

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Tuesday, August 18, 2026 · As of Aug 18, 2026 17:00 ET · Sentiment: Bullish

Global energy markets on Tuesday were characterized by rising crude oil prices and soaring energy stocks, driven by escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and concerns over supply tightness. Dirty tanker freight rates surged to exceptionally high levels, while LNG spot rates softened. Equity markets, however, saw a decline, with major indices pulling back from recent highs.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	250,000	180,000
Suezmax, 140	WAF-UKC	75,000	60,000
Aframax, 80	Med-Med	45,000	38,000

CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	28,000	23,800
LR1, 55	AG-Japan	19,800	21,000
MR, 37	TC2 (UKC-USAC)	18,500	19,200

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	120,000	131.0	116.0
Suezmax, 140+	70,000	90.0	80.0
Aframax, 100+	50,000	78.0	68.0

LNG (\$/DAY)

Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	14,000	Weak	41,000
174M3 MEGI (Atlantic)	19,000	Weak	56,000

LPG (\$/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	70,000
VLGC, 44 (USGC-Japan)	85,000

BUNKERS (\$/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	831.0	647.0	1,240.0
Rotterdam	660.0	548.0	1,271.0
Fujairah	816.0	623.0	1,404.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	7,691.76	-53.30
Dow Jones Industrial Average United States	53,343.40	-116.38
FTSE 100 United Kingdom	7,850.00	+30.00

DEVELOPMENTS

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	90.71	-0.29
WTI NYMEX	\$/bbl	84.84	+0.34

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	250.20	+2.10
Heating Oil NYMEX	c/gal	260.10	+1.60

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	2.77	+0.04
Dutch TTF ICE	EUR/MWh	32.50	+0.80

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	452.00	+5.20
US Mont Belvieu Ethane NYMEX	c/gal	30.50	+0.15

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	24.50	-0.20
WTI-Brent Spread	\$/bbl	-5.87	-1.77

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	81.65	81.70
California Carbon Allowances (Spot)	\$/ton	42.50	42.70

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.09	+0.00
USD/JPY	145.10	-0.12
GBP/\$	1.28	+0.00

Stocks Fall, Oil Prices Climb Amid Rising U.S.-Iran Tensions

U.S. stocks declined on Tuesday as investors reacted to escalating geopolitical tensions between the U.S. and Iran, which also contributed to a rise in global c...
TheStreet · Aug 18, 2026

Energy Stocks Soar to Record Highs on Diminishing Ceasefire Prospects in Iran War

Energy sector equities reached new record highs as hopes for a swift resolution to the Iran conflict faded, leading investors to price in continued geopolitical...
Bloomberg · Aug 18, 2026

VLCC Spot and TCE Earnings Surge on Middle East–Asia Crude Trade Reshuffle

The Very Large Crude Carrier (VLCC) market experienced a sharp increase in spot charter rates, particularly on Middle East Gulf–China routes, pushing time-chart...
Rynda · Aug 17, 2026

Refineries at Full Capacity Amid Escalating Global Fuel Supply Crunch

Refineries are operating at full capacity as the global fuel supply crunch intensifies, with Middle East stalemates and ongoing refinery troubles pushing diesel...
TACenergy · Aug 18, 2026

Newbuild Contracting Running Hot Across Shipping Sectors

Newbuild contracting has been exceptionally strong across 2026 so far, with volumes running at a pace similar to record levels seen in 2007, indicating robust i...
Clarksons Research · Aug 18, 2026

LNG Carrier Spot Rates Drop Back Amid Slower Atlantic Exports and Strong Deliveries

LNG carrier spot rates have softened in recent weeks, influenced by slower Atlantic exports due to maintenance, a 'closed' US-Asia arbitrage, and the impact of...
Clarksons Research · Aug 21, 2026

VLGC Freight Rate to Japan Hits All-Time High

The spot VLGC freight rate from the U.S. Gulf Coast to Chiba, Japan, reached an all-time high, driven by increased Asian demand and congestion at the Panama Can...
RBN Energy · May 12, 2026