CHAPTER 3
Supply Environment Center

A supply environment forecast is a prediction of price and availability for a given component over time. Vivecon's supply environment forecasts define such terms as the length of the forecast, the material it covers, and the predicted high, base, and low scenarios for the forecast (see "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33).

Related topics

"Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30

"Material Requirements Center" on page 11

"Contracts—common tasks" on page 40

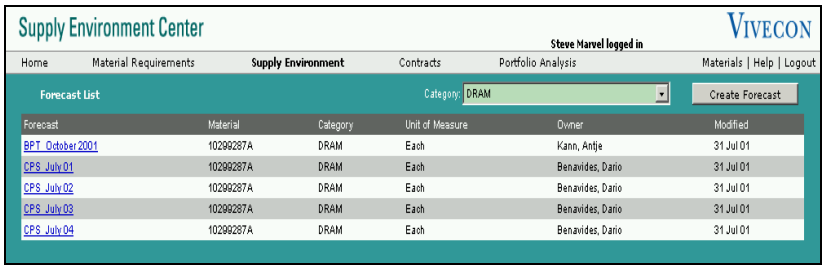
"Portfolio Analysis Workbench" on page 59

"Vivecon Basics" on page 1

Supply environment forecasts—common tasks

What you can do	For details, see
Create a supply environment forecast	"Creating a supply environment forecast" on page 37
Find a supply environment forecast	"Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6
Open a supply environment forecast	"The supply environment forecast list—basics" on page 30
Review a supply environment forecast	"The supply environment forecast list—basics" on page 30
Edit a supply environment forecast	"Editing a supply environment forecast" on page 39
Copy a supply environment forecast and use it to create a new one	"Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40
Create an archive copy of a forecast	"Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40
Understand the information in the supply environment forecast list	"Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33
Understand supply environment forecasts	"Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33
Read a forecast graph	"Graphing a supply environment forecast" on page 42
Print a forecast graph	"Graphing a supply environment forecast" on page 42
Rename a forecast	"Renaming a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6
Delete a forecast	"Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6

The supply environment forecast list—basics



Overview

The forecast list The forecast list shows all supply environment forecasts created for a category of materials.

- Use the list to choose a forecast you want to work with (see "Working with the list" on page 31 below later in this topic).
- Use the Category drop-down list to choose a category (see "Finding a material" on page 6). Only forecasts for materials that belong to the selected category or its subcategories appear. See "Materials, categories, and subcategories" on page 7 to learn about the relationship between categories and materials.
- For a description of the information in the list, see "Information in the list" on page 32 below later in this topic.

Forecasts See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33.

The Supply Environment Center See "Supply Environment Center" on page 29.

Working with the list

Finding a forecast See "Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6.

Editing a forecast See "Editing a supply environment forecast" on page 39.

Creating a forecast See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33.

Copying a forecast See"Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40.

Opening a forecast Click its name.

Other common tasks See "Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30.

Information in the list

Forecast The name assigned to the forecast.

Material The name of the material the forecast covers.

Category The category the material in the forecast belongs to. If the category you've selected contains subcategories, forecasts for the materials in each subcategory appear in the forecast list. See "Materials, categories, and subcategories" on page 7.

Unit of Measure The units the material is measured in.

Owner The name of the person responsible for the forecast.

Modified The most recent date on which changes to the forecast have been saved.

Related topics

"The material requirements forecast list—basics" on page 12

"Contract list—basics" on page 40

"Analysis list—basics" on page 62

"Vivecon Basics" on page 1

"Navigating Vivecon" on page 4

Supply environment forecasts—overview

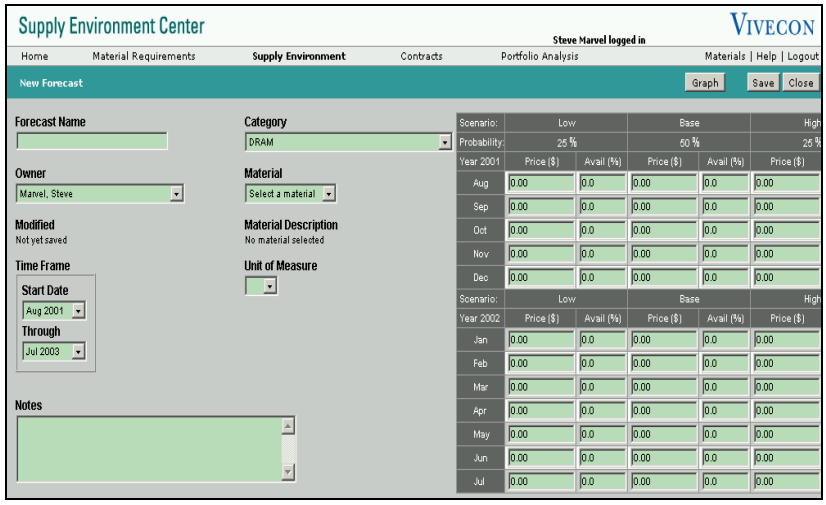
Use the Supply Environment Center to create and store forecasts of price and availability for a given material. Supply environment forecasts contain monthly figures for price and availability over a specified time period. They also contain information to identify the forecast, such as material name and category.

Where traditional forecasts use a single scenario, scenario-based forecasts use multiple scenarios to show the range of possible requirements. Scenario-based forecasts take into account probable forecast error, enabling you to more effectively structure contracts and decide what quantities to order.

What the scenarios mean

- A supply environment forecast's high, base, and low scenarios are named for the prices they track: a high scenario tracks high price; a low scenario tracks low price.
- The high scenario reflects a tight supply environment where prices are high and availability is constrained.
- In contrast, the low scenario reflects a weak market where prices are low and availability is high.

Information in a forecast



Forecast Name The name assigned to the forecast. You can't save the forecast without a name. See also "Renaming a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6.

The forecast name should reflect the date of the forecast if you intend to keep archive copies of forecasts. See "Editing a supply environment forecast" on page 39.

Owner The name of the person responsible for the forecast.

Modified The most recent date on which changes to the forecast have been saved.

Category The category that the material in the forecast belongs to. You can choose a category only when you create or copy a forecast.

- Choose the category that contains the material you're creating the forecast for. The category determines which materials are displayed in the Material drop-down list (see "Materials, categories, and subcategories" on page 7). See also "Finding a material" on page 6.
- You can't change the category after you save the forecast.

- To choose a different category for an existing forecast, copy the forecast (see "Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40).

Material The part or commodity the forecast covers. You can choose a material only when you create or copy a forecast.

- If the material you want isn't in the drop-down list, see "Finding a material" on page 6. See also "Materials, categories, and subcategories" on page 7.
- You can't save the forecast without selecting a material. You can't change the material after you save the forecast.
- To choose a different material for an existing forecast, copy the forecast (see "Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40).

See also "Making sure key settings are consistent" on page 8.

Material Description A text description of the material.

Unit of Measure The units the material is measured in (the software supplies the default unit of measure for the material selected). You can choose a unit of measure only when you create or copy a forecast. The unit of measure affects the quantities you enter. For example, if the unit of measure is thousands, 1 means 1,000 units.

- You can't change the unit of measure after you save the forecast.
- When you create an aggregate forecast, make sure all of its sub-forecasts have the same unit of measure (Vivecon doesn't convert units of measure). See "Making sure key settings are consistent" on page 8.

Time Frame The time the forecast covers. The default span is 24 months, starting with the current month. For forecasts, the time frame (and the scenario values within it) should match the time horizon of the decisions the forecast supports. The time frame may also depend on

the business cycle of the supplier or the life cycle of a certain technology.

Start Date The month and year the forecast starts.

Through The month and year the forecast ends.

See also "Making sure key settings are consistent" on page 8.

Notes Information about the forecast that doesn't fit anywhere else, such as:

Assumptions Events underlying the scenarios. For example:

High: no new capacity, demand recovering by end 2002; Base: significant new capacity in mid 2002, continuing low demand; Low: some new capacity in 2002, moderate demand recovery in 2003.

Explanations Reasons you've chosen the forecast's scenario values.

Archival record The name of the original forecast if you're keeping archival copies.

Scenario values Low, base, and high figures you anticipate for each month of the forecast. You can adjust scenario values once you've saved them. See also "Scenario-based forecasting—overview" on page 14 and "Precision of fields" on page 9.

Related topics

"Creating a supply environment forecast" on page 37

"Editing a supply environment forecast" on page 39

"Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40

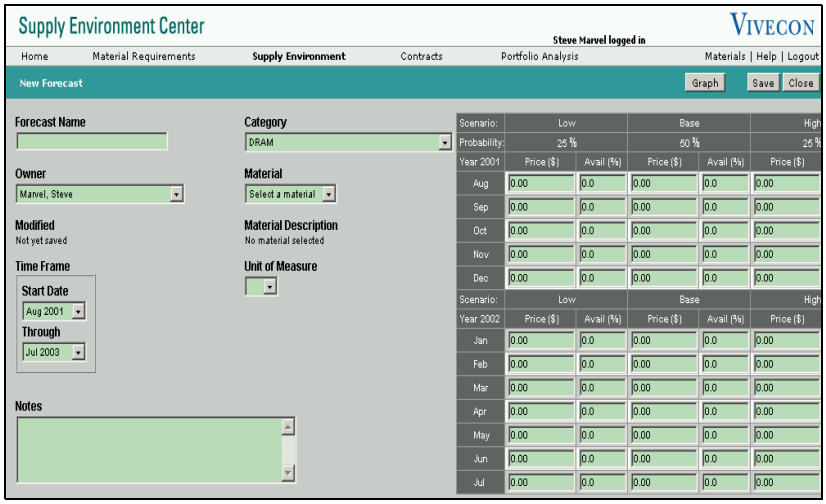
"Material requirements forecasts—overview" on page 14

"Contracts—overview" on page 42

"Analyses—overview" on page 64

"Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30

Creating a supply environment forecast



Before you start

Verify the category, material, org unit, and unit of measure you plan to use You can't change the category, material, or unit of measure after you save the forecast.

Forecasts are permanent You can't delete a forecast once you've saved it. For suggestions on handling forecasts you no longer need, see "Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6.

Save time by copying You can also create a forecast by copying and editing an existing forecast. See "Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40.

Make sure you understand forecasts and the Supply Environment Center See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33 and "Supply Environment Center" on page 29.

To create a supply environment forecast:

1. Go to the supply environment forecast list. Click Create Forecast. (For help, see "Navigating Vivecon" on page 4.)

   The New Forecast page appears.

2. Fill in the forecast.

   See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33.

3. Enter price and availability numbers for the low, base, and high scenarios (see "Precision of fields" on page 9).

   To move from cell to cell, press Tab or use the arrow keys.

4. Click Save.

To graph the forecast, save it, then click Graph. See "Graphing a supply environment forecast" on page 42.

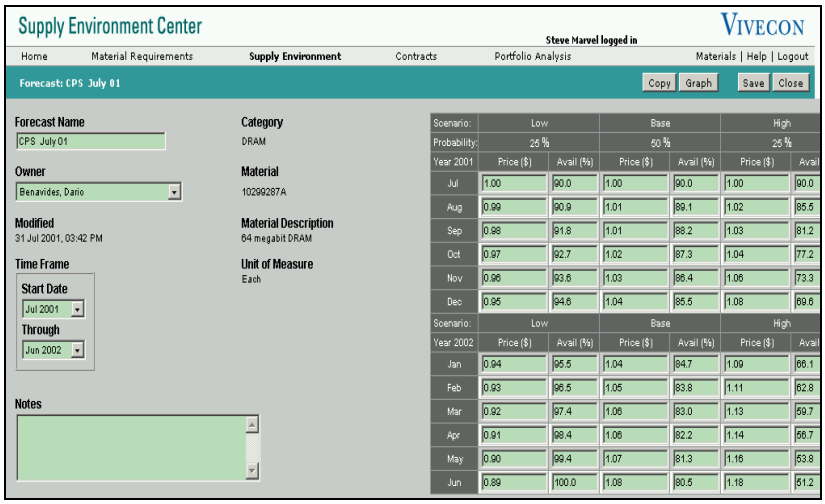
Related topics

"Editing a supply environment forecast" on page 39

"Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40

"Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30

Editing a supply environment forecast



Before you start

You can't edit everything You can't change the forecast's category, material, or unit of measure. To choose a new category, material, or unit of measure, create a copy. See "Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40.

Editing affects analyses When you edit a forecast that's referenced in an analysis, the results of the analysis may no longer be valid. You may need to run the analysis again to update it. See "Running an analysis" on page 77.

Archive before you start To save the current version of the forecast before you edit it, copy it (when you edit and save a forecast, the previous version is not preserved.). See "Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40. Be sure to edit the original, not the copy you're archiving: if you've referenced the forecast in an analysis, the reference is to the original, not the copy.

Make sure you understand forecasts and the Supply Environment Center See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33 and "Supply Environment Center" on page 29.

