.9 per ton. The leading supplier was Belgium which shipped 2,470 tons against 2,140 tons in January to May 2024. Imports from Hungary increased from 3,760 tons to 4,944 tons.

Czech MDI imports		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Kilo tons	17.475	17.414
Av Price € per ton	2045.9	2081.7

Czech polyol imports Jan-May 2025

Czech polyol imports amounted to 21,464 tons in the first five months this year against 19,592 tons in the same period in 2024, with average prices dropping from €2296.4 per ton to €2120.2 per ton. Polyol prices in Europe continue to suffer from weak demand. The leading supplier to the Czech Republic Belgium shipping 6,177 tons in the first five months this year, followed by 3,606 tons from Germany and 3,223 tons from the Netherlands.

Czech Polyol Imports		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Kilo tons	21.464	19.592
Av € per ton	2120.2	2296.4

Hungarian polyol imports Jan-May 2025

Imports of polyols into Hungary rose in the first five months to 16,187 tons against 15,334 tons in the same period in 2024. Imports from China amounted to 5,679 tons from 3,958 tons in 2024. Prices for polyol imports amounted to €1610.8, down from €1865.7 per ton in the previous year.

Hungarian Polyol Imports		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Kilo tons	16.187	15.334
Av € per ton	1610.8	1865.7

Polish polyol trade Jan-May 2025

Poland remains a net importer of polyols, with the export focus on slightly higher value products than those imported. Exports of polyols from Poland in the five months this year amounted to 22,693 tons against 24,105 tons in January to May 2024. Prices dropped from €2118.1 per ton to €1962.9 per ton. Destinations for deliveries were focused mostly on Europe, led by Italy taking 3,505 tons against 3,773 tons in the first five months last year.

Polish Polyol Exports		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Total volume (ktons)	22.693	24.105
Av € per ton	1962.9	2118.1
Polish Polyol Imports		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Total volume (ktons)	61.905	58.509
Av € per ton	1738.9	1865.3

Polyether polyol suppliers in Europe were forced to reduce production levels last year due to cost pressures partly from propylene oxide prices and that trend has not fundamentally changed in 2025 Thus the overall market is tight due to weak demand, especially in the automotive and upholstered furniture sectors. The main application areas have demonstrated a significant reduction in demand for polyether polyols. The upholstered furniture industry was particularly affected last year, with many furniture manufacturers having to reduce production or even face the risk of bankruptcy due to falling demand. Demand for polyester polyols has been better than polyether polyols in the past eighteen months. The main sales application is polyurethane insulation panels.

Polish Polyol Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Belgium	10.824	6.658
China	4.416	2.674
France	2.964	1.643
Germany	13.801	14.871
Netherlands	12.320	16.954
Romania	5.722	6.737
Saudi Arabia	0.496	0.886
South Korea	5.306	3.002
Others	6.057	5.084
Total	61.905	58.509
Av € per ton	1738.9	1865.3

Polish polyol imports amounted to 61,905 tons in January to May 2025 against 58,509 tons in January to May 2024. The Netherlands reduced shipments from 16,954 tons to 12,320 tons, whilst Germany reduced shipments from 14,871 tons against 13,801 tons. Polyol import prices into Poland dropped from €1865.3 per ton to €1738.9 per ton.

Central European organic chemical trade

Hungarian Maleic Anhydride Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Austria	0.784	0.243
Germany	1.136	1.051
Italy	0.601	1.508
Poland	1.120	3.782
Slovenia	0.302	0.795
Others	2.780	3.501
Total	6.723	10.882
Av € per ton	1365.7	1165.6

Hungarian maleic anhydride exports Jan-May 2025
Hungary exported 6,723 tons of maleic anhydride in January to May this year against 10,882 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices rose from €1165.6 per ton to €1365.7 per ton. Exports of maleic anhydride to Poland from Hungary decreased from 3,782 tons in 2024 to 1,120 tons in 2025.

Hungarian organic chemical exports Jan-May 2025
Exports of organic chemicals from Hungary totalled 238,965 tons in the first five months in 2025, down from 312,020 tons in the same period in 2024. The largest commodity in the organic chemical sector is TDI, accounting for 41% of Hungarian organic chemical exports last year by volume and 33% by value. Overall, the value of organic chemical exports from Hungary amounted to €647.490 million which was down from €696.065 million in January to May 2024.

Hungarian Aniline Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Belgium	0.000	5.718
Czech Republic	26.090	46.091
Others	0.204	0.000
Total	26.294	51.833
Av € per ton	1368.8	1444.6

Imports of organic chemicals amounted to 312,020 tons in the first five months this year against 303,045 tons in January to May 2024. Imports consist of such products as styrene, methanol, aniline and acrylonitrile.

Hungarian aniline & acrylonitrile imports Jan-May 2025
Aniline imports into Hungary dropped from 51,833 tons in January to May 2024 to 26,294 tons in January to May this year. Inward shipments from BorsodChem-MCHZ in the Czech Republic dropped to 26,090 tons against 46,091 tons in 2024. Cost prices of aniline imports declined from €1444.6 per ton to €1368.8 per ton.

Hungarian Acrylonitrile Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Germany	1.457	0.654
Netherlands	6.568	3.830
Total	8.583	4.484
Av € per ton	1947.0	1709.3

Acrylonitrile imports into Hungary increased from 4,484 tons in the first five months to 2024 to 8,583 tons in the same period in 2024. Imports from the Netherlands increased from 3,830 tons to 6,568 tons. Average prices for acrylonitrile imports increased from 1709.3 per ton to €1947.0.

Polish Organic Chemical Trade		
Exports	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Vol (kilo tons)	630.8	664.0
Value (€ million)	534.0	417.3
Imports	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Vol (kilo tons)	1,832.0	1,632.4
Value (€ million)	1,266.6	1,144.4

Polish organic chemical trade Jan-May 2025
Organic chemical trade in Poland was overall higher in the first five months this year against January to May 2024, although export volumes were slightly lower. Exports of organic chemicals from Poland dropped by volume to 630,800 tons from 664,000 tons, whilst imports increased from 1.632 million tons to 1.832 million tons. Despite lower volumes, export values increased from €417.3 million to €534.0 million, whilst import values rose from €1.144 million to €1.267 million.

Polish Organic Chemical Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Acetic Acid	17.015	14.553
Acetone	5.630	2.827
DINP/DOP	10.613	10.971
Ethyl Acetate	5.219	6.699
Isopropanol	7.088	4.936
Maleic Anhydride	4.653	4.859
Methanol	267.262	276.785
VAM	19.739	9.054

The largest organic chemical import is methanol where the inward flow into Poland totalled 267,262 tons in January to May 2025, which was down from 276,785 tons in the same period last year. Regarding methanol derivatives Poland imported 17,015 tons of acetic acid in January to May against 14,553 tons in the same period last year. The US provided 13,419 tons in the first five months this year.

Imports of ethyl acetate into Poland amounted to 5,219 tons in January to May, down from 6,699 tons. Mexico supplied 1,796 tons of ethyl acetate to Poland in the first five months this year, with other sources coming from Belgium and the Netherlands. VAM imports into Poland increased in January to 19,739 tons against 9,054 tons in January to May 2024. Over 3,000 tons of VAM were supplied this year from Saudi Arabia.

