

NUCLEAR FUEL MARKET ISSUES & INSIGHTS

NAC International's annual front-end market analysis report, *Nuclear Fuel Market Issues & Insights*, is available NOW.

With some exceptions, obstacles still impede significant increases in commercial nuclear generating capacity. While a few countries aggressively pursue expansions in their programs, many others plan cutbacks. Difficult decisions are required against the backdrop of the:

- High capital cost of nuclear new build
- Mandates in some countries to shut down reactors prematurely
- Desire to reduce carbon dioxide emissions
- Desire to preserve domestic energy sovereignty
- Difficulty of many operating reactors to compete in the electricity markets

To address such uncertainties, NAC performs country-by-country assessments to derive a forecast of nuclear generation (MWe) through 2035. Our analyses provide the basis for the most likely projection of future demand, leading to conclusions that result in important insights into the future direction of the front-end markets.

Some of the key issues addressed in the report include the following:

- How has Covid-19 affected supply?
- Will primary U₃O₈ producers, particularly Kazatomprom, continue to limit near-term production?
- How will China handle its excess uranium inventory?
- How will the influx of financial investors and funds influence market prices and affect the competitive landscape?
- How will U.S. government policies impact supply and prices?
- What is the outlook for the conversion market now that Honeywell has decided to restart the Metropolis Works facility?
- Will enrichment prices rebound and if they do, when is that likely to occur?



- How will underfeeding impact the markets?
- How will fabrication facilities be affected by premature reactor shutdowns and new build?
- What factors influence the degree of competition in fabrication markets?
- What is the status of the new fuel designs and Accident Tolerant Fuel?
- How will SMRs/Advanced Reactors impact the fuel cycle?

Overall, our market analyses and price forecasts, which make use of detailed supply demand models together with cost of production benchmarks, provide a solid evaluation tool in support of planning and developing strategy, whether for buyers, sellers or investors.

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NFMI&I 2021 evaluates the worldwide markets for U₃O₈, UF₆ conversion and enrichment services, and nuclear fuel fabrication including demand, the status of major suppliers, as well as projected ranges of and general trends for spot and long-term price movements. The report addresses the relative sensitivity of the price forecasts to changes in supply-demand balance driven by plausible future scenarios. It also assesses the market and technical drivers for the fabrication market.

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