

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Saturday, August 1, 2026 · As of Jul 31, 2026 17:00 ET · Sentiment: Neutral

Global energy markets presented a mixed picture on Friday, with crude oil prices seeing a jump due to geopolitical tensions, while natural gas futures remained subdued amidst healthy storage levels. Shipping rates for dirty tankers showed modest gains, but the LNG spot market continued to face headwinds from ample supply. Carbon markets saw expansion with new UN methodologies, and major equity indices experienced some volatility.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	40,500	39,700
Suezmax, 140	WAF-UKC	28,100	27,500
Aframax, 100	Carib-USGC	22,300	21,900

CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	20,600	26,400
LR1, 55	AG-Japan	18,700	19,100
MR, 37	TC2 (UKC-USAC)	15,400	16,200

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	49,000	127.0	112.0
Suezmax, 150+	35,000	85.0	75.0

LNG (\$/DAY)

Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	13,500	Flat	30,231
174M3 TFDE (Atlantic)	15,000	Soft	35,000

LPG (\$/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	34,800
VLGC, 44 (USGC-Far East)	42,100

BUNKERS (\$/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	509.0	426.0	586.0
Rotterdam	515.0	430.0	590.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	3,845.00	+2.07
Dow Jones Industrial Average United States	32,800.00	+50.00

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	65.50	+0.30
WTI NYMEX	\$/bbl	61.80	+0.25

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	214.00	+0.33
Heating Oil NYMEX	c/gal	205.50	+0.40

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	3.60	-0.06
Europe TTF ICE	EUR/MWh	32.50	+0.20

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	379.00	+0.86
US Mont Belvieu Ethane NYMEX	c/gal	28.50	+0.10

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	23.00	-0.19
Heating Oil/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	20.50	+0.10

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	69.50	69.52
California Carbon Allowances (Spot)	\$/ton	35.10	35.15

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.11	0.00
USD/JPY	145.20	+0.05

DEVELOPMENTS

China's Shifting Energy Mix Weakens Pillar of Global LNG Growth

China's demand for liquefied natural gas is flagging as it prioritizes domestic and pipeline gas and renewable energy, potentially undermining future LNG projec...
Reuters / BOE Report · Jul 30, 2026

UN Carbon Market Expands to Renewable Power Sector with New Methodology

The UN body overseeing the Paris Agreement's carbon market adopted a new methodology, allowing grid-connected renewable power projects to generate UN-backed car...
UNFCCC / Carbon Herald · Jul 30, 2026

Oil Prices Jump Amid Renewed Iran War Concerns, While Dow Drops

Crude oil prices surged due to renewed fighting in the Iran war, raising worries about global oil flow, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average tumbled as sinkin...
AP / Commercial Dispatch · Jul 30, 2026

US Natural Gas Storage Healthy, Prices Remain Below \$3 Amid Supply Concerns

US natural gas fundamentals remain heavy with healthy storage levels and August futures settling below \$3.00/MMBtu, despite stabilizing LNG feedgas demand.
NGI / LNG Global · Jul 30, 2026

NextDecade Secures \$4.6 Billion Financing for Rio Grande LNG Project Expansion

NextDecade Corporation secured approximately \$4.6 billion in financing for its Rio Grande LNG project in South Texas, refinancing existing debt and advancing ex...
Energy News Beat · Aug 01, 2026

QatarEnergy Buys US LNG Cargoes to Offset Hormuz Disruption

QatarEnergy purchased 33 US spot LNG cargoes in 2026, up from four last year, to resell into Asia after declaring force majeure due to disruptions in the Strait...
Reuters / LNG Global · Jul 30, 2026