

Press Release

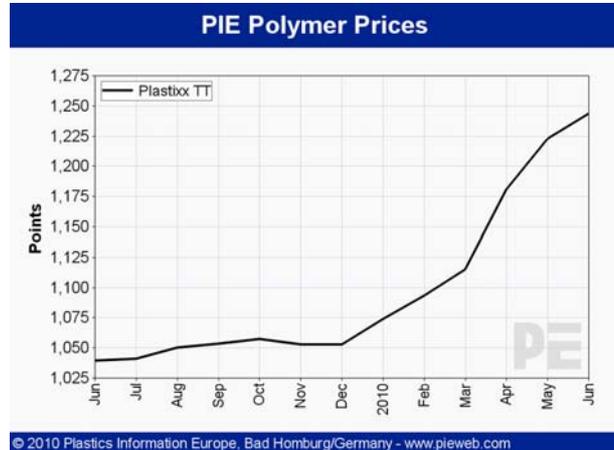
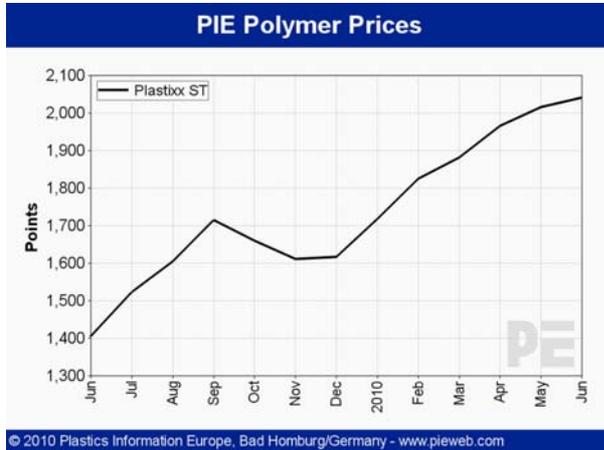
Polymer Prices in Q2 2010: Standard thermoplastics price rally comes to an end / Engineering thermoplastics tight and expensive

Bad Homburg, Germany, 13 July 2010 – The drastic price hike that has come to characterise standard thermoplastics since the beginning of the year slowed down in Q2 and largely came to a standstill. The same cannot be said for engineering thermoplastics, which showed an upward price movement that actually gathered more speed in Q2 and is only likely to lose some of its momentum in the current quarter, the plastics news portal and biweekly newsletter “PIE – Plastics Information Europe” reports.

The “Plastixx ST” price index for standard thermoplastics continued to point upward in Q2, rising from 1,881 points at the end of March to 2,040 points by the end of June (up 8.5%). The highest rises were recorded by PP and EPS, which added 13% during this time frame, followed by LDPE, LLDPE, EVA, PS and PS, which saw increases of between 7-10%. While PET prices rose by 4%, those of PVC added 6%. HDPE prices, by contrast, rose by a mere 3%. As the quarter wore on, the price hikes gradually became less even as demand remained stable, and June saw prices either unchanged or corrected downward. In fact, the prices of key feedstocks have been decreasing since May/June and several materials are being imported again. Thus, the upward trend registered by standard thermoplastics seems to have come to an end for now and the coming months are likely to see stable price levels as well as the occasional downward correction.

By contrast, the “Plastixx TT” price index tracking the movement of engineering thermoplastics shows that the upward trend actually gained momentum in the second quarter. The index rose by 11.5% from 1,115 points to 1,244 points as the quarter wore on. In the first quarter, by comparison, the overall hike had been 6%. Primarily responsible for the upward trend was the dramatic supply situation of ABS and PA, as a result of which

prices rose by more than 17%. July and August are likely to see a continuation of this upward movement – albeit at a slower pace. In contrast to standard thermoplastics, it seems that engineering thermoplastics have not yet reached their peak price levels.



Plastixx – PIE’s Polymer Price Index

"Plastixx" is the name of the PIE polymer price index introduced in June 2005. The index mirrors the price development of plastics in western Europe. The calculations are generated every month on the basis of the market prices for standard and engineering thermoplastics determined and published by PIE. While the Plastixx index represents all important thermoplastics, "Plastixx ST" reflects the price movements among standard thermoplastics while "Plastixx TT" mirrors those of engineering thermoplastics. At 1,000 points, January 2002 constitutes the basis for all three indices.

PIE – Plastics Information Europe

For more than 30 years, "PIE – Plastics Information Europe" has been an invaluable source of business information for decision-makers in Europe’s plastics industry. PIE subscribers have access to a biweekly print newsletter as well as comprehensive online news coverage, including polymer price and market reports, daily news, e-mail services, analysis tools and an online archive. For more information, visit www.pieweb.com.

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