AIDE MEMOIRE

Dashboard updates to (non-fuel) supply chains for critical sectors and key goods – 20 April 2026

Date:	20 April 2026	**Priority:**	High
Security classification:	Restricted	**Tracking number:**	[Comments]

Information for Minister(s)
Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group
Hon Nicola Wills **Minister of Finance**
Hon Chris Bishop **Associate Minister of Finance**
Hon Simeon Brown **Minister for Energy**
Hon David Seymour **Associate Minister of Finance**
Hon Shane Jones **Associate Minister of Finance, Associate Minister for Energy**

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)				
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**		**1st contact**
		DDI	Cell	
Sebastian Doelle	Manager, Trade and Supply Chains		Privacy of natural persons	✓
Andrew Lee	Senior Policy Advisor, Supply Chains Response Team			

The following departments/agencies have been consulted
Ministry for Primary Industries, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Health, Ministry of Transport, The Treasury

Minister's office to complete:	☐ Approved	☐ Declined
☐ Noted	☐ Needs change	☐ Seen
☐ Overtaken by Events	☐ See Minister's Notes	☐ Withdrawn

Comments

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

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Purpose

To provide you with an update of material changes to supply chain risks for critical sectors and key goods (excluding fuel) since 13 April 2026 [MBIE Briefing 0030608 refers].

Sebastian Doelle
Manager, Trade and Supply Chains
Communications, Trade, and Investment, MBIE

20 / 04 / 2026

Key messages

The overall risk status for non-fuel supply chains is unchanged

1. Across the products we are monitoring, we consider there is limited risk of shortage in the short term, with our assessment of risks either remaining unchanged or lowered since our last report on 13 April 2026 [MBIE Briefing 0030608 refers].

2. Free and frank opinions [redacted]

3. Pricing data for each product now shows the total change in pricing from pre-conflict (latest available data prior to 28 February) to now (most recent available data).

4. We have added one product to the dashboard. **Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)** has been added as a critical gas product. Confidential information entrusted to the Government [redacted] the South Island is entirely reliant on imported LPG for supply of natural gas. Officials will continue to track this product for international availability and cost pressures.

5. Four products have had their risk level lowered Free and frank [redacted].

a. **Acetic acid:** Commercial Information [redacted]

b. **Bitumen:** While there are international disruptions to bitumen (see below), Com merci [redacted]

c. **Medicines** and **Medical devices, consumables and equipment:** Following consultation with the Ministry of Health, we are confident that supply issues are well-managed by agencies.

6. All information presented in this update is based on data and feedback as of 10am, 20 April 2026. Please see Annexes One and Two for further detail.

7. We are continuing to work with relevant government and private sector stakeholders to monitor the situation and identify key risks and any anticipated shifts in supply chains over the coming months. We will provide regular updates to Ministers on any risks identified.

International developments

Naphtha as an input material into plastics and petrochemical products

8. Naphtha is a feedstock into critical products across several sectors including fuel blending, chemical manufacturing feedstock and industrial applications. As a result, naphtha availability and pricing can act as a leading indicator of broader supply chain risks across refined fuel products and petrochemical-derived goods.

9. Naphtha's cost has increased 65% compared to the same time last year and pricing has become volatile.

10. Internationally, there are concerning reports of Naphtha shortages, predominantly in Asia. For example, the Korean government announced a ban on exports of domestically produced naphtha, to take effect from 27 March. New Zealand currently has limited direct reliance on Korean naphtha imports, with no imports recorded from the last two years. Free and frank opinions [redacted]

11. Similar levels of concern have been expressed in Taiwan and Thailand. Free and frank opinions [redacted]

Sulphur as an input product into fertilisers

12. Sulphur is produced predominantly as a by-product of oil and gas processing. The product is notably the primary feedstock for sulphuric acid, one of the world's most widely used industrial chemicals. Sulphur is also an essential input to fertiliser.

13. According to the International Energy Agency, around half of global sulphur trade passes through the strait of Hormuz. Gulf countries, including Iran, account for about a quarter of global production of sulphur.

14. Disruptions have led to rising prices and have heavily impacted countries that import sulphur for the production of sulphuric acid. In particular, China imports 55% of its sulphur from the Middle East. China has now proposed halting exports of sulphuric acid International relations [redacted]

15. New Zealand imports its Sulphur from Canada (approx. 70%) and South Korea (approx. 9%). We therefore consider the supply situation stable and have not included Sulphur as a specific product in our dashboards at this stage.

