Saudi Arabia | Petrochemicals Sector | March



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Petrochemical prices dip

- Propane and butane prices continue downtrend: Propane and butane prices descent to USD 480 per ton and USD 465 per ton, respectively, in March. The PP-propane spread expanded to USD 738 per ton in March from USD 705 in February, while the PP-butane spread increased to USD 753 per ton from USD 725 per ton.
- **Naphtha prices rebound:** Naphtha prices recovered from last month to increase 5.3% MoM to USD 595 per ton in March.
- **PP and PE prices decline:** PP prices fell 1.6% MoM to USD 1,200 per ton in March, driven by a decline in propylene prices (down 3.8% MoM). HDPE, LDPE and LLDPE fell 2.2%, 2.0% and 0.8%, respectively.
- Polystyrene prices fall: Polystyrene prices declined 3.2% MoM to USD 1,500 per ton in March, led by a 12.0% plunge in styrene prices to USD 1,245 per ton. During the month, PVC prices decreased 2.0% MoM to USD 960 per ton.
- MEG prices drop, ethylene surges: MEG prices fell 12.2% MoM to USD 900 per ton in March. Ethylene prices surged 18.6% MoM to USD 1,400 per ton, whereas methanol prices decreased to USD 460 per ton.
- Titanium dioxide rise marginally: The weighted average price of titanium dioxide inched 0.2% MoM higher to USD 3,447 per ton in March, from USD 3,439 per ton last month.
- Urea and ammonia falls; DAP gains: Ammonia prices declined 11.1% MoM to USD 280 per ton, while urea prices fell 3.8% to USD 250 per ton in March. DAP prices inched 1.2% higher to USD 420 per ton.

Oil prices decline amidst trade war fears

- Trade war concerns: Oil prices started the month on a shaky ground as prices fell sharply initially due to larger-than-expected inventories reported by EIA. However, prices rebounded in mid-March despite negative news such as rise in US shale production, slowdown in inventory decline, and increase in rig count. As concerns of global trade war intensified towards end of the month, oil prices started declining in response. However, prices ended the first quarter of 2018 on a high note, with Brent hovering around USD 70 due to geopolitical tensions such as declining inventories in Venezuela and speculations the US would step up confrontation with Iran.
- Oil prices rebound: Brent and WTI gained 4.4% MoM and 2.2% MoM, respectively, after slipping last month. The Brent-WTI spread expanded to nearly USD 5.3 per barrel in March from USD 3.8 per barrel in February. Brent and WTI closed at USD 70.3 per barrel and USD 64.9 per barrel, respectively. Meanwhile, natural gas prices at Henry Hub increased 4.1% MoM to USD 2.7 per MMBtu.
- EIA keeps US crude production estimates largely unchanged for 2018 and 2019: In its latest short-term energy outlook, the EIA expects oil output in the US to average 10.7 mbpd in 2018 and 11.4 mbpd in 2019.
- **OPEC oil production fell 201 kbpd in March:** According to the Monthly Oil Market Report (MOMR), OPEC oil production declined to 32.0 mbpd in March. OECD commercial inventories rose 43 mn barrels from the latest five-year average, with a forward cover of 60.6 days.
- Monthly rig count rise: In the week ended April 6, the US rotary rig count rose by 10 (WoW) to 1,003. The average number of rigs rose 2.1% MoM in March vis-à-vis a 3.4% MoM in February. The rig count was up 19.5% YoY. Of the total, 808 rigs (up by 11 WoW) were used to drill for oil and 194 (remained unchanged WoW) for natural gas.

Table 1: Petchem Prices – March 2018

Name	Price (USD pet ton)	MoM %	YTD %
Naphtha	595	5.3%	-3.3%
Saudi Propane	480	-8.6%	-18.6%
Saudi Butane	465	-7.9%	-18.4%
Ethylene	1,400	18.6%	5.3%
Propylene-Asia	1,020	-3.8%	7.9%
HDPE	1,320	-2.2%	3.1%
LDPE	1,215	-2.0%	2.1%
LLDPE	1,190	-0.8%	3.0%
PP-Asia	1,200	-1.6%	3.4%
Styrene-Asia	1,245	-12.0%	-3.1%
Polystyrene	1,500	-3.2%	3.4%
Tio2*	3,447	0.2%	5.7%
PVC-Asia	960	-2.0%	9.7%
MEG	900	-12.2%	-5.3%
Methanol	460	-4.2%	-2.1%
DAP-Gulf	420	1.2%	3.7%
Urea-Gulf	250	-3.8%	4.2%
Ammonia-Gulf	280	-11.1%	-15.2%
MTBE-Asia	790	14.5%	12.9%
EDC	250	0.0%	35.1%
Butyl-A	1,265	8.1%	2.4%
BPA	1,670	0.0%	12.8%
PX-Asia	930	-3.1%	2.2%
EVA	1,525	3.0%	2.7%

