

Oil & Petrochemicals Monthly Report March | 2025







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Petrochemicals Sector I March 2025



Urea, Ammonia and EDC prices dropped; EVA, DAP, VAM gained in March; propane and butane prices unchanged for April by Aramco

- Naphtha, propane and butane prices declined in March: Naphtha prices decreased 3.7% M/M to USD 645 per ton in March. Propane and butane prices decreased 3.1% M/M and 3.2% M/M, to USD 615 per ton and USD 605 per ton, respectively. Aramco kept the prices of propane and butane for April unchanged at USD 615 per ton and USD 605 per ton, respectively.
- Prices of most of the products declined in March: Urea prices decreased 18.4% M/M to USD 355 per ton, impacted by the absence of Indian tender and anticipated increase in Iran's production amid resumption of gas supply. Ammonia prices fell 12.2% M/M to USD 325 per ton due to subdued demand in the industrial applications. EDC prices dropped 6.3% M/M to USD 225 per ton owing to weaker demand. EVA prices gained 6.3% M/M to USD 1,275 per ton, driven by restoking activities in China. DAP prices rose 4.9% M/M to USD 640 per ton amid firm supply due to suspension of exports by China. VAM prices increased 1.2% M/M to USD 820 per ton due to slight tightening of supply.
- Petchem Spreads Trend: PP-propane spread expanded to USD 453 per ton in March from USD 440 per ton in February. PP-butane spread rose to USD 461 per ton in March from USD 448 per ton in February. HDPEnaphtha spread rose to USD 245 per ton in March from USD 208 per ton in February.

Tariff concerns weighed on oil prices in March but balanced by tighter supply amid expectations of lower Iranian and Venezuelan supplies; aggressive tariffs severely hit crude oil prices in early April

- Oil prices ended almost flat in March: Oil prices dropped early March due to concerns over US tariffs on China, Canada and Mexico. Later in the month, new US sanctions on Iranian supply, tariffs by the US on buyers of Venezuelan crude and fall in US oil inventories supported a partial recovery in prices, ending slightly lower M/M. In early April, oil prices plunged, as aggressive tariffs announced by the US on a broader set of countries and retaliatory tariffs by China on US increased trade war and global oil demand concerns. Brent increased by 0.6% M/M, while WTI fell 0.6% M/M in March, ending at USD 73.6/bbl and USD 69.4/bbl, respectively. Natural gas prices at Henry Hub rose 6.0% M/M to USD 4.1/mn Btu.
- Manufacturing activity contracted in the US but improved in China; Eurozone remains in contraction zone: Manufacturing activity in the US deteriorated; ISM manufacturing PMI fell into contraction territory to 49.0 in March from 50.3 in February. China continued the expansion with the Caixin manufacturing PMI rising to 51.2 in March from 50.8 in February. Eurozone's manufacturing PMI rose to 48.6 in March from 47.6 in February but still indicated a contraction in activity.

