



PE RESIN

+\$0.50/lb

cumulative Apr–May increases

Elevated



OCEAN FREIGHT

\$3,800/FEU

TPEB spot to US East Coast
F(Trans-Pacific Eastbound trade lane)

Monitoring



CORRUGATED

Stable

2nd price increase wave June

Stable



STRETCH FILM

Relatively Stable

lead times holding; resin risk

Monitoring

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Polyethylene Resin

Strait of Hormuz disruptions are affecting ~50% of global ethylene & PE capacity. Dow announced \$0.30/lb in April and \$0.20/lb in May — a cumulative ~100% increase from pre-conflict levels. Exxon and NOVA followed with matching April hikes. PPI for plastics & resins hit 329.5 in April, signaling sustained upward pressure. Buyers should expect continued volatility through Q3 as Middle East tensions persist.

Ocean Freight — Asia to US

Transpacific Eastbound spot rates sit at ~\$3,800/FEU (USEC) and ~\$2,800/FEU (USWC). Carriers have implemented 10–15% blank sailings to support mid-May GRIs, with capacity deployment at 82% — the tightest since post-CNY. US inbound volume fell 8.3% YoY in March to 1.97M TEUs. Further GRIs and Peak Season Surcharges expected into June.

Corrugated & Containerboard

Pricing remains generally stable, but a second wave of containerboard price increases has been announced for June — led by Smurfit Westrock with competitors following. PPI for corrugated shipping containers at 425.2 (April). Linerboard markets remain volatile due to freight disruptions, energy costs, and tight recovered-paper supply.

Stretch Film

Lead times remain stable, but resin cost increases are creating upward pricing pressure. Downgauge and rationalization opportunities exist for high-volume users. Suppliers maintaining inventory discipline — proactive contract positioning recommended before Q3 resets.



STRATEGIC ADVISORY

Common Themes Across Multi-Site Organizations

- Decentralized purchasing activity
- Non-contracted spend exposed to price spikes
- SKU proliferation driving cost inefficiency
- Inconsistent forecasting & lead-time planning
- Limited plant-level spend visibility

What Procurement Teams Should Watch

- Contract compliance & supplier adherence to terms
- Supplier lead-time movement & capacity signals
- Stretch-film downgauge & rationalization savings
- Backup sourcing readiness for resin-dependent SKUs
- June containerboard price increase pass-throughs
- Transpacific rate trajectory into peak season