MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

BRIEFING

Non-fuel supply chains for critical sectors and key goods - dashboard updates and policy framework

Date:	30 April 2026	**Priority:**	Urgent
Security classification:	Restricted	**Tracking number:**	REQ-0031835

Action sought		
Ministerial Economic Security and Supply Chains Group	**Action sought**	**Deadline**
Hon Nicola Willis **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**	**Note** that across the non-fuel critical sectors and key goods currently monitored, supply chains are stable with limited risk of shortage in the short term. **Note** that plastics are currently of most concern and officials are engaging with the plastics sector, including key firms and industry groups, to assess potential international engagement and regulatory options should supply shortages arise. **Note** that officials will continue to monitor critical sectors and key goods and extend this approach where necessary.	7 May 2026

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	**Position**	**Telephone**	**1st contact**
Sebastian Doelle	Manager, Trade and Supply Chains	Privacy of natural persons	✓
Purnima Damodaran	Principal Policy Advisor, Critical Goods Supply Chains Response		

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

Minister's office to complete:

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☐ See Minister's Notes	☐ Withdrawn

Comments

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Purpose

To provide you with a potential policy approach to manage emerging critical goods supply concerns from the ongoing Middle East conflict.

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

a **Note** that across the non-fuel critical sectors and key goods currently monitored, supply chains are stable with limited risk of shortage in the short term.

Noted

b **Note** that plastics are currently of most concern and officials are engaging with the plastics sector, including key firms and industry groups, to assess potential international engagement and regulatory options should supply shortages arise.

Noted

c **Note** that officials will continue to monitor critical sectors and key goods and extend this approach where necessary.

Noted

Privacy of natural persons

Sebastian Doelle
Trade & Supply Chains
MBIE

30 / 04 / 2026

Hon Nicola Willis
Minister of Finance

..... / ...... / ......

Hon Chris Bishop
Associate Minister of Finance

..... / ...... / ......

Hon Simeon Brown
Minister for Energy

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Hon David Seymour
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Hon Shane Jones
Associate Minister of Finance
Associate Minister for Energy

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Critical goods dashboard updates

1. The ongoing conflict in the Middle East has heightened risks to global supply chains, particularly for the petrochemical-derived products that underpin a wide range of key goods.

2. The latest dashboards (Annex 2) and overview table (Annex 1) are attached to this briefing. All risk ratings remain unchanged, and no new products have been added.

3. Overall, non-fuel supply chains for critical sectors and key goods remain stable and no material shortages are currently being reported domestically. Price pressures are emerging across a range of sectors, reflecting higher freight, insurance, supply challenges, and global risk premiums. These shifts are primarily indirect, flowing through global shipping routes and key trading partners rather than direct exposure to the Middle East conflict. We understand from engagement that most stakeholders are absorbing these costs in the short-term.

4. Officials are closely monitoring several products on the dashboard Free and frank opinions [redacted] These are:

Plastics

5. Three plastic products Free and frank opinions [redacted] Plastic products are critical to the economy and are essential to manufacturing, construction, and infrastructure.

6. We are monitoring concerns across Asia about the supply of naphtha. Naphtha is a key petrochemical feedstock used in fuel refining, plastics production, pharmaceuticals, shipbuilding and notably, semiconductor manufacturing. While naphtha is not used as a feedstock in New Zealand, global concerns around price and supply have been widely reported.

7. International relations [redacted]

8. International relations [redacted]

9. International relations [redacted].

10. At this point, our current risk assessments for plastics products are reflective of international developments where global supply is becoming increasingly strained and competitive. However, our engagement with industry stakeholders to date has confirmed that they maintain access to supply, albeit at elevated prices. We will continue to monitor global and domestic developments from overseas posts through MFAT and other sector agencies and key industry stakeholders.

Urea fertiliser

11. Given the critical importance of urea fertiliser to the primary sector, this product is being closely monitored by MBIE and the Ministry for Primary Industries (MPI). A substantial proportion of imported urea (54 per cent) is sourced from Saudi Arabia, making it highly exposed to the conflict, and there have been significant price increases since the beginning of the conflict. Starboard Maritime Intelligence has raised concerns about an emerging shortage of imported urea globally.

