ASIAN OIL GROUP

Asian Oil Intelligence Desk - Daily Briefing

Friday, May 22, 2026 · As of May 22, 2026 16:00 ET · Sentiment: Bullish

Global energy markets remained volatile on Friday, May 22, 2026, with crude oil prices elevated due to ongoing geopolitical tensions in the Middle East and the closure of the Strait of Hormuz. Tanker freight rates continued to see strong support from rerouting and increased tonne-mile demand, while US equities extended their winning streak.

SHIPPING RATES & BUNKERS

DIRTY TANKER ($/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
VLCC, 270	AG-FE	190,000	150,000
Suezmax, 130	WAF-UKC	120,000	95,000
Aframax, 80	Cross-Med	80,000	65,000

CLEAN TANKER ($/DAY)

Vessel	Route	Spot TCE	Avg YTD
LR2, 75	AG-FE	60,000	50,000
LR1, 55	TC5	45,000	38,000
MR, 37	TC2	35,000	30,000

TIME CHARTER (KDWT)

Vessel	1yr	Newbuild	5yr
VLCC, 200+	70,000	127.0	112.0

LNG ($/DAY)

Type	Spot	Sent.	52wk
160M3 Tri-fuel diesel electric (East)	13,000	Flat	30,231

LPG ($/DAY)

VLGC, 44 (AG-Japan)	34,643

BUNKERS ($/MT)

Port	VLSFO	HSFO	MGO
Singapore	780.0	650.0	850.0
Rotterdam	700.0	580.0	770.0

ENERGY PRICES

CRUDE

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
Brent ICE	$/bbl	118.35	+0.50
WTI NYMEX	$/bbl	96.60	+0.25

PRODUCTS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline NYMEX	c/gal	345.39	+7.43

NATURAL GAS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Henry Hub NYMEX	$/MMBtu	2.92	-0.22

NGL

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
US Mont Belvieu Propane NYMEX	$/mt	411.59	-12.21

PRICE SPREADS

Instrument	Unit	Last	Chg
RBOB Gasoline/Brent Crack Spread	$/bbl	26.71	+2.62

CARBON MARKET DAILY

Instrument	Unit	Bid	Offer
European Union Allowances (Spot)	EUR/ton	76.90	77.10

COMMODITIES & MARKETS

EQUITIES

Index	Last	Chg
S&P 500 United States	7,473.47	+27.75
Dow Jones Industrial Average United States	50,579.70	+294.04

CURRENCIES

Pair	Last	Chg
EUR/$	1.16	0.00

DEVELOPMENTS

Crude tanker markets rebalance on longer haul trades amid Hormuz closure

The closure of the Strait of Hormuz has rewired global seaborne crude transportation, leading to longer voyages and supporting strong tanker freight rates, desp...

Seatrade Maritime News · May 22, 2026

Oil markets remain choppy as Middle East supply situation creates uncertainty

Crude oil markets continued to be noisy and volatile on Friday, with traders hesitant to take aggressive positions due to ongoing uncertainties surrounding the...

FXEmpire · May 22, 2026

S&P 500 posts eighth consecutive weekly gain, nearing all-time high

The U.S. stock market concluded its eighth straight winning week, with the S&P 500 climbing 0.4% on Friday and moving closer to its all-time high set earlier in...

Associated Press · May 22, 2026

EUR/USD under pressure amidst US-Iran conflict headlines

The Euro to US Dollar exchange rate faced pressure on Friday, concluding a choppy week dominated by conflicting geopolitical headlines related to the US-Iran co...

FXStreet · May 22, 2026

European carbon prices see upward trend in May, hitting multi-week highs

Futures prices for CO2 emission allowances in the EU ETS stood between €75-79/t in the second half of May, with prices reaching a high of €78/t by May 26, drive...

GMK Center · May 28, 2026

Record high bunker oil price difference between Asia and Europe observed in spring 2026

Analysis revealed a record $362 per ton price difference for VLSFO bunker oil between Singapore and Rotterdam in mid-March, with price shocks impacting Asian ma...

Marine Link · June 10, 2026

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