

THE WILLOWS GROUP MARKET INSIGHTS

Overview

Market sentiment this week remains cautious across key amino acid categories, with many buyers taking a wait-and-see approach ahead of new pricing announcements from leading Chinese manufacturers expected at the end of the month. While overall activity has been subdued, we're seeing early signs of stability in certain segments, particularly within the vitamins market, where certain products are beginning to show firmer trends.



David Pan,
Purchasing Manager

Amino Acids / Vitamins : Movers and shakers

Amino Acids

The overall Chinese amino acid market softened again this week. Mainstream lysine, methionine, and tryptophan prices continued to decline, while threonine and valine remained steady. Buyers are largely holding back on restocking and awaiting clearer direction from producers.

Lysine:

Manufacturer prices weakened slightly. The introduction of lysine 80% and persistently low corn prices have contributed to a subdued trading environment. Retailers remain cautious, preferring to await further guidance from key producers later in the month.

Creatine:

Some EU traders have made significant purchases recently, with several factories now suspending quotations. The market has shown a modest upward shift as a result.

Taurine:

Production capacity has tightened following the shutdown of the Hebei taurine plant. Major producers have reacted by gradually increasing their quotations.

Methionine:

Prices remain weak under continued bearish sentiment. Enquiry and transaction volumes are limited, reflecting ongoing caution in the market.

Threonine:

The market held steady, with downstream demand remaining moderate. Buyers continue to focus on digesting existing inventories, resulting in muted trading activity.

Valine:

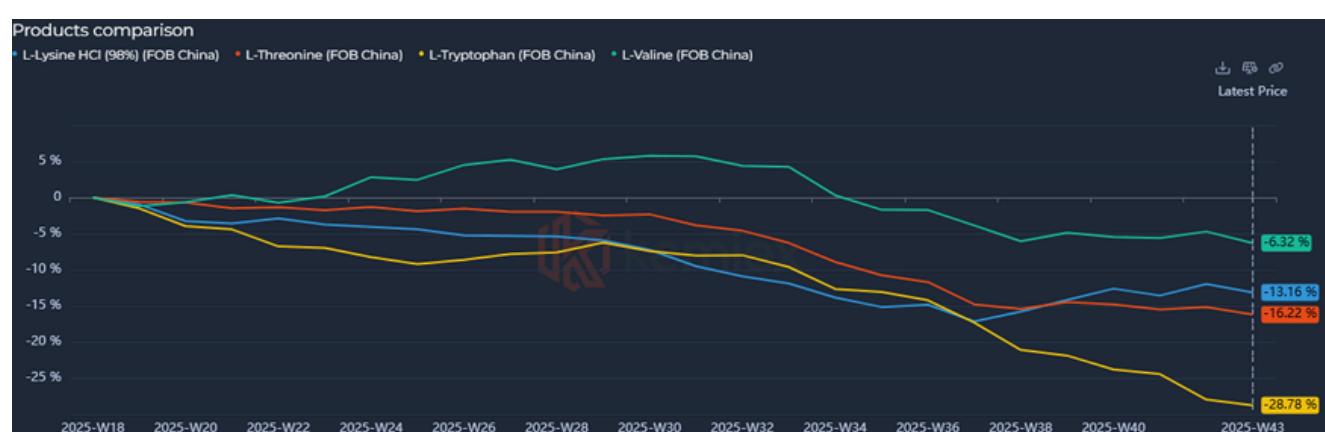
Manufacturer prices stayed stable, though some factories have paused production. Retailers are showing limited restocking interest, leading to weak overall demand.

Tryptophan:

Prices edged down slightly due to oversupply. Market activity remains quiet, with retailers restocking only as needed.

European Market Overview:

In Europe, the previously subdued amino acid demand was largely tied to historically low soybean prices. With soybean prices now on the rise, end-users holding higher-priced contracts or inventories have increased consumption, helping to stabilise most amino acid prices this week.