Source: Argaam, Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research * Weighted average

Table 2: Economic Calendar

Date	Country	Event				
Apr 03,10,17,24	US	Weekly Petroleum Status Report				
15-Apr to 25-Apr	KSA	CPI YoY				
19-Apr	US	Initial Jobless Claims				
18-Apr	KSA	February Crude Oil Output Exports: JODI				
20-Apr to 05-May	KSA	Non-Oil Exports YoY				
27-Apr	US	GDP Annualized QoQ				
3-May	KSA	Emirates NBD Saudi Arabia PMI				
3-May	US	Trade Balance				
8-May		EIA Short-term Energy Outlook				
10-May	US	Monthly Budget Statement				
14-May		OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report				
16-May		IEA Oil Market Report				
28-Apr	KSA	M1, M2, M3 Money Supply YoY				
28-May	KSA	SAMA Net Foreign Assets SAR				
25-Apr to 30-Apr	KSA	Unemployment Rate				

Source: Bloomberg, IEA, EIA, OPEC

Analyst

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Key comments from international energy agencies

IEA - Oil Market Report (Published on April 13)

- The global demand growth forecast for 2018 stood at 1.5 mbpd (unchanged from the previous month's estimate).
- OPEC's oil output fell by 200 kbpd at 31.8 mbpd in March, led by declines in Venezuela and lower output in Africa.
- Global oil supplies eased by 120 kbpd to 97.8 mbpd in March as OPEC and non-OPEC producers extended their cuts to 2.4 mbpd.
- OECD commercial inventories decreased by 26 mb in February to 2,841 million barrels. Inventories were only 30 mb above the
 five-year average by the end of February.
- A seasonal ramp-up is expected in the global refining throughput in 2Q18 after peak refinery maintenance in Europe and the US
 in 1Q18. In 2Q18, runs would rise by 3.1 mbpd, but the supply of refined products would fall short compared with the demand.

OPEC – Monthly Oil Market Report (Published on April 12)

- Oil consumption is expected to grow 1.65 mbpd to an average of 97.07 mbpd in 2017 (up 0.03 mbpd from the previous month's
 estimate). It is anticipated to further increase 1.63 mbpd to an average of 98.70 mbpd in 2018 (up 0.07 mbpd from the previous
 month's estimate).
- · OPEC oil production fell 201 kbpd to 31.96 mbpd in March, according to secondary sources.
- Non-OPEC supplies averaged an estimated 57.9 mbpd in 2017. Non-OPEC oil supply is expected to rise 1.71 mbpd (up 0.05 mbpd from the previous month's estimate) to an average of 59.61 mbpd in 2018.
- OECD commercial oil stocks fell to 2,854 mn barrels in February from 2,865 mn barrels in January.
- OECD commercial inventories rose 43 mn barrels from the latest five-year average, with a forward cover of 60.6 days (up 0.6 days from the latest five-year average).
- Demand for OPEC crude is projected to increase 0.6 mbpd (unchanged from the previous month's estimate) to an average of 32.9 mbpd in 2017. In 2018, demand is estimated to be 32.6 mbpd (down 0.3 mbpd from that in 2017).

EIA – Short-Term Energy Outlook (Published on April 10)