12. There have been anecdotal examples from MFAT posts of export restrictions on most fertilisers and sulfuric acid. China is the second largest fertiliser exporter and is prioritising domestic supply. Countries that have been unable to confirm supply from China are turning to alternative suppliers e.g. Australia has confirmed supply of urea from Indonesia.

13. Commercial Information

Construction materials

14. Petroleum resins and solvent Confidential advice to Government For both products, pricing and supply is stable. Commercial Information.

15. The construction sector is primarily concerned with increased costs and supply across all key input products (e.g. timber, polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene etc) with sector stability dependent on key inputs such as plastics and fuel supply. Currently stakeholders are not facing supply constraints.

Other products

16. Other products Confidential advice to Government but warranting closer monitoring due to their importance to the economy, are liquified petroleum gas (LPG) and bitumen. Supply for these products is secure, but cost has risen significantly. They are both highly exposed to upstream supply disruptions with large import reliance.

17. Bitumen, a key input for road construction, is seeing elevated prices, and international supply constraints. New Zealand does not produce bitumen domestically and imports primarily from Asia. Two of three Singapore refineries declared force majeure on bitumen production in mid-April, International relations although these are not key import sources for New Zealand. NZTA is monitoring the bitumen market and reports there is sufficient national stock at present.

While supply chains remain stable in the short-term, officials are proposing measures to address risks when they are likely to materialise

18. The proposed approach below has been developed to guide government decision-making should supply risks materialise. The approach is intended to support a consistent and proportionate way of assessing when action may be warranted, what form it could take and how trade-offs should be managed across affected sectors and goods.

19. While we do not anticipate significant short term supply disruptions to the goods we monitor, supply chain risks may increase in the medium to long term. These risks can be mitigated by measures to strengthen supply chain resilience.

20. MBIE is currently tracking supply concerns for products that meet the criticality threshold. We assess products as critical when they are likely to meet the initial criticality threshold for monitoring, i.e. where a disruption to supply of the product would have significant economic, life, safety, or national security impacts.

21. The government may choose to implement mitigation policies in the event of supply chain disruptions i.e. when access to critical goods is materially affecting end users or the wider economy, regardless of price considerations. Notably, thresholds for each product will be different. For example, we would apply a lower risk tolerance for products necessary to preserve life compared to products necessary for business-as-usual economic activity such as forestry. Some measures have low trade-offs and can be activated earlier with little risk.

International engagement can support more secure supply

22. To date, New Zealand government agencies have led international engagements to predominantly support our risk identification, monitoring, and intelligence gathering functions. For critical goods where we see increased supply chain risks, we recommend that in addition to their focus on international engagement, agencies also facilitate government-to-business engagement. MBIE will lead the identification of critical goods with increased supply chain risks and coordinate the need for international engagements, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT) and New Zealand Trade and Enterprise (NZTE), acting as an intermediary between foreign governments, exporters and domestic firms to help businesses identify and access alternative supply markets in response to disruptions linked to the Middle East conflict.

23. Within this approach, MFAT will play a central government-to-government facilitation role. Building on existing diplomatic engagement and intelligence-gathering across key supply chains, MFAT will leverage its offshore network to engage with key producer and transit countries to clarify supply availability, advocate against trade-restrictive measures, and support the continued prioritisation of supply to New Zealand. MFAT posts will also assist by identifying credible alternative supplier markets and escalating issues where New Zealand shipments or contracts risk being deprioritised.

24. In parallel, MBIE will continue to coordinate a whole-of-government response, using supply-chain risk monitoring as a foundation for targeted intervention—working with affected sectors to identify alternative sourcing options and escalating issues where supply chain risks materialise.

25. NZTE could complement this shift through its existing business-facing role, providing hands-on, firm-level support to exporters including introductions to key partners, short lists of suppliers, and expert advice where possible to support exporters to strengthen supply chains. This would be integrated into the way NZTE works with exporters, where the response to the conflict is ensuring that exporters can mitigate supply chain risk, maintain in-market relationships, and progress market strategy and growth plans.

26. Together, these actions represent a deliberate transition from situational awareness toward active facilitation and mirror Australia’s approach, which combines diplomatic engagement with direct industry facilitation to assist firms to identify alternative sources of supply.

Short-term and targeted regulatory flexibility could enable the market to transition to alternatives

27. Agencies are engaging with industry to understand emerging supply chain challenges and sector specific pressures. Where industry is concerned about goods that have been identified as critical (for example, industry is beginning to run down current stock levels with future

stock uncertain) then we recommend proactive engagement with industry groups to consider where regulatory flexibility can facilitate substitution.

28. Officials have started to explore regulatory flexibility to increase alternative supply as well as manage demand of critical products through easing regulatory restrictions to make it easier to switch to alternatives or continue their operations in alternate ways. Such considerations require input and partnership with industry and sector agencies/regulators which we have initiated.

29. The following is being considered:

    a Addressing regulatory barriers raised by businesses and industry which are restricting them from transitioning to alternative sources of supply or material alternatives.

    b Exploring amending regulatory standards to enable the market to switch to alternatives more easily. This could be straightforward in some circumstances where standards can be updated through administrative processes. However, some standards are more complex (for example, international standards relating to the shipment of goods or where we have joint standards with Australia).

    c Working group to explore the full suite of options (regulatory, diplomatic, commercial/procurement, increased holdings/inventory, industry engagement, and demand management). Initially for products flagged as orange in the risk rating (i.e. plastics), this approach could be expanded to other products as necessary.

30. Further work and engagement with regulators would be needed to understand the feasibility of different regulatory interventions. There are a variety of options to provide regulatory relief, from informal procedural flexibility to more formal exemptions, waivers or changes to regulatory standards.

Officials are engaging with industry to consider regulatory flexibility for plastic products

31. Commercial Information [redacted] Confidential advice to Government [redacted]

32. Officials are working to consider how regulatory flexibility can support industry to more easily transition to alternative suppliers and this is currently being considered by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA). This requires agreement with agencies such as the Civil Aviation Authority (as the competent authority in New Zealand) and needs to include Maritime New Zealand, Ministry of Transport, and the New Zealand Transport Agency. This work is in progress, and we expect to report back in May.

33. Given that any easing is temporary, consideration will need to be given to how and when a return to the status quo would occur. This should include indicative timeframes and the practical steps required to implement each stage of the transition.

You will receive separate advice on financial support for businesses

34. Feedback from business engagements to date indicates that rising input costs and increasing upfront payment requirements are placing significant pressure on working capital and cash flow. You will receive separate advice on potential measures to support firms affected by price pressures.

35. The emphasis of this paper is on risks to continuity of supply across critical sectors where access to key goods is constrained or unavailable, independent of cost considerations. This supply-side approach is intended to support a consistent, proportionate and cross-sector approach to assessing when action may be warranted should supply risks materialise.

Next steps

36. MBIE will continue to maintain oversight of critical sectors and key goods and provide advice as risk profiles might change.

37. We will continue targeted engagement with priority sectors and other agencies to monitor emerging supply risks and assess the scope for regulatory flexibility.

38. We will engage sector agencies to develop and socialise a consistent approach for applying this model to critical sectors and key goods should supply shortages materialise.

Annex 1 – Dashboards Overview Table

Dashboard overview: non-fuel critical sectors and goods

Sector/ Goods	Product (HS-4/6)	Rationale for risk rating change	20/04	28/04
Critical Chemicals & Gases	*Aluminium Sulphate*		Free and frank opinions	
	Acetic Acid			
	Sodium Hypochlorite			
	Carbon Dioxide			
	Caustic Soda			
	Chlorine Gas			
	Petroleum-based lubricants			
	Helium			
	Liquified Petroleum Gas			
	Polyethylene			
	Polypropylene			
	Polyvinyl Chloride			
	Styrene			
Fertiliser	*Urea*			
Health	*Medicines*			
	Medical Devices			
Construction Materials	*Adhesives*			
	Petroleum Resins			
	Toluene			
	Bitumen			

Annex 2 – Dashboards

MINISTRY OF BUSINESS, INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

Product dashboards
non-fuel critical sectors and goods

30 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

- **Risk ratings unchanged.**
- Drinking water and wastewater treatment is highly reliant on imported chemical availability.
- 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, Commercial Information

Sodium Hypochlorite

- Commercial Information
- Hazardous, difficult to transport and store. Limited ability to hold large inventories due to degradation over time.

