

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Friday, July 17, 2026 · As of Jul 17, 2026 09:30 ET · Sentiment: Neutral

Global energy markets are navigating mixed signals, with crude oil prices showing volatility amid easing but still present geopolitical tensions. The tanker and LNG shipping sectors are experiencing strong demand and high rates, driven by ongoing disruptions and robust global gas consumption. Carbon markets remain elevated, while broader economic indicators show moderate movements.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	65,000	50,000
Suezmax, 130	WAF-UKC	48,000	42,000
Aframax, 100	Carib-USG	38,000	35,000

CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	32,000	28,000
LR1, 55	AG-Japan	28,000	25,000
MR, 37	TC2 (UKC-USAC)	22,000	20,000

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	55,000	138.0	122.0
Suezmax, 130	42,000	95.0	80.0

LNG (\$/DAY)

Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	120,000	Bullish	80,000
174M3 MEGI (Atlantic)	110,000	Firm	75,000

LPG (\$/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	45,000
VLGC, 44 (USG-Japan)	52,000

BUNKERS (\$/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	620.0	520.0	700.0
Rotterdam	605.0	505.0	685.0
Fujairah	630.0	530.0	710.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	5,850.00	+15.00
FTSE 100 United Kingdom	8,210.50	-25.30

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	79.75	+0.79
WTI NYMEX	\$/bbl	75.80	+0.85

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	260.50	+3.20
ULSD Heating Oil NYMEX	c/gal	245.10	+2.50

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	2.90	+0.09
TTF (Europe) ICE	EUR/MWh	35.20	-0.80

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	475.00	+2.50
US Mont Belvieu Ethane NYMEX	c/gal	28.50	+0.15

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	28.10	+0.20
ULSD/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	30.50	+0.10

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	79.50	79.55
California Carbon Allowances (Spot)	\$/ton	38.10	38.20

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.10	+0.00
USD/JPY	148.20	-0.15

DEVELOPMENTS

US LNG Exports Projected to Double, Becoming Second Largest Net Export Industry

A new S&P Global study indicates that U.S. liquefied natural gas (LNG) exports are set to double in the next five years, making LNG the second-largest net export industry. S&P Global / GuruFocus · Jul 16, 2026

Tanker Market Enters 'Super Boom Cycle' Amid Geopolitical Disruptions

China Merchants Energy Shipping (CMES) forecasts a significant profit surge, attributing it to a 'super boom cycle' in the international tanker shipping market.... Seatrade Maritime News · Jul 09, 2026

European Carbon Prices Fluctuate Around €80/t Ahead of ETS Reform Presentation

European carbon prices (EUAs) have been trading around €79-€82 per tonne in July, with the market keenly focused on the European Commission's upcoming presentation... GMK Center / Trading Economics · Jul 16, 2026

Crude Oil Prices Volatile as Middle East Tensions Ease and Resurface

Brent crude prices have seen fluctuations, with earlier declines in June due to an interim ceasefire in the Middle East, but renewed hostilities in early July have... IEA / Westwood Holdings Group · Jul 10, 2026

Transpacific Ocean Freight Rates Remain Elevated Despite Signs of Easing

Transpacific ocean freight rates reached a near-term ceiling in early July, remaining historically high due to equipment shortages, tariff-driven demand, and limited capacity. J.M. Rodgers Co. / TFX Update · Jul 13, 2026

Solar and Storage Shatter Records in First Half of 2026 for Grid Capacity and Generation

The first half of 2026 saw solar and storage technologies breaking multiple records across the U.S., accounting for 91% of all new grid capacity added in Q1. Fossil Fuel Free Power Association · Jul 16, 2026

EIA Raises Henry Hub Natural Gas Price Forecast for 2026 and 2027

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) has increased its Henry Hub natural gas spot price projections for both 2026 and 2027 in its latest short-term... Rigzone · Jul 15, 2026