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# **BAIINFO ABS & PS Weekly**

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**BAIINFO Research Center** 

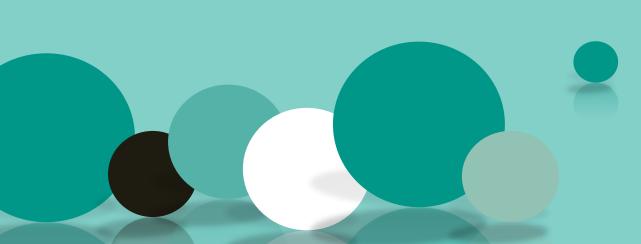
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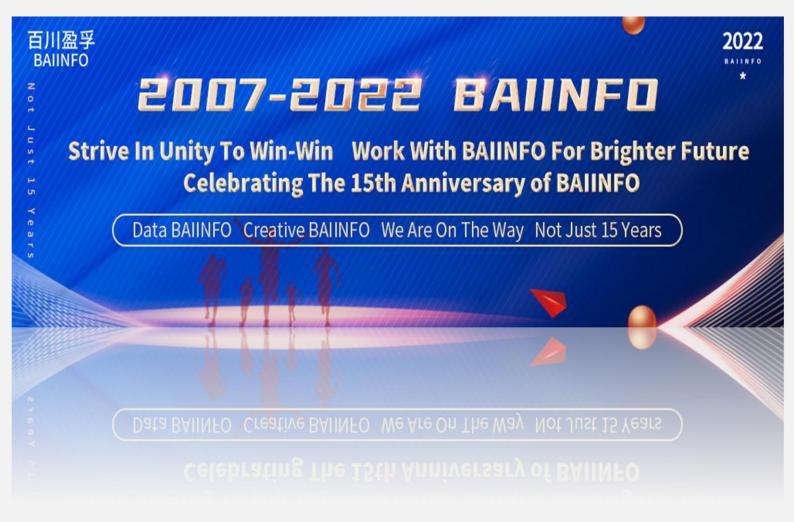
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## Highlights:

- > International crude oil futures market slumped.
- Domestic styrene market weakly went down.
- > Domestic ABS market was placed in a downtrend.
- > Domestic PS market prices were subjected to downward pressure.

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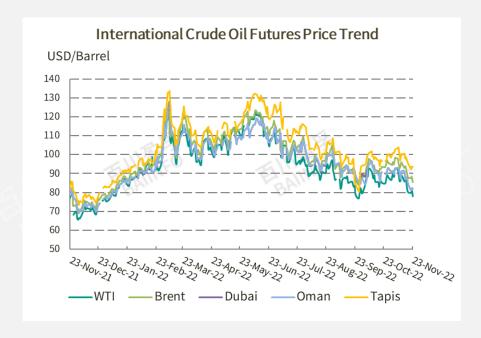
## Crude Oil

## Market Analysis

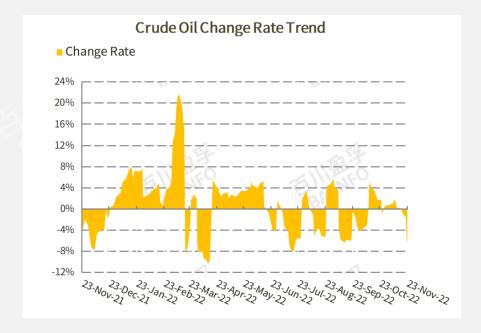
This week, international crude oil futures market slumped. Early this week, market concerns about the spread of the epidemic continued, while European refiners faced a supply glut and reduced demand for crude oil in Asia due to the economic slowdown. Coupled with a higher dollar index and U.S. Treasury yields and fears that the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates significantly in anticipation of tackling inflation put pressure on crude oil prices, which continued to fall. Later, expectations that the Federal Reserve would continue to raise interest rates boosted the dollar, and economic downside troubles remained. Outlook for market demand weakened, while the G7 may cap crude oil in a European country at a relatively high price range. Besides, market supply concerns eased, although Saudi Arabia said OPEC + adhere to production cuts and may take further measures to balance the market to limit the decline in crude oil prices. International crude oil market fluctuated down. Data from Baker Hughes showed that up to Nov. 18, the volume of U.S. active rig totaled 623. By Nov. 23, WTI and Brent values were at USD 77.94/bbl (down 8.94% W-o-W and 10.45% M-o-M) and USD 85.41/bbl (down 8.02% W-o-W and 8.74% M-o-M), respectively.