Aluminium Sulphate

Free and frank opinions

+2.4%
Price change since February

$346
Market price USD/MT as at Q1 2026

Commercial Information
Estimated supply

Key supply partners:

- China (61.7%)
- Indonesia (31.2%)
- Australia (5.9%)

Acetic Acid

Free and frank opinions

+27.9%
Price change since February

$0.55
Market price USD/KG as at April 2026

TBC
Estimated supply

Key supply partners:

- Singapore (60.8%)
- South Korea (26.9%)

Sodium Hypochlorite

Free and frank opinions

+2.3%
Price change since February

$0.45
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

TBC
Estimated supply

Key supply partners:

- Australia (55.8%)
- China (24%)
- Japan (10%)

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.
- Domestic production of CO_2 provides resilience, with new production plants in Australia providing further security. Commercial Information

Caustic Soda (Sodium hydroxide)

- Commercial Information
- Caustic soda is integrated with PVC production. There are signs of reduced international PVC production, potentially limiting the related production of liquid caustic soda.
- Commercial Information

Chlorine Gas

- Commercial Information
  majority of imports sourced from Australia.

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 (73.3%)
- Singapore (8.3%)

Caustic Soda

Free and frank opinions

+6.1%
Price change since February

$109
Market price USD/T as 22 April 2026

Commercial Information
Estimated months of supply

Key supply partners:
- China (55%)
- Korea (16.6%)
- Taiwan (10.7%)

Chlorine Gas

Free and frank opinions

-26.3%
Price change since February

$0.59
Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

Commercial Information
Estimated months of supply

Key supply partners:
- Australia (89.5%)
- China (5.2%)

Critical Chemicals & Gases

Sector commentary

- **Risk ratings unchanged.**
- Goods under this grouping are likely to have significant cross-sector impacts if supply chains are disrupted due to their widespread use as inputs across multiple manufactured products.
- Stakeholders have not expressed significant supply concerns.

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 [redacted]

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.) At least a third of LPG is imported, primarily from Australia with the rest produced domestically.
- Commercial Information [redacted] Seasonal changes also impact import levels with increased demand in winter leading to increased imports.
- 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 [redacted]

+40.5%

Price change since February

$1073/MT

Market price USD/MT as at March 2026

Key supply partners:

- South Korea (46%)
- Singapore (34.3%)
- Japan (4.8%)
- China (4.7%)

TBC

Estimated months of supply

Helium

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+30.2%

Price change since February

$63.7

Market price USD/cubic metre as at April 2026

Key supply partners:

- Australia (48.4%)
- China (34%)
- United Kingdom (8.2%)

Commercial Information [redacted]

Liquified Petroleum Gas (LPG)

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+37.9%

Price change since February

$794.45

Market price USD/T as at April 2026

Key supply partners:

- Australia (94.0%)
- Algeria (2.9%)
- South Korea (2.5%)

TBC

Estimated supply

Plastics (1 of 2)

Sector commentary

- **Risk ratings unchanged.**
- Free and frank opinions
- Commercial Information
- Cost pressures for feedstock persist overseas (e.g. naphtha), leading some economies to pivot supply.
- Commercial Information

Product commentary

Polyethylene (PE)

- Free and frank opinions because major Asian suppliers to New Zealand have declared force majeure. Supply to New Zealand continues to be available, Commercial Information

Polypropylene

- Commercial Information

Polyethylene (PE)

Free and frank opinions

+22%

Price change since March

$1207

Market price USD/T as at 22 April 2026

Key supply partners:

- Thailand (22%)
- Singapore (20.5%)
- UAE (13.2%)
- United States (11.4%)
- Qatar (10.4%)

Commercial Information

Estimated months of supply

Polypropylene (PP)

