



منطقة الفجيرة للصناعة البترولية
Fujairah Oil Industry Zone



FUJAIRAH

NEW SILK ROAD ENERGY MARKETS

WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 288 | OCT 22nd 2026

“We don’t think the AI cycle has ended or demand is slowing down. Some players will pull back because credit is harder to get and capital is becoming more expensive. The stronger players will secure financing, while smaller companies struggle.”

Maleeha Bengali
Founder,
MB Commodity Corner

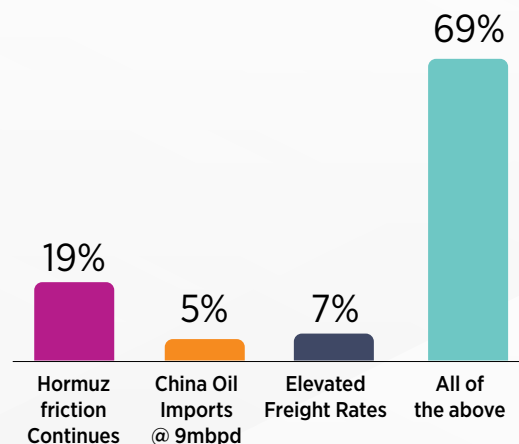


*“Global Ports Will
Need Infrastructure
That Can Support
Multi Marine Fuels!”*

Ang Wee Keong
CEO, Maritime and Port
Authority of Singapore

TOP SURVEY

What should oil markets plan for as the most likely New Normal in 2027?



PODCAST OF THE WEEK



Mike McGlone
Senior Commodity Strategist
Bloomberg Intelligence



Kate Dourian, FEI
MEES Contributing Editor &
Non-Resident Fellow,
Arab Gulf States Institute



Arne Lohmann Rasmussen
Chief Analyst and Head of Research
Global Risk Management



GI Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

FUJAIRAH WEEKLY OIL INVENTORY DATA

1,304,000 BBL
LIGHT
DISTILLATES



2,261,000 BBL
MIDDLE
DISTILLATES



3,682,000 BBL
HEAVY DISTILLATES
AND RESIDUES





Ang Wee Keong, CEO, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore

How advanced is the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore, in integrating its infrastructure?

We have gone through several phases of development, beginning with terminals in the city before moving operations to larger locations. We are now planning the next phase, which will increase our total port capacity to 65 million TEUs. This involves consolidating our port operations in western Singapore, closer to the industrial zone. That will enable greater integration across the supply chain and create a more efficient environment for businesses. Companies shipping goods through Singapore will benefit from lower inter-haulage costs, as automated port operations will be concentrated within a single location.

Another important lesson we have learnt is the need to build an integrated ecosystem around the port. Recent global disruptions have demonstrated how events in one region can have severe consequences elsewhere, making infrastructure integration more important than ever. Beyond port facilities, we need an ecosystem that supports maritime operations. This includes attracting shipping

companies and ensuring that the services they require, from bunkering to vessel repairs, are available in Singapore. We must also provide supporting services such as finance, banking, legal services, arbitration and chartering. Developing this entire ecosystem is critical.

Is the incorporation of digital platforms into the wider maritime ecosystem complete?

We are developing a just-in-time planning and coordination platform managed by the Maritime and Port Authority. It enables us to interact with shipping companies and better understand their previous ports of call. This allows us to plan the services they will need when they arrive, helping operations run more efficiently. We are also developing other digital platforms. Recently, we launched what we call an API exchange, which allows shipping companies and other maritime businesses to exchange data safely and securely. This will help us optimise operations across the sector.

What are the key logistics investments required to meet your ambitions to become a multi-fuel marine hub?

This is an important question because, unlike the aviation industry, shipping has yet to settle on a clear preferred fuel for the future. Ports around the world therefore need to develop infrastructure capable of supporting different fuels while the industry determines which will ultimately dominate. LNG is emerging as an important transition fuel. Some operators are exploring methanol, while others are looking further ahead to ammonia. Supporting these fuels requires new capabilities, and safety is critical. Ultimately, people aboard vessels will be responsible for handling bunkering operations, so developing the necessary skills and expertise is essential.

Infrastructure investment is equally important. These new fuels require storage solutions that differ from those used today. Building the facilities and capabilities needed to handle them safely will therefore be a significant part of the investment required. ■

Source: Fujairah Energy Markets Forum 2026

CLICK TO VIEW

YOUR ENERGY GATEWAY TO THE WORLD

#1 ENERGY HUB

In MENA & top 3 worldwide

14 MILLION M²

Total land area

17 TERMINALS

With direct access to
deep-water berths via
Port of Fujairah

120 MILLION BBL

Combined storage capacity
for light, middle & heavy
products

S&P Global
Energy



Toby Iles
Chief Economist,
Jadwa Investment

TOP 9 INSIGHTS



Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

October 19th, 2026



ON SAUDI ARABIA'S 2026 BUDGET DEFICIT SOARING ABOVE TARGET | OUTLOOK FOR 2027

1. SAUDI ARABIA'S 2026 BUDGET DEFICIT LIKELY TO REACH \$75 BILLION

Saudi Arabia's 2026 budget deficit is estimated at SAR 245 billion (US\$65.3 billion), equivalent to 4.9% of GDP, exceeding the original SAR 165 billion (US\$44 billion) target but remaining below 2025's SAR 277 billion (US\$73.9 billion) deficit. Jadwa expects the final deficit could reach SAR 275–280 billion (US\$73.3–74.7 billion), reflecting additional spending pressures.

