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AGE POLYMER WEEKLY REVIEW

15 September 2026

OIL SHOCK DRIVES POLYMER OFFERS HIGHER

But weak downstream demand is still resisting a full bull run

PP	**HDPE**	**LLDPE**	**LDPE**
PVC	**PET**	**ABS**	**GLOBAL**

Market coverage: China | Middle East | Pakistan | South Asia | Southeast Asia | Europe | Americas

Prepared by Al Ghazali Enterprises (AGE)

GLOBAL OUTLOOK

Executive Market View

The global polymer market has entered a high-risk phase as crude oil above US$100/bbl, Middle Eastern supply uncertainty and higher shipping costs reshape resin replacement economics.

At the report cut-off, Brent crude was trading near US$107.60/bbl, while WTI was around US$103.60/bbl. The immediate result is higher pressure throughout the chain: naphtha, ethylene, propylene, PX, PTA, MEG, styrene, utilities, freight and marine insurance.

The defining market conflict

Sellers are pricing tomorrow's higher replacement cost, while buyers are protecting themselves against today's weak downstream demand. Quoted prices are rising faster than completed transactions.

Market signal	Current reading	Commercial meaning
Energy	Brent approx. US$107.60/bbl	Strong replacement-cost pressure
PP	SEA homo-PP offers above US$1,400/MT into Indonesia	Prompt sellers testing high levels; muted deal response
China futures	PP, LLDPE and PVC lower on 15 Sep	Elevated market, but not a one-way rally
PET chain	PX, PTA, MEG and PET bottle futures higher	Upstream cost support remains active
Pakistan	Latest confirmed PP assessment dated 9 Sep	Valid benchmark, not a live 15 Sep executable price

Current directional call: PP firm-volatile; HDPE firm; LLDPE sideways-firm; LDPE firm with the highest PE upside risk; PVC sideways-firm; PET firm; ABS volatile and regionally divided.

PRICE INTEGRITY

Verified Market Dashboard

Only dated and clearly classified numbers are presented as verified market references. Assessments, seller offers, futures prices and forecasts must not be treated as interchangeable.

Product / market	Price / level	Date and basis	Classification
Brent crude	Approx. US$107.60/bbl	15 Sep	Market indication
WTI crude	Approx. US$103.60/bbl	15 Sep	Market indication
PP Raffia / Injection - Pakistan	US$1,280-1,320/MT	9 Sep, CFR Karachi	Last confirmed assessment
PP Film / BOPP - Pakistan	US$1,310-1,360/MT	9 Sep, CFR Karachi	Last confirmed assessment
PP Block Copolymer - Pakistan	US$1,350-1,400/MT	9 Sep, CFR Karachi	Last confirmed assessment
SEA Homo-PP Yarn - Indonesia	Above US$1,400/MT	Reported 15 Sep	Prompt offers; limited deal acceptance
China PP futures	CNY8,876/MT	15 Sep close; Jan 2027	Futures; down CNY72
China LLDPE futures	CNY8,540/MT	15 Sep close; Jan 2027	Futures; down CNY94
China PVC futures	CNY4,847/MT	15 Sep close; Jan 2027	Futures; down CNY156
China PET Bottle futures	CNY8,408/MT	15 Sep close; Nov 2026	Futures; up CNY192
Taiwan PVC regional offers	Below US$900/MT excl. India	14 Sep report	Producer offer indication

Important correction

Pakistan's 9 September PP assessment is a legitimate historical benchmark, but it must not be presented as an executable 15 September offer. Since that assessment, crude, freight risk and prompt replacement costs have increased further.

FORWARD PRICING

AGE 7-Day Import Risk Ranges

These are analytical risk bands showing where fresh offers may be tested during the next seven days. They are not confirmed transactions or firm supplier quotations.

Polymer / grade	AGE 7-day risk range	Basis	Direction
PP Raffia / Injection	US$1,350-1,450/MT	CFR Pakistan	Firm-volatile
PP Film / BOPP	US$1,390-1,490/MT	CFR Pakistan	Firm
PP Block Copolymer	US$1,430-1,520/MT	CFR Pakistan	Firm
HDPE Film	US$1,330-1,430/MT	CFR South Asia	Firm
LLDPE Film	US$1,300-1,390/MT	CFR South Asia	Sideways-firm
LDPE Film / GP	US$1,500-1,620/MT	CFR South Asia	Firm; highest PE risk
PVC Suspension	US$850-920/MT	CFR Asian regional	Sideways-firm
PET Bottle Grade	US$1,150-1,230/MT	FOB China	Firm
ABS	US$1,550-1,680/MT	CFR China / Asia	Volatile

Use with discipline

Actual quotations may differ materially by producer, origin, grade, quantity, shipment month, payment terms, freight and destination. Obtain a firm written offer before making a commercial commitment.

