

Commodity Index Tracking

Every index that moves your cost — in one governed picture

Every public index that moves your cost, plus your own licensed series, weighted into one governed basket — with the events and seasonality that explain every move. Whether you buy the raw material or buy from someone who does, you see the change coming, and you can prove where it came from: to your supplier, and to your customer.

INDUSTRY

Manufacturing & distribution · engineered industrial equipment

COMPANY

Manufacturers buying the inputs — and distributors buying from those manufacturers

TOOLS

ScrapeMonk Commodity — market-index intelligence; feeds PriceMonk or your own tools

WHAT THIS ONE-PAGER COVERS

- 1 The Cost Basket Was a Spreadsheet Nobody Trusted** — direct drivers and contextual signals weighted into one cost index, with world events and seasonality measured against your own indices
- 2 The Increase Letter That Wasn't a Surprise** — for distributors who buy no raw materials: check each supplier ask against what the indices justify

The indices that drive your costs are public and free — and scattered across a dozen statistical databases, so nobody pulls them consistently. ScrapeMonk Commodity holds them in one place, weighted into a single cost index you can defend line by line, with the events and seasonality that explain every move. And if you buy no commodities at all, they still matter: they are what your suppliers price against, months before their increase letter reaches you.

THE SITUATION

A manufacturer of engineered industrial equipment has costs riding on metals, polymers, electronics, energy and freight, in several currencies. The data is public and free but scattered across statistical offices, central banks and energy agencies — so nobody tracks it, the basket is a hand-maintained spreadsheet, and a 9% move in a top-three input is noticed at month-end, after the margin has gone.

A distributor has the same problem in different clothes: it buys finished goods, not tonnes of steel, so commodity data looks like somebody else's concern — until a supplier's increase letter arrives with thirty days' notice and no way to judge it.

THE PAIN — IN YOUR WORDS

HOW WE SOLVE IT

"Our costs track commodity indices, but we find out a key input jumped weeks late — after it has eaten margin."

Each series refreshes on its own published schedule — daily or monthly, as the publisher sets it — with its source date attached, so you see a move as soon as the publisher does.

"The cost basket is a spreadsheet someone updates by hand. Nobody trusts the weights or the source dates."

One governed basket: every driver carries a weight and a dated public source, and the index is derived — never typed.

"When we raise a price the customer pushes back, and we cannot prove the cost moved — so we concede."

Every move traces to dated public series and a visible weighting, so the increase arrives with its evidence.

"We see that a price moved. We have no idea why, or whether it will move back."

World events carry a dated note of which indices they moved, and seasonality separates a real trend from the usual swing.

"Building and maintaining this view is an analyst's week, so it only happens when someone has time."

A dashboard is built in minutes — or by asking your AI assistant — then shared and refreshed automatically.

"We're a distributor — we don't buy raw materials, so we assumed none of this applies to us."

Your suppliers buy them. The indices they price against tell you what they will charge, a quarter or two early.

"A supplier's increase letter arrives with thirty days' notice and we've no way to tell whether the number is fair."

Each ask is set against what the indices justify, weighted by your spend — fair ones conceded, padded ones challenged.

"Whatever we build has to feed the systems we already price in."

Clean, model-ready series out by CSV or API, into PriceMonk or your own tools.

01 The Cost Basket Was a Spreadsheet Nobody Trusted

Pick the indices in your bill of materials — or the ones your suppliers price against — and the contextual ones that explain why they move, then weight each. Your own licensed series (CSV / Excel) import alongside the public ones, private to your organisation, and a dashboard can be built or shared by asking your AI assistant. From then on it is one number you can defend line by line.

Cost-driver basket — 12-month index trend

window yours to set · base = 100 · solid = direct · dashed = context · | events

Weighted cost basket Copper Industrial gas & power Cold-rolled steel Components PPI

HICP · EUR/USD (context) Conflict Trade & tariffs Weather Pandemic Economic

WEIGHTED BASKET, 12 MONTHS

+6.8%

TRACKED DRIVERS, SHARE OF UNIT COST

58%

COST-JUSTIFIED PRICE MOVE

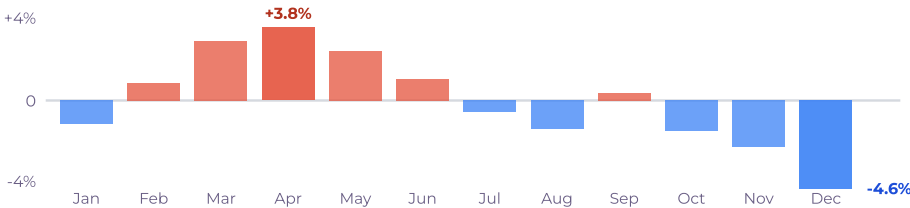
+3.9%

Direct driver	Weight	12-month move	Contribution
Cold-rolled steel sheet	26%	+7.4%	+1.92 pp
Copper	18%	+11.2%	+2.02 pp
Electrical & electronic components PPI	16%	+2.8%	+0.45 pp
Aluminium	12%	+4.6%	+0.55 pp
Industrial gas & power	12%	+9.0%	+1.08 pp
Polymer resin	10%	+5.5%	+0.55 pp
Sea & road freight	6%	+3.2%	+0.19 pp
Weighted cost basket	100%	+6.8%	+6.76 pp

The basket is up 6.8% — and you can say exactly why. Copper and energy contribute 3.10 of the 6.76 points on 30% of the weight; tracked drivers are 58% of unit cost, so unit cost moves +3.9% and a +3.9% price move holds the margin. Every kink has a reason attached too — tracked world events sit on the same curve, each carrying a dated note of which of your indices it moved rather than a headline figure: the energy shock at M3 moved gas & power +2.5%, steel +1.8% and copper +1.6% — +1.1 points of the basket's +1.4% that month — and the tariff action at M8 added +0.7%. Every figure traces to a dated public series.

