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|  |  **19th November 2010** |
| **Polyethylene                                                 (Middle East/South Asia)** |
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| **SPOT PRICES - CFR BASIS** |
| **Click for Price History** |   |   | **Price Range**  |   | **Four weeks ago** | **US CTS/LB** |
| LDPE FILM |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021097) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1530-****1580** | n/c | 1470-1500 | 69.40-71.67 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021099) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1570-****1600** | n/c | 1520-1560 | 71.21-72.57 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021101) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1520-****1580** | n/c | 1520-1540 | 68.95-71.67 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021102) | USD/TONNE | +20 | **1600-****1620** | n/c | 1530-1600 | 72.57-73.48 |
| LLDPE FILM |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021103) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1250-****1280** | n/c | 1160-1240 | 56.70-58.06 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021105) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1300-****1320** | n/c | 1210-1240 | 58.97-59.87 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021107) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1230-****1250** | n/c | 1200-1250 | 55.79-56.70 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021108) | USD/TONNE | +50 | **1350-****1420** | +90 | 1250-1300 | 61.23-64.41 |
| HDPE FILM |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021109) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1230-****1270** | n/c | 1160-1230 | 55.79-57.61 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021111) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1280-****1300** | n/c | 1200-1230 | 58.06-58.97 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021113) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1180-****1220** | n/c | 1180-1220 | 53.52-55.34 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021114) | USD/TONNE | +50 | **1300-****1350** | +80 | 1230-1270 | 58.97-61.23 |
| **HDPE BLOW MOULDING** |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021226) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1230-****1270** | n/c | 1160-1230 | 55.79-57.61 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021227) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1280-****1300** | n/c | 1200-1230 | 58.06-58.97 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021228) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1180-****1220** | n/c | 1180-1220 | 53.52-55.34 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021229) | USD/TONNE | +50 | **1300-****1350** | +80 | 1220-1270 | 58.97-61.23 |
| **HDPE INJECTION** |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021230) | USD/TONNE | +10 | **1240-****1310** | +40 | 1200-1260 | 56.25-59.42 |
| **HDPE MONOFILAMENT YARN** |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4021231) | USD/TONNE | +110 | **1400-****1450** | +130 | 1260-1300 | 63.50-65.77 |
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  Market  Summary

Polyethylene (PE) prices surged by $20-130/tonne in India, supported by improving demand, limited supply and low inventories among end users. The price rally seen in the key China market in the past two weeks, prior to this week’s downward correction, also bolstered buying interest in India, as did the firming of feedstock ethylene costs.



In the Middle East and Pakistan, the week-long Eid al-Adha holidays brought markets to a halt in most countries. The only exceptions were Iran, where sanctions slowed buying activity, and Israel, where tight supply caused by an unconfirmed three-week shutdown at a local plant boosted sentiment in the domestic market, although import offers were scant. Unconfirmed reports of production hiccups at a Saudi plant also bolstered buying interest in the Middle East.

A hike in European price indications for December also buoyed sentiment in the Middle East, where suppliers likewise hinted at a possible $50/tonne increase in prices for December cargoes, although formal announcements were only expected by the end of next week.

However, some market players in the Middle East and South Asia cited this week’s steep fall in Chinese PE prices, especially for LDPE and LLDPE – an offshoot of the government’s anti-inflation measures- as a possible factor which could impact sentiment adversely in their own markets in the coming weeks. However, others said the uptrend in crude and ethylene values could counter any negative impact from the Chinese price decline.

Middle East

Activity was muted in the Middle East, with only Iran and Israel showing any signs of life. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region was completely devoid of trades, as players were on Eid holiday the whole week. In the East Mediterranean (East Med) too, there was hardly any trading due to Eid, but low inventories could prompt buyers to re-enter the market with gusto next week, a trader said.

Prices in the GCC were stable at $1,230-1,270/tonne CFR for HDPE film and $1,250-1,280/tonne CFR for LLDPE, the lower end reflecting trades into Saudi Arabia and the higher end those into Oman, Kuwait and Dubai. In the East Med, prices of HDPE and LLDPE were at $1,280-1,300/tonne CFR, with the lower end representing consignments into Jordan and Syria and the higher end those into Egypt.

