Hungary Solvent Overseas Market Analysis Report

Target Country: Hungary | Category: Solvent | Report Date: June 30, 2026

Hungary Solvent Market: Key Conclusions

Hungary's solvent market remains highly **import-dependent**, with limited local capacity: approximately 70% of consumption relies on imports. In H1 2026, further tightening of EU REACH regulations and sustained high energy costs drove MOL Group's aromatic solvent output down by ~5% year-on-year. ⚠ Warning: EUR/CNY exchange rate volatility increases import cost uncertainty . Demand from the coatings and pharmaceutical sectors remains robust. Chinese ethyl acetate and acetone exports to Hungary have structural growth potential, though EU anti-dumping policy developments warrant close attention.

Indicator	2025	2026 Q1-Q2 Trend
Import Dependence	~68%	↑ up to ~71%
Domestic Output (10k tons)	~4.8	↓ ~4.5 (annualized)
Total Consumption (10k tons)	~15.2	~15.5 (est.)

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) 2025 Annual Report & 2026 Q1 data; European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) Industry Brief, May 2026

Supply-Demand Fundamentals

Hungary's annual solvent consumption is approximately 150,000–160,000 tons, with coatings & inks accounting for **38%**, pharmaceuticals **19%**, chemical intermediates 15%, cleaning agents 11%, and others 17%. Domestic capacity is concentrated in MOL Group (aromatic solvents) and a few small-to-medium producers, with total annual capacity of ~60,000 tons, but actual output constrained by raw material costs to only 45,000–50,000 tons. The supply gap is filled by imports; net imports in 2025 were ~104,000 tons.

Item	2024	2025	2026 Q1
Domestic Output (10k tons)	5.1	4.8	1.1 (carried forward)
Imports (10k tons)	10.8	10.4	2.7 (carried forward)
Exports (10k tons)	0.7	0.6	0.15
Apparent Consumption (10k tons)	15.2	14.6	3.65

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) Trade Database 2025 Annual Report; ESIG European Solvents Statistics, published April 2026

China Market Overview

China's solvent market remained broadly stable in June 2026. Ethyl acetate mainstream ex-factory prices in East China were **6,900–7,300 CNY/ton**, and acetone prices were **6,300–6,700 CNY/ton**, with narrow fluctuations month-on-month. Industry operating rates held at 72%–75%, with capacity utilization at a moderate level. In exports to Europe, China's solvent exports to the EU grew approximately 11% YoY in January–May 2026, with ethyl acetate exports to Hungary showing notable growth, benefiting from improved China-Europe Railway Express efficiency and RMB exchange rate advantages.

Product	Price Range (CNY/ton)	MoM	Operating Rate
Ethyl Acetate	6,900–7,300	+1.2%	74%
Acetone	6,300–6,700	-0.8%	72%
Toluene	7,500–7,900	Flat	70%

Source: Longzhong Information, Solvent Market Weekly Report, June 2026; 100ppi.com, Chemical Price Monitoring, June 2026

Hungary Market Overview

Local solvent prices in Hungary are notably driven by import cost pass-through. In June 2026, CIF Budapest ethyl acetate was approximately **1,050–1,120 EUR/ton**, and acetone approximately **980–1,040 EUR/ton**. Among import source countries, **Germany accounts for 27%**, Poland 17%, Netherlands 13%, Austria 9%, and China 7% (2025 data, carried forward in 2026 Q1). The consumption structure is powered by dual engines: coatings (strong automotive OEM paint demand) and pharmaceuticals (Hungary is a key CEE pharma hub).

Source Country	2025 Share	Main Categories
Germany	27%	Aromatic solvents, ketones
Poland	17%	Esters, alcohols
Netherlands	13%	Aromatics, chlorinated solvents
China	7%	Ethyl acetate, acetone

Source: Eurostat Database, Hungary Solvent Import Statistics 2025; Argus Media, European Solvent Price Assessment, June 2026

Product Segment Structure

Hungary's solvent import mix is clearly structured. Aromatic solvents (toluene, xylene) hold the largest share at approximately **32%**, ester solvents (ethyl acetate, butyl acetate) at **24%**, ketones (acetone, MEK) at **19%**, alcohols (isopropanol, n-butanol) at **14%**, and chlorinated solvents & others at 11%. Within ester solvents, Chinese product share has risen steadily, reaching 18% of Hungary's ethyl acetate imports in 2025.