16. While New Zealand will not be directly impacted by China's export restrictions, it points to a worsening overall situation in the global trade of sulphur and related downstream products. Free and frank opinions [redacted] MBIE will continue to engage with the Ministry for Primary Industries to monitor its potential second-order impacts on domestic supply.

Bitumen

17. International relations [redacted]

18. New Zealand does not source any bitumen from Singapore, with the vast majority coming from Malaysia and therefore not directly impacted. However, this is indicative of the strain currently placed on by-products of oil manufacturing.

Next steps

19. We do not recommend taking any decisions in response to this update. We will continue to monitor a broad range of goods to ensure the dashboards remain fit for purpose. This includes removing items where weekly updates are no longer required and adding new items where emerging risks require more frequent monitoring.

20. We will provide the next dashboard update on Monday 27 April 2026.

Annexes

Annex One: Dashboard Overview Table

Annex Two: Dashboards

Annex One: Dashboard Overview Table

Dashboard overview: non-fuel critical sectors and goods

Sector/ Goods	Product (HS-4/6)	Rationale for risk rating change	13/04	20/04
Critical Chemicals & Gases	*Aluminium Sulphate*		Free and frank opinions	
	Acetic Acid			
	Sodium Hypochlorite			
	Carbon Dioxide			
	Caustic Soda	Commercial Information		
	Chlorine Gas			
	Petroleum-based lubricants			
	Helium			
	Liquified Petroleum Gas	The South Island is almost entirely reliant on LPG. Commercial Information The rest is domestically manufactured. Commercial Information		
	Polyethylene			
	Polypropylene			
	Polyvinyl Chloride			
	Styrene			
Fertiliser	*Urea*			
Health	*Medicines*	Risk ratings updated following inter-agency consultation 17/04.		
	Medical Devices			
Construction Materials	*Adhesives*			
	Petroleum Resins			
	Toluene			
	Bitumen	Commercial Information		

*All datasets are indicative estimates, reliant on information provided to MBIE and publicly available at the time of consolidation and remain subject to revision.

Free and frank opinions

Annex Two: Dashboards

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
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Product dashboards non-fuel critical sectors and goods

20 April 2026

Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa
New Zealand Government

Dashboard methodology

Free and frank opinions

Information on data

- This is based on data available on 10 April 2026.
- All datasets are indicative estimates, reliant on information provided to MBIE from industry, other government agencies, and publicly available at the time of consolidation.
- Given the current global environment, data is subject to sudden change.
- Descriptions for each product are included in the glossary.

Why data is aggregated

- Data is recorded inconsistently across countries and is often not available at a reliable product level.
- Where appropriate, goods have been aggregated into criteria classes or sectors to provide an indicative view of overall supply chain conditions.
- MBIE is engaging with relevant stakeholders to improve visibility and will flag additional relevant goods over time where appropriate.

Financial indicators

- Due to the high level of product aggregation, some pricing and detailed insights are not yet available.

Price changes

- Price movements within 5% are considered normal variation in pricing. Above 5% is marked indicated with an arrow.
- Expected movements within this range (typical market fluctuations) are marked with a ‘-' symbol to indicate stability.

Critical Chemicals - water treatment (1 of 2)

Sector commentary

- Free and frank opinions
- Drinking water and wastewater treatment is highly reliant on imported chemical availability.
- Commercial Information
- Commercial Information
- Most prices are currently stable albeit at a higher level than pre-crisis.

Product commentary

Aluminium Sulphate

- Manufactured domestically, but supply is reliant on inputs of imported goods. Commercial Information

Acetic Acid

- While New Zealand is fully import dependent, stock levels remain stable.

Sodium Hypochlorite

- Domestic manufacturing accounts for around 40% of domestic manufacturing and supports supply stability.
- Hazardous, difficult to transport and store. Limited ability to hold large inventories due to degradation over time.

