



Recent Global Chemicals Markets and Freight Developments

Global Chemical Trade Diverges as Long-Haul Freight Costs Surge Due to Middle East Tension Escalation

**China's Imports
Weakened But
Exports Rose
Sharply**



**Long-haul freight
costs surged**



**Regional trade
patterns diverged**



**This presentation is intended solely for the client's internal use and may not be reproduced, shared, or used for any other purpose without prior written permission from Richardson Lawrie Associates Ltd. (RLA).*



China

China's Coal-Based MEG Output and Plant Restarts Have Increased Supply, But Not Enough to Fully Offset Lower Imports.

Redirected cargoes from Taiwan, the US and Canada Have Eased shortages, Particularly in India, Turkey and China.



Total Chinese Imports

May 2026 ~1.28 Mln Tonnes, down 16% MoM.



Deep-sea Imports

568,000 Tonnes, a significant portion of the total.



Methanol - Most imported commodity
~346,000 Tonnes mostly from Russia & Chile.



Sulphuric Acid Exports ~ 117,000 Tonnes, a 15% decline.





Europe

Removing the EU's 6.5% Tariff To Boost Chemical US Exports to Europe.



April 2026 Total Imports ~ 1.43 Mln Tonnes, down by 55% MoM.

Deep Sea Imports ~ 1.04 Mln Tonnes, up by 7% MoM.

Caustic Soda and Ethanol Were Key Imported Commodities

US became the top supplier to Europe amid the Middle East Conflict



Northeast Asia

Asia's Methanol Market Will be Shaped by Recovering Supply in H2 2026

Deep Sea Imports
~2.85 Mln
Tonnes, up by 5%
YoY.



**US became the
top supplier
during May
2026.**



**Total
Imports in
May ~
5.02 Mln
Tonnes**



**EDC and
Methanol - The
most imported
chemicals.**

Deep Sea Exports
~ 1.26 Mln
Tonnes, up by
2.3%.



**Caustic Soda
Exports ~
312,000
Tonnes.**



**Total
Exports in
May ~ 10.8
Mln
Tonnes**

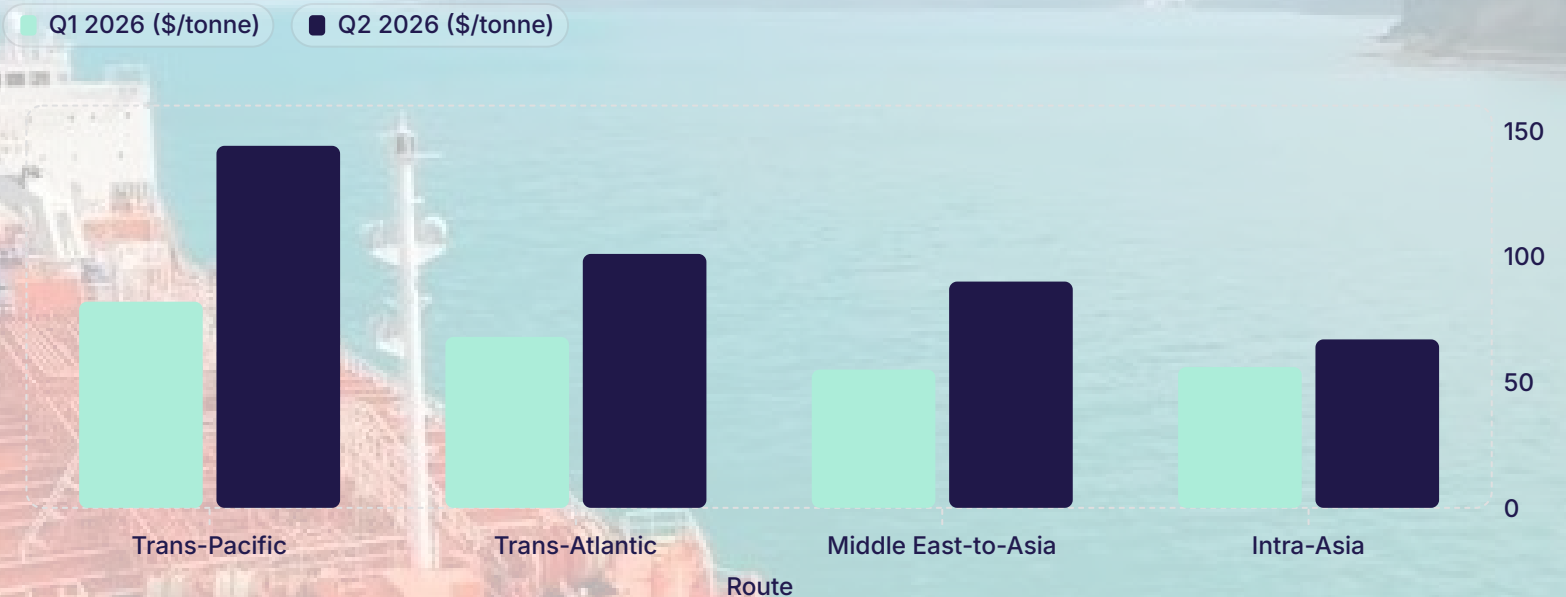


**Exports of
Styrene - Soft
Sulphuric Acid -
Soft**



Chemical Freight

Chemical Carrier Freight Rates to Stay Elevated in Q3 as Well.



Source: RLA Datacentre

1

Trans-Pacific

\$82/tonne in Q1 to
\$144/tonne in Q2

2

Trans-Atlantic

\$68/tonnes to \$101/tonne
in Q2

3

Middle East-Asia

\$55/tonne in Q1 to
\$90/tonne in Q2