Table 1: Petchem Prices - March FY25

Name	Price (USD per ton)	M/M %	Q/Q %	Y/Y %	YTD %
Naphtha	645	-3.7%	0.0%	-8.5%	0.0%
Saudi Propane	615	-3.1%	-3.1%	-2.4%	-3.1%
Saudi Butane	605	-3.2%	-4.0%	-5.5%	-4.0%
Ethylene	820	-4.1%	-1.8%	-8.9%	-1.8%
Propylene-Asia	800	-3.0%	-2.4%	-1.2%	-2.4%
HDPE	890	0.6%	0.0%	-5.8%	0.0%
LDPE	1,120	-1.3%	-1.3%	8.7%	-1.3%
LLDPE	930	0.0%	-1.6%	0.5%	-1.6%
PP-Asia	940	-1.1%	6.2%	4.4%	6.2%
Styrene-Asia	970	-7.2%	-4.9%	-14.9%	-4.9%
Polystyrene-Asia	1,140	-5.0%	-5.8%	-10.9%	-5.8%
PET - Asia	795	-1.2%	0.0%	-10.7%	0.0%
PVC-Asia	695	-3.5%	-6.1%	-12.0%	-6.1%
MEG (Asia)	530	-3.6%	-2.8%	1.0%	-2.8%
Methanol-China	295	0.0%	-4.8%	0.0%	-4.8%
DAP-Gulf	640	4.9%	2.4%	7.6%	2.4%
Urea-Gulf	355	-18.4%	0.0%	7.6%	0.0%
Ammonia-Gulf	325	-12.2%	-26.1%	14.0%	-26.1%
MTBE-Asia	735	-3.3%	3.5%	-25.0%	3.5%
EDC	225	-6.3%	-21.1%	-34.8%	-21.1%
MEG (SABIC)	760	-1.3%	-2.6%	-6.2%	-2.6%
PC	1,635	-2.1%	-3.0%	-9.4%	-3.0%
Acetic Acid-AA	440	-4.3%	1.1%	-7.4%	1.1%
EVA	1,275	6.3%	9.0%	-2.3%	9.0%
Vinyl Acetate Monomer-VAM	820	1.2%	4.5%	-16.8%	4.5%

Note: Prices as of March 30, 2025

Source: Argaam, Reuters Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

Table 2: Economic Calendar

Date	Country	Event
Apr 16,23,30	US	Weekly Petroleum Status Report
17-Apr	US	US Initial Jobless Claims
23-Apr	US	S&P Global US Manufacturing PMI
30-Apr	US	GDP Annualized QoQ
30-Apr	KSA	M3 Money Supply YoY
30-Apr	KSA	SAMA Net Foreign Assets SAR
1-May	KSA	GDP Constant Prices YoY
2-May	US	Unemployment Rate
5-May	KSA	S&P Global Saudi Arabia PMI
6-May		EIA Short-term Energy Outlook
6-May	US	Trade Balance
14-May		OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report
15-May		IEA Oil Market Report
15-May	KSA	CPI YoY
29-Jun	KSA	Current Account Balance

Source: Bloomberg, EIA, OPEC, IEA



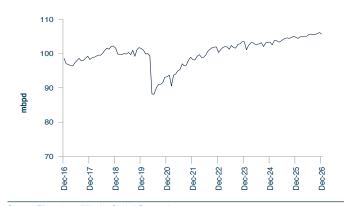
Key comments from international energy agencies

Crude oil supply

Global supply

- Global supplies of crude oil and liquid fuels are expected to rise by 1.3 mbpd to 104.1 mbpd in FY25 (0.1 mbpd lower than previous estimate) and by 1.3 mbpd to 105.8 mbpd in FY26 (0.4 mbpd lower than previous estimate), as per EIA. Non-OPEC supply is forecast to grow 1.3 mbpd to 71.6 mbpd in FY25 and 1.1 mbpd to 72.7 mbpd in FY26.
- Global oil supply rose by 0.6 mbpd in March to 103.6 mbpd, led by non-OPEC+, according to IEA.
- Global refining throughputs are expected to average 83.2 mbpd in FY25, according to IEA.

Figure 1: World Oil Production



Source: Bloomberg, AlJazira Capital Research

OPEC Supply

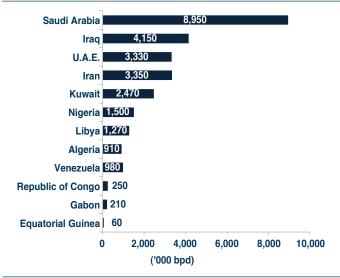
- OPEC crude oil production decreased 80,000 bpd M/M in March to an average of 26.8 mbpd, as per OPEC's secondary sources.
- On average, OPEC members are estimated to produce 26.7 mbpd of crude oil in Q2-25 (vs 27.0 mbpd in Q1-25), as per EIA.
- OPEC's average crude production is estimated at 26.7 mbpd in FY25 and at 26.8 mbpd in FY26, according to EIA.
- OPEC's unplanned oil supply disruptions averaged 1.24 mbpd in March (vs. 1.10 mbpd in February), as per EIA