In supply side, data from EIA showed that, up to Nov. 18, the U.S. crude oil stocks declined by 3.69 million barrels. The EIA gasoline stocks decreased 3.058 million barrels, while EIA refined oil stockpiles increased by 1.718 million barrels. More data showed that, crude oil inventory in Cushing, Oklahoma decreased by 0.887 million barrels.

The EIA Energy Outlook report showed that global crude oil demand growth was expected to be 140,000 barrels per day to rest at 2.26 million barrels per day in 2022, compared to 2.12 million barrels per day previously. Whereas, global crude oil demand was expected to decrease by 320,000 barrels per day to rest at 1.16 million barrels per day in 2023, compared to 1.48 million barrels per day previously.



## Change Rate



#### Forecast

WTI values are forecasted to be at USD 76-82/bbl, while Brent values are forecasted to be at USD 84-91/bbl. This week, U.S. crude oil inventory decreased, and Fed may slow rate hikes down, however, rising gasoline and distillate inventories raise concerns about weakening demand. In coming market, market players need to pay attention to the attitude of a European country to the G7 oil price cap. If a European country continues to issue that it will not trade with countries that implement the oil cap price, international crude oil prices should have strong support then. Overall, current crude oil market needs to pay attention to the attitude of a certain country in Europe in the face of the embargo and the oil price ceiling, as well as the continued decline in oil prices after the Saudi Arabia persistently intervening in crude oil production. Later, international crude oil market is predicted to fluctuate up.

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## Acrylonitrile

## Market Analysis

Domestic acrylonitrile market prices kept downward.

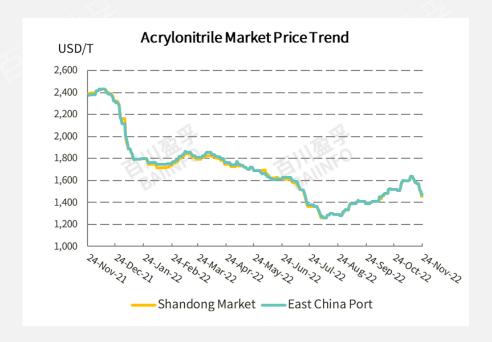
- 1. Production resumed at plants in Shandong, and plants had started to sell after new production capacity put into operation in Northeast China. Mounting supply of acrylonitrile weighed on market mood.
- 2. Buying interest showed a noticeable decrease, driving down spot prices.
- 3. Feedstock propylene and liquid ammonia prices stayed at high levels, continuously supporting the acrylonitrile prices.

As of Nov. 24, acrylonitrile mainstream trading price fell to USD 1,473/T (freight excluded) at ports in East China, for reference. In Shandong, acrylonitrile mainstream trading price corrected lower to USD 1,459/T (freight excluded), for reference.

Supply & Demand: Utilization rate of acrylonitrile industry increased. In downstream sector, utilization rate of

acrylamide industry and ABS industry saw a week-on-week cutback. Overall, demand from downstream users remained stable-and-robust.

#### Price Trend



#### Forecast

Feedstock: This week, propylene market moved to the downside after advancing, while liquid ammonia market kept uptrend alive, lending cost support to the acrylonitrile market.

Supply & Demand: Supply grew and buying appetite was poor, dampening market mood.

It is predicted that the acrylonitrile market prices may descend further, and mainstream price may range between USD 1,431/T and USD 1,487/T (freight excluded) at ports in East China.

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# Butadiene

## Market Analysis

This week, domestic butadiene market secretly inched down. As of Nov. 24, market average price was around USD 954/T, down 5.23% W-o-W.

- 1. Early this week, butadiene offers were firm amid comfortable cost inventory of holders in East China.
- 2. In Shandong, buyers were indifferent to low-priced cargoes in East China, though butadiene holders intended to push prices up, available spot supply was abundant in North China.
- 3. Later, downstream market posted production return and other bullish news, thus butadiene demand is expected to pick up. However, some new capacity of butadiene was expected to be put into production next month, so that buyers were cautious as supply-demand pattern should be unclear. To sum up, actual deals were restrained and bargaining was allowed in actual deals.
- 4. Due to the recent slowdown in demand for European imports from the U.S., European merchants were actively looking for Asian buyers. 7,000 tonnes of cargoes from Europe were currently heard to be sold to East China at a price of USD 760/T CFR and will arrive in Jan., 2023.