Why the ranges are wide: the market is pricing logistics reliability as well as resin. A nearby cargo with confirmed sailing can command a premium over a distant or uncertain shipment even when the producer's FOB level is lower.

RESIN ANALYSIS

Polyolefins: PP and PE

Polyolefins are carrying the clearest immediate exposure to Middle Eastern supply risk, higher olefin costs and changing freight economics.

POLYPROPYLENE (PP)	HIGH-DENSITY PE (HDPE)
PP carries some of the strongest visible price pressure. Southeast Asian homo-PP yarn offers into Indonesia moved above US$1,400/MT, while Pakistan's last confirmed raffia/injection assessment remained US$1,280-1,320/MT CFR Karachi on 9 September. Risk: prompt supply and freight. Constraint: converters cannot fully pass increases downstream. AGE call: Firm-volatile.	HDPE is supported by higher ethylene and energy costs, but film, blow-moulding and injection grades cannot be grouped under one price. Prompt cargoes from constrained origins may command a premium, while distant Chinese or US-origin material can remain competitive. Risk: route and arrival reliability. Constraint: grade-specific supply competition. AGE call: Firm.
LINEAR LOW-DENSITY PE (LLDPE)	**LOW-DENSITY PE (LDPE)**
LLDPE is supported by ethylene costs but has a more competitive supply structure than LDPE. China, the Middle East, Southeast Asia and North America all influence availability. Rotomoulding grades must be evaluated separately from standard film resin. Risk: approved-grade availability. Constraint: multiple competing origins. AGE call: Sideways-firm.	LDPE carries the highest upside risk in the PE family. Capacity is less flexible, and outages or prompt-stock shortages can create disproportionate price reactions. Converters with limited substitution options require stronger coverage. Risk: tight prompt availability. Constraint: downstream margin pressure. AGE call: Firm; highest PE risk.

Polyolefin buying rule

Compare resin price plus freight, insurance, finance cost, transit risk and expected arrival date. A lower FOB number can become the more expensive transaction if the route or loading date is unreliable.

RESIN ANALYSIS

PVC, PET and ABS

The energy shock affects each of these polymers through a different upstream chain, and demand conditions remain highly uneven.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC)

A Taiwanese major raised regional export offers, with non-India Asian indications approaching - but generally remaining below - US$900/MT. China PVC futures nevertheless fell sharply on 15 September, exposing the conflict between higher producer costs and weak construction demand.

Pakistan is less directly exposed to imported PVC than to PP or PE because of domestic production. International offers must be compared against local replacement economics and availability. AGE call: Sideways-firm.

PET Bottle Resin

China futures - 15 Sep	Close	Daily move
PX	CNY9,518/MT	+CNY112
PTA	CNY6,460/MT	+CNY64
MEG	CNY5,139/MT	+CNY42
PET Bottle	CNY8,408/MT	+CNY192

These futures prices exclude VAT and selling costs and are not FOB export quotations. They do, however, confirm stronger upstream pressure. Chinese bottle-grade export offers should remain firm, with nearby loading potentially attracting a premium. AGE call: Firm.

Acrylonitrile Butadiene Styrene (ABS)

ABS faces a difficult cost-versus-demand battle. Styrene, acrylonitrile and butadiene are exposed to higher energy and supply risk, while appliance, automotive and consumer-goods demand remains price-sensitive. European ABS has weakened even while Asian feedstock pressure increased, proving that a single global ABS direction would be misleading. AGE call: Firm and volatile in Asia; weaker in parts of Europe.

GLOBAL COVERAGE

Regional Market Review

Region	Dominant driver	Near-term commercial implication
China	High domestic costs, alternative feedstocks, selective demand	Important replacement source, but futures correction warns against chasing every increase
Middle East	Supply-route uncertainty, insurance and freight risk	Confirmed loading and sailing schedule now carry commercial value
Southeast Asia	High PP offers with limited buyer acceptance	Offer market can stay above transaction market
South Asia	Import dependence plus weak converter margins	Need-based buying likely; landed-cost comparison essential
Europe	High energy costs but weak demand	Cost increases may fail to pass through; ABS and some PE markets remain constrained
Americas	Feedstock advantage versus changing freight arbitrage	US-origin PE can compete when Asian and Gulf freight premiums widen

China

China remains the swing market. Domestic PP values have strengthened materially and the country is increasingly relevant as an alternative export source when Middle Eastern cargoes become uncertain. Yet lower PP and LLDPE futures on 15 September, selective downstream demand and cautious buyers argue against an uncontrolled rally.