2. GOVERNMENT SPENDING RISES ABOVE BUDGET

Government expenditure is projected to reach SAR 1.435 trillion (US\$382.7 billion) in 2026, up 3.4% year-on-year and 9.3% above budget. Increased healthcare spending, infrastructure investment, priority development projects and conflict-related requirements have driven expenditure higher, with further increases possible before year-end.

3. HIGHER OIL PRICES BOOST REVENUE

Saudi budget revenue is expected to increase 7% to SAR 1.19 trillion (US\$317.3 billion) in 2026, as elevated oil prices offset lower production and exports. Jadwa estimates oil revenue at SAR 675–680 billion (US\$180–181.3 billion), supported by higher Aramco royalty payments when crude prices exceed US\$70 and US\$100 per barrel.

4. NON-OIL GROWTH FACES SLOWDOWN

Weaker non-oil economic activity and declining international trade have constrained tax collections, particularly VAT and customs revenue. Jadwa expects real non-oil GDP growth to average below 2% in 2026, compared with 5.1% in 2025, highlighting economic pressures despite stronger oil-related government revenue.

5. INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS SUSTAIN SPENDING

Major projects including Qiddiya, King Salman Park, Green Riyadh, sports stadiums and the Red Sea Project contributed to higher capital expenditure. Investment in water infrastructure and railways also continued, while conflict-related food security measures and support for public service companies increased subsidy spending.

6. FISCAL DEFICIT EXPECTED TO NARROW

Saudi Arabia projects its 2027 budget deficit will decline to SAR 191 billion (US\$50.9 billion), or 3.6% of GDP, supported by a 1% revenue increase and 3% spending reduction. The government anticipates further narrowing to 3.1% in 2028 and 3.3% in 2029.

7. ECONOMIC REBOUND UNDERPINS BUDGET OUTLOOK

The 2027 budget assumes real GDP growth of 12.8%, following an estimated 3.6% contraction in 2026. Jadwa describes this as a bullish outlook requiring a substantial recovery in oil production and non-oil activity, amid continued uncertainty surrounding global oil prices and output.

8. SPENDING CUTS PRESENT FISCAL CHALLENGES

The government plans to reduce expenditure by 3% in 2027, potentially targeting discretionary capital projects, goods and services, and other spending categories. However, rising financing costs, wage pressures, defense requirements and infrastructure commitments could complicate efforts to achieve the planned reduction.

9. GOVERNMENT DEBT REMAINS MANAGEABLE

Government debt is estimated to reach 34.8% of GDP in 2026, up from 31.8% in 2025, equivalent to SAR 1.733 trillion (US\$462.1 billion). Jadwa expects debt to reach approximately 38% in 2027 and around 40% by 2028–2029, while stable fiscal reserves of SAR 399 billion (US\$106.4 billion) provide a substantial liquidity buffer.

*Currency conversions are approximate and rounded to one decimal place where appropriate. Saudi Arabia maintains a fixed exchange rate of SAR 3.75 per US dollar. All economic projections and forecasts remain as stated in Jadwa Investment's October 2026 report.



Transforming energy markets

Outpace the market with
real-time clarity across
global energy flows and
pricing signals.

Trusted by leaders in
energy, freight and finance,
Vortexa turns complex trade
data into decisive action.

www.vortexa.com





Jorge Montequaque
Managing Director, Benchmarks,
Onyx Capital Group

TOP 9 INSIGHTS



Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

October 20th, 2026



**OIL PRICES COULD REACH \$150 AS DIESEL
SHORTAGES AND SUPPLY DISRUPTIONS PERSIST**

1. OIL PRICES HAVE FURTHER UPSIDE

Crude oil prices between \$100 and \$110 remain below levels justified by current supply disruptions, with prices potentially reaching \$120-\$150 as physical market shortages persist.

2. DEMAND DESTRUCTION REMAINS LIMITED

Despite elevated energy prices, widespread demand destruction has yet to materialize, with diesel and jet fuel markets demonstrating resilience even at prices approaching \$200 per barrel.

3. HORMUZ FLOWS REMAIN CONSTRAINED

Current oil shipments through the Strait of Hormuz are estimated at just 9-10 million barrels per day, significantly below alternative industry estimates of 14-18 million barrels.

4. RUSSIAN DIESEL OFFERS LIMITED RELIEF

Proposed Russian oil product deliveries of 300,000 tons represent only a small fraction of US consumption, making them insufficient to materially ease diesel shortages.

5. REFINERY DAMAGE DELAYS RECOVERY

Even an immediate end to regional conflicts would not restore fuel supplies quickly, as damaged refineries, disrupted shipping capacity and lengthy transportation routes constrain recovery.