Butadiene market was restrained in East China and mainstream offer was firm, however, buyers had more interest in low-priced cargoes. Combined, actual deals were restrained. In East China, mainstream trading price was assessed at USD 926/T around, while trading prices were assessed at USD 912-940/T (without delivery service). In Shandong, butadiene market slid down with rising spot cargoes. Mainstream trading price was around USD 982/T. In central region of Shandong, trading prices were at USD 968-996/T (with delivery service).

#### Price Trend



#### Forecast

Later, butadiene market is anticipated to be restrained and mainstream price is estimated at USD 926-1,024/T. Some production resumption should be delayed, while some new capacity will be put into production in Dec. Overall, the production changes should offset from each other.

Demand: BR market edges lower due to weaker deals. SBR market narrowly fluctuates. Under numbered spot supply, offers consolidates. Combined, butadiene deals are suppressed by demand.

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## Styrene

## Market Analysis

This week, domestic styrene market weakly went down. Up to now, mainstream price was assessed at USD 1,133/T in East China, down 3.15% W-o-W.

- 1. At ports, styrene inventory climbed up in East China. Combined with decreasing prices of international crude oil, feedstock and commodity market, styrene spot and futures prices stood down at high end of the range.
- 2. In face of price downsides, buyers were cautious so that actual deals were numbered. Hence, holders had to sacrifice some profits to stimulate deals. Comprehensively, the confrontation between stockpiling activities at lows and profit-taking approaches emerged.
- 3. In downstream, rigid demand on styrene spot remained under low utilization rate.

On Nov. 24, styrene market moved rangebound in Jiangsu, spot prices were discussed at USD 1,130-1,133/T, while futures prices were discussed at USD 1,133-1,136/T, USD 1,123-1,126/T and USD 1,115-1,119/T (freight excluded) for late Dec., late Jan. and late Feb., respectively. In South China, market met with sluggish discussions. Styrene spot offers were heard at USD 1,150-1,164/T (freight excluded) and USD 1,164-1,178/T (freight included). (The above prices are buying and selling discussions. Low-end prices refer to buying discussions, while high-end prices refer to selling discussions.)

Notes: 1. All these prices (on the basis freight excluded) are quoted for domestic goods together with imported goods at the port (except for some offers in South China on the basis sent to plant, by acceptance).

- 2. Price of domestic goods includes 13% VAT; Price of imported goods includes 13% VAT & 2% import duty.
- 3. The above prices are buying and selling discussions. Low-end prices refer to buying discussions, while high-end prices refer to selling discussions.



#### > Forecast

Next week, styrene market may bounce back with corrections and prices are assessed at USD 1,101-1,164/T. Feedstock: International crude oil may edge higher later, whereas petrobenzene market ran up. At month end, petrobenzene market is predicted to be boosted with delivery. In downstream, profits are less possible to improve in a short run, thus petrobenzene prices should edge lower. Overall, styrene market will see limitedly supportive cost side.

Supply & Demand: In China, partial styrene units halted for turnaround, and some units are planned to suspend production later. Accordingly, styrene market supply is predicted to be tight. In downstream, buyers hold tepid demand under poor gains. If demand side is unchanged, styrene inventory is likely to decrease narrowly at ports in East China.

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## **ABS**

#### Market Analysis

Domestic ABS market was placed in a downtrend. Earlier this week, international crude oil prices slumped and styrene prices were pressured down, weakening cost support for the ABS market. Seeing falling prices of feedstock and poor buying appetite, holders sold products with preferential prices. During the week, prices of styrene posted a constant downside in step with falling prices of international crude oil. Petrochemical plants mostly stabilized prices of ABS, with market participants in a watching mood. Market prices were on the decline in East and South China, and buyers made purchases on an as-needed basis. As of Nov. 24, mainstream offer for 0215A was assessed at USD 1,585/T in East China, while USD 1,487/T in South China.

As for imported market, Asia ABS offers were as follows: USD 1,489-1,491/T CFR China.



#### > Forecast

Feedstock: Futures prices of international crude oil cited a heavy pullback. Butadiene market prices persistently weakened. Acrylonitrile market prices slipped further. And styrene prices fell back.

Demand: According to the National Bureau of Statistics, auto production in China advanced YoY in Sep., 2022, refrigerator production in China rose in Sep., 2022, Air conditioner production in China escalated YoY in Sep., 2022, and washing machine production in China grew YoY in Sep., 2022.

The short-term ABS market may extend losses, moving by USD 14-28/T. Mainstream offer for 0215A is predicted to roughly reach USD 1,585-1,606/T in East China.