- Brent averaged USD 66 per barrel in March, and is expected to average USD 63 per barrel in 2018 and 2019 (up USD 1 per barrel from the previous month's estimate).
- WTI is estimated to average USD 4 per barrel lower (unchanged from the previous month's estimate) than the average for Brent in 2018 and 2019.
- US crude production averaged 10.4 mbpd in March 2018, up 260 kbpd from the February average, as per EIA estimates. Further, it estimates the production to have averaged 9.3 mbpd in 2017 (unchanged from the previous month's estimate) and 10.7 mbpd for 2018 (unchanged from the previous month's estimate). EIA expects production to increase to 11.4 mbpd on average in 2019 (up 0.1 mbpd from the previous month's estimate).
- As of March 30, 2018, natural gas inventories in the US stood at 1,354 bn cubic feet (down 16.7% MoM).
- Global consumption of petroleum and other liquid fuels is expected to increase 1.79 mbpd in 2018 (up 0.1 mbpd from the previous month's estimate) and 1.85 mbpd in 2019 (up 0.1 mbpd from the previous month's estimate).
- Non-OPEC production is projected to grow 2.56 mbpd in 2018 (unchanged from the previous month's estimate) and 1.48 mbpd in 2019 (up 0.3 mbpd from the previous month's estimate).
- On average, OPEC members produced 34.5 mbpd of crude in 2017 (unchanged from the previous month's estimate) and are estimated to produce 34.1 mbpd in 2018 (down 0.2 mbpd from the previous month's estimate) and 33.7 mbpd in 2019 (down 0.4 mbpd from the previous month's estimate).
- OPEC's unplanned oil supply disruptions averaged 1.2 mbpd in March (unchanged from February).
- OECD inventories are expected to rise to 2.9 bn barrels by the end of 2018 (unchanged from the previous month's estimate) and 2.9 bn by the end of 2019 (down 0.1 bn from the previous month's estimate).



Figure 1: TASI versus Materials sector



Source: Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 2: Materials sector versus Oil (Brent)



Source: Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

Table 3: World Oil Demand and Supply

		,										
(mbpd)		20	17			20	18E		2016	2017	2018E	2019E
World Crude Oil & Liq. Fuels Supply	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4				
OPEC Supp.	38.84	39.32	39.68	39.27	39.29	39.09	39.31	39.28	39.24	39.28	39.24	39.52
Non-OPEC Suppl.	58.26	58.33	58.69	59.38	59.49	61.17	61.82	62.39	58.00	58.67	61.23	62.70
Total World Supply	97.10	97.65	98.37	98.65	98.78	100.26	101.13	101.67	97.24	97.95	100.47	102.22
World Crude Oil & Liq. Fuels Cons.												
OECD Consumption.	46.79	46.92	47.46	47.69	47.54	46.97	48.11	48.23	46.75	47.22	47.72	48.17
Non-OECD Consumption.	50.79	51.46	51.47	51.46	52.08	52.79	52.74	52.74	50.20	51.30	52.59	53.98
Total World Cons.	97.58	98.38	98.93	99.15	99.62	99.76	100.85	100.97	96.95	98.52	100.31	102.15
OECD Inventory (mn bbls)	3,012	3,001	2,954	2,838	2,784	2,835	2,861	2,864	2,967	2,838	2,864	2,898
OPEC Surplus Crude Oil Prod. Cap.	2.19	2.13	1.95	2.11	1.95	2.07	1.76	1.67	1.15	2.09	1.86	1.34

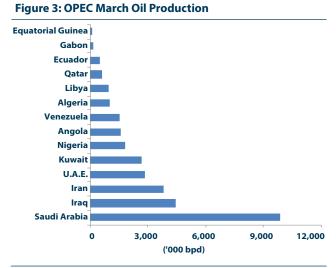
Source: EIA STEO April 2018, AlJazira Capital Research

- The gap between crude supply and consumption expanded to a negative 0.84 mbpd by 1Q18 (higher consumption than supply) from a negative 0.50 mbpd in 4Q17.
- OECD crude inventories declined to 2,784 mn barrels in 1Q18.
- OPEC's surplus production capacity fell to 1.95 mbpd in 1Q18 vis-à-vis 2.11 mbpd in 4Q17.



Table 4: OPEC monthly oil production

Prod. ('000bpd)	Cap.	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	% MoM Chg.
Saudi Arabia	11,500	9,950	9,960	9,880	9,870	-0.1%
Iraq	4,700	4,430	4,430	4,430	4,430	0.0%
Iran	4,000	3,800	3,830	3,830	3,810	-0.5%
U.A.E.	3,150	2,890	2,850	2,800	2,860	2.1%
Kuwait	3,000	2,690	2,710	2,700	2,700	0.0%
Nigeria	1,900	1,820	1,800	1,800	1,850	2.8%
Angola	1,710	1,630	1,620	1,600	1,570	-1.9%
Venezuela	1,900	1,700	1,710	1,610	1,510	-6.2%
Algeria	1,150	1,040	1,020	1,040	1,000	-3.8%
Libya	1,000	970	980	1,050	990	-5.7%
Qatar	780	610	600	620	610	-1.6%
Ecuador	555	520	520	520	520	0.0%
Gabon	220	200	200	200	190	-5.0%
Equatorial Guinea	150	130	130	130	130	0.0%
Total OPEC	35,715	32,380	32,360	32,210	32,040	-0.5%
					Sour	ce: Bloomberg



