ASIAN OIL GROUP

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Thursday, May 21, 2026 · As of May 21, 2026 17:00 ET · Sentiment: Bullish

Energy markets on May 21, 2026, were primarily driven by geopolitical tensions, with crude oil prices seeing gains amid ongoing U.S.-Iran negotiations and the continued closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Natural gas remained relatively stable, while U.S. equities showed a mixed but generally positive performance.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER ($/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	39,500	39,700
Suezmax, 130	WAF-UKC	28,000	27,500
Aframax, 80	Carib-USGC	22,000	21,800

CLEAN TANKER ($/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	20,000	26,400
LR1, 55	AG-Japan	18,500	22,000
MR, 37	TC2 (UKC-USAC)	15,000	16,500

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	49,000	127.0	112.0
Suezmax, 130	35,000	85.0	75.0

LNG ($/DAY)

Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	13,000	Flat	30,231
174M3 TFDE (Atlantic)	15,000	Stable	35,000

LPG ($/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	34,643
VLGC, 44 (USGC-Japan)	40,000

BUNKERS ($/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	508.0	425.0	585.0
Rotterdam	515.0	430.0	590.0

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	$/bbl	102.50	+1.50
WTI NYMEX	$/bbl	100.40	+1.29

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	213.67	+9.90
Heating Oil NYMEX	c/gal	300.00	+12.80

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	$/MMBtu	3.02	+0.01

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	$/mt	670.98	-5.33

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	$/bbl	23.19	-0.15

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	69.34	69.36

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	7,445.72	+12.75
Dow Jones Industrial Average United States	50,285.66	+276.31
Nasdaq Composite United States	26,293.10	+22.74

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/$	1.16	0.00

DEVELOPMENTS

US-Iran Negotiations Continue to Influence Oil Market Sentiment
Crude oil prices saw gains as markets closely watched ongoing negotiations between the U.S. and Iran, with potential impacts on global supply.
StoneX · May 21, 2026

Henry Hub Futures Close Higher as EIA Reports 101 BCF Gas Storage Injection
Natural gas futures saw a slight increase following the EIA's report of a 101 BCF storage injection, which was largely in line with market expectations.
Sprague Energy · May 22, 2026

Strait of Hormuz Closure Continues to Reroute Shipping, Support Ocean Freight Rates
The ongoing closure of the Strait of Hormuz to commercial traffic is forcing vessels to take longer routes around the Cape of Good Hope, maintaining a floor und...
SeaVantage / Bloomberg · May 12, 2026

US Equities Rebound Amid Oil Price Swings; Tech and Retailers See Mixed Fortunes
U.S. stock markets recovered from early losses, influenced by volatile oil prices, with tech giants like Nvidia showing mixed performance and retail stocks like...
Motley Fool / Barchart · May 21, 2026

US Crude and Gasoline Inventories Decline, Refinery Utilization Remains Strong
U.S. commercial crude and gasoline inventories decreased, supported by robust refinery utilization rates and strong exports, indicating tightening product marke...
Market Insights · May 21, 2026

© 1997 - 2026 Asian Oil Group. All rights reserved.