Table 3: OPEC Oil Production ('000 bpd; excl. Angola)

Prod. ('000 bpd)	Сар.	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	% M/M Chg.
Equatorial Guinea	80	70	40	70	60	-14.3%
Gabon	230	220	230	200	210	5.0%
Republic of Congo	300	250	250	240	250	4.2%
Venezuela	980	850	900	980	980	0.0%
Algeria	1,060	900	890	910	910	0.0%
Libya	1,290	1,230	1,210	1,290	1,270	-1.6%
Nigeria	1,600	1,560	1,520	1,550	1,500	-3.2%
Kuwait	2,820	2,430	2,490	2,470	2,470	0.0%
Iran	3,830	3,320	3,320	3,370	3,350	-0.6%
U.A.E.	4,650	3,200	3,230	3,300	3,330	0.9%
Iraq	4,800	4,120	4,010	4,190	4,150	-1.0%
Saudi Arabia	12,000	8,950	8,940	8,970	8,950	-0.2%
Total OPEC	33,640	27,100	27,030	27,540	27,430	-0.4%

Source: Bloomberg

Figure 2: OPEC March Oil Production ('000 bpd)



Source: Bloomberg

Petrochemicals Sector I March 2025



Crude oil demand

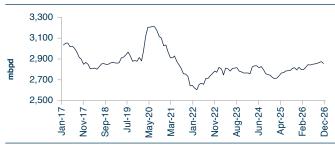
Global

- OPEC estimates a 1.3 mbpd increase in global consumption in FY25 (lower than the previous month's estimate of 1.4 mbpd increase) and grow further by 1.3 mbpd in FY26. IEA estimates global oil demand to increase by 0.7 mbpd growth in FY25 (vs. 1.0 mbpd earlier), reaching 103.5 mbpd. As per EIA, global consumption of petroleum and liquid fuels is forecasted to increase by 0.9 mbpd Y/Y in FY25 (vs. 1.3 mbpd earlier) and 1.0 mbpd Y/Y in FY26 (vs. 1.2 mbpd earlier).
- Global demand for petroleum and liquid fuels stood at 103.3 mbpd in March, up 1.4% Y/Y, as per EIA.
- DoC (countries participating in the Declaration of Cooperation) crude demand for FY25 is forecasted to grow 0.3 mbpd Y/Y to 42.6 mbpd (unchanged from the previous month's estimate), according to OPEC. The DoC demand is estimated to increase to 42.8 mbpd in FY26 (0.1 mbpd lower than previous estimate), up by around 0.2 mbpd Y/Y.

Inventory

- Global oil inventories rose 21.9 mb in February to 7,647 mb, as per IEA.
- EIA forecasts OECD inventories at 2.79bn barrels by end-FY25 and 2.85bn by end-FY26.
- Natural gas inventories in the US are estimated to be at 3,660 bn cu.ft. by October 2025; 3% below the five-year average.

Figure 3: OECD Monthly Oil Inventories



Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

Price outlook

- Brent spot prices are forecasted to average USD 68 per barrel in FY25 and at USD 61 per barrel in FY26, as per EIA.
- Goldman Sach forecasts Brent prices to average USD 63 per barrel for the rest of FY25 and average at USD 58 per barrel in FY26.
 UBS lowered its Brent forecast for FY25 by USD 12 per barrel to USD68 per barrel. EIA expects natural gas prices at Henry Hub to average USD 4.30/mn Btu in FY25 and USD 4.60/mn Btu in FY26.

