



Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Thursday, August 20, 2026 · As of Aug 20, 2026 17:00 ET · Sentiment: Bullish

Global energy markets on August 20, 2026, were dominated by a significant surge in crude oil prices, with Brent nearing \$94/bbl, fueled by escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and supply disruptions. In contrast, US natural gas prices remained soft due to ample domestic supply. Equity markets saw a retreat, with the S&P 500 falling amidst concerns over consumer demand and the impact of higher oil prices.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)			
Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	42,000	40,000
Suezmax, 130	WAF-UKC	30,000	28,500

CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)			
Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	21,000	26,000
MR, 37	TC2 (UKC-USAC)	18,000	19,500

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)			
Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	50,000	128.0	113.0
Aframax, 115	32,000	78.0	68.0

LNG (\$/DAY)			
Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	82,000	Firm	75,000
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (West)	45,000	Soft	60,000

LPG (\$/DAY)			
VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)			35,000
VLGC, 44 (USGC-Japan)			55,000

BUNKERS (\$/MT)			
Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	800.0	554.0	1,306.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES			
Index	Last	Chg	
S&P 500 United States	7,641.16	-66.82	

DEVELOPMENTS

- Brent Crude Surges to Near \$94 Amid Escalating Middle East Tensions**

Crude oil prices, particularly Brent, saw a significant rise on August 20, 2026, driven by heightened geopolitical risks in the Middle East and ongoing supply d...

Reuters/Morningstar · Aug 20, 2026
- US Henry Hub Natural Gas Prices Remain Subdued Despite Heat, Ample Supply Weighs**

Despite warmer-than-normal weather in some regions, US Henry Hub natural gas prices remained below \$3/MMBtu on August 20, 2026, as robust domestic production co...

S&P Global Energy/EIA · Aug 20, 2026
- S&P 500 Retreats as Walmart Misses Sales Forecast, Consumer Demand Concerns Rise**

The S&P 500 index closed lower on August 20, 2026, giving back previous gains, as Walmart's disappointing sales outlook signaled broader concerns about consumer...

Meta Trading Club · Aug 20, 2026
- Atlantic LNG Spot Rates Plunge to Multi-Month Lows Amid Oversupply**

Spot charter rates for LNG vessels in the Atlantic basin dipped significantly to \$20,000 per day by August 21, 2026, marking the lowest levels since the onset o...

LNGPrime/Spark Commodities · Aug 21, 2026

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	93.78	+2.16

PRODUCTS			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	326.29	+0.78

NATURAL GAS			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	2.74	-0.02

NGL			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	361.69	+8.81

PRICE SPREADS			
Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	43.26	-1.83

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	82.44	82.46

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.17	+0.00