Free and frank opinions

+24.9%

Price change since March

$1236.75

Market price UDS/T as at 22 April 2026

Key supply partners:

- South Korea (56.8%)
- Australia (10.3%)
- Singapore (6.1%)

Commercial Information

Estimated supply

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 [redacted]
- [redacted]

Styrene

- Commercial Information [redacted] however, naphtha prices are reportedly easing following the Korean government securing 2.1m tonnes from Oman for staged introduction throughout April.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+8.3%
Price change since March 2026

$778.35
Market price USD/T as at 22 April 2026

Key supply partners:

- China (54.7%)
- Germany (7.3%)
- Australia (5.5%)

Commercial Information [redacted]
Estimated supply

Styrene

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

+30%
Price change over March 2026

$1488
Market price USD/T as at 22 April 2026

Key supply partners:

- South Korea (41.8%)
- Taiwan (33.5%)
- China (6.0%)

Commercial Information [redacted]
Estimated supply

Fertiliser

Commercial Information

Urea

Free and frank opinions

+49.3%

Price change since March

$694.75

Market price USD/T as at 10 April 2026

Commercial Information

(Estimated months of supply)

Key supply partners:

- Saudi Arabia (54.2%)
- China (26.6%)
- Malaysia (16.2%)
- Netherlands (1.0%)

International developments

- Commercial Information
- International relations

Medicines (health products 1 of 2)

Sector commentary

Overall assessment

- **Risk rating unchanged.**
- 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.

Medicines*

Free and frank opinions

Medicines under active management due to Middle East

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 two 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. The other holds a risk to New Zealanders which is being mitigated, specifically:
    - 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.
- Isosorbide mononitrate, used for certain heart conditions including angina, was previously being managed. New stock has now arrived and the issue is considered resolved. Information will remain on the Pharmac website for a week, noting it is now resolved.

Medical devices (health products 2 of 2)

Sector commentary

Overall assessment:

- **Risk rating unchanged.**
- Supply is stable with only one early-stage supply issue.
- Commercial Information [redacted]

Wider observations

- Stock holdings are likely to be impacted by freight delays and cost increases (fuel price & war levies).
- Free and frank opinions [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.
- Disruption to raw material supplies out of the Middle East leading to price increases for some products (e.g. nitrile gloves). Japan also recently released stockpiles of 50 million medical gloves due to shortages.

Medical devices, consumables & equipment

Free and frank opinions [redacted]

Devices, consumables equipment under active management due to Middle East

1

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

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

- **Risk ratings unchanged.**
- Construction sector primarily concerned with increased costs across all key products (timber, PVC, PE), with stability dependent on key inputs such as plastics and fuel supply.
- 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
-
-

Product commentary

Adhesives

- Stakeholders have not identified any concerns securing supply of adhesives.

Petroleum Resins

- Commercial Information
- There is also concern about the downstream impacts for the production of other construction materials such as PE pipes.

Adhesives

Free and frank opinions

N/A

Key supply partners:

- Australia (35.1%)
- Germany (20.1%)
- USA (17.4%)
- Italy (8.2%)

TBC

Estimated months of supply

Petroleum Resins

Free and frank opinions

-4.05%

Price change since February

$1.42

Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

Key supply partners:

- China (79.4%)
- South Korea (14.2%)
- Singapore (4.1%)

Commercial Information

Estimated months of supply

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)

- Commercial Information

Bitumen (Construction)

- Bitumen is a key input for road construction.
- NZTA monitoring of bitumen importers notes that while there has been substantial price change since pre-conflict, there are no immediate supply concerns given onshore and in-transit supply.
- Commercial Information
- International relations

Solvent (Toluene)

Free and frank opinions

-2.74%

Price change since February

$0.71

Market price USD/KG as at March 2026

TBC

Estimated months of supply

Key supply partners:

- South Korea (68%)
- Singapore (23.8%)
- Thailand (7.1%)

Bitumen (Construction)

Free and frank opinions

+20.8%

Price change since March

$614.25

Market price USD/T as at 22 April 2026

Commercial Information

Estimated supply

Key supply partners:

- Malaysia (85%)
- China (8.7%)
- USA (6.1%)

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.