Segment	Import Share	2026 Price Trend	China Share
Aromatic Solvents	32%	↑ Slight uptick	3%
Ester Solvents	24%	Stable	**18%**
Ketone Solvents	19%	↓ Slight dip	8%
Alcohol Solvents	14%	Stable	5%

Source: Eurostat 2025 HS Code Classification Statistics; Argus Media, European Solvent Category Report, June 2026

Core Finished Product Supply-Demand

Focusing on the core finished product segment of coating solvents: annual solvent consumption for automotive coatings (Audi, Mercedes-Benz plants) is approximately **32,000 tons**, architectural coatings ~28,000 tons, and industrial protective coatings ~21,000 tons. In 2026, automotive coating solvent demand is expected to grow 4%–5%, driven by capacity expansion at Audi's Hungarian plant. Local coating solvent blending capacity is limited; high-quality ester and ketone solvents are almost entirely import-dependent, sustaining a persistent supply-demand gap.

Coating Subsegment	Annual Solvent Use (10k tons)	Import Dependence
Automotive OEM Coatings	3.2	~85%
Architectural Coatings	2.8	~55%
Industrial Protective Coatings	2.1	~70%

Source: ESIG 2026 European Coating Solvent Demand Report; Hungarian Coatings Association (MAF) 2025 Annual Statistics

Intermediates & Raw Material Value

Upstream raw material prices for solvent production directly influence cost transmission. In June 2026, acetic acid (ethyl acetate feedstock) in China was priced at **3,200–3,500 CNY/ton**, pure benzene (aromatic solvent feedstock) at **7,800–8,200 CNY/ton**, and propylene (acetone feedstock) at **6,500–6,900 CNY/ton**. Hungary's CIF Budapest indicative prices carry an 18%–25% premium over China FOB prices, mainly comprising sea/China-Europe Railway Express freight, insurance, and EU tariffs.

Raw Material / Intermediate	China Price (CNY/ton)	Hungary CIF Est. (EUR/ton)
Acetic Acid	3,200–3,500	560–610
Pure Benzene	7,800–8,200	1,180–1,250
Propylene	6,500–6,900	990–1,050

Source: Longzhong Information, Raw Material Price Weekly, June 2026; Argus Media, European Chemical CIF Price Assessment, June 2026 (carried forward, no latest public data)

Trade & Macro Indicators

Hungary's 2025 GDP growth was approximately **1.8%** (carried forward in 2026 Q1), with the chemical industry accounting for ~12% of manufacturing value added. In 2025, Hungary's total imports of solvent-related products (HS 2905/2914, etc.) amounted to approximately **165 million EUR**, with exports at ~18 million EUR. The EUR/CNY exchange rate fluctuated within the 7.75–7.95 range, significantly impacting import costs. The Hungarian government maintains tax incentives for manufacturing investment, and bilateral trade between China and Hungary reached approximately 13 billion USD in 2025.

Macro Indicator	Value	Period
GDP Growth	1.8%	2025 Full Year
Total Solvent Imports	165 million EUR	2025
EUR/CNY Exchange Rate	7.75–7.95	June 2026
China-Hungary Bilateral Trade	~13 billion USD	2025

Source: Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH); General Administration of Customs of China, 2025 Trade Statistics; World Bank Hungary Country Data, updated April 2026

Risks & Opportunity Window

⚠ Risks: The EU is expected to add three new solvent restriction clauses under REACH in H2 2026, which may impact aromatic solvent imports; EUR exchange rate volatility increases pricing difficulty for Chinese exporters; geopolitical tensions may affect China-Europe Railway Express lead times.
▲ Opportunities: Hungary's expanding pharmaceutical sector drives demand for high-purity solvents; deepening China-Hungary Belt and Road cooperation, with a stable Budapest–Chongqing rail route; Wanhua Chemical's BorsodChem capacity expansion may increase procurement of Chinese solvent raw materials, creating a win-win synergy between localized substitution and import collaboration.

Source: European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) 2026 Regulatory Preview; Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency (HIPA) 2026 Policy Brief; Wanhua Chemical 2025 Annual Report

Data Sources Summary

- Hungarian Central Statistical Office (KSH) — Trade & Industry Data
- Eurostat — EU Trade Database
- Argus Media — European Solvent Price Assessment
- European Solvents Industry Group (ESIG) — Industry Statistics
- Longzhong Information — China Solvent Market Weekly
- 100ppi.com — Chemical Price Monitoring
- General Administration of Customs of China — Export Trade Statistics
- Hungarian Coatings Association (MAF) — Industry Demand Data
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- World Bank — Hungary Macro Indicators
- Hungarian Investment Promotion Agency (HIPA) — Policy Brief
- Wanhua Chemical — 2025 Annual Report