LDPE prices were also unchanged at $1,530-1,580/tonne CFR GCC and $1,570-1,600/tonne CFR East Med.

In Israel, offers for LDPE in the domestic market were heard at above $1,700/tonne DEL, while offers were heard at $1,550/tonne CFR for high melt index blowmoulding grade HDPE from Thailand which were outside the scope of the assessed range.

South Asia

India saw a lot of activity this week after the Diwali break last week. Iranian offers for LDPE were heard at $1,600/tonne CFR India, while deals for Qatari cargoes were heard higher at $1,620/tonne CFR India. Offers for LLDPE were at $1,420-1,430/tonne for GCC material while those for Iranian cargoes were at $1,350/tonne CFR India. HDPE film was offered at $1,350/tonne CFR India by a global supplier and at $1,300/tonne CFR India by an Iranian supplier. Yarn grade HDPE offers from Thailand were heard at $1,450/tonne CFR India.

Quicker delivery of Iranian cargoes made this origin more acceptable to Indian customers, traders said. The cargoes were being officially offered after being loaded, which shortened the delivery time. In some cases, only a copy of the LC was demanded before concluding sales.

In Pakistan,  some deals for Iranian LDPE were heard at $1,480/tonne CFR Karachi, but most market players said these were special transactions not reflective of the wider market trend. Discussions were mostly unchanged from last week’s assessed range of $1,520-1,580/tonne CFR Karachi for LDPE, $1,230-1,250/tonne CFR Karachi for LLDPE and $1,180-1,220/tonne CFR Karachi for HDPE film. However, prices were expected to rise next week, when Middle East producers were due to come up with fresh offers for December.

Freight rates

Freight rates fell by $20/tonne on easier availability of vessel space. Freight between northeast Asia and the Middle East/Africa was at $80-100/tonne while that between northeast Asia and India was at $40-50/tonne. Freight from southeast Asia to these destinations was around $20-30/tonne lower than those from northeast Asia.

($1= € 0.73)

($1=Rs45.23)

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| **FILM:** |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022046) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1300-****1340** | n/c | 1260-1300 | 58.97-60.78 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022048) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1320-****1380** | n/c | 1280-1320 | 59.87-62.60 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022050) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1370-****1390** | n/c | 1300-1360 | 62.14-63.05 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022051) | USD/TONNE | +70 | **1420-****1470** | +70 | 1340-1380 | 64.41-66.68 |
| **BOPP FILM:** |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022152) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1300-****1340** | n/c | 1260-1300 | 58.97-60.78 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022153) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1320-****1360** | n/c | 1280-1320 | 59.87-61.69 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022154) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1350-****1390** | n/c | 1290-1350 | 61.23-63.05 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022136) | USD/TONNE | +70 | **1400-****1450** | +70 | 1320-1360 | 63.50-65.77 |
| **INJECTION:** |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022052) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1280-****1320** | n/c | 1240-1280 | 58.06-59.87 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022053) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1300-****1340** | n/c | 1260-1300 | 58.97-60.78 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022054) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1330-****1370** | n/c | 1280-1340 | 60.33-62.14 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022055) | USD/TONNE | +70 | **1400-****1420** | +40 | 1320-1360 | 63.50-64.41 |
| **FLATYARN (RAFFIA):** |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022056) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1280-****1320** | n/c | 1240-1280 |   |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022057) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1300-****1340** | n/c | 1260-1300 | 58.97-60.78 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022058) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1330-****1370** | n/c | 1280-1340 | 60.33-62.14 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022059) | USD/TONNE | +70 | **1400-****1450** | +70 | 1320-1360 | 63.50-65.77 |
| **BLOCK COPOLYMER (GENERAL PURPOSE GRADES):** |
| [GCC](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022155) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1380-****1440** | n/c | 1330-1360 | 62.60-65.32 |
| [EAST MED](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022156) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1400-****1450** | n/c | 1340-1370 | 63.50-65.77 |
| [PAKISTAN](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022157) | USD/TONNE | n/c | **1410-****1430** | n/c | 1370-1390 | 63.96-64.86 |
| [INDIA MAIN PORT](http://www.icispricing.com/prices/series.asp?sno=4022158) | USD/TONNE | +60 | **1480-****1500** | +50 | 1400-1430 | 67.13-68.04 |
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Market  Summary