Middle East

For Pakistan, price is now only half the story. Buyers must verify plant availability, shipment month, confirmed loading, routing, freight validity, insurance surcharges, transshipment exposure and estimated Karachi arrival. A cheaper cargo arriving several weeks late may cost more than a higher-priced dependable shipment.

LOCAL COMMERCIAL VIEW

Pakistan Market Impact

Pakistan is exposed through four simultaneous channels:

- Higher international resin replacement prices.
- Rising freight and marine-insurance exposure.
- Exchange-rate and import-financing risk.
- Limited downstream capacity to absorb rapid increases.

The two-sided inventory risk

Overbuying during a cost spike can trap importers with expensive inventory if crude retreats. Remaining completely uncovered can be equally damaging if sellers withdraw prompt offers or Gulf logistics deteriorate.

Recommended Pakistan buying position

Action	Recommended approach
Standard PP and PE grades	Cover about 35-50% of confirmed near-term requirements
LDPE and specialized grades	Maintain stronger protection where substitution is difficult
Speculative inventory	Keep limited unless downstream orders are confirmed
Distant shipment	Demand a meaningful discount for delivery uncertainty
Middle East cargo	Treat loading date, route and sailing confirmation as commercial terms
Price comparison	Use complete landed Karachi cost, not headline FOB value
Offer validity	Keep short and reconfirm before issuing the purchase order

Decision principle: protect confirmed production without turning a geopolitical cost spike into oversized speculative inventory.

FORWARD OUTLOOK

7-14 Day Market Scenarios

Scenario	Trigger	Expected polymer impact
BASE CASE	Crude remains above US$100/bbl without another major surge	PP, HDPE and PET remain firm; LLDPE sideways-firm; LDPE strongest; PVC restrained by demand; transactions below highest offers
UPSIDE RISK	Crude moves toward US$115-120/bbl or Middle East shipping deteriorates	Lower offers withdrawn; freight and insurance rise; prompt premium widens; LDPE, PET and ABS cost pressure intensifies
DOWNSIDE RISK	Geopolitical easing and crude below US$95-100/bbl	Chinese oversupply regains influence; buyers delay; prompt offers soften; recent PP, PE and PET increases partly reverse

Market indicators to watch

Indicator	Why it matters
Brent and WTI	Determines immediate replacement-cost and risk-premium direction
China PP / LLDPE futures	Shows whether domestic momentum is strengthening or losing conviction
Middle East loading confirmations	Separates genuine supply shortage from offer-market fear
Actual PP deal levels	Tests whether buyers are accepting US$1,400+ offers
PET upstream chain	PX, PTA and MEG determine whether resin increases remain sustainable
Pakistan downstream orders	Determines how much higher import cost can pass into local trade

Base-case judgement

The market is likely to remain high and unstable, but weak demand should continue to prevent every announced increase from becoming a completed transaction.

AGE DECISION GUIDE

Commercial Strategy and Conclusion

Buyer strategy

This is not the right market for either panic buying or complete inactivity. Cover confirmed production, keep speculative inventory limited, demand clarity on shipment reliability, separate nearby cargo from distant shipment and recheck landed cost before issuing a purchase order.

Seller strategy

Sellers have a credible cost argument, but aggressive increases without transaction support can freeze the market. The strongest offer combines real stock, confirmed loading, dependable transit and competitive landed cost. A high published offer without buyer acceptance is not proof of a sustainable price.

AGE market conclusion

The polymer market is experiencing a replacement-cost and logistics shock, not a clean demand-led boom. Crude, feedstocks and shipping risk are creating real upward pressure, while weak converter margins continue to restrict price acceptance.

Polymer	Direction	Primary reason
PP	Firm-volatile	Prompt supply and propylene / energy pressure
HDPE	Firm	Ethylene cost and freight exposure
LLDPE	Sideways-firm	Cost support offset by origin competition
LDPE	Firm; highest PE risk	Less flexible capacity and substitution limits
PVC	Sideways-firm	Higher cost versus weak construction demand
PET	Firm	PX / PTA / MEG chain strengthening
ABS	Volatile	High feedstock cost versus fragile demand

The decisive question for the next week is not whether sellers announce further increases. It is whether buyers accept those prices through completed transactions.

Until that happens, the market remains high, firm and dangerous - but not yet a confirmed one-way bull market.

METHODOLOGY AND DISCLAIMER

Prepared from cross-checked global polymer market reporting, dated public price assessments, exchange data and market-direction signals. AGE analytical ranges are for commercial planning only and are not firm offers. Buyers should obtain written quotations and verify grade, origin, incoterm, payment terms, loading date and freight before contracting.