Table 4: World Oil Demand and Supply

(mbpd)		FY	/24			FY	25 E		FY24	FY25E	FY26E
World Crude Oil & Liq. Fuels Supply	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4			
OPEC Supp.	32.40	32.48	32.33	32.34	32.68	32.43	32.37	32.42	32.39	32.47	32.64
Non-OPEC Suppl.	69.81	70.35	70.37	70.93	70.64	71.30	72.10	72.45	70.37	71.63	72.71
Total World Supply	102.21	102.83	102.69	103.27	103.33	103.72	104.47	104.87	102.75	104.10	105.35
World Crude Oil & Liq. Fuels Cons.											
OECD Cons.	44.82	45.60	46.19	46.08	45.73	45.08	45.83	45.88	45.68	45.63	45.62
Non-OECD Cons.	57.13	57.24	56.82	57.07	57.77	58.10	57.96	58.22	57.06	58.01	59.06
Total World Cons.	101.95	102.84	103.01	103.15	103.50	103.17	103.78	104.10	102.74	103.64	104.68
OECD Comm. Inventory (mn barrels)	2,757	2,834	2,796	2,742	2,718	2,769	2,791	2,792	2,742	2,792	2,854
OPEC Surplus Crude Oil Prod. Cap.	1.47	1.39	1.55	1.31	1.20	n/a	n/a	n/a	1.43	n/a	n/a

Source: EIA STEO April 2025, AlJazira Capital Research

- The gap between crude consumption and supply is estimated to increase to 0.55 mbpd in Q2-25 (higher supply than consumption) from 0.17 mbpd in Q1-25 (higher consumption than supply).
- OECD's crude inventories are expected to be at 2.77bn barrels in Q2-25 compared to 2.72bn barrels in Q1-25.



Petrochemicals Sector I March 2025



Petrochemical sector news

- Sahara International Petrochemical Co.'s (Sipchem) board of directors decided to stop operations at Sipchem Chemical Co.'s ethyl acetate plant, until further notice. The company said the decision comes in line with Sipchem's strategy to improve profitability and performance efficiency. The relevant financial impact will appear in Q2-25. (Source: Tadawul)
- Nama Chemicals Co. started a scheduled turnaround at the Epoxy Plant and Hassad Project, operated by its subsidiary Jubail Chemical Industries Co. beginning April 14, for an expected period of 24 days to carry out planned maintenance activities. The impact will be reflected in the financial results of Q2-25. (Source: Argaam)
- Saudi Basic Industries Corp.'s (SABIC) shareholders approved the transactions and contracts concluded by SABIC Industrial Investments Co., which is wholly owned by SABIC, and Saudi Arabian Mining Co. (Maaden). SABIC Industrial Investments sold its 20.62% stake in Bahrain's Alba Co., to Maaden for approximately SAR 3.61bn. (Source: Argaam)
- Saudi Industrial Investment Group (SIIG) obtained the approval of CMA on its request to cut capital from SAR 7.5bn to SAR 6.7bn.

 If approved, SIIG's share capital will also decrease from 755.0mn to 679.0mn shares. (Source: Argaam)
- Saudi Kayan Petrochemical Co. signed a Murabaha refinancing deal worth SAR 8.1bn with several local banks. The refinancing agreement includes replacing the existing debt with new financing. The loan has a 10-year tenor with a grace period until the end of FY25. (Source: Tadawul)
- National Industrialization Co.'s (Tasnee) board of directors recommended initiating the necessary regulatory procedures to repurchase 66.9mn of its ordinary shares and retain them as treasury shares. (Source: Tadawul)
- Saudi Aramco is in talks to invest in two proposed refineries in India, as per a Reuters report. Aramco is in talks to invest in Bharat Petroleum Corp.'s (BPCL) planned refinery in the southern state of Andhra Pradesh and a proposed Oil and Natural Gas Corp.'s (ONGC) refinery in western Gujarat state. (Source: Reuters)
- Saudi Aramco completed the acquisition of a 50.0% stake in the Jubail-based Blue Hydrogen Industrial Gases Co. (BHIG), a wholly owned subsidiary of Air Products Qudra (APQ). (Source: Argaam)

