



Polyolefins trends 2020

Markets globally have been heavily impacted by the covid-19 pandemic. Demand has been severely impacted in the polyolefins sector, leading to a change in buying patterns and a shift in outlook. Find out more...



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US Polyethylene

For the past two years US polyethylene (PE) has seen a sharp uptick in exports to the EU, with fracking providing ample ethane to act as a feedstock for PE.

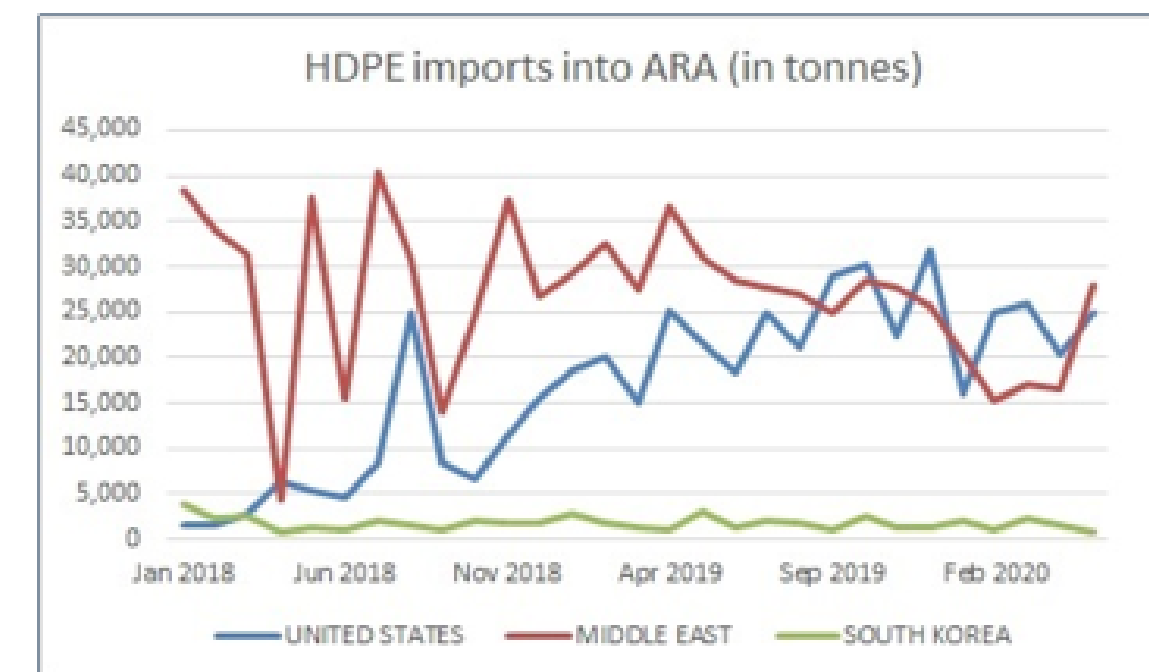
As the crude market crashed earlier this year, European PE was able to compete with US PE due to lower costs of naphtha-based production.

A hefty portion of the new US PE production is destined to be exported, and Europe has become a major destination.



"The graph below shows how little high density polyethylene (HDPE) was imported from the US to Europe as recently as January 2018. US volumes are now on a level with the Middle Eastern imports."

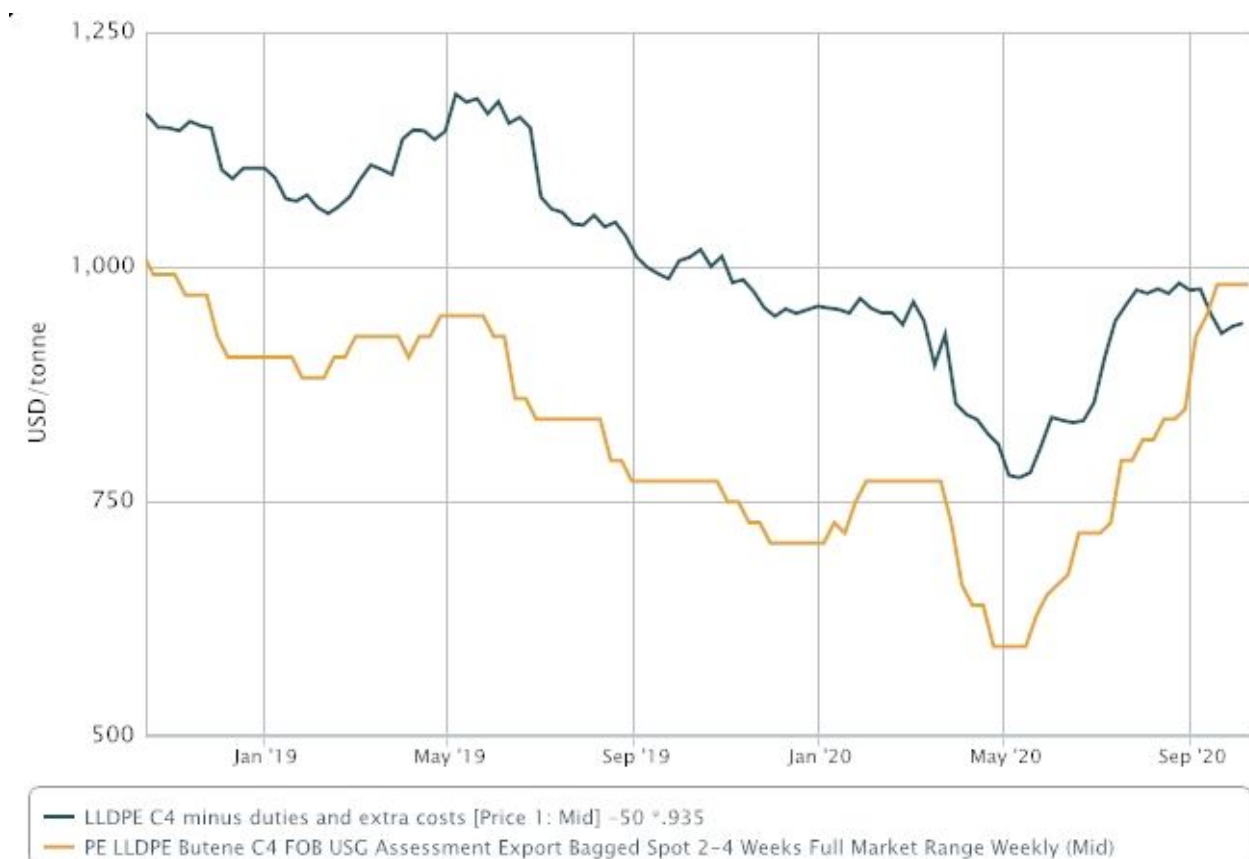
HDPE imports into ARA (kt)





"Similarly with Linear low density polyethylene (LLDPE), the US finds itself competing with the traditionally dominant ME exporters.

"Following unplanned outages in US on hurricane Laura export prices export USA to Europe not workable."



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4 Key PE and PP market trends for 2020

1. Markets are very much application driven e.g the automotive industry was at a standstill during Q2, while packaging demand was extremely strong, much stronger than usual. PP non-woven grades very strong as they are used in PPE.
2. Q3 demand is getting back to normal as consumer panic buying eases, automotive has picked up but not back to pre-pandemic levels yet.
3. Q4 – new covid cases throughout Europe leading to a great deal of uncertainty.
4. European demand remains patchy coming out of the covid-19 pandemic.

Want to learn more?

The Polyolefins market must remain resilient to changes if it is to survive the covid-19 pandemic. If you want to learn more about what the industry is doing to adapt, join industry experts at the **ICIS Polyolefins Virtual Conference, 3 - 4 November 2020 (06.30am GMT, 02.30pm SGT, 01.30am EST, Online).**

Market participants from across the Polyolefins value chain need to find new ways to reconnect, interact and engage with peers, colleagues and leaders across the sector.

This FREE virtual conference from ICIS provides the opportunity to do all of this and more.

For more info, check out:

www.icisevents.com/worldpolyolefins