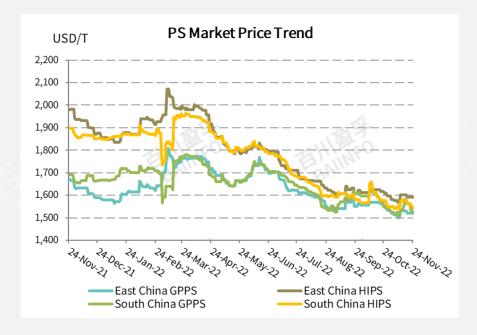
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## PS

### Market Analysis

Domestic PS market prices were subjected to downward pressure. Average price of GPPS came in at USD 1,460/T, down by 0.76% WoW. Utilization rate of PS industry grew further and loosening supply of GPPS eased upward momentum. Market performed slightly better in East China, while prices weakened on mounting supply in North China, failing to appeal buyers. Earlier this week, holders mostly stabilized prices, but part of them slightly cut prices on falling prices of styrene and lackluster demand. In the middle of this week, styrene price downside persisted, driven down by the plunge in prices of international crude oil. Transactions for PS showed any signs of improvement due to sluggish demand from end users. As of Nov. 24, mainstream offers for GPPS and HIPS were assessed at USD 1,501-1,543/T and USD 1,571-1,613/T in East China, while those for GPPS and HIPS came in at USD 1,355-1,694/T and USD 1,461-1,627/T in South China.

For imported cargoes, Asia PS market: GPPS offers were as follows: USD 1,175-1,176/T for China; and HIPS offers were as follows: USD 1,109-1,114/T for China.



#### > Forecast

Feedstock: Styrene prices may be pressured by soft prices of petrobenzene.

Supply & Demand: Industrial utilization rate maintains its uptrend. Inevitably, prices may be pressured by rising supply of GPPS and new capacity production in northern China. The lower prices may attract buyers to purchase PS to replace regenerated materials, likely to ease the supply growth. Also, inter-regional price differentials are expected to increase the flow of goods.

As mentioned above, the PS market is anticipated to consolidate in weak condition, moving by USD 28-70/T. In East China, the mainstream offers for GPPS and HIPS may stand at USD 1,473-1,571/T and USD 1,543-1,683/T, respectively.

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# **Statistics**

## > Price Comparison of Main Raw Materials

Product	This Thur.	WoW	Price Chg. 3m (%)	Year-to-date Change (%)
WTI (USD/Barrel)	77.94	-7.65	-17.86%	-2.91%
Brent (USD/Barrel)	85.41	-7.45	-15.62%	9.81%
Styrene (RMB/T)	8,025	-315	-9.75%	-6.82%
Butadiene (RMB/T)	6,800	-375	-16.05%	60.95%
Acrylonitrile (RMB/T)	10,500	-700	19.32%	-17.97%

## Market Price of Domestic ABS (Unit: RMB/T)

Regions	23-Nov-22	24-Nov-22	25-Nov-22	26-Nov-22	27-Nov-22	28-Nov-22	29-Nov-22	Average Prices
ABS in East China	11,525	11,525	11,525	11,525	11,525	11,475	11,475	11,511
ABS in South China	11,725	11,725	11,725	11,725	11,725	11,660	11,660	11,706
0215A in East China	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,300	11,250	11,250	11,286
0215A in South China	11,650	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,550	11,550	11,593
121H in East China	11,650	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,700	11,693
121H in South China	11,800	11,750	11,750	11,750	11,750	11,600	11,600	11,714
15A1 in East China	11,650	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,600	11,607
15A1 in South China	11,700	11,670	11,670	11,670	11,670	11,600	11,600	11,654
750A in East China	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,250	11,150	11,150	11,221
750A in South China	11,650	11,650	11,650	11,650	11,650	11,600	11,600	11,636
D-180 in East China	11,550	11,550	11,550	11,550	11,550	11,550	11,550	11,550
PA-757K in East China	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800
PA-757K in South China	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,800	11,720	11,720	11,777

## Market Price of Domestic PS (Unit: RMB/T)

Date	GPPS in East China	HIPS in East China	GPPS in South China	HIPS in South China
23-Nov-22	10,850	11,350	10,915	11,060
24-Nov-22	10,850	11,350	10,870	11,010
25-Nov-22	10,850	11,350	10,880	11,010
26-Nov-22	10,850	11,350	10,880	11,010
27-Nov-22	10,850	11,350	10,880	11,010
28-Nov-22	10,850	11,350	10,860	11,000
29-Nov-22	10,850	11,275	10,815	10,950
Average Prices	10,850	11,339	10,871	11,007

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