Table 5: KSA Petrochemical Companies Key Metrics

Company	Net profit (TTM; SAR mn)	P/E (Adjusted)	P/B	EV/ EBITDA	DPS (SAR) TTM	Dividend Yield (2024)	YTD returns
SABIC	1,538.5	High	1.2x	12.2x	3.40	5.5%	-8.5%
TASNEE	102.8	19.1x	0.6x	-	-	-	-11.4%
YANSAB	420.3	47.4x	1.7x	11.7x	2.00	5.9%	-10.6%
SABIC Agri-Nutrients	3,327.2	14.8x	2.7x	10.8x	6.00	5.8%	-7.4%
Sipchem	426.1	High	1.0x	12.6x	1.00	5.1%	-21.5%
Advanced	-128.9	High	2.7x	High	-	-	-3.7%
KAYAN	-1,803.7	NEG	0.8x	13.7x	-	-	-13.7%
SIIG	201.2	High	1.2x	-	0.50	3.2%	-5.9%
Nama Chemical	11.7	NEG	2.8x	-	-	-	1.4%
Chemanol	-272.6	NEG	1.2x	-	-	-	-29.2%
ALUJAIN	-50.7	High	0.8x	11.1x	-	<u>-</u>	-1.6%

Source: Bloomberg, Tadawul, Argaam, Aljazira Capital Research; Data as of April 15, 2025

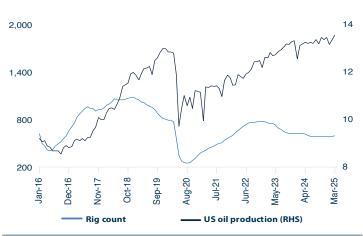
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Petrochemicals Sector I March 2025



US oil and gas developments

Figure 4: US Oil Production versus Rig Count



Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

Production increased 1.5% M/M and increased 2.9% Y/Y from 13.17 mbpd in March 2024.

US oil production averaged 13.55 mbpd in March 2025.

In the week ended March 28, the rotary rig count in the US stood at 592 (down 1 W/W). The average number of rigs rose 0.4% M/M in March vis-à-vis a rise of 1.3% in February. The average rig count was down 5.2% Y/Y in March. As of April 11, of the total 583 rigs, 480 (down 9 W/W) were used to drill for oil and 97 (up 1 W/W) for natural gas. In the US, oil exploration decreased 5.1% Y/Y, while gas exploration declined 11.0% Y/Y.

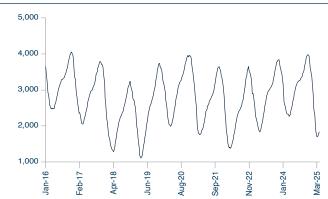
Figure 5: US Weekly Oil Inventories



 US weekly oil inventories increased 1.4% W/W to 439.8mn barrels for the week ended March 28. On M/M basis, inventories rose 1.4%.

Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 6: US Weekly Natural Gas Storage



 US weekly natural gas storage increased 1.7% W/W to 1.773 bcf in the week ended March 28. On M/M basis, natural gas storage rose 0.7%.

Source: US EIA, AlJazira Capital Research

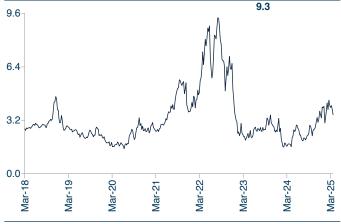
Price Trend: Oil, Natural Gas & Petrochemicals Products

Figure 7: Oil Price Trends (USD / Barrel)



Source: Reuters Eikon, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 8: Henry Hub Natural Gas (USD / MMBTu)

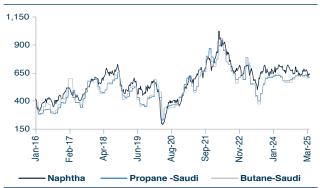


Source: OPEC, AlJazira Capital Research





Figure 9: Feedstock Price Trends (USD / Ton)



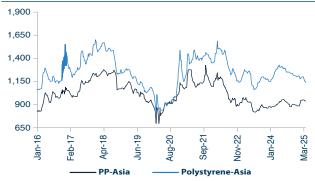
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 11: Polyethylene Price Trends (USD / Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 13: Polypropylene & Polystyrene