Polish Organic Chemical Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Acetone	4.727	5.145
Ethylene Glycol	9.664	9.604
Formaldehyde	14.374	8.160
Glycerol	16.147	14.000
Methanol	63.909	68.813
Monochloroacetic Acid	16.106	12.933
N-Butyl Acetate	2.443	2.977

Isopropanol imports into Poland totalled 7,088 tons in January to May 2025, against 4,936 tons in the same period in 2024. Aside Germany, imports come from the Netherlands and South Africa.

Regarding export activity in organic chemicals, Polish shipments of monochloroacetic acid (MCAA) amounted to 16,106 tons in the five months against 12,933 tons in January to May last year. MCAA production is undertaken by the PCC Group at Brzeg Dolny.

Other organic chemical exports from Poland include acetone where shipments amounted to 4,727 tons versus 5,145 tons in January to May 2024. The main markets for Polish acetone exports included Italy, Germany, Romania and Lithuania.

Polish EO/PO Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
DEG	13.240	13.729
Ethylene Glycol	10.873	24.099
Ethylene Oxide	11.493	9.221
Propylene Glycol	16.033	9.395
Propylene Oxide	8.456	3.266

Polish glycol-oxide imports Jan-May 2025

Ethylene glycol imports into Poland dropped in January to May to 10,873 tons from 24,099 tons in the same period last year. Belgium is the main supplier of glycols to the Polish market. DEG imports amounted to 13,240 tons against 13,729 tons.

Ethylene oxide imports into Poland totalled 11,493 tons in January to May 2025 versus 9,221 tons in the same period in 2024. Germany currently represents the main source of inward shipments. Ethylene oxide consumption in Poland is expected to increase after the completion of PCC Exol's second line of the Ethoxylates II plant at Plock.

Czech Organic Trade		
Exports	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Value (€ million)	494.6	541.9
Vol (kilo tons)	217.6	243.5
Imports	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Value (€ million)	583.4	584.8
Vol (kilo tons)	287.0	302.04

Czech organic chemical trade Jan-May 2025

Czech imports of organic chemicals are led by methanol where volumes amounted to 19,863 tons in January to May 2025 against 31,891 tons in January to May last year. 2-EH imports dropped from 9,275 tons to 8,944 tons, with Poland providing the largest source of supply. Oxygenated solvent imports include acetone and ethyl acetate, amounting to 2,212 tons and 1,526 tons respectively in the five months.

Czech Organic Chemical Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Acetone	2.212	2.594
DEG	0.678	1.101
DINP	6.131	3.109
2-EH	8.944	9.275
Ethyl Acetate	1.526	1.524
Ethylene Glycol	3.193	2.178
Methanol	19.863	31.891
N-Butanol	3.652	3.109
Propylene Glycol	1.569	1.728

Organic chemical imports totalled €583.4 million in value in the first five months this year against €584.8 million in the same period in 2024, with import volumes dropping to 287,000 tons against 302,000 tons.

Organic chemical exports from the Czech Republic dropped by value to €494.6 million against €541.9 million in January to May 2024, with volumes dropping from 243,500 tons to 217,600 tons.

One of the main export commodities is plasticizers which are produced by Deza at Valasske Mezirici. Exports dropped in the first five months this year to 6,711 tons against 17,554 tons in the same period in 2024, with revenues dropping from €26.096 million to €9.735 million.

Central European methanol markets

Czech Methanol Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Germany	2.859	2.796
Estonia	3.944	3.262
Poland	8.663	23.964
Others	3.400	1.805
Total	19.863	31.891
Av € per ton	502.2	382.6

Czech methanol imports Jan-May 2025

Czech imports of methanol amounted to 19,863 tons in the first five months this year against 31,891 tons in the same period in 2024. Prices per ton for methanol imports increased from €382.6 per ton to €502.2 per ton. Poland was the largest supplier, accounting for 8,663 tons against 23,964 tons in the same period in 2024. Czech imports of methanol amounted to 64,513 tons in the twelve months of 2024 against 76,290 tons in the same period in 2023. Prices per ton for methanol imports increased from €373.6 per ton to €406.8 per ton.

Hungarian Methanol Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Germany	22.066	26.929
Netherlands	14.158	3.295
Poland	0.150	1.070
Slovenia	5.877	8.584
Others	1.417	0.390
Total	45.677	40.422
Av € per ton	497.0	436.3

Hungarian methanol imports Jan-May 2025

Methanol imports into Hungary in January to May increased to 45,677 tons from 40,422 tons in the same period in 2024. Imports from Germany dropped from 26,929 tons to 22,066 tons, whilst imports from the Netherlands increased from 3,295 tons last year to 14,158 tons. Imports from Slovenia amounted to 5,877 tons in the first five months this year, against 8,584 tons in 2024. Average prices of methanol imports into Hungary amounted to €497.0 per ton in 2025 against €436.3 per ton in 2024.

Polish methanol trade Jan-May 2025

Polish Methanol Imports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Belgium	26.349	75.231
Estonia	4.221	3.354
Germany	31.827	39.462
Netherlands	15.450	38.766
Norway	34.547	42.397
US	56.022	0.000
Trinidad	66.458	0.000
Venezuela	26.824	77.788
Others	4.204	0.300
Total	265.901	277.300
Av € per ton	407.6	317.5

Polish imports of methanol amounted to 265,901 tons in the five months this year against 277,300 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices amounted to €407.6 per ton against €317.5 per ton last year. Belgium supplied 26,349 tons against 75,231 tons in January to May 2024, whilst imports from Venezuela dropped from 77,788 tons to 26,824 tons.

Imports from Trinidad totalled 66,458 tons in the five months against no activity in the same period in 2024. Supplies from the US this year totalled 56,022 tons, replacing shipments from Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands. Imports from Germany declined from 39,462 tons in the five months to 31,827 tons in the same period in 2025, whilst volumes from the Netherlands dropped from 38,766 tons to 15,450 tons.

Poland Methanol Exports (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Czech	10.080	19.773
Germany	44.408	44.282
Slovakia	14.116	12.525
Ukraine	8.825	10.528
Hungary	0.233	0.000
Others	1.312	0.467
Total	79.070	88.245
Av € per ton	453.0	374.6

Exports of methanol from Poland amounted to 79,070 tons in the five months declining from 88,245 tons in the same period in 2024. Volumes have fallen since the peak of Polish methanol trade whereby Polish traders could access Russian methanol for sale in Central and South East Europe.

The largest destination for Polish exports in January to May this year was Germany which took 44,408 tons against 44,282 tons in January to May 2024. Ukraine imported 8,825 tons of methanol from Poland in the five months against 10,528 tons. Polish methanol export prices increased from €374.6 per ton to €453.0 per ton. Exports of methanol from Poland amounted to 201,476 tons in 2024 declining from 264,289 tons in 2023. Germany took 104,380 tons in 2024 against 79,930 tons in 2023. Ukraine imported a total of 25,932 tons of methanol from Poland in 2024 against 25,175 tons in 2023.

RUSSIA

Russian Chemical Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Ethylene	1926.417	2013.007
Propylene	1065.582	1138.945
Benzene	563.072	586.786
Toluene	126.141	160.470
Xylenes	182.554	189.902
Orthoxylene	80.585	56.073
Paraxylene	100.763	85.008
Styrene	318.236	322.405
EB	361.929	369.880
Methanol	1736.793	1620.951
Isopropanol	21.995	22.964
Ethylene Glycol	159.406	214.444
N-butanol	64.833	61.608
Phenol	113.178	108.804
Acetic Acid	86.084	83.231
Phthalic Anhydride	42.476	38.344
Maleic Anhydride	18.337	16.564

Russian petrochemical production Jan-May 2025

Prospects of a recession in the Russian economy appear to be widening, which is only at this stage partially reflected in the production data for petrochemicals. Numerous products are showing declines in output in the first five months this year as the some of the problems come from drone-related disruptions, trade and technology sanctions, and increasing problems from payment arrears. In the wider economy many industries report the need to reduce output.

Russian ethylene production amounted to 1.926 million tons in first five months against 2.013 million tons in January to May 2024, whilst propylene production dropped from 1.139 million tons to 1.065 million tons. Methanol production amounted to 1.737 million tons in the first five months versus 1.621 million tons in 2024, after the rise in exports compensated for the drop in domestic consumption. In the field of aromatics benzene production fell from 586,786 tons January to May last year to 563,072 tons in January to May 2025. Ethylbenzene production dropped from 369,880 tons to 361,929 tons, whilst toluene fell from 160,470 tons to 126,141 tons.

Russian chemical plants targeted by drones (UAVs)

The Russian plants listed in the table have all been targeted this year by Ukrainian drones due to their involvement in providing of products and raw materials for the Russian military. The drone capability is constantly improving which means the strikes are becoming more effective and more costly for the companies managing those plants.

Major Russian chemical plants targeted by Ukrainian drones	
Date	**Plant**
22-Jul-25	Novokuibyshevsk Petrochemical
17-Jul-25	Shchekinoazot
14-Jun-25	Novokuibyshevsk Catalyst Plant
14-Jun-25	Azot Nevinnomyssk
08-Jun-25	Azot Novomoskovsk
26-May-25	Dmitrievsky Chemical Plant
24-May-25	Azot Novomoskovsk
03-Mar-25	Ufaorgsintez
28-Jan-25	SIBUR Kstovo
14-Jan-25	Kazanorgsintez

The most recent attacks in July took place at the Novokuibyshevsk Petrochemical Combine in the Samara Oblast, owned by Rosneft, and Shchekinoazot in the Tula Oblast. According to unofficial Russian reports, Shchekinoazot suspended work on 17 July after a night attack by UAVs. At least four UAVs hit the plant damaging one of the distillation columns and the high-pressure steam pipeline that connects the storage facility to the combined heat and power plant (CHP). The roof of the furnace on the methanol production line was also damaged. Shchekinoazot produces methanol, caprolactam, mineral fertilisers and sulphuric acid. Some of these substances are the basis of explosives, solid rocket fuel, synthetic materials for Russia's military-industrial complex.

Russian Polymer Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Ethylene polymers	1580.016	1519.277
PE	1518.565	1466.047
Styrene Polymers	244.602	255.227
PVC	395.317	423.476
Propylene Polymers	904.538	926.775
Polyamide	53.217	60.063
PET	280.366	265.676
Synthetic Rubber	642.667	625.647

The Novokuibyshevsk petrochemical complex was targeted by drones on 22 July, but it is not clear about the scope of damage if any. The company produces benzene, phenol, acetone, alphamethylstyrene, synthetic ethyl alcohol, and para-tert-butylphenol, which are seen as components in the production of TNT, hexogen, tetryl, and other types of explosives. They are also used to equip artillery shells, aircraft bombs, cluster munitions, and rockets.

Russian Monomers

Russian Ethylene Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
North Caucasus Federal District	139.696	151.386
Volga Federal District	953.758	959.948
Ural federal district	626.737	679.436
Siberian Federal District	206.225	222.237
Total	1926.417	2013.007

Russian ethylene production Jan-May 2025
Russian ethylene production totalled 1.926 million tons in the first five months in 2025 against 2.013 million tons in the same period in 2024. All regions saw lower production. ZapSibNeftekhim at Tobolsk reduced production from 679,436 tons in January to May last year to 626,737 tons in January to May 2025. Production in the Volga region amounted to 953,758 tons in January to May versus 959,948 tons in the same period in 2024. The Volga region includes producers Nizhnekamskneftekhim, Kazanorgsintez, Gazprom neftekhim Salavat and Ufaorgsintez. At the end of January SIBUR-Kstovo was forced to suspend production due a fire on the site caused by drones which were targeting the Lukoil refinery at Kstovo. SIBUR-Kstovo restarted production of ethylene and propylene in March after repairs were completed.

Russian Propylene Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
North Caucasus Federal District	60.023	54.378
Volga Federal District	405.519	397.561
Ural Federal district	387.848	458.025
Siberian Federal District	212.178	219.654
Total	1065.568	1129.617

Russian propylene production Jan-May 2025
Russian propylene production totalled 1.066 million tons in January to May 2025 against 1.130 million tons in January to May 2024. ZapSibNeftekhim at Tobolsk produced 387,848 tons against 458,025 tons in the same period in 2024. The Volga-Urals region increased production from a total of 405,519 tons in January to May 2024 to 397,561 tons in January to May 2025.

Russian Propylene Domestic Sales (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Angarsk Polymer Plant	14.138	29.039
SIBUR-Kstovo	18.681	82.521
Lukoil-NNOS	84.561	62.385
Naftan	3.033	0.797
Total	120.412	174.742

Russian propylene sales Jan-May 2025
Russian sales of propylene on the domestic merchant market amounted to 120,350 tons in January to May against 174,738 tons in the same period in 2024. The largest propylene supplier to the domestic market was Lukoil-NNOS, shipping 84,581 tons against 62,385 tons in January to May 2024.

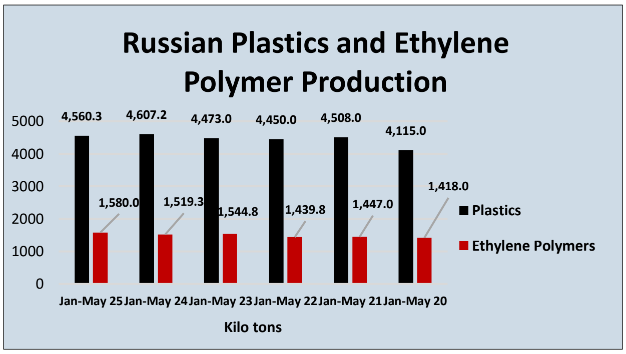
Main Russian Propylene Buyers (unit-kilo tons)		
Consumer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Saratovorgsintez	64.157	64.432
Volzhskiy Orgsintez	3.122	5.810
Akrilat	7.848	12.971
SIBUR-Khimprom	16.627	28.395
Omsk-Kaucuk	4.658	9.228
Tomskneftekhim	1.067	1.946
ZapSibNeftekhim	8.993	34.389
Ufaorgsintez	3.366	6.348
Stavrolen	3.949	0.000
Khimprom Kemerovo	2.337	1.991
Plant of Synthetic Alcohol	2.374	0.398
Total	120.350	174.738

SIBUR-Kstovo reduced propylene sales from 82,521 tons in January to May last year to 18,681 tons this year, after production was disrupted by Ukrainian drone strikes on the complex in January. As a result of the attack SIBUR-Kstovo stopped production in February creating supply problems for the Russian market. Most merchant consumers have reduced purchases in 2025. ZapSibNeftekhim purchased 8.993 tons of propylene in January against 34,389 tons in January to May 2024, whilst Saratovorgsintez reduced purchases from 64,832 tons to 64,157 tons.

Russian Butadiene Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Volga Federal District	149.955	138.346
Urals	114.829	121.660
Siberian Federal District	15.767	13.626
Total	280.551	273.632

Russian butadiene production Jan-May 2025
Russian butadiene production totalled 280,551 tons in January to May 2025 against 273,632 tons in January to May 2024. ZapSibNeftekhim at Tobolsk produced 114,829 tons against 121,660 tons in the same period in 2024. The Volga-Urals region increased production from a total of 138,346 tons in January to May 2024 to 149,955 tons in January to May 2025.

Russian bulk polymers



Russian plastics production Jan-May 2025

Russian bulk plastics production amounted to 4.560 million tons in January to May 2025 against 4.607 million tons in January to May 2024 and then against 4.473 million tons in January to May 2023.

Production of ethylene polymers amounted to 1.580 million tons in January to May, slightly up from the 1.519 million tons last year. The largest plant for the production of ethylene polymers is ZapSibNeftekhim at Tobolsk, located in the Ural Federal District. Production totalled 640,941 tons in January to May this year against 692,935 tons in the same period in 2024.

The second largest region in Russia is the Volga Federal District where production increased from 448,906 tons last year to 554,515 tons in January to May 2025. The Volga district includes producers from Bashkortostan including Gazprom neftekhim Salavat and Ufaorgsintez, and from Nizhnekamskneftekhim and Kazanorgsintez.

Russian Ethylene Polymer Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)

Region	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Central Federal District	51.179	52.147
Northwestern Federal District	25.715	17.737
Southern Federal District	19.194	13.821
North Caucasus Federal District	127.103	139.543
Volga Federal District	554.515	448.906
Ural federal district	640.941	692.935
Siberian Federal District	161.312	154.129
Far East	0.056	0.036
Total	1580.015	1519.254

Russian pipe market softening

The pipe market has been the main driver of Russian plastics consumption in 2023 and the first half of 2024 but in the last two quarters last year processing slowed down which has carried on into 2025. As a result, in the first five months this year polyethylene consumption in the manufacture of pipes amounted to 389,938 tons against 460,276 tons in the same period in 2024.

Russian polyethylene trade Jan-May 2025

Russian polyethylene exports to China increased from 174,464 tons in January to May 2024 to 204,297 tons in the same period in 2025, with both HDPE and LDPE showing rises. Average prices for Russian polyethylene exports to China dropped from $885.1 per ton to $845.3 per ton in 2025.

Chinese Imports of Polyethylene from Russia

	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	204.297	174.464
$ million	172.693	154.414
Av $ per ton	845.3	885.1

Inward shipments of polyethylene from China into Russia dropped in the first five months to 33,385 tons against 44,934 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices rose to $1536.0 per ton from $1434.8 in 2024.

Chinese Exports of Polyethylene to Russia (unit-kilo tons)

Product Category	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
LDPE	4.404	7.579
HDPE	2.347	6.051
LLDPE	8.547	8.547
EVA	4.832	5.487
Ethylene-hexene copolymers	9.441	10.060
Total	33.385	44.934
Av $ per ton	1536.0	1434.8

The largest volume of Chinese shipments to Russia consisted of ethylene-hexene copolymers where shipments into Russia amounted to 9,441 tons against 10,060 tons in the same period in 2024. LLDPE shipments amounted to 8,547 tons in the first five months, and EVA shipments amounted to 4,832 tons. The production of ethylene-hexene polymers is currently not possible in Russia and the new plant at Nizhnekamsk will allow the production of ethylene-hexene polymers in 2026 if not this year.

South Korean Polyethylene Exports to Russia

	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Ktons	23.391	57.364
$ million	29.434	71.837
Av $ per ton	1258.3	1252.3

Inward shipments of polyethylene from South Korea into Russia dropped in the first five months to 23,391 tons against 57,364 tons in January to May 2024. Average prices rose slightly to $1258.3 per ton from $1252.3 in 2024.

Russian Propylene Polymers Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Central Federal District	71.641	70.162
Northwestern Federal District	0.262	0.273
Southern Federal District	4.975	4.349
North Caucasus Federal District	58.697	59.876
Volga Federal District	184.910	170.434
Ural Federal District	440.172	498.162
Siberian Federal District	146.945	147.365
Total	907.602	950.621

Russian polypropylene production Jan-May 2025

Russian production of propylene polymers totalled 907,602 tons in January to May 2025 against 950,621 tons in January to May last year. ZapSibNeftekhim at Tobolsk reduced production from 498,162 tons to 440,172 tons in January to May 2025.

The Moscow refinery increased polypropylene production to 39,805 tons from 38,487 tons. The Volga region, including Nizhnekamskneftekhim and Ufaorgsintez, produced 184,910 tons against 170,434 tons. The Siberian region, which includes Tomskneftekhim and Polyom at Omsk, reduced production to 146,945 tons from 147,365 tons.

Chinese Imports of PP Homo from Russia		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
$ million	59.435	38.765
Ktons	69.117	45.821
Av $ per ton	1162.9	1182.0

Russian polypropylene trade Jan-May 2025

Revenues for Russian exports of polypropylene homo grade to China increased from $38,765 million in the first five months last year to $59.435 million in January to May 2025. Volumes increased from 45,821 tons to 69,117 tons.

Chinese Exports of PP to Russia		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
$ million	26.370	28.797
Ktons	12.206	12.035
Av $ per ton	2160.4	2392.8

Chinese exports of propylene polymers dropped in value from $28.797 million in the first five months last year to $15.764 million. By volume, shipments rose slightly from 12,035 tons to 12,206 tons. Prices amounted to $2160.4 per ton in 2025, down from $2392.8 in 2024.

South Korean Exports of Propylene Copolymers		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Ktons	10.249	18.125
$ million	12.781	27.139
Av $ per ton	1247.0	1497.3

South Korean exports of propylene copolymers to Russia dropped in the first five months to 10,249 tons against 18,125 tons in the same period in 2024.

Russian PVC trade and production

Russian PVC Suspension Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Southern	35.085	35.042
Privolzhsky (Volga) Federal District	209.292	188.861
Siberian Federal District	97.440	131.146
Total	341.817	355.049

Russian PVC suspension grade production totalled 341,817 tons in January to May 2025 against 355,049 tons in the same period in 2024. The Volga region, which includes plants at Kstovo and Sterlitamak, accounted for 209,292 tons in January to May against 188,861 tons in the same period last year. Sayanskkhimplast is the only PVC producer in Siberia, producing 97,440 tons in the first five months against 131,146 tons in January to May 2024. The plant is supplied with ethylene from the Angarsk Polymer Plant by pipeline.

Emulsion grade PVC in Russia fell from 11,903 tons in the first five months last year to 9,663 tons in the same period in 2025. Production has been affected this year by ethylene shortages from the neighbouring Kstovo cracker that was inactive for over a month following a drone attack at the end of January.

Chinese Exports of PVC to Russia (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
PVC Total	90.080	55.865
PVC S	50.079	28.987
PVC E	40.001	26.878

Imports of PVC from China into Russia increased to a total of 90,080 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 55,865 tons in the same period last year. Shipments of PVC suspension grade increased from 28,987 tons to 50,079 tons whilst emulsion grade rose from 26,878 tons to 40,001 tons.

Russian PX-PTA-PET

Russian Paraxylene Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Kirishinefteorgsintez	18.821	21.189
Ufaneftekhim	58.492	48.298
Gazprom Neft	23.450	36.710
Total	100.763	106.197

Russian PX-PTA-PET production Jan-May 2025

Russian paraxylene production amounted to 100,763 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 106,197 tons in the same period last year. Gazprom Neft at Omsk reduced production from 36,710 tons to 23,450 tons whilst Ufaneftekhim increased production from 48,298 tons to 58,492 tons.

Russian PTA Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Volga Federal District	143.219	147.619
Total	143.219	147.619

PTA production at Russia's sole producer Polief amounted to 143,219 tons in the five months which against 147,619 tons in January to May 2024.

Russian PET production rose from 265,676 tons in January to May 2024 to 280,366 tons in the first five months this year of which Polief produced 87,731 tons.

Russian PET Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Central Federal District	87.804	84.136
Northwestern Federal District	104.831	88.656
Volga Federal District	87.731	92.884
Total	280.366	265.676

Ekopet produced 104,831 tons of PET in January to May making it Russia's largest producer, whilst the combined plants of Senezh and SIBUR-PETF produced 87,804 tons.

Russian PTA imports Jan-May 2025

Russian PTA imports from China amounted to 142,956 tons in the first five months in 2025 versus 110,588 tons in the same period in 2024. Higher PTA imports were required to support higher PET production. This year PTA deliveries have started to be received by ship to the port of Kaliningrad in addition to rail. In order to prepare for safe mooring and efficient handling of large vessels, the port was required to undertake significant work to modernise berths, port infrastructure and storage facilities.

Russian PTA Imports from China			
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***	***Jan-May 23***
Ktons	142.956	110.588	115.665
$ mil	89.596	84.095	92.066
Av $ per ton	626.7	760.4	795.9

The port is now ready to handle vessels with maximum dimensions for movement through the sea channel, including those with a length of more than 170 metres. In close cooperation with Ekopet, the transshipment of PTA is expected to rise and will act as an alternative to rail deliveries.

Russian PET Imports from China		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Ktons	122.302	103.671
$ mil	97.648	91.850
Av $ per ton	798.4	886.0

Chinese shipments of PET to Russia amounted to 122,302 tons in January to May this year against 103,671 tons in the first five months in 2024. Costs of Chinese PET import shipments into Russia rose from $91.850 million to $97.648 million. Average prices dropped from $886.0 per ton to $798.4 per ton.

Russian MEG Imports from China		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Ktons	35.664	38.777
€ mil	20.623	22.344
Av $ per ton	578.3	576.2

Chinese shipments of MEG to Russia amounted to 35,664 tons in January to May this year against 38,777 tons in the first five months in 2024. Average prices rose slightly from $576.2 per ton to $578.3 per ton.

Restrictions to apply to Russian PET packaging from September 2025

From 1 September 2025, three types of plastic containers made of PET packaging will be banned in Russia. PET bottles for the food industry (except for blue, white, green and brown bottles, as well as colourless), multilayer PET bottles and PET packaging with a PVC label (except for shrink bottles) will be outlawed. Until now producers have been allowed to produce plastic bottles of only a few colours: transparent, blue, green and brown, as well as white for dairy products. At this stage it is not clear how much impact these changes will have upon total PET consumption in Russia.

Synthetic rubber

Russian Synthetic Rubber Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Central Federal District	109.527	108.862
Northwestern Federal District	0.418	0.825
Volga Federal District	484.876	442.397
Siberian Federal District	47.847	46.176
Total	642.667	625.647

Russian synthetic rubber production and market Jan-May 2025

Synthetic rubber production in Russia amounted to 642,667 tons in January to May 2025 against 625,847 tons in January to May last year. The increase in the first five months this year has been mainly due to the increase in export activity to China.

Synthetic rubber plants have become entangled in Russia's war effort against Ukraine in supplying products for the military sector. The rubber industry is seeing increased monitoring from the Kremlin, and companies do not have the option of declining interest. Issues considered by the Kremlin includes organising the production of rubber and special polymer materials for the military-industrial complex.

Russian Tyre Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Car Tyres	111.6	119.9
Lorry tyres	6.8	20.2
Agricultural tyres	3.6	3.4
Others	29.6	23.3
Total	151.6	166.8

Domestic demand in the domestic economy has been affected by the drop in car sales this year. There has seen a decrease in tire production in almost all segments, with the exception of agriculture. The reduction in tyre production (3.4 million units) in May amounted to about 20% with a 10% fall recorded for the first five months. Overall tyre manufacture consumed 151,600 tons of rubber in the first five months against 166,800 tons in the period January to May 2024. Sales of passenger cars decreased by 26% in the first five months, dealers' warehouses remain overloaded, and the availability of loans is declining against the backdrop of a high key rate. The domestic market of heavy trucks is forecast to fall to 45,000 vehicles in 2025 against 110,000 in 2024. Unprecedented stocks of vehicles imported last year has meant there are about 40,000 Chinese-made heavy trucks in warehouses. Any imports from Southeast Asia can automatically be considered as dumping.

SIBUR's efforts to replace natural rubber with synthetic rubber

SIBUR is working with Russian tyre companies to replace natural rubber with synthetic rubber in car tyres. Thus far SIBUR has been able to achieve a localisation level of synthetic rubber of 99%. The new rubber will be introduced into the industrial production of tyres. Tyre manufacture in Russia is based on around 25% of natural rubber which is imported from Asia, from Thailand, Indonesia and Vietnam.

Russian Synthetic Rubber Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Butadiene Rubber	121.398	117.460
Isoprene Rubber	117.623	109.487
SBR SKS-SKMS	100.435	94.557
NPR	19.975	21.150
EPDM	0.867	1.459
Butyl Rubber	64.190	60.596
Halogenated BR	41.656	47.121
SBR	60.236	64.573
Other	8.952	0.000
Total	642.667	627.988

Synthetic rubber produced in Russia is almost all consumed by the tyre industry, while natural rubber is partially used in tyres. SIBUR has already concluded an agreement with the major tyre manufacturer Kordiant to replace natural rubber with synthetic rubber. The aim is to replace natural rubber with isoprene rubber, which is commonly assessed as being the closest analogue. SIBUR aims to replace around 80% of natural rubber with isoprene rubber which it produces at Nizhnekamskneftekhim.

Russian synthetic rubber production by category Jan-May 2025

Isoprene rubber production in Russia amounted to 117,623 tons in January to May 2025 against 109,487 tons in January to May 2024 whilst butadiene rubber production increased from 117,460 tons to 121,398 tons. The highest value rubber produced by Russia is halogenated butyl rubber where production dropped from 47,121 tons in January to May last year to 41,656 tons this year of which most was exported to China.

SIBUR and Tatneft have jointly achieved the creation of a new grade of styrene butadiene rubber DSSK-615, which improves wheel grip and rolling resistance, as well as reduces production costs. This opens up opportunities for further scaling up the technology and introducing new rubber into industrial tyre production.

Omsk Kaucuk-polyisobutylene plant launch

Titan Group intends to launch polyisobutylene production at its new plant at the Omsk Kaucuk site in late 2025 or early 2026. Efremov Synthetic Rubber Plant is currently the only Russian producer of high-molecular polyisobutylene. The construction of a production complex at Omsk, with a capacity of 10,000 tpa of polyisobutylene, began in 2023. Capital expenditures amounted to about 900 million roubles, and it was planned to complete the project by 2025. Omsk Kaucuk has received a loan of 949 million roubles from the Industrial Development Fund to support the project. The product is used in lubricants, adhesives and sealants, electrical insulating products, emulsifiers, as well as in geological exploration.

SIBUR's n-butyllithium plant at Voronezh

SIBUR is currently progressing with construction of its catalyst plant for n-butyllithium production at Voronezh, which is used for the production of thermoplastic elastomers and synthetic rubbers. The launch of production will mitigate the risks associated with the complexity of the supply chain and the availability. The project is being undertaken at the Voronezhsintezkaucuk site using SIBUR's own technology and is currently around 50% of its schedule. The production capacity is being designed to 350 tpa and will meet not only the holding's own needs but will also create a reserve for the development of other industries such as electronics, chemicals for agriculture, and medicine. Commissioning is scheduled for the first quarter of 2026 and production to start in the second quarter.

Voronezhsintezkaucuk continues to assess plans to increase its capacity for the production of divinyl-styrene thermoplastic elastomers (TPE), or SBS, from its first line of 35,000 tpa to 80,000 tpa. Progress has been slowed due to the plant being targeted on more than one occasion by Ukrainian drones due to its connections to the Russian military.

Chinese Imports of Synthetic Rubber from Russia ($ million)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
SBRs	84.201	42.479
Butadiene Rubber	96.608	80.886
Butyl Rubber	88.556	84.184
HBR	52.446	93.766
NBR	22.027	19.019
Isoprene Rubber	102.350	42.479
Others	64.956	31.790
Total	511.145	394.603
Chinese Imports of Synthetic Rubber from Russia (unit-kilo tons)		
Product	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
SBRs	55.627	28.706
Butadiene Rubber	68.110	56.501
Butyl Rubber	56.329	51.783
HBR	31.701	44.550
NBR	13.193	14.548
Isoprene Rubber	60.228	28.706
Others	40.844	20.996
Total	326.032	245.790
Av $ per ton	1567.8	1605.5

Russian Chinese rubber trade Jan-May 2025

Russian export revenues from synthetic rubber shipments to China totalled $511.145 million in January to May 2025 against $394.603 million in the same period in 2024. The largest category purchased by China was for isoprene rubber with costs rising to $102.350 million against $42.479 million in the same period in 2024, followed by butadiene rubber where costs amounted to $96.608 million against $80.886 million.

By volume Russian shipments of synthetic rubber to China amounted to 326,032 tons in the first five months in 2025, which was up from 245,790 tons in the same period in 2024. The increase in export volumes compensated for the drop in consumption in the domestic market.

Butadiene rubber exports represented the largest category, rising from 56,501 tons in 2023 to 56,329 tons. Exports of thermoplastic elastomers, which are produced by Voronezhsintezkaucuk, increased sharply from 28,706 tons to 55,627 tons. Butyl rubber exports from Russia to China increased to 56,329 tons from 51,783 tons in 2024. Butyl rubber is produced at Nizhnekamskneftekhim and Tatneft at Togliatti. Nitrile-butadiene rubber (NBR) exports to China amounted to 13,193 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 14,548 tons in the same period in 2024. NBR is produced at the Krasnoyarsk Synthetic Rubber Plant in East Siberia with around two thirds of output targeted on the Chinese market.

Methanol

Russian Methanol Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Central Federal District	434.761	498.442
Northwestern Federal District	46.935	43.963
North Caucasus Federal District	42.287	44.737
Volga Federal District	831.887	693.699
Ural federal district	45.375	28.103
Siberian Federal District	335.548	312.007
Total	1736.793	1620.951

Russian methanol production Jan-May 2025

Russia's largest methanol producer Shchekinoazot was struck by at least four drones on 17 July, forcing most of the complex to stop production. The roof of a furnace on the methanol production line was damaged, but it is not clear if the methanol unit will be out of action longer than just a short period.

Russia produced 1.737 million tons of methanol in January to May 2025 against 1.621 tons in January to May 2024. Production in the Central region, which includes Shchekinoazot and Azot at Novomoskovsk, fell from 498,442 tons to 434,761 tons. The Volga region increased production from 693,699 tons to 831,887 tons, whilst the Siberian Federal District (including Gazprom Methanol and Angarsk Petrochemical) increased production from 312,007 tons to 335,548 tons.

Russian Methanol Exports by Destination (unit-kilo tons)		
Country	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Belarus	37.486	48.617
Brazil.	105.289	0.000
China	363.137	377.314
Kazakhstan	25.674	27.874
Kyrgyzstan	0.956	0.000
UAE	25.286	8.976
Turkey	153.397	86.600
Total	710.525	559.276

Azot at Nevinnomyssk produced 42,287 tons of methanol in the first five months in 2025 against 44,737 tons in the same period this year. It is not clear if the methanol unit was affected by the drone attack on 14 June. Some facilities at the complex were forced to stop after a significant attack where the entire workforce were confined to bomb shelters. Azot at Nevinnomyssk reportedly has supplied raw materials and components for Russia's weapons and fuel production since 2024. The complex includes capacities of 1.0 million tpa of ammonia and 1.4 million tpa of ammonium nitrate. It also operates Russia's only melamine production facility, in addition methyl acetate and acetic acid. The chemical plant is part of the Evrokhim Group, owned by Russian billionaire Andrey Melnichenko, who is currently sanctioned by Canada, the EU, Japan, and the UK.

Russian Methanol Exports by Producer (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	*Jan-May 25*	*Jan-May 24*
Azot Nevinnomyssk	4.080	4.591
Azot Novomoskovsk	0.000	38.981
Metafrax Chemicals	203.947	99.000
Gazprom Methanol	162.386	133.250
Tomet	126.367	74.255
Shchekinoazot	213.745	209.200
Total	710.525	559.277

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Russian methanol exports Jan-May 2025

Russian methanol exports amounted to 710,525 tons in January to May 2025 against 559,277 tons in the same period in 2024. Shchekinoazot increased exports from 209,200 tons to 213,745 tons, whilst Metafrax Chemicals increased shipments from 99,000 tons to 203,947 tons. Tomet exported 126,367 tons versus 74,255 tons in January to May 2024. Gazprom Methanol increased exports to a total of 162,386 tons from 133,250 tons.

Prior to the full invasion of Ukraine, the geography of methanol exports was extensive, supplying to almost 30 countries. The list of countries was reduced in 2024 to less than ten, including Turkey, China, Belarus, Kazakhstan, the United Arab Emirates. Other countries included Georgia, Kyrgyzstan and Azerbaijan. Brazil has emerged in 2025 as a new consumer. Turkey has seen shipments from Russia increased from 86,600 tons in the first five months in 2024 to 153,397 tons in 2025. Export sales to Brazil were undertaken for the first time this year and amounted to 105,289 tons in the first five months. Exports to China amounted to 363,137 tons in January to May 2025 against 389,573 tons in January to May last year.