Seasonality — copper

how far each month typically sits above or below the year's norm

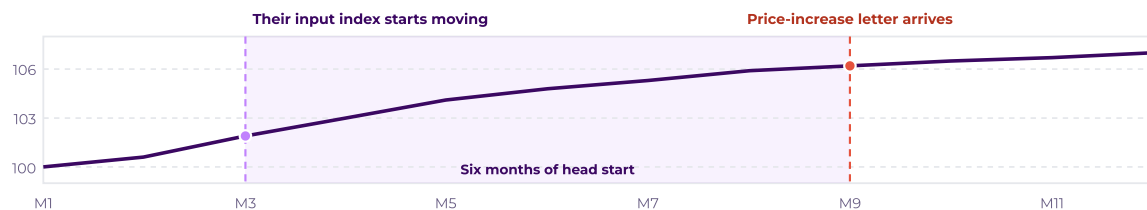


And some of it follows the calendar, not the news. Copper firms through spring then eases into year-end — the gap between the firmest month and the softest is 8.4 points, which is a buying window and a budget assumption. An on-demand AI read summarises trends, correlations and risks.

You may buy no steel — but the people you buy from do, and they price against indices that move well before their letter reaches you. Tracking those gives you the notice period they didn't.

Their cost moves first — the letter follows

a supplier's input index over 12 months vs the month their increase landed



By the time the letter arrived, their input cost had already moved 4.3 points — in public data you could have been watching. Nothing here is confidential: it is the index their own procurement team prices against. The head start is yours to use — buy forward, re-source, or negotiate first.

Increase asked vs increase the indices justify

weighted by what you spend with each supplier · 12-month index moves

Supplier	Share of spend	Asked	Index move	Material share	Justified	Gap	Verdict
Steel fabrications	34%	+9.0%	+6.8%	58%	+3.9%	+5.1 pp	challenge
Electrical assemblies	28%	+7.5%	+2.9%	45%	+1.3%	+6.2 pp	challenge
Polymer components	22%	+4.0%	+4.4%	62%	+2.7%	+1.3 pp	challenge
Inbound freight	16%	+3.0%	+3.2%	100%	+3.2%	-0.2 pp	fair
Weighted across the buy	100%	+6.5%	+4.6%	varies	+2.8%	+3.7 pp	

Three of the four asks are not fully in the data; freight is the one that holds up, because a freight rate is 100% exposed to its own index. At 62% material, a 4.4% input-index move justifies 2.7%. Across your spend: +6.5% asked, +2.8% justified, **3.7 points not in the data** — €1.48M on a €40M buy.

THE SAME EVIDENCE, BOTH SIDES OF THE TABLE

A cost basket is usually treated as a pricing input. It is also the strongest thing you can put on a negotiating table — and it works both ways, because it is the same dated public data either way.

WHEN YOU'RE BUYING

A supplier's increase is set against what the indices justify, weighted by your spend. Conceding the fair asks quickly is what earns you the standing to challenge the padded ones — with a dated public series instead of a hunch.

WHEN YOU'RE SELLING

Your own increase arrives with its derivation attached: which drivers moved, by how much, and what share of your cost they are. The customer can check every step — which is what stops the conversation ending in a concession.

Same basket, both conversations. A price change stops being something you defend and becomes something you show — whether you are asking for the increase or being asked. Nobody argues for long with a dated public series they can look up themselves.

RESULTS

Minutes, not a week

A GOVERNED COST BASKET
BUILT, SHARED AND KEPT
CURRENT

Every move has a reason

EVENTS AND SEASONALITY
ATTACHED TO YOUR OWN
INDICES

Before the letter arrives

SUPPLIER INCREASES SEEN
COMING, AND CHECKED LINE BY
LINE

IN SCOPE / NOT

- The catalogue is public statistical data — statistics offices, central banks, energy agencies, international bodies — with attribution where required.
- Subscription price-reporting indices are *not* included. License one and import it as CSV or Excel, subject to your own licence terms; it behaves like any other series, private to you.
- Basket weights are configured to your own recipe or bill of materials — we do not claim to know your cost structure, and the weights stay yours to change. It is weighted in your own currency, and FX is context rather than a weighted driver — where a driver is quoted in another currency, the rate moves its cost too.
- Index trends explain cost movement, not demand, competitor pricing or your own volumes — those are separate signals.
- The supplier-increase view compares an ask against public indices weighted by your spend. It does not see your supplier's actual costs, contracts or hedges — evidential, not conclusive. It de-rates the index move by the share of that supplier's price you judge to be material; the shares used here are illustrative, yours to set per supplier. Official series are revised after publication, so quote a value with its date.
- The basket describes movement in both directions. A contract adjustment clause needs its own terms — base period, lag, trigger, cap, symmetry down — which sit in the contract, not the index.
- We deliver the cost signal and the context; the price decision, pass-through and margin floor stay yours.
- Figures shown are illustrative of the segment and scaled to each engagement.

Behind it: ScrapeMonk Commodity — commodity, currency and macro indices across every major category from public statistical sources, your own licensed series alongside, weighted into one cost index; world events and seasonality with measured per-index impact; supplier-increase validation against the indices weighted by your spend; on-demand AI summaries; shared dashboards, CSV export, API and assistant access. Feeds PriceMonk for cost-justified repricing — or your own pricing and planning tools.

You cannot negotiate a cost you found out about last month.