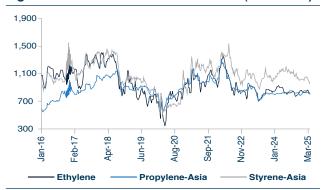
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 15: Methanol-China (USD / Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 10: Basic Petchem Price Trends (USD / Ton)



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 12: Intermediates Price Trends (USD / Ton)



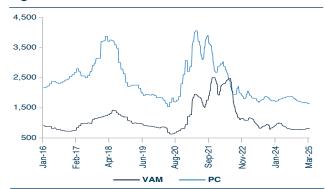
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 14: Ammonia, Urea & DAP



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 16: PC-VAM



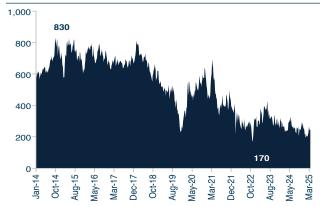
Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research



Petchem Spreads Trend

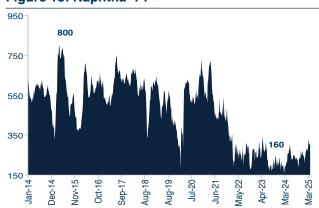
- Naphtha prices averaged USD 640 per ton in March, down from USD 671 per ton in February.
- Polypropylene average prices inched down to USD 945 per ton in March from USD 948 per ton in February.
- The HDPE-naphtha spread increased to USD 245 per ton in March from USD 208 per ton in February.
- The PP-naphtha spread rose to USD 305 per ton from USD 276 per ton during the previous month.
- The PP-propane spread expanded to USD 453 per ton in March from USD 440 per ton in February.
- The PVC-EDC spread fell slightly to USD 490 per ton in March from USD 493 per ton in February.
- The polystyrene-benzene spread widened to USD 324 per ton in March compared to USD 281 per ton in February.
- · The HDPE-ethylene spread jumped to USD 53 per ton in March from USD 33 per ton in February.
- PP-butane spread rose to USD 461 per ton in March from USD 448 per ton in February.
- LDPE-naphtha spread widened by 6.2% M/M to USD 483 per ton, while LDPE-ethylene spread increased 3.9% M/M to USD 291 per ton in March.
- LLDPE-naphtha spread gained 12.2% to USD 289 per ton and LLDPE-ethylene surged 17.6% M/M to USD 97 per ton in March.

Figure 17: Naphtha- HDPE



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 18: Naphtha- PP



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 19: Propane (Saudi) - PP



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 20: EDC- PVC

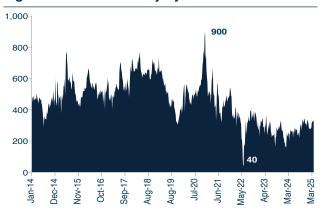


Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

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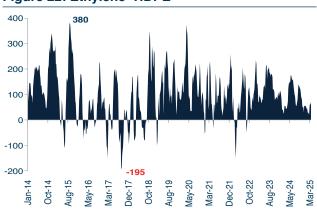


Figure 21: Benzene- Polystyrene



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

Figure 22: Ethylene- HDPE



Source: Argaam, AlJazira Capital Research

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
SABIC Agri- Nutrients	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
Sahara Petrochemicals (Sipchem)	Polyethylene, polypropylene, Methanol, butanol, acetic acid, and vinyl acetate monomer
Saudi Group	Styrene, benzene, cyclohexene, propylene, polyethylene, polypropylene, and polystyrene
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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RATING TERMINOLOGY

- Overweight: This rating implies that the stock is currently trading at a discount to its 12 months price target. Stocks rated "Overweight" will typically provide an upside potential of over 10% from the current price levels over next twelve months.
- Underweight: This rating implies that the stock is currently trading at a premium to its 12 months price target. Stocks rated "Underweight" would typically decline by over 10% from the current price levels over next twelve months.
- 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.
- 4. Suspension of rating or rating on hold (SR/RH): This basically implies suspension of a rating pending further analysis of a material change in the fundamentals of the company.

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