

Demand is satisfactory in the US for the end of the year. Eastman has announced a 1 January price increase for the US and the Americas of 2c/lb for ethyl acetate. The company claims raw material pressure and thin supply. The European market for ethyl acetate is highly segmented. Regular business which is conducted between conventional producers or suppliers and their customer for first grade material is holding up in price at approximately the Euro900-950/ton level. There is a great deal of talk, but apparently not much actual business, about low priced ethyl acetate from non-European sources. Prices in some parts of Europe reflect this discussion of cheap ethyl acetate and Euro 750/ton has been reported in Southern Europe. Ethyl acetate export prices to Asia have been weakening recently as the supply is stabilising. Inventory levels at distributors appear to be somewhat higher than in the past. Distributors are trying to dispose of stocks at lower prices than before. This is putting downward pressures on prices. Export prices to China for December shipment were reported to be around \$600/ton cfr, down roughly \$50/ton from the October levels. Prices to Southeast Asia have also weakened. While earlier settled prices for December shipment are understood to be still close to \$700/ton cfr, future prices are likely to fall. Although prices are weakening, ethyl acetate demand itself remains healthy across Asia including Japan. Supply in Korea looks balanced this month. During winter time, demand will probably reduce slowly. The local price from October fell to WON980-1000/kg and reduced further to WON900-950/kg in November. The import price into Korea also decreased to \$620-650 from the October level of \$660-680 cfr. Korean makers have been operating at full capacity. Korea Alcohol may have a shutdown in September next year, but this is not confirmed..

	Nov-02	Dec 02		Dec 02
<b>US PRICES</b>	¢/pound	¢/pound		\$/ton
Domestic	37.0-42.0	37.0-42.0	DEL	816-926
<b>EUROPEAN PRICES</b>	€/ton	€/ton		\$/ton
Domestic	1000-1100	900-950	DEL	908-959
<b>ASIAN PRICES</b>	\$/ton	\$/ton		
Taiwan Import	N.A.	N.A.	CFR	
S Korea Import	620-650	620-650	CIF	

Prices are determined on a monthly basis, normally at the start of the month indicated in the table.