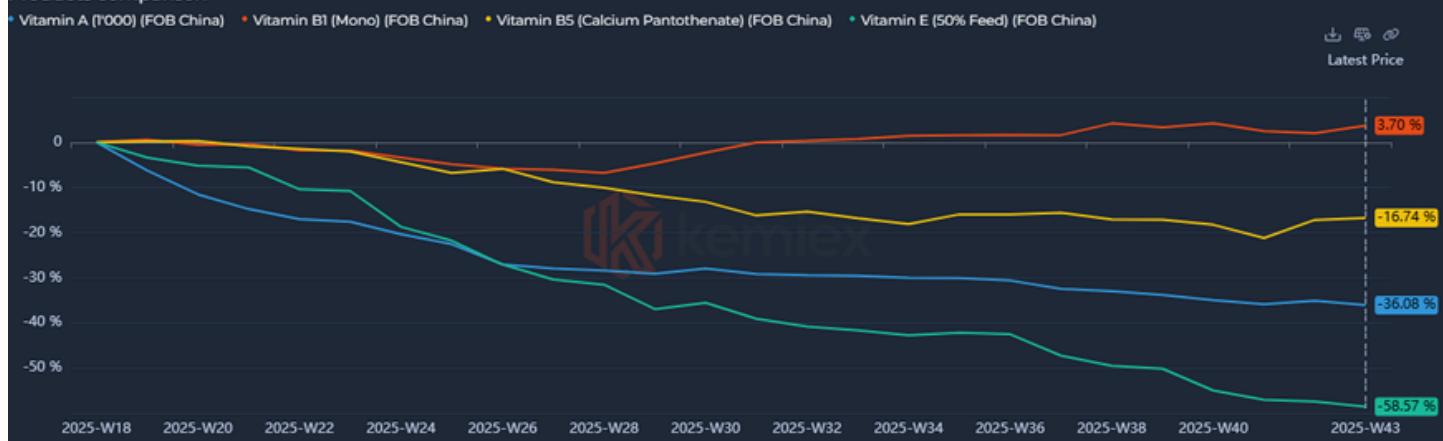


(Source of Graph: Kemiex)

Vitamins

- Vitamin A: Prices continue to ease amid ample supply, though some manufacturers have paused quotations. The overall market remains soft.
- Vitamin E: Sentiment remains bearish, with reports of leading producers suspending quotations.
- Vitamin B1 (Mono): Prices continue to strengthen, supported by all major producers.
- Vitamin B5: After a prolonged decline, the market appears to have reached a tentative bottom, with early signs of stabilisation emerging.

Products comparison



Our team continues to monitor developments closely and will share updates as markets evolve.

ON OUR RADAR

China Sets 7-10% Carbon Reduction Target Breaking Down the 2035 Climate Pledges.

China's 2035 climate pledges mark the country's first absolute emissions reduction target, committing to cut CO2 emissions across the entire economy by seven to 10 percent from peak levels by 2035. While the goal is modest, China's track record and current trajectory suggest it is likely to exceed this baseline. For businesses, the pledges signal a steadily tightening regulatory environment, with growing pressure to align operations and reporting with China's long-term decarbonization strategy.



Read the article here in full.... to understand the scope of China's positive commitment in this area.



EU Omnibus: Parliament blocks proposal to weaken the scope of CSRD and CSDDD.

We provide a summary here that tries to make sense of the EU's ever-changing sustainability reporting rules.



Shipping Tests the Red Sea Again: Cautious Optimism for Global Trade Flows?

Shipping is still very cautious about a wholesale fleet pivot back to the Suez Canal, but ship trackers are keeping a firm eye on a couple of vessels tiptoeing back to a region that has been off limits for many thanks to the Houthis from Yemen campaign against merchant shipping in support of Palestinians in Gaza.

Plan Ahead and keep your productions flowing through Chinese New Year (CNY 2026)

Chinese New Year 2026 falls on 17th February, and as always, factory closures in China will begin well in advance and continue for several weeks.

To keep your production lines running smoothly through Q1, **we strongly recommend placing your orders ASAP.**