Shipments to China continue to remain borderline profitable for Russian producers, due to lower prices in China, whilst facing expensive logistics and railway congestion in the eastern direction. Prices in the first five months averaged $299.9 per ton against $283.4 in the same period last year. Methanol prices in China rose sharply in June due to hostilities between Israel and Iran, and although the situation has settled it is far from over. On 16 June futures for the next month jumped to a close of 2464 yuan ($343) per ton on the Zhengzhou Commodity Exchange, the highest result since April. If the situation in the Middle East escalates due to the suspension of logistics, China could face a large supply shortage.

Russian Methanol Exports to China (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Metafrax Chemicals	146.770	79.024
Gazprom Methanol	46.289	133.122
Tomet	36.182	47.167
Shchekinoazot	133.896	130.260
Total	363.137	389.573

Despite being the closest large plant to China, Gazprom Methanol has reduced methanol exports from Tomsk to the port of Nakhodka to 46,289 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 133,122 tons in the same period in 2024. At the same time Shchekinoazot increased shipments from 130,260 tons to 133,896 tons in 2025 and Metafrax Chemicals increased shipments from 79,024 tons to 146,770 tons.

The rise of the Murmansk port for methanol exports
Russian methanol deliveries to Brazil have been facilitated this year through the expansion of shipping capabilities at the Murmansk sea port in the north of Russia. Hardly any of the ships that today set out from the Murmansk port have European destinations, and instead they sail towards "friendly" countries of which Brazil is one. Murmansk has one of Russia's five biggest seaports. It normally handles more than 50 million tons of goods annually, most of it crude oil, coal, as well as fertilisers and processed nickel.

Methanol is a relatively new product for the Murmansk port, but it is limited in size of capability throughput at this stage. If it was purely about rail distances from plant to port most Russian producers would choose Murmansk over Nakhodka, even for shipments to China, and that m7ay be possible in 2026. Gazprom Methanol's plant is located around half way between the ports of Murmansk and Nakhodka and yet has used Murmansk more in 2025 by supplying Brazil with 105,289 tons.

It has been proposed that the Murmansk Commercial Sea Port is in future to be included in the hub for the export of methanol to China. Murmansk has already been identified as the main port facility for methanol exports under the Ruskhim project which is to be built in the Nenets Autonomous Okrug in West Siberia. The construction of the 1.8 million tpa plant has been aimed for completion by 2029, but this is purely provisional indicator. The ground work for the project is being laid, but there are still questions over methanol technology licencing.

Russian methanol domestic sales Jan-May 2025
Domestic merchant sales of methanol dropped to 384,574 tons in January to May 2025 against 400,916 tons in January to May 2024. Metafrax Chemicals reduced domestic merchant sales to 192,192 tons in January to May 2025 against 212,872 tons in January to May last year, whilst Gazprom Methanol reduced domestic merchant sales to 132,751 tons which was down from 151,187 tons. Shchekinoazot shipped 145,673 tons in January to May 2025 against 152,368 tons last year. In order to minimize losses from the closure of the European market, domestic producers that can produce both methanol and ammonia have reduced methanol loading and increasing the production of ammonia and its derivatives.

Russian Methanol Domestic Sales (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Azot Nevinnomyssk	4.090	3.221
Azot Novomoskovsk	0.000	13.468
Metafrax Chemicals	192.192	212.872
Gazprom Methanol	132.751	151.187
Tomet	122.824	112.509
Shchekinoazot	145.673	152.368
Ammoni (Mendeleevsk)	5.650	13.566
Total	603.180	659.191

Organic chemicals

Russian N-Butanol Production by Region (unit-kilo tons)		
Region	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
North Caucasus Federal District	4.748	5.745
Volga Federal District	52.453	43.148
Siberian Federal District	7.633	12.715
Total	64.834	61.609

Russian butanol production Jan-May 2025
Russian normal butanol production increased from 61,609 tons in January to May 2024 to 64,834 tons in the first five months this year. The Volga region, which includes SIBUR-Khimprom and Gazprom neftekhim Salavat, increased production from 43,148 tons to 52,453 tons. Angarsk Petrochemical Company reduced production from 12,715 tons in January to May 2024 to 7,633 tons in the same period in 2025.

Russian Acetone Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Ufaorgsintez	17.553	12.185
Kazanorgsintez	21.997	21.631
Novokuibyshevsk Petrochemical	12.229	14.033
Omsk Kaucuk	17.103	19.461
Total	68.882	67.310

Russian acetone production Jan-May 2025
Russian acetone production rose slightly from 67,310 tons in January to May 2024 to 68,882 tons in January to May 2025. Omsk Kaucuk produced 17,103 tons of acetone against 19,461 tons in the previous year whilst Kazanorgsintez increased production from 21,631 tons to 21,997 tons. The other two producers Ufaorgsintez and Novokuibyshevsk Petrochemical Combine both came under drone attacks in March reflecting the continuing threats posed to Russian plants.

Omsk Kaucuk is currently planning to build an acetone condensation unit in order to produce isophorone, a product which is not produced in Russia. Omsk Kaucuk is also updating the production of phenol and acetone plants which is not only to improve the technological process, but also to improve the environmental parameters of production. After modernisation, in 2022 Omsk Kaucuk' s capacity for the production of phenol was increased to 90,000 tpa and acetone to 56,000 tpa. Omsk Kaucuk holds a 30% share in the phenol market and 36% in the acetone market.

Russian Acetic Acid Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Azot Nevinnomyssk	64.456	63.904
Volga region	20.438	17.516
Total	86.034	83.231

Russian acetic acid production Jan-May 2025
Russian acetic acid production amounted to 86,034 tons in January to May 2025 against 83,231 tons in the same period in 2024. The largest producer in Russia, Azot at Nevinnomyssk, increased production from 63,904 tons to 64,456 tons. Aside using acetic acid for the production of butyl acetate and methyl acetate Azot supplies merchant acetic to the Russian domestic market. The two largest customers include Polief which purchases acetic acid for PTA and Stavrolen which uses acetic acid in the production of vinyl acetate monomer (VAM).

Russian Isopropanol Production (unit-kilo tons)		
Producer	***Jan-May 25***	***Jan-May 24***
Plant of Synthetic Alcohol	13.425	11.701
Omsk Kaucuk	8.570	11.263
Total	21.995	22.964

Isopropanol production in Russia amounted to 21,995 tons in January to May 2025 against 22,964 tons in the same period last year. Omsk Kaucuk reduced production from 11,263 tons to 8,570 tons whilst the Plant at Synthetic Alcohol at Orsk increased production from 11,701 tons to 13,425 tons.

Russian phthalic and maleic production Jan-May 2025
Phthalic anhydride production in Russia totalled 21,697 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 23,514 tons in the same period in 2024. Kamteks-Khimprom at Perm is the largest producer followed by Gazprom neftekhim Salavat, and together these two plants produced 34,497 tons in the first two months in 2025. Maleic anhydride production in Russia totalled 18,337 tons in the first five months in 2025, against 16,564 tons in the same period in 2024. Consumption of maleic anhydride in the Russian market in 2024 in amounted to 11,200 tons against 11,000 tons in the previous year.