Polypropylene (PP) prices rose steeply by $40-70/tonne in India on the back of strong demand and restricted supply. Low inventories among traders and end users coupled with an earlier surge in prices in the key China market boosted buying sentiment and prompted suppliers to sharply raise offers into India.



Even the slight softening this week  in feedstock propylene costs and in Chinese import prices – an offshoot of new regulatory measures to curb inflation -- did little to dampen sentiment in India, as end users were anxious to replenish their depleted stocks. An easing of the earlier requirement for deposits before importing Saudi Arabian cargoes also improved demand for consignments of that origin. Raffia grade in particular, was in high demand, creating a price gap between that grade and the injection grade.

In the Middle East and Pakistan, prices were stable as market activity halted on account of the Eid al-Adha holidays this week. No fresh offers or deals were heard, as suppliers and end users withdrew from the market. But some Middle East suppliers were heard indicating an increase of up to $50/tonne for December offers later this month to bridge the price gap between the region and Asia. A hike in prices indicated by European producers this week also boosted sentiment in the Middle East. In Pakistan, buyers adopted a wait and see attitude until the Eid holidays end next week.

Middle East

Activity was extremely subdued in the Middle East, with only Iran and Israel displaying minimal trades. The Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) region was completely out of action thanks to the week-long Eid holiday, and the East Mediterranean (East Med) hardly saw any activity. In Iran, sanctions impeded import offers while in Israel, tight supply due to an unconfirmed shutdown at a local facility improved buying sentiment.

Discussions in the GCC were unchanged at $1,280-1,320/tonne CFR for raffia and injection and $1,300-1,340/tonne CFR for film, the lower end reflecting trades into Saudi Arabia and the higher end those into Oman and Dubai. In the East Med, raffia/injection and film grades were discussed at $1,300-1,340/tonne CFR and $1,320-1,380/tonne CFR respectively, with the lower end representing consignments into Jordan and Syria and the higher end those into Egypt.

In Israel, offers in the domestic market were heard at $1,700/tonne DEL for injection grade and at $1,770/tonne DEL for copolymer, the steep price rise caused  by shortages.

South Asia

India was a hub of activity this week as buyers rushed into the market to procure cargoes after the Diwali festival lull last week. Supply was constrained by a drop in operating rates at a local facility. Strong demand for raffia grade caused offers from a global supplier to surge to $1,500/tonne CFR India, traders said, but buying ideas were no higher than $1,450/tonne CFR India.

Another global supplier was heard offering raffia at $1,450/tonne CFR India and injection at $1,420/tonne CFR India. Some offers from a Saudi supplier were also heard at $1,400/tonne CFR India for raffia and injection grades. An end user said he was willing to pay $1,450/tonne CFR India for raffia but only $1,420/tonne for injection. Film grade discussions were heard at $1,420-1,470/tonne CFR India, but no deals were heard. Copolymer PP offers were heard at $1,500/tonne CFR India and higher, with bids heard slightly lower.

In Pakistan, no offers or deals were heard, as market players were on Eid holiday. Discussions were unchanged at $1,330-1,370/tonne CFR Karachi for raffia and $1,370-1,390/tonne CFR Karachi for film, but were expected to rise next week.

Freight rates:

Freight rates fell by $20/tonne due to easier availability of vessels. Freight between northeast Asia and the Middle East/Africa was at $80-100/tonne while that between northeast Asia and India was at $40-50/tonne. Freight from southeast Asia to these destinations was around $20-30/tonne lower than those from northeast Asia.

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