

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Friday, May 15, 2026 · As of May 15, 2026 17:00 ET · Sentiment: Neutral

Global crude oil markets edged higher today, driven by persistent supply tightness and robust demand forecasts, while refined products followed suit. Natural gas prices saw a slight decline amid comfortable storage levels. Shipping rates presented a mixed picture, with tanker markets showing resilience and LNG rates reflecting seasonal patterns.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	38,500	36,000
Suezmax, 130	WAF-UKC	28,000	26,500
Aframax, 80	Caribs-USG	21,000	20,000

CLEAN TANKER (\$/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	22,000	24,000
LR1, 55	AG-FE	18,500	19,500
MR, 37	USG-UKC	16,000	17,000

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	51,000	132.0	118.0
Suezmax, 130	38,000	90.0	78.0

LNG (\$/DAY)

Type	Spot Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	42,000 Neutral	75,000
174M3 MEGI (Atlantic)	45,000 Neutral	80,000

LPG (\$/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	48,000
VLGC, 44 (USG-Japan)	55,000

BUNKERS (\$/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	630.0	530.0	710.0
Rotterdam	615.0	510.0	695.0
Fujairah	640.0	540.0	720.0

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	5,810.20	-22.50
FTSE 100 United Kingdom	8,350.15	-15.30
Nikkei 225 Japan	39,500.70	+85.40

DEVELOPMENTS

OPEC+ signals continued vigilance on oil market stability ahead of June meeting

Sources indicate that major OPEC+ producers are likely to maintain current output levels, emphasizing market stability amidst global demand uncertainties and ge...
Reuters · May 15, 2026

New LNG liquefaction project in Mozambique secures final investment decision

A consortium of international energy companies announced FID for a multi-billion dollar LNG project, boosting future global gas supply prospects and regional ec...
S&P Global Platts · May 14, 2026

Tanker rates firm up on Red Sea diversions and robust Asian demand

Geopolitical tensions continue to reroute significant tanker traffic, tightening vessel availability and pushing freight rates higher, particularly for long-hau...
TradeWinds · May 15, 2026

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	\$/bbl	85.50	+1.35
WTI NYMEX	\$/bbl	81.20	+1.40

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	262.50	+3.20
NY Harbor ULSD NYMEX	c/gal	275.80	+2.90

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	\$/MMBtu	3.15	-0.08
TTF (Europe) ICE	EUR/MWh	32.50	+0.45

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	\$/mt	425.00	+6.50
US Mont Belvieu Ethane NYMEX	c/gal	28.00	+0.80

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	24.50	-0.25
ULSD/Brent Crack Spread	\$/bbl	28.10	-0.18

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	84.80	85.00
California Carbon Allowances (Spot)	\$/ton	42.10	42.30

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/\$	1.09	+0.00
\$/JPY	155.80	-0.25
GBP/\$	1.28	+0.00

EU carbon prices climb as industrial sectors prepare for tighter emissions caps

European Union Allowance (EUA) prices saw an uptick as industries anticipate stricter regulations and reduced free allowances under the bloc's decarbonization a...
Bloomberg · May 14, 2026

US refinery utilization rates rise ahead of peak summer driving season

US refiners are increasing throughput to build gasoline inventories, signaling confidence in strong demand for the upcoming summer travel period and robust cons...
NGI · May 15, 2026

Global shipping industry grapples with new IMO emissions reporting requirements

Shipowners and operators are adapting to the latest International Maritime Organization (IMO) mandates for enhanced emissions data collection and reporting, imp...
Lloyd's List · May 14, 2026