Russian polyurethane raw materials

South Korean Exports of TDI to Russia		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Ktons	4.905	7.622
$ million	9.059	15.175
Av Price $/ton	1846.8	1990.9

Russian TDI imports Jan-May 2025

TDI imports into Russia from South Korea amounted to 3,236 tons in January to May 2025 against 3,162 tons in January to May 2024. Prices of imports from South Korea amounted to $1846.8 per ton against $1990.9 per ton in 2024.

Chinese Exports of TDI to Russia		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Ktons	7.094	13.254
$ million	13.714	27.481
Av Price $/ton	1933.1	2073.5

TDI imports from China into Russia amounted to 4,482 tons in January to May 2025 against 8,173 tons in the same period in 2024. Due to much lower prices, costs of Chinese imports dropped from $16.926 million to $9.155 million in 2024.

Chinese Exports of MDI to Russia		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Ktons	36.340	37.928
$ million	73.093	75.654
Av Price $/ton	2011.4	1994.7

Russian MDI imports Jan-May 2025

MDI imports from China into Russia amounted to 36,340 tons in January to May 2025 against 37,928 tons in the same period in 2024. Prices increased from $1994.7 per ton to $2011.4 per ton in 2025. MDI is the main isocyanate imported into Russia is MDI, accounting for 75.4% of all imports in this segment in 2024. Chinese imports account for nearly two third of Russian total consumption.

Chinese Exports of Polyols to Russia		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	41.980	51.985
$ million	56.250	73.722
Av Price $/ton	1339.9	1418.1

Chinese exports of polyols to Russia Jan-May 2025

Polyol imports into Russia from China fell from 51,985 tons in January to May 2024 to 41,980 tons in the first five months in 2025. Import costs dropped from $73.722 million in the first five months in 2024 to $56.250 million in the same period this year. Average prices dropped from $1418.1 per ton to $1339.9 in 2025.

Kazakhstan-Central Asia

Kazakh Exports of PP to China		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kilo tons	50.838	36.511
$ million	38.279	30.757
Av Price $/ton	753.0	842.4

Kazakh polypropylene exports and domestic market Jan-May 2025

KPI produced 175,000 tons of polypropylene in the first five months of this year of which 50,838 tons were exported to China 36,511 tons in the same period in 2024. This year KPI increased its polypropylene sales volumes in the domestic market, bringing its share to 70% against 40% last year.

The Kazakh polypropylene processing market has rose by 28% in the first five months in 2025 compared to the same period last year, reaching a volume of 21,300 tons. For the whole of 2024 the company's sales amounted to 22,900 tons (amounting to around 57% of the total market). In the first half of 2025 domestic sales have outstripped targets set in January. This dynamic was made possible by the growth of the customer base, where more than 60 out of 130 Kazakh companies purchase polypropylene on a monthly basis. Shipments under these programs amounted to over 340 tons in May, and in June it is expected to reach 400 tons.

Chinese Exports of PET to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	*Jan-May 24*
Kazakhstan	47.221	27.671
Uzbekistan	87.190	63.018

Chinese Exports of PET to Central Asia Jan-May 2025

PET exports from China to Kazakhstan amounted to 47,221 tons in the first five months in 2025 against 27,671 tons in the same period in 2024, whilst exports to Uzbekistan increased from 63,018 tons to 87,190 tons. Domestic PET consumption in 2023 was estimated at about 85,000 tpa, of which about 95% were imports from China. Russia imported about 270,000 tpa of

PET last year, more than 90% of them from China. In effect the Kazakh project will have to compete with Chinese suppliers which may prove difficult.

KazMunayGaz seeks partner for PTA-PET projects Jan-May 2025
KazMunayGaz (KMG) is looking for a strategic partner for the construction of a polyethylene terephthalate (PET) plant in the Atyrau region. Currently Kazakhstan is completely dependent on its imports due to the lack of its own production. Last year, KMG and Sinopec discussed joint work on the project, but it seems to have fallen through. Not a single strategic partner will enter the project without resolving the issue of providing future production with paraxylene from the Atyrau Oil Refinery which could produce PTA. The problem is that as soon as the situation with high-octane gasoline in the country worsens, the Atyrau Refinery stops producing aromatics and switches to fuel mode.

The Atyrau Refinery produced about 108,000 tons of paraxylene in 2024, but its production worked only until June. From July until the end of the year, the aromatic complex was idle. Thus, until the issue of full saturation of the domestic market with high-octane gasoline is resolved, the provision of paraxylene for PTA production will remain in question.

The Kazakh government could possibly attract Tatneft which is developing a similar supply chain in Russia. The possible sale of the Atyrau Oil Refinery to Tatneft has been ruled out by the Kazakh government. At the same though Tatneft’s involvement could be a key factor in the development of the proposed PTA-PTA project.

Kazakh Butadiene Project (unit-kilo tons per annum)	
Product	***Capacity***
Butadiene	120
Isobutylene	85
MTBE	40
Divinyl	60
SBS	40

Tatneft-delayed butadiene and rubber projects Kazakhstan
The launch of production of the butadiene and synthetic rubber plants in the Atyrau region was originally scheduled for 2026. The project is being constructed on the territory of the FEZ "National Industrial Petrochemical Technopark" near Atyrau and it is already clear that the deadlines will be disrupted due to various factors. One of those includes negotiations which are still underway with the Chinese engineering company China Tianchen Engineering Corp which is acting as the contractor for the project. The plant is being designed to utilise 380,000 tpa of butane fraction which will be supplied from Tengiz

The butadiene project in Kazakhstan is being implemented by a jv between KMG (25%) and Tatneft (75%). In March 2024, Lummus Technology entered into licensing agreements with Butadiene LLP for the technology of dehydrogenation of n-butane, dehydrogenation of isobutane, production of methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) and extraction of butadiene.

The rubber components of the project include 60,000 tpa of divinyl styrene synthetic rubber for use in the rubber industry and tyre production. Some of the rubber production will be sold to KamaTyresKZ plant located in Saran, Karaganda region. Tatneft owns a 51% stake in KamaTyresKZ. Another 40,000 tpa of styrene-butadiene-styrene rubber (SBS) required for road surfaces and plastics. The new plant is planned to produce five different types of products, including styrene-butadiene-styrene (rubber used in road surfaces, divinyl-styrene synthetic rubber (needed in the tyre industry, butadiene (used for the production of synthetic rubbers), isobutane-isobutylene fraction (intended for the production of MTBE, butyl rubber, and isoprene and alkylate) and MTBE.

SOCAR methanol production and exports Jan-May 2025
Azerbaijan produced 183,800 tons of methanol in January to May 2025 versus 207,100 tons in January to May 2024. Azerbaijan exported 171,699 tons of methanol in the first five months which was 32.2% down in the same period last year, whilst export revenues rose by 25.3% to $39.313 million. Azerbaijan started shipping methanol to Gibraltar in April for the first time, after having started shipments to Israel at the start of the year. Azerbaijan’s methanol exports are distributed between

Azerbaijan Methanol Market (unit-kilo tons)		
	Jan-May 25	***Jan-May 24***
Production	183.8	207.1
Exports	171.0	190.9
Exports ($ mil)	47.4	39.3

southern European countries including Romania, Italy, and Gibraltar. Other countries include Greece, Turkey and Israel.

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