To edit a supply environment forecast:

1 Open the forecast: go to the supply environment forecast list and click its name.

To find a forecast, see "Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6. For help navigating, see "Navigating Vivecon" on page 4.

2 Make the changes you want.

For information about the settings, see "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33. See also "Precision of fields" on page 9.

3 Click Save.

To graph the forecast, save it, then click Graph. See "Graphing a supply environment forecast" on page 42.

Related topics

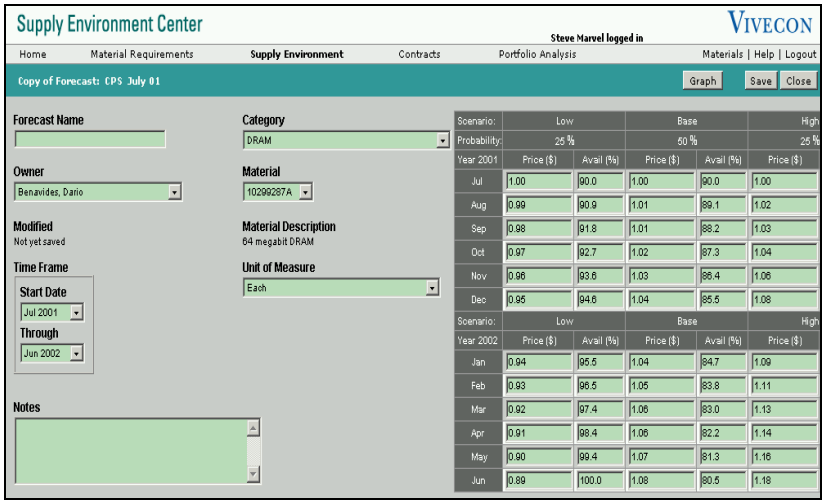
"Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33

"Creating a supply environment forecast" on page 37

"Copying a supply environment forecast" on page 40

"Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30

Copying a supply environment forecast



Copy a forecast in order to:

- Change the forecast's material, material category, or unit of measure
- Keep a copy of a forecast before making changes to the original
- Make a duplicate and edit it to create a similar forecast

Before you start

Save the forecast you're copying You can copy only saved forecasts. Copying duplicates the last saved version of a forecast: any changes you've made since saving don't appear in the copy.

Verify the category, material, org unit, and unit of measure you plan to use You can't change the category, material, or unit of measure after you save the copy. See "Making sure key settings are consistent" on page 8.

Forecasts are permanent You can't delete a copy once you've saved it. For suggestions on handling forecasts you no longer need, see "Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6.

Use Copy to archive forecasts To save the current version of a forecast before you edit it, copy it. Be sure to edit the original, not the copy you're archiving: if you've referenced the forecast in an analysis, the reference is to the original, not the copy.

Make sure you understand forecasts and the Supply Environment Center See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33 and "Supply Environment Center" on page 29.

To make a copy of a supply environment forecast:

1 Open the forecast: go to the supply environment forecast list and click its name.

To find a forecast, see "Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6. For help navigating, see "Navigating Vivecon" on page 4.

2 Click Copy.

3 Give the forecast a new name, then make any other changes to it. See "Supply environment forecasts—overview" on page 33.

4 Click Save.

To graph the forecast, save it, then click Graph. See "Graphing a supply environment forecast" on page 42.

Related topics

"Creating a supply environment forecast" on page 37

"Editing a supply environment forecast" on page 39

"Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30

Graphing a supply environment forecast

The forecast graphs plot the scenario data you've entered. On the graph page, the two graphs plot price and availability separately, showing you the trends for these two factors over time. The graphs use all data from the last saved version of all scenarios—low, base, and high—within the time frame.

The graph depends on accurate data The accuracy of a forecast's graphs assumes careful input of data for that forecast. Leaving Price or Availability values at zero when other data exists, for example, produces an unreliable forecast and, therefore, unreliable graphs. See also "Scenario-based forecasting—overview" on page 14.

To display a graph:

1 Open the forecast: go to the supply environment forecast list and click its name.

To find a forecast, see "Deleting a forecast, contract, or analysis" on page 6. For help navigating, see "Navigating Vivecon" on page 4.

2 Click Graph.

The forecast's graph appears in a pop-up window.

To print the graph, click Print.

Related topics

"Graphing a material requirements forecast" on page 20

"Graphing an aggregate forecast" on page 27

"Supply environment forecasts—common tasks" on page 30