Aluminium Sulphate

Free and frank opinions

+2.37%
Price change since February

$346
Market price USD/MT as at Q1 2026

Key supply partners:

- China (61%)
- Indonesia (31.4%)

Commercial Information

Acetic Acid

Free and frank opinions

+27.91%
Price change since February

$0.55
Market price USD/KG as at April 2026

Key supply partners:

- Singapore (57.5%)
- Korea (29.6%)

TBC
Estimated supply

Sodium Hypochlorite

Free and frank opinions

+2.27%
Price change since February

$0.45
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

Key supply partners:

- Australia (55.3%)
- China (23%)
- Japan (10.5%)

TBC
Estimated supply

Critical Chemicals - water treatment (2 of 2)

Product commentary

Carbon Dioxide (CO_2)

- Majority of CO_2 in New Zealand is produced domestically and supplemented with imports.
- Commercial Information

Caustic Soda (Sodium hydroxide)

- Free and frank opinions
- Commercial Information
- Caustic soda is integrated with PVC production. Commercial Information

Chlorine Gas

- Commercial Information

Carbon Dioxide

Free and frank opinions

-1.3%
Price change since February

$0.76
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

TBC
Estimated months of supply

Key supply partners:

- Australia (68.6%)
- Singapore (12.5%)

Caustic Soda

Free and frank opinions

+17.04%
Price change since February

$109
Market price USD/T as 16 April 2026

Commercial Information

Key supply partners:

- China (53.7%)
- Korea (18.6%)
- Taiwan (10.5%)

Chlorine Gas

Free and frank opinions

-26.25%
Price change since February

$0.59
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

Commercial Information

Key supply partners:

- Australia (88.5%)

Critical Chemicals & Gases

Sector commentary

- **No change to stability ratings, new rating for LPG.**
- Goods under this criterion are likely to have significant cross-sector impacts if supply chains are disrupted due to their widespread use as inputs across multiple manufactured products.
- Commercial Information

Product commentary

Petroleum based lubricant (engine oils, hydraulic oils, and industrial greases)

- New Zealand is reliant on imported base products and limited domestic blending capability.

Helium

- Helium manufacturing in Qatar ceased due to direct Iranian strikes, raising concerns. We have not heard reports of this impacting supply to New Zealand.
- International relations

Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)

- New Zealand's South Island is entirely reliant on LPG as it has no natural gas reserves (unlike the North Island.)
- Commercial Information
- Officials are monitoring the key inputs of LPG; propane and butane, to manage any risks of upstream supply disruption.

Petroleum based lubricants

Free and frank opinions

+40.45%
Price change since February

$1073/MT
Market price USD/MT as at March 2026

Key supply partners:
- South Korea (55.4%)
- Singapore (28.4%)

TBC
Estimated months of supply

Helium

Free and frank opinions

+21.48%
Price change since February

$152.7
Market price USD/cubic metre as at March 2026

Commercial Information

Key supply partners:
- Australia (49.3%)
- China (35.2%)

Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)

Free and frank opinions

+37.85%
Price change since February

$794.45
Market price USD/T as at 16 April 2026

Key supply partners:
- Australia (94.0%)
- Algeria (2.9%)
- South Korea (2.5%)

TBC
Estimated supply

*All datasets are indicative estimates, reliant on information provided to MBIE and publicly available at the time of consolidation, and remain subject to revision.

Free and frank opinions

Plastics (1 of 2)

Sector commentary

- **No change to stability ratings.**
- Free and frank opinions [redacted]
- Commercial Information [redacted]
- International relations [redacted]
- Commercial Information [redacted]

Product commentary

Polyethylene (PE)

- Free and frank opinions [redacted] major Asian suppliers to New Zealand have declared force majeure. Commercial Information [redacted]

Polypropylene

- Commercial Information [redacted]

Polyethylene (PE)

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+22.14%

Price change since March

$1208

Market price USD/T as at 16 April 2026

Commercial Information [redacted]

Key supply partners:

- Middle East (22%)
- Asia (excluding China) (56%)

Polypropylene (PP)

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+35.19

Price change since March

$1338.75

Market price UDS/T as at 16 April 2026

Commercial Information [redacted]

Key supply partners (80.7%):

- South Korea (56.8%)
- Australia (10.3%)

Plastics (2 of 2)

Product commentary

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

- New Zealand's PVC supply is exposed due to its ethylene input and Middle-East linked trade flows.
- Commercial Information

Styrene

- Commercial Information
- Commercial Information

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

Free and frank opinions

+6.47%
Price change since March 2026
$764.85
Market price USD/T as at 10 April 2026

Key supply partners:
- China (54.7%)
- Germany (7.3%)

Commercial Information

Styrene

Free and frank opinions

+32.98%
Price change over March 2026
$1521.9
Market price USD/T as at 15 April 2026

Key supply partners:
- South Korea (41.8%)
- Taiwan (33.5%)

Commercial Information

Fertiliser

Sector commentary

- **No change to stability rating.**
- Commercial Information [redacted]

Urea

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+54.78%
Price change since March

$720.5/T
Market price USD/T as at 10 April 2026

Key supply partners:
- Saudi Arabia (58.9%)
- Malaysia (22.9%)

Commercial Information [redacted]

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Free and frank opinions [redacted]

[RESTRICTED]

Medicines (health products 1 of 2)

Sector commentary

Overall assessment

- Free and frank opinions
- Pharmac is managing a small number of supply issues related to the events in the Middle East but advises there are currently minimal impacts to New Zealanders at this time.

Wider observations

- Shipping lines are implementing increased distribution costs, fuel and war risk and fuel surcharges.
- Medical devices and pharmaceutical companies (including wholesalers) have indicated that there may be delays in shipping product to New Zealand.
- It was previously observed that additional freight transiting through Bangkok due to the Middle East airspace closure, however no current issues as a result.

Medicines*

Free and frank opinions

3

Medicines under active management due to ME

0

Increase since last report related to Middle East of actively managed medicines

*Due to contractual obligations, the price of medicines is unlikely to change and suppliers are responsible for delivering two months' supply.
*Pharmac regularly manages between 60-80 medicine supply issues at any one time, majority of these avoid patient impacts.

Product commentary

- There are three supply issues currently being managed by Pharmac relating to the Middle East conflict. One product, melatonin tablets are delayed but no patient impact at this time. Two of these currently have a risk to New Zealanders which is being mitigated, specifically:
    - Isosorbide mononitrate used for certain heart conditions including angina is delayed due to increase demand and shipping. Funded alternative has been made available. No impact expected to estimated 2,300 patient group, supporting information published on Pharmac website.
    - Imiquimod is used for warts, superficial skin cancer and actinic keratosis. The product is manufactured in Israel and shipping has been impacted due to the conflict. Alternative product has been sourced and supporting information to be published on Pharmac website.

*All datasets are indicative estimates, reliant on information provided to MBIE and publicly available at the time of consolidation, and remain subject to revision.

Free and frank opinions

Medical devices (health products 2 of 2)

Sector commentary

Overall assessment:

- Free and frank opinions [redacted]
- Commercial Information [redacted]

Wider observations

- Free and frank opinions [redacted]
- Commercial Information [redacted]

Commercial Information [redacted]

While services remain unaffected, Health NZ is monitoring the following emerging risks:

- Potential global shipping delays and route instability.
- Fuel surcharges and freight costs prices.

Medical devices, consumables & equipment

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

1

Increase since last report related to Middle East of actively managed medical devices and consumables

1

Devices, consumables equipment under active management due to ME

0

Increase since last report related to Middle East of actively managed equipment and supporting consumables

Medical devices and consumables commentary

- Commercial Information [redacted]

Equipment and supporting consumables commentary

- There is no disruption to the helium supply (required for MRIs to operate). At present, Health NZ's suppliers have contingency plans in place to ensure ongoing supply.

Construction materials (1 of 2)

Sector commentary

- Free and frank opinions [redacted]
- Construction sector primarily concerned with increased costs across all key inputs (timber, PVC, PE), with stability dependent on key inputs such plastics and fuel supply. Commercial Information [redacted]
- MBIE is working with major procuring agencies to consider construction contract guidance to help manage cost escalation and potential delays arising from Iran conflict related disruptions.
- Commercial Information [redacted]

Product commentary

Adhesives

- No NZ production of petroleum inputs. Commercial Information [redacted]

Petroleum Resins

- Commercial Information [redacted]

Adhesives

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

Key supply partners:

- Australia (31.2%)
- Germany (22.3%)
- USA (19.7%)

N/A

TBC
Estimated months of supply

Petroleum Resins

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

-4.05%
Price change since February

$1.42
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

Key supply partners:

- China (75.9%)
- Republic of Korea (9.9%)

Commercial Information [redacted]

Prices have been significantly impacted since the end of February for both adhesives and petroleum resins. It is difficult to provide a comprehensive pricing figure for each group as they contain a broad range of products. Proxies (eg precursor chemicals used in adhesives and common resin products) have been used to form an indicative database on price changes and have supported internal decisions on overall risk ratings.

Construction materials (2 of 2)

Product commentary

Solvent (Toluene)

- By product of oil refining.
- Commercial Information

Bitumen (Construction)

- Free and frank opinions
- By product of oil refining. Concentrated supply in Asia.
- Commercial Information
- International relations
- Commercial Information

Solvent (Toluene)

Free and frank opinions

Key supply partners:

- Republic of Korea (63.2%)
- Thailand (21.6%)
- Singapore (14.1%)

-2.74%
Price change since February

$0.71
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

TBC
Estimated months of supply

Bitumen (Construction)

Free and frank opinions

Key supply partners:

- Malaysia (76.3%)
- USA (23.1%)

+20.31%
Price change since March

$611.8
Market price USD/T as at 10 April 2026

Commercial Information

Product Glossary

Critical Chemicals & Gases

- ***Petroleum based lubricant (engine oils, hydraulic oils, industrial grease)*** – Fluids and greases refined from crude oil and formulated with performance additives to reduce friction, wear, and heat between moving surfaces.
- ***Helium*** – Helium supports essential services including medical imaging, AI datacenters and advanced manufacturing.
- ***Aluminium Sulphate*** – A low-cost, water-soluble aluminium salt commonly used as a coagulant to remove dirt and impurities from water and wastewater treatment.
- ***Acetic Acid*** – Used for pH adjustment and neutralisation which is essential to maintaining safe and compliant water services.
- ***Sodium Hypochlorite*** – Essential for water disinfection. Hazardous, difficult to transport and limited ability to hold large inventories due to degradation over time.
- ***Carbon Dioxide*** – Mainly captured as a by-product of ammonia and hydrogen production, this colourless, odourless, non-flammable gas is used widely across food, medical, industrial, water treatment, agricultural, and logistics sectors.
- ***Caustic Soda*** – Critical industrial chemical for cleaning, with demand concentrated in water utilities, councils, food and beverage processors, pulp and paper, mining/metals, and chemical manufacturing.
- ***Chlorine*** – Critical input for drinking water and wastewater treatment. Can be supplied as a compressed or liquefied gas, or converted into chlorine-based solutions for disinfection uses. Hazardous and difficult to transport and store.
- ***Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG) –*** A portable fossil fuel, made mainly of propane and butane, which is stored as a liquid and vaporized when released for use. Mainly used for space and water heating, cooking, camping and in some industrial and vehicle fuel applications.

Plastics

- ***Polyethylene (PE)*** – Polyethylene is the world's most widely produced plastic. It is a lightweight, chemically resistant, and highly versatile material used in everything from packaging films to fuel tanks.
- ***Polypropylene (PP)*** – Polypropylene is a versatile, durable, and lightweight thermoplastic polymer. It has high heat resistance, chemical inertness, strength, and is widely used in packaging, automotive parts, medical devices and textiles.
- ***Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)*** – PVC is a synthetic thermoplastic polymer used in a wide range of finished products, such as pipes, profiles, sheets, and fittings.
- ***Styrene*** – Styrenic polymers are used in food packaging, seafood export systems, construction products, and a range of consumer and industrial applications.

Fertilisers

- ***Urea –*** Urea is a critical chemical with limited domestic production Commercial Information and is essential for fertiliser use and diesel exhaust fluid (AdBlue), which most diesel vehicles rely on to operate in New Zealand.

Medicines and Medical Devices (health products)

- Due to the widespread nature of these products, this information is highly aggregated and is an estimation of all pharmaceutical products and medical devices.

Construction materials

- ***Solvent (Toluene) –*** By-product of oil refining. Widely used globally in paints and adhesives. Other petroleum solvents include xylene, naphtha, mineral spirits, etc.
- ***Bitumen –*** By-product of oil refining with viscosity and waterproof features ideal for road construction and maintenance, civil infrastructure and construction.
- ***Adhesives –*** Polymer-based blends formulated to bond surfaces. Has inputs derived from oil refining and key uses are for packaging, labelling, and wood products.
- ***Petroleum Resins –*** By-product of oil refining. Large number of uses including paint manufacture and primarily used as a binder for multiple applications.