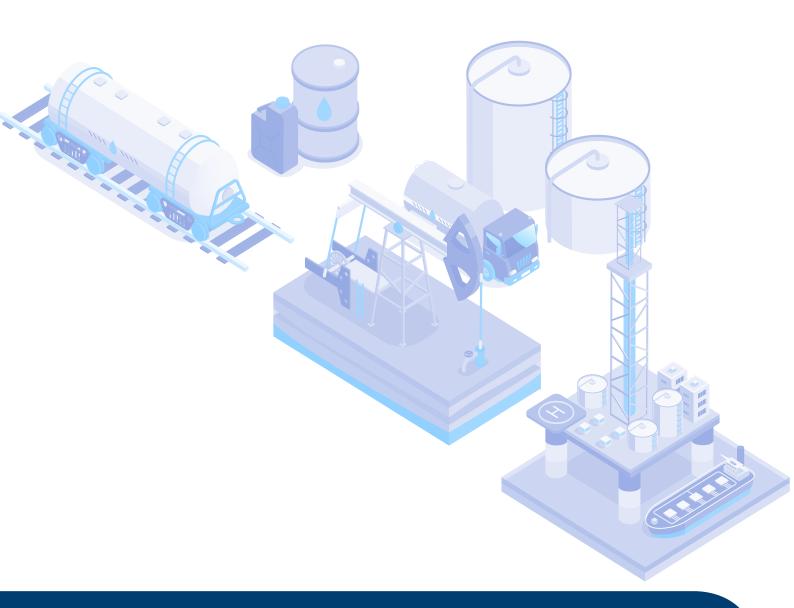
January 2024





# Oil & Petrochemicals Monthly Report December | 2023

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**Petrochemicals Sector | December 2023** 



# MTBE, Urea, Ammonia and EVA prices fell the most in December; EDC, MEG and VAM were among the gainers; Aramco lifted propane and butane prices for January

- Naphtha prices increased; propane and butane were unchanged in December: Prices of naphtha rose 2.3% M/M to USD 670 per ton in December. Propane and butane prices remained unchanged at USD 610 per ton and USD 620 per ton, respectively. Aramco increased propane and butane prices slightly for January to USD 620 per ton and USD 630 per ton, respectively.
- Product prices were directionless in December: MTBE prices dropped 8.1% M/M to USD 850 per ton due to year-end slowdown in gasoline blending. Urea prices declined 5.9% M/M to USD 320 per ton, weighed down by higher stocks and lower sales in India. Ammonia prices fell 5.8% to USD 485 per ton due to lack of demand in the spot market. EVA prices declined 5.4% M/M to USD 1,230 per ton, attributable to weak downstream demand from footwear and PV industry. However, upstream VAM prices increased 4.2% M/M to USD 865 per ton due to tightening of supply. EDC prices jumped 7.6% M/M to USD 355 per ton in December due to the plant outage in Saudi Arabia. MEG (Asia) prices gained 7.4% M/M to USD 510 per ton amid slowing capacity growth and easing Chinese inventory.
- Petchem Spreads Trend: PP-propane spread increased to USD 384 per ton in December from USD 380 per ton in November. PP-butane spread expanded to USD 376 per ton in December from USD 372 per ton in November. HDPE-naphtha spread declined to USD 275 per ton in December against USD 295 per ton in November.

# Oversupply concerns and demand pessimism dragged oil prices in December, prices remained range bound in early January

- Oil prices dropped further in December: Crude oil prices declined initially in December amid concerns over compliance of some of the OPEC+ members to the announced cuts. The decline in China's crude oil imports and rise in US gasoline inventories also weighed on the prices. The prices recovered due to fears of supply disruptions amid attacks on ships in the Red Sea. However, the gains were pared as disruptions eased. In early January, oil prices were rangebound, as global economic concerns were counteracted by conflicts in the Middle East. Brent prices decreased 4.4% M/M, while WTI fell 5.1% M/M in December, ending at USD 77.0/bbl and USD 71.7/bbl, respectively. Natural gas prices at Henry Hub declined 11.9% M/M to USD 2.5/mn Btu.
- Manufacturing activity expanded in China; activity in the US and Eurozone remained below 50 level but PMI increased M/M: US manufacturing PMI rose to 47.4 in December from 46.7 in November, as production improved but new orders declined. China's Caixin manufacturing PMI edged up to 50.8 in December from 50.7 in November on stronger increases in both output and orders. The Eurozone manufacturing PMI rose to 44.4 in December from 44.2 in November.

Table 1: Petchem Prices - December FY23

Name	Price (USD per ton)	M/M %	Q/Q %	Y/Y %	YTD %
Naphtha	670	2.3%	-6.9%	4.7%	4.7%
Saudi Propane	610	0.0%	10.9%	-6.2%	-6.2%
Butane-Saudi	620	0.0%	10.7%	-4.6%	-4.6%
Ethylene	845	-0.6%	-2.9%	0.6%	0.6%
Propylene-Asia	810	-0.6%	-1.2%	-6.4%	-6.4%
HDPE	950	2.2%	-4.0%	0.0%	0.0%
LDPE	1,000	5.3%	0.0%	-3.8%	-3.8%
LLDPE	940	3.3%	-2.1%	-2.1%	-2.1%
PP-Asia	880	2.3%	-2.2%	-4.3%	-4.3%
Styrene-Asia	1,035	0.5%	-6.3%	2.5%	2.5%
Polystyrene-Asia	1,150	-1.7%	-4.2%	0.4%	0.4%
PET - Asia	870	0.6%	-3.3%	-4.4%	-4.4%
PVC-Asia	745	-3.9%	-11.3%	-10.2%	-10.2%
MEG (Asia)	510	7.4%	5.2%	7.4%	7.4%
Methanol-China	280	0.0%	-1.8%	-6.7%	-6.7%
DAP-Gulf	605	3.4%	3.4%	-15.4%	-15.4%
Urea-Gulf	320	-5.9%	-16.9%	-31.9%	-31.9%
Ammonia-Gulf	485	-5.8%	51.6%	-42.3%	-42.3%
MTBE-Asia	850	-8.1%	-20.2%	0.0%	0.0%
EDC	355	7.6%	18.3%	44.9%	44.9%
MEG (SABIC)	800	-4.8%	-8.0%	-3.6%	-3.6%
PC	1,735	-0.3%	-7.7%	-3.6%	-3.6%
Acetic Acid-AA	480	3.2%	-26.2%	0.0%	0.0%
EVA	1,230	-5.4%	-17.7%	-20.1%	-20.1%
Vinyl Acetate Monomer-VAM	865	4.2%	-6.0%	-21.0%	-21.0%

Note: Prices as of December 31, 2023

Source: Argaam, Reuters Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

**Table 2: Economic Calendar** 

Date	Country	Event
January 18,24,31	US	Weekly Petroleum Status Report
12-Jan	US	Monthly Budget Statement
15-Jan	KSA	CPI YoY
17-Jan		OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report
18-Jan	US	Initial Jobless Claims
18-Jan		IEA Oil Market Report
25-Jan	US	GDP Annualized QoQ
30-Jan	KSA	M3 Money Supply YoY
30-Jan	KSA	SAMA Net Foreign Assets SAR
31-Jan	KSA	GDP Constant Prices YoY
2-Feb	US	Trade Balance
2-Feb	US	Unemployment Rate
5-Feb	KSA	S&P Global Saudi Arabia PMI
6-Feb		EIA Short-term Energy Outlook
28-Mar	KSA	Current Account Balance

Source: Bloomberg, EIA, OPEC, IEA





# Key comments from international energy agencies

### Crude oil supply

#### **Global supply**

- Global oil supply is expected to increase 1.5 mbpd in FY24 to 103.5 mbpd with non-OPEC+ supply rising 1.5 mbpd and OPEC+ supply being steady, according to IEA.
- Global supplies of crude oil and liquid fuels are expected to rise by 0.6 mbpd to 102.3 mbpd in FY24 and by 1.6 mbpd to 104.0 mbpd in FY25, as per EIA. Non-OPEC supply is forecast to grow 0.8 mbpd to 70.4 mbpd in FY24 and 0.9 mbpd to 71.3 mbpd in FY25.
- The global refining throughputs are forecasted to average at 83.3 mbpd in FY24, surpassing record of 82.5 mbpd in FY18, according to IEA.

**Figure 1: World Oil Production** 



Source: OPEC, AlJazira Capital Research

#### **OPEC Supply**

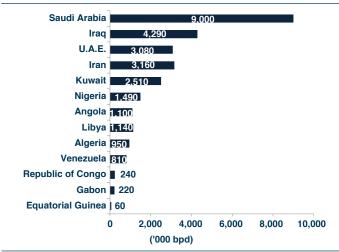
- OPEC crude oil production rose 73,000 bpd M/M in December to average at 26.7 mbpd, as per OPEC's secondary sources.
- On average, OPEC members are estimated to produce 26.0 mbpd of crude oil in Q1-24 compared to 26.6 mbpd of crude oil in Q4-23, as per EIA.
- OPEC's average crude production is estimated at 26.6 mbpd in FY24 and at 27.4 mbpd in FY25, according to EIA.
- OPEC's unplanned oil supply disruptions averaged 1.45 mbpd in December (vs. 1.53 in November), as per EIA.

**Table 3: OPEC Monthly Oil Production ('000 bpd)** 

Prod. ('000 bpd)	Сар.	Sep 2023	Oct 2023	Nov 2023	Dec 2023	% M/M Chg.
Equatorial Guinea	120	60	70	50	60	20.0%
Gabon	220	200	220	220	220	0.0%
Republic of Congo	300	250	260	240	240	0.0%
Venezuela	840	770	800	810	810	0.0%
Algeria	1,060	960	960	950	950	0.0%
Libya	1,200	1,110	1,090	1,120	1,140	1.8%
Angola	1,200	1,110	1,130	1,140	1,100	-3.5%
Nigeria	1,600	1,430	1,490	1,440	1,490	3.5%
Kuwait	2,820	2,580	2,560	2,520	2,510	-0.4%
Iran	3,830	3,110	3,110	3,160	3,160	0.0%
U.A.E.	4,200	3,150	3,150	3,150	3,080	-2.2%
Iraq	4,800	4,300	4,340	4,290	4,290	0.0%
Saudi Arabia	12,000	9,000	9,010	9,000	9,000	0.0%
Total OPEC	34,190	28,030	28,190	28,090	28,050	-0.1%

Source: Bloomberg

Figure 2: OPEC December Oil Production ('000 bpd)



Source: Bloomberg

**Petrochemicals Sector | December 2023** 



#### Crude oil demand

#### Global

- OPEC estimates a 2.2 mbpd increase in global consumption in FY24, unchanged from the previous month's estimate. IEA estimates global oil demand growth to ease from 2.3 mbpd in FY23 to 1.2 mbpd in FY24. As per EIA, global consumption of petroleum and liquid fuels is forecasted to average at 102.5 mbpd in FY24 (+1.4 mbpd Y/Y) and increase further by 1.2 mbpd Y/Y in FY25.
- · Global demand for petroleum and liquid fuels stood at 103.0 mbpd in December, indicating a rise of 2.3 mbpd Y/Y, as per EIA.

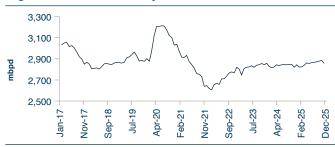
#### **OPEC**

• OPEC demand for FY24 is forecasted to grow 0.8 mbpd Y/Y to 28.5 mbpd. The OPEC demand is estimated to increase to 29.0 mbpd in FY25, up 0.5 mbpd Y/Y.

# **Inventory**

- Global observed inventories fell by 8.4 mb in November to the lowest level since July 2022, while preliminary data for December indicated increase in global inventories, as per IEA.
- EIA forecasts OECD inventories to stand at 2.82bn barrels by end-FY24 and at 2.86bn by end-FY25.
- Natural gas inventories in the US are estimated to be 8.0% higher than the five-year average by the end of 2024, as per EIA.

Figure 3: OECD Monthly Oil Inventories



Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

#### **Price outlook**

- Brent spot prices are forecasted to average USD 82 per barrel in FY24 and at USD 79 per barrel in FY25, as per EIA.
- Goldman Sachs anticipates Brent crude prices to trade between USD 70-90 per barrel in 2024, slashing upper range by USD 10 per barrel, due to strong US supply. Barclays cut Brent crude forecast by USD 8 per barrel to USD 85 per barrel for 2024, due to expectation of higher supply. EIA expects natural gas prices at Henry Hub to average USD 2.66/mn Btu in FY24 and USD 2.95/mn Btu in FY25.

**Table 4: World Oil Demand and Supply** 

(mbpd)	FY23			FY24E			FY23	FY24E	FY25E		
World Crude Oil & Liq. Fuels Supply	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
OPEC Supp.	32.77	32.46	31.63	31.91	31.42	32.03	32.24	32.13	32.19	31.96	32.63
Non-OPEC Suppl.	68.33	69.06	70.13	70.60	69.91	70.24	70.64	70.73	69.54	70.38	71.32
Total World Supply	101.11	101.52	101.76	102.51	101.33	102.27	102.88	102.85	101.73	102.34	103.95
World Crude Oil & Liq. Fuels Cons.											
OECD Cons.	45.28	45.71	46.23	46.48	46.08	45.57	46.25	46.33	45.93	46.06	45.99
Non-OECD Cons.	54.71	55.22	55.30	55.33	56.06	56.56	56.50	56.47	55.14	56.40	57.68
Total World Cons.	99.99	100.93	101.54	101.81	102.14	102.12	102.75	102.81	101.07	102.46	103.67
OECD Comm. Inventory (mn barrels)	2,746	2,822	2,840	2,843	2,815	2,836	2,843	2,820	2,843	2,820	2,858
OPEC Surplus Crude Oil Prod. Cap.	1.94	2.13	1.95	1.54	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.89	n/a	n/a

Source: EIA STEO January 2024, AlJazira Capital Research

- The gap between crude consumption and supply is estimated to increase to 0.81 mbpd in Q1-24 (higher consumption than supply) from 0.70 mbpd in Q4-23 (higher supply than consumption).
- OECD's crude inventories are expected to be at 2.82bn barrels in Q1-24, lower than 2.84bn in Q4-23.



Petrochemicals Sector | December 2023



#### **Petrochemical sector news**

- Saudi Industrial Investment Group announced to stop operations at the projects of its joint ventures, Saudi Chevron Phillips (SCP) and Jubail Chevron Phillips (JCP), for planned periodic maintenance and catalyst replacement. JCP is suspended for 50 days from January 07, and SCP is closed for 36 days from January 13. The financial impact of this turnaround will appear in the company's Q1-24 financials. (Source: Tadawul)
- **Methanol Chemicals Co. (Chemanol)** is currently implementing a methanol plant expansion project, which will increase energy efficiency by reducing consumption and improving plant performance and productivity by 40.0%, contributing to enhancing the company's results, according to Chairman Ali Al-Turki. (Source: Argaam)
- Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC) along with its affiliate Scientific Design (SD), which is licensed in ethylene glycol technology entered an MoU with Linde Engineering, a subsidiary of Linde, to explore collaboration opportunities to decarbonize the SD ethylene glycol process. (Source: Argaam)
- Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co. (Petro Rabigh) completed a CO2-capturing facility at its Mono Ethylene Glycol (MEG) plant; the new carbon extraction facility has been opened in partnership with Gulf Cryo Co. The company said that delayed equipment delivery and safety-related construction procedures were the reasons for the project's delay. (Source: Tadawul)
- Sahara International Petrochemical Co. (Sipchem) and National Industrialization Co. (Tasnee) awarded an engineering, procurement, and construction contract valued at SAR 1.9bn (USD 500.0mn) to SGC-eTEC. The contract aims to boost production at the ethylene cracker plant, a joint venture affiliated to Tasnee Sahara Olefins Co. (TSOC), which is 32.6% owned by Sipchem and 60.0% by Tasnee. The expansion project will likely be complete in H1-26, with operations leading to an increase in Olefins production by an estimated 18.0%. (Source: Tadawul)
- Saudi Aramco notified several petrochemical firms through an official notice of an increase in feedstock price from January 01, 2024. (Source: Tadawul)
- Alujain Corp. signed an agreement to sell a 35.0% stake of its subsidiary, National Petrochemical Industrial Co. (NATPET), to Basell International Holdings B.V., a subsidiary of New York Stock Exchange-listed LyondellBasell Industries N.V., for nearly SAR 1.9bn (USD 500.0mn). (Source: Tadawul)

**Table 5: KSA Petrochemical Companies Key Metrics** 

Company	Net profit (TTM; SAR mn)	P/E (Adjusted)	P/B	EV/ EBITDA	DPS (SAR) TTM	Dividend Yield	YTD returns
SABIC	-728.3	High	1.3x	13.0x	3.40	4.4%	-7.8%
TASNEE	234.8	22.8x	0.8x	High	-	-	-5.2%
YANSAB	-600.1	NEG	1.7x	35.6x	1.75	4.6%	-1.1%
SABIC Agri-Nutrients	4,849.4	12.4x	3.4x	9.8x	6.00	4.8%	-9.1%
Sipchem	1,495.3	14.8x	1.4x	10.7x	2.00	6.5%	-9.1%
Advanced	141.7	High	3.1x	35.7x	-	-	-3.3%
KAYAN	-2,305.5	NEG	1.1x	39.1x	-	-	-10.1%
SIIG	-195.5	NEG	1.5x	-	1.00	5.0%	-9.7%
Nama Chemical	-112.7	NEG	2.7x	-	-	-	4.4%
Chemanol	-99.6	NEG	1.1x	38.8x	-	-	-7.6%
ALUJAIN	7.4	High	1.1x	12.7x	-	-	6.9%

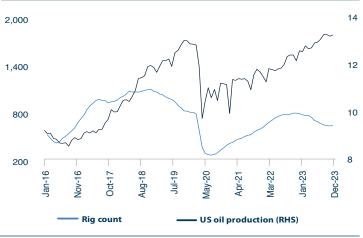
Source: Bloomberg, Tadawul, Argaam, Aljazira Capital Research; Data as of January 18, 2024

**Petrochemicals Sector I December 2023** 



# US oil and gas developments

Figure 4: US Oil Production versus Rig Count



Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

US oil production averaged 13.23 mbpd in December 2023. Production increased 0.4% M/M, while grew 9.0% Y/Y from 12.14 mbpd in December 2022.

In the week ended December 29, the rotary rig count in the US stood at 622 (up 2 W/W). The average number of rigs rose 0.8% M/M in December vis-à-vis a decrease of 0.6% in November. The average rig count was down 20.1% Y/Y in December. As on January 12, of the total 619 rigs, 499 (down 2 W/W) were used to drill for oil and 117 (down 1 W/W) for natural gas. In the US, oil exploration decreased 19.9% Y/Y, while gas exploration declined 22.0% Y/Y.

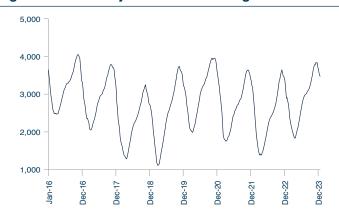
Figure 5: US Weekly Oil Inventories



 US weekly oil inventories decreased 1.3% W/W to 431.1mn barrels for the week ended December 29. On M/M basis, inventories fell 4.1%.

Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 6: US Weekly Natural Gas Storage



 US weekly natural gas storage decreased 0.4% W/W to 3,476 bcf in the week ended December 29. On M/M basis, natural gas storage declined 9.4%.

Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

# **Price Trend: Oil, Natural Gas & Petrochemicals Products**

Figure 7: Oil Price Trends (USD per Barrel)



Source: Reuters Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 8: Henry Hub Natural Gas (USD per MMBTu)

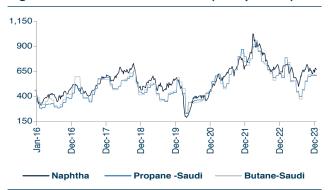


Source: OPEC, AlJazira Capital Research

#### **Petrochemicals Sector I December 2023**



Figure 9: Feedstock Price Trends (USD per Ton)



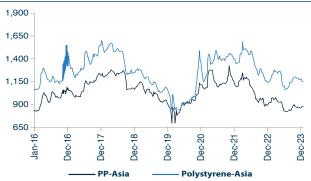
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 11: Polyethylene Price Trends (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 13: Polypropylene & Polystyrene



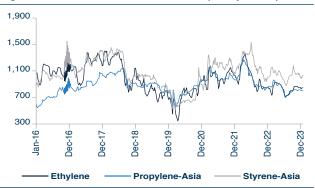
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 15: Methanol-China (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 10: Basic Petchem Price Trends (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 12: Intermediates Price Trends (USD per Ton)



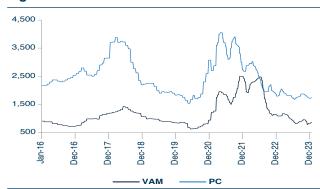
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 14: Ammonia, Urea & DAP



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 16: PC-VAM



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research



#### **Petchem Spreads Trend**

- Naphtha prices averaged USD 667 per ton in December, up from USD 643 per ton in November.
- Polypropylene average prices inched up to USD 872 per ton in December from USD 868 per ton in November.
- The HDPE-naphtha spread declined to USD 275 per ton in December against USD 295 per ton in November.
- The PP-naphtha spread decreased to USD 205 per ton from USD 225 per ton during the previous month.
- The PP-propane spread increased to USD 384 per ton in December from USD 380 per ton in November.
- The PVC-EDC spread contracted to USD 425 per ton in December from USD 455 per ton in November.
- The polystyrene-benzene spread rose to USD 294 per ton in December compared to USD 290 per ton in November.
- The HDPE-ethylene spread jumped to USD 99 per ton in December from USD 86 per ton in November.
- PP-butane spread expanded to USD 376 per ton in December from USD 372 per ton in November.
- LDPE-naphtha spread fell 3.9% M/M at USD 305 per ton, while LDPE-ethylene spread surged 18.6% M/M to USD 129 per ton in December.
- LLDPE-naphtha rose 2.6% to USD 259 per ton. Whereas LLDPE-ethylene spread increased 89.7% M/M to USD 83 per ton in December.

Figure 17: Naphtha- HDPE



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 18: Naphtha- PP



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 19: Propane (Saudi)- PP



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 20: EDC- PVC

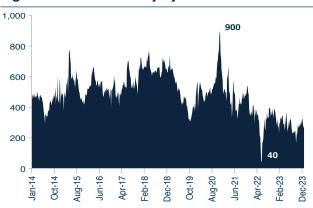


Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

#### **Petrochemicals Sector I December 2023**

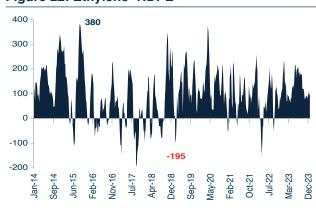


Figure 21: Benzene- Polystyrene



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 22: Ethylene- HDPE



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

**Table 6: Petrochemical Products by Saudi Petrochemical Companies** 

Company	Finished Products
SABIC	Polyethylene, polypropylene, poly styrene, ethylene glycol (MEG), methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE), benzene, urea, ammonia, PVC, and PTA
SABIC Agri- Nutrients	Urea, ammonia
YANSAB	Polyethylene, polypropylene, MEG, MTBE, and benzene
Tasnee	Polyethylene, polypropylene, and propylene (TiO2)
Saudi Kayan	Polyethylene, polypropylene, MEG, polycarbonate, and bisphenol A
Petro Rabigh	Polyethylene, polypropylene, propylene oxide, and refined petroleum products
Sahara Petrochemicals (Sipchem)	Polyethylene, polypropylene, Methanol, butanol, acetic acid, and vinyl acetate monomer
Saudi Group	Styrene, benzene, cyclohexene, propylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene
Advanced	Polypropylene
Alujain	Polypropylene
CHEMANOL	Formaldehyde – improvers concrete
NAMA	Epoxy resin, hydrochloric acid, liquid caustic soda, and soda granule
MAADEN	Ammonia and DAP

Source: Argaam Plus



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RESEARCH

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- 1. Overweight: This rating implies that the stock is currently trading at a discount to its 12 months price target. Stocks rated "Overweight" will typically provide an upside potential of over 10% from the current price levels over next twelve months.
- Underweight: This rating implies that the stock is currently trading at a premium to its 12 months price target. Stocks rated "Underweight" would typically decline by over 10% from the current price levels over next twelve months.
- 3. Neutral: The rating implies that the stock is trading in the proximate range of its 12 months price target. Stocks rated "Neutral" is expected to stagnate within +/- 10% range from the current price levels over next twelve months.
- 4. Suspension of rating or rating on hold (SR/RH): This basically implies suspension of a rating pending further analysis of a material change in the fundamentals of the company.

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