

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Friday, August 21, 2026 · As of Aug 21, 2026 17:15 ET · Sentiment: Bullish

Global energy markets closed Friday with crude oil prices significantly higher, driven by escalating geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and concerns over supply disruptions. Refined products also saw strong gains, while natural gas experienced a slight dip. Shipping rates showed mixed signals, with VLCCs firming on robust Middle East activity and container lines cautiously resuming Red Sea transits.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	55,000	45,000
Suezmax, 130	WAF-UKC	32,000	29,000
Aframax, 80	Caribs-USGC	25,000	23,000

CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	22,000	27,000
LR1, 55	AG-FE	19,000	23,000
MR, 37	TC2 (Cont-USAC)	17,500	20,000

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	55,000	130.0	115.0
Suezmax, 150+	38,000	92.0	80.0

LNG (\$/DAY)

Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	14,000	Flat	31,000
174M3 MEGI (West)	16,000	Firm	36,000

LPG (\$/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	36,000
VLGC, 44 (USGC-Japan)	44,000

BUNKERS (\$/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	800.0	554.0	1,249.0
Rotterdam	660.0	548.0	1,271.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	3,850.00	-5.00
Dow Jones Industrial Average United States	31,600.00	-20.00

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	94.39	+0.61
WTI NYMEX	\$/bbl	87.06	+0.23

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	334.79	+8.50
Heating Oil NYMEX	c/gal	448.03	+2.80

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	2.77	+0.04

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	370.00	-5.00

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	46.22	+1.50

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	82.80	82.85

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.17	+0.00
USD/JPY	140.50	+0.05

DEVELOPMENTS

Oil Prices Surge as US-Iran Tensions Escalate, Threatening Middle East Supply

Crude oil benchmarks Brent and WTI climbed significantly on Friday, driven by heightened geopolitical friction between the United States and Iran, which raised...
[Reuters · Aug 21, 2026](#)

US Refined Product Markets Remain Tight Amid Strong Demand and Refinery Constraints

RBOB gasoline and heating oil futures ended the week higher, supported by robust demand ahead of peak driving season and ongoing challenges with refinery capaci...
[Dow Jones Newswires · Aug 21, 2026](#)

VLCC Tanker Rates Hit Record Highs on Robust Middle East Oil Export Activity

Demand for very large crude carriers (VLCCs) from Middle Eastern oil producers pushed chartering prices to all-time highs, reflecting increased crude loadings a...
[Financial Times · Aug 21, 2026](#)

Container Lines Cautiously Resume Red Sea Transits, Signaling Potential Easing of Disruptions

Major container shipping lines, including MSC, are gradually increasing transits through the Red Sea via the Suez Canal, suggesting a quicker-than-expected retu...
[Seatrade Maritime News · Aug 21, 2026](#)

European Carbon Prices Maintain Strength Amid ETS Reform Discussions

EU carbon allowance prices held steady, posting a weekly increase, as the market continued to factor in the impact of proposed reforms to the EU Emissions Tradi...
[Carbon Pulse · Aug 21, 2026](#)

US Crude Inventories Rise, But Distillate Stocks Remain Low, Supporting Product Prices

While US crude oil inventories saw a surprise build in the week ending August 14, distillate inventories remained significantly below average, contributing to t...
[EIA · Aug 21, 2026](#)