Source: Bloomberg

Figure 4: US Weekly Oil Inventories

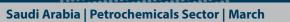


Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 5: World Oil Production and Forecast



Source: Bloomberg





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Corporate announcements		
Name of company	Date	Announcement
Saudi Arabian Mining Company (Maaden)	Dec 17, 2017	Maaden's subsidiary, Maaden Aluminium Company has entered into financing agreements with various commercial banks and financial institutions to replace its existing debt. The new debt would be for the total amount of SAR 6.68 bn.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC).	Nov 26, 2017	SABIC signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to build a complex valued at SAR 20bn with Saudi Aramco to convert crude oil to chemicals. A concluding decision would be made by the end of 2019 on whether the companies would proceed with the MoU.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)	Dec 19, 2017	SABIC has announced a cash dividend of 22% at SAR 2.2 per share for 2H 17 amounting to SAR 6.6 bn on the recommendation of Board of Directors.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)	Dec 27, 2017	SABIC awarded Jubail United Petrochemical Company the contract for engineering, supply and construction of the Ethylene Glycol plant with Samsung (Korea). The total cost of the project is SAR 3.3 bn.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)	Jan 02, 2018	SABIC has started construction works of the plant in relation to its agreement with Celanese Corporation for the establishment of Polyacetal plant with an annual capacity of 50,000 metric tons within Ibn Sina Complex in Jubail Industrial City. The total cost is estimated to be USD 387 mn.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)	Jan 25, 2018	SABIC bought 25% stake in Swiss chemical maker Clariant becoming the largest shareholder of the Company. SABIC bought approximately 83 mn shares from 40 North and Corvex Management to acquire its share.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)	March 12, 2018	SABIC decided to willingly liquidate wholly owned subsidiary SABIC Sukuk Co. after loss increased to 50.0% of the capital. The company was established with a capital of SAR 500,000; its offerings comprised services related to the bonds and sukuk issued by SABIC and affiliates.
Saudi Basic Industries Corp. (SABIC)	Apr 02, 2018	SABIC announced the successful conclusion of the pilot operation of methyl methacrylate monomer (MMA) and poly methyl methacrylate (PMMA) plants and the commencement of commercial operations of Samac a joint venture of SABIC and Japan's Mitsubishi Chemical Corporation (MMC).
National Industrialization Co. (TASNEE)	Feb 27, 2018	TASNEE announced that one of its subsidiaries Advanced Metal Industries Co. has inked an MoU with The National Industrial Clusters Development Program (NICDP), Al Salam Aerospace Industries Company and Figeac Aero Group, to explore the potential of establishing an Aircraft Precision Machining Production Facility in Saudi Arabia both for civil and military aircrafts as part of Titanium Industries chain.
Saudi Kayan Petrochemical Co.	Jan 03, 2018	Kayan in relation to the shutdown announcement made in November 2017 has further announced the resumption of the operational work of all the suspended factories and completion of the regular scheduled maintenance work.
Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co. (Petro Rabigh)	Nov 05, 2017	Maintenance work at Petro Rabigh's vacuum gas oil (VGO) hydro-treating unit has been completed. The division resumed normal operations before schedule.
Rabigh Refining and Petrochemical Co. (Petro Rabigh)	Jan 07, 2018	Rabigh Refining announced latest developments in the Rabigh (Phase II). The company announced it has reached on-spec production at 10 of the total 12 projects. The remaining two units are scheduled to start in 1Q18. Upon completion, both Phases I and II will be integrated operationally within the Petro Rabigh Industrial Complex.