6. DIESEL PRICES COULD SURGE FURTHER

Recent declines in refining margins reflect temporary freight-related pressures rather than a fundamental supply recovery, leaving diesel prices exposed to another sharp increase toward \$250 per barrel.

7. POLITICAL SOLUTIONS REMAIN ESSENTIAL

Ending regional conflicts through negotiation remains critical to restoring energy flows, as temporary policy announcements and supply assurances cannot resolve underlying infrastructure damage.

8. VENEZUELAN OIL OFFERS LIMITED RELIEF

Venezuela's heavy crude production faces significant infrastructure and refining constraints, limiting its ability to address immediate shortages of middle distillate-rich crude supplies.

9. ENERGY RECOVERY REQUIRES LONG-TERM INVESTMENT

Restoring Venezuelan oil production and export capacity could require years of infrastructure development, including pipelines and export facilities, offering little immediate relief to global fuel markets.



Global infrastructure. Seamless delivery.

At BGN, our integrated global logistics and world class shipping operations enable us to deliver essential energy and commodities to customers in more than 120 countries, from around 20 locations worldwide.

bgn-int.com

FROM FUEL IMPORTER TO INDUSTRIAL POWERHOUSE: *Dangote's Bet on Africa's Energy Future*

By David Bird, CEO & MD, Dangote Refinery

Nigeria's new refinery could do more than transform fuel supply. By reducing import dependence, improving product quality and anchoring industrial development, it offers a blueprint for Africa's economic resilience.

For decades, Nigeria embodied one of the great contradictions of the global oil industry: Africa's largest crude producer depended on imported refined fuels to meet domestic demand. Despite possessing the resources, market and strategic rationale for domestic refining, the country remained exposed to international supply chains, price volatility and the costs of importing products it could manufacture at home.

The Dangote Refinery is an attempt to break that cycle. With 700,000 b/d of refining capacity, the Lagos-based complex represents not simply a new source of gasoline and diesel, but a challenge to an economic model that has left much of Africa exporting raw materials while importing higher-value products. Its significance extends beyond

Nigeria. As geopolitical instability exposes vulnerabilities in global energy supply chains, the refinery demonstrates how large-scale industrial investment can strengthen energy security, create economic opportunities and reshape regional trade.

Turning resource wealth into industrial capacity

Rather than accepting structural dependence on imported petroleum products, the group has invested in a complex designed to process crude oil and supply a wide range of fuels and petrochemicals. Scale matters. Nigeria's population of approximately 240 million provides a substantial market for gasoline and diesel, while the wider West African region offers additional opportunities.

Crucially, the refinery is not limited to processing Nigerian crude. It operates as a merchant refinery, sourcing crude and feedstocks by sea and selecting inputs according to commercial considerations rather than national origin. West Africa



produces approximately 3.2 million b/d of crude within a two-day sailing radius of the refinery, providing access to diverse feedstocks. The ability to optimise crude purchases, processing yields and product sales is central to the economics of a complex refinery operating in competitive international markets. The objective is to maximise margins while supplying domestic consumers and exporting surplus products.

From national energy security to regional influence

The refinery's development illustrates how quickly refined-product trade can change when new capacity comes online. Following its initial start-up in late 2023, the facility spent 2024 commissioning its units and 2025 stabilising operations and improving yields. After a major maintenance and optimisation period over December and January,

it reached its original nameplate capacity of 650,000 b/d in February of this year. Capacity was subsequently increased to 700,000 b/d.

While Nigerian gasoline and diesel demand absorbs a substantial share of production, surplus products can be sold elsewhere in West Africa. The refinery is also a significant supplier of jet fuel to international markets. Energy security does not require self-sufficiency in every product or the elimination of international trade. A more resilient system combines domestic production, diversified crude sourcing and access to regional and global markets. For Nigeria, additional refining capacity can reduce exposure to imported fuels. For neighbouring countries, greater regional supply creates alternatives to distant suppliers. For international markets, new capacity provides another source of products when geopolitical disruptions threaten established trade flows.

The multiplier effect of industrial investment

The economic case extends beyond the fuels produced. The facility employs approximately 4,500 people and its development has also required substantial supporting infrastructure, engineering expertise and specialised services. Over time, such an investment can anchor

a broader industrial ecosystem. Workshops, fabrication yards, warehouses, specialist contractors and logistics providers can cluster around a large processing complex. Hotels, restaurants and other services may follow as employment and commercial activity expand. Industrial centres such as Fujairah, Sharjah and Jebel Ali in the United Arab Emirates illustrate the potential for energy and petrochemical investments to support wider economic development. Lagos could develop a similar concentration around the Dangote complex, although that outcome will depend on supporting infrastructure, investment and policy. Product quality is also particularly significant. Before the refinery's arrival, Nigeria continued to consume diesel with sulphur levels far above modern European standards. The transition to Euro 5 gasoline and diesel, with a sulphur limit of 10 parts per million, represents a substantial improvement. Lower-sulphur fuels can reduce harmful emissions and their associated health and environmental impacts. Expansion could extend these benefits to other West African markets, where access to modern fuels has historically been uneven.

Scaling the model across Africa

Dangote's ambitions extