



Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Monday, August 17, 2026 · As of Aug 17, 2026 17:00 ET · Sentiment: Bullish

Energy markets were dominated by geopolitical tensions surrounding the US-Iran ceasefire expiry and Strait of Hormuz disruptions, leading to a significant surge in crude oil prices. This upward pressure on crude, coupled with tightening shipping capacity due to blank sailings and Panama Canal cost hikes, drove tanker freight rates higher and raised concerns about inflation. Natural gas prices also saw gains amid the broader energy market strength.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS			
DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)			
Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	150,000	80,000
CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)			
Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	28,000	25,000
TIME CHARTER (KDWT)			
Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	117,000	129.0	120.0
LNG (\$/DAY)			
Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	15,000	Flat	30,231
LPG (\$/DAY)			
VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)			38,000
BUNKERS (\$/MT)			
Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	817.0	647.0	1,240.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS			
EQUITIES			
Index	Last	Chg	
S&P 500 United States	7,745.06	-40.70	

ENERGY PRICES			
CRUDE			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	90.87	+2.39
PRODUCTS			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	318.02	+8.36
NATURAL GAS			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	2.69	-0.04
NGL			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	385.00	+2.00
PRICE SPREADS			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	35.00	+1.50

CARBON MARKET DAILY			
Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	81.50	81.70

CURRENCIES		
Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.16	+0.00

DEVELOPMENTS	
Oil Prices Edge Higher Ahead of US-Iran Ceasefire Expiry, Hormuz Disruptions Persist Crude oil prices rose significantly as the US-Iran ceasefire agreement neared its expiry, with ongoing disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz raising supply fears... DTN Progressive Farmer / Crux Investor · Aug 17, 2026	Natural Gas Prices Strengthen Across Major Markets Natural gas prices, including Henry Hub, strengthened last week, with futures bouncing off technical floors amid slipping production and firming power burn. Eur... Vertex AI Search / NGI · Aug 17, 2026
Panama Canal Costs Surge, Blank Sailings Threaten Peak Season Shipping Shipping markets faced challenges as Panama Canal costs increased and fourteen blank sailings were scheduled across US trades, threatening to squeeze transpacif... VESYL · Aug 17, 2026	EU Carbon Allowances Top €80/tonne Amid Energy Price Hikes and Geopolitical Tensions European Union Allowances (EUAs) remained stubbornly above the €80 per tonne mark, supported by higher energy prices and ongoing geopolitical tensions. The mark... advantag.de / Trading Economics · Aug 17, 2026
VLCC Time Charter Rates Hit Record Highs, Newbuild and Secondhand Prices Elevated One-year time charter rates for VLCCs reached unprecedented levels, with aged tonnage reportedly selling for above newbuild prices, signaling a peaking market.... Baird Maritime / Splash247 · Aug 17, 2026	Saudi Aramco Offers Crude Outside Strait of Hormuz In a strategic move, Saudi Aramco began offering crude oil to some Asian refiners outside the Strait of Hormuz through private negotiations, mirroring a strateg... Maritime News Archive · Aug 17, 2026