Source: Tadawul, AlJazira Capital Research



Oil and gas price trends

Figure 6: Brent Crude (USD per Barrel)

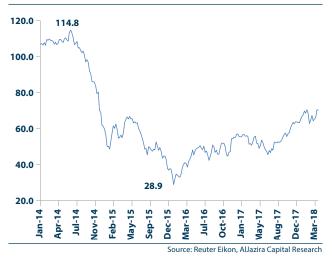


Figure 8: OPEC Reference Basket



Source: Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 7: WTI Crude (USD per Barrel)



Figure 9: Henry Hub Natural Gas (USD per mmbtu)



Source: Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research



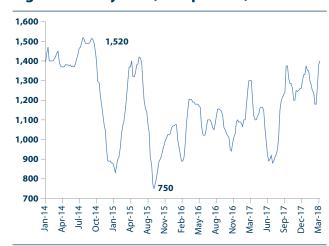
Petchem price trends

Figure 10: Naphtha (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 11: Ethylene (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 12: HDPE (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 13: LDPE (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 14: LLDPE (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 15: MTBE (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research



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Figure 16: Propylene (USD per Ton)



Figure 17: Polypropylene (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 18: Styrene (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 19: Polystyrene (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 20: EDC (USD per Ton)



Source: Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

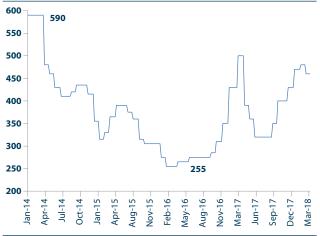
Figure 21: PVC (USD per Ton)



Source: Reuter Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research



Figure 22: Methanol (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 24: Urea (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 26: TiO² Europe

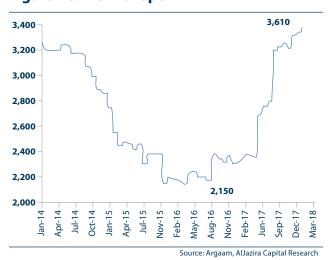
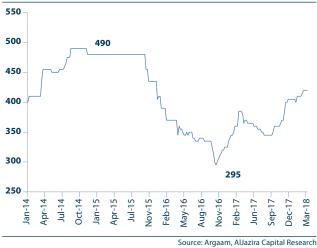


Figure 23: DAP (USD per Ton)



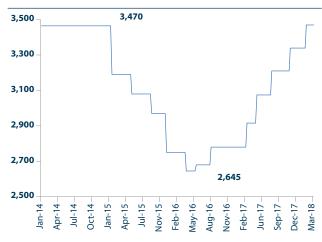
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Figure 25: Ammonia (USD per Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 27: TiO² America



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Saudi Arabia | Petrochemicals Sector | March



Petchem Spreads

- Naphtha prices averaged USD 570 per ton in March, up from USD 569 per ton in February. Polypropylene prices fell to USD 1,218
 per ton in March from USD 1,230 per ton in February.
- The HDPE-naphtha spread contracted to USD 769 per ton in March from USD 784 per ton in February. The PP-naphtha spread tapered to USD 648 per ton from USD 661 per ton. The LDPE-naphtha spread contracted to USD 658 per ton, whereas the LLDPE-naphtha spread increased to USD 634 per ton in February.
- The PP-propane spread expanded to USD 738 per ton, while the PP-butane spread increased to USD 753 per ton in March.
- The HDPE-ethylene and LDPE-ethylene spreads fell to 34 and a negative 78, respectively. The LLDPE-ethylene spread expanded to a negative 101 in March from a negative 28 in February.
- The PVC-EDC spread expanded marginally to USD 719 per ton in March from USD 718 per ton in February.

Figure 28: HDPE-Naphtha

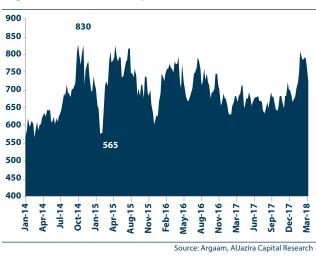
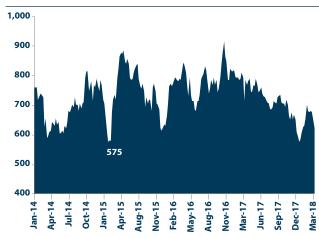
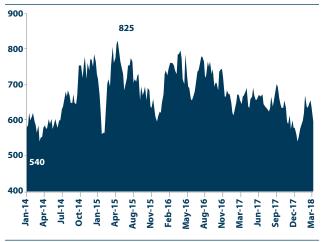


Figure 29: LDPE-Naphtha



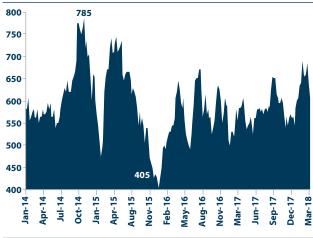
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 30: LLDPE-Naphtha



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

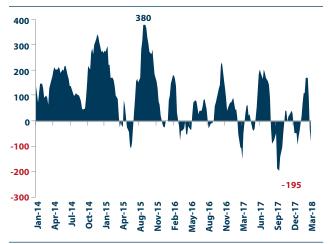
Figure 31: PP-Naphtha



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

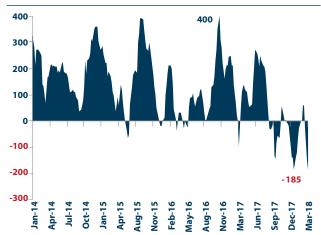


Figure 32: HDPE-Ethylene



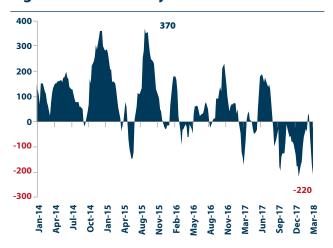
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 33: LDPE-Ethylene



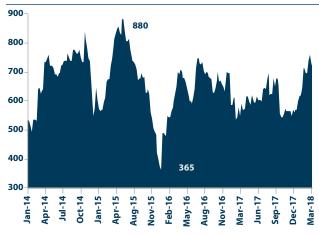
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 34: LLDPE-Ethylene



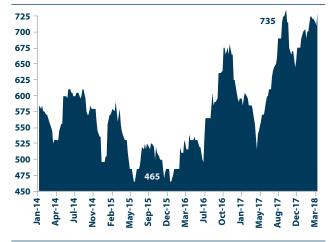
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 35: PP-Propane (Saudi)



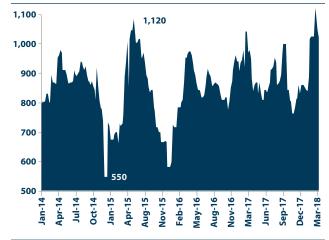
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 36: PVC-EDC



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 37: Polystyrene-Propane



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research



Table 5: Petchem Price Performance

Name	Price * (USD per ton)	MoM % Chg.	QoQ % Chg.	YoY % Chg.	YTD % Chg.
Naphtha	595	5.3%	-3.3%	32.2%	-3.3%
Saudi Propane	480	-8.6%	-18.6%	0.0%	-18.6%
Saudi Butane	465	-7.9%	-18.4%	-22.5%	-18.4%
Ethylene	1,400	18.6%	5.3%	27.3%	5.3%
Propylene-Asia	1,020	-3.8%	7.9%	20.7%	7.9%
HDPE	1,320	-2.2%	3.1%	13.8%	3.1%
LDPE	1,215	-2.0%	2.1%	-1.2%	2.1%
LLDPE	1,190	-0.8%	3.0%	5.3%	3.0%
PP-Asia	1,200	-1.6%	3.4%	13.7%	3.4%
Styrene-Asia	1,245	-12.0%	-3.1%	8.7%	-3.1%
Polystyrene-Asia	1,500	-3.2%	3.4%	13.6%	3.4%
TiO2	3,447	0.2%	5.7%	32.3%	5.7%
PVC-Asia	960	-2.0%	9.7%	1.1%	9.7%
MEG	900	-12.2%	-5.3%	19.2%	-5.3%
Methanol	460	-4.2%	-2.1%	-8.0%	-2.1%
DAP-Gulf	420	1.2%	3.7%	9.1%	3.7%
Urea-Gulf	250	-3.8%	4.2%	16.3%	4.2%
Ammonia-Gulf	280	-11.1%	-15.2%	-17.6%	-15.2%
MTBE-Asia	790	14.5%	12.9%	37.4%	12.9%
EDC	250	0.0%	35.1%	-31.5%	35.1%
Butyl-A	1,265	8.1%	2.4%	-0.4%	2.4%
BPA	1,670	0.0%	12.8%	23.7%	12.8%
PX-Asia	930	-3.1%	2.2%	12.7%	2.2%
EVA	1,525	3.0%	2.7%	1.7%	2.7%

Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research *Weighted average

Note: : *Prices as of March 25, 2018

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
SAFCO	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
Petrochem	Polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene
Sahara Petrochemicals	Polyethylene, polypropylene
Saudi Group	Styrene, benzene, cyclohexene, and propylene
Sipchem	Methanol, butanol, acetic acid, and vinyl acetate monomer
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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- 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.
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