AGE POLYMER WEEKLY REVIEW

24–30 August 2026

Previous Week Review: 17–21 August 2026 | **Data Cut-off:** 24 August 2026

Market Overview

Global polymer markets enter the new week with stronger upstream cost support but uneven downstream demand. Brent crude ended 21 August at approximately **USD 94.39/bbl**, while WTI closed around **USD 87.06/bbl**. Asian petrochemical feedstocks also strengthened. The central tension is higher upstream and logistics costs versus resistant downstream buyers.

Polymer Market Direction

Market	AGE Direction	Confidence
PP	Stable to Firm	Medium-High
HDPE	Stable to Firm	High
LDPE	Firm Bias	Medium-High
LLDPE	Stable	Medium
PVC	Stable to Soft	Medium
PET	Stable to Firm	Medium
ABS	Stable	Medium-Low

Feedstock Watch

Asian propylene strengthened during the previous week, with CFR China indications around **USD 1,065–1,075/MT**. Ethylene also showed a firm Asian trend. Buyers should monitor the full cost chain: **Crude** → **Naphtha** → **Olefins** → **Resin** → **Freight** → **Landed Cost.**

HDPE & Pakistan

Far East Asian HDPE film was indicated around **USD 1,070–1,100/MT CFR**, while Pakistan HDPE assessments remained comparatively stable. This suggests rising Asian replacement costs are meeting significant South Asian buyer resistance.

Supply & Plant Watch

Selected Chinese PP plants restarted during the previous week, while MTO and PDH operating changes continued to influence olefin availability. The market does not currently indicate a broad polymer shortage; producers instead face higher energy, feedstock and logistics costs.

Demand

China remains selective amid expanding capacity; Southeast Asia is largely requirement-based; Europe is weak to selective; and Pakistan remains highly price-sensitive, with buyers resisting increases despite higher international replacement costs.

Freight & Logistics

Middle East-to-Pakistan logistics remain a major risk. Higher emergency contingency charges scheduled from **1 September 2026** may further increase landed polymer costs. Importers should compare total landed cost rather than headline FOB values.

AGE Outlook | 24–30 August 2026

Scenario	Probability	AGE View
Base Case	50%	Stable to selectively firm. Higher energy/feedstock/freight costs support sellers, but weak demand lim
Upside Risk	35%	Further Middle East disruption, stronger crude, outages or freight increases could lift PP, LDPE and s
Downside Risk	15%	Lower crude/feedstocks, improving logistics, stronger Chinese exports and weak demand could pres

Buyer Guidance

Cover confirmed near-term requirements; avoid excessive speculative inventory; monitor propylene before PP purchases and ethylene before PE purchases; compare Middle East, Far East and US origins on landed cost; stagger large requirements; confirm ETD, ETA, routing and extraordinary surcharges.

Seller Guidance

Price from current replacement cost; keep quotation validity short; clearly identify origin and shipment window; separate extraordinary freight charges; protect margins where feedstocks are firm, but do not overestimate downstream demand.

AGE Market View

AGE expects a **stable-to-selectively-firm** polymer market rather than a broad-based surge. PP and LDPE carry comparatively stronger upside sensitivity, HDPE remains supported but demand-sensitive, LLDPE is more balanced, and PVC retains a softer underlying structure.

Data Integrity

Prices are market indications where applicable and should not be interpreted as firm executable offers. Where reliable current public physical prices are unavailable, AGE uses directional analysis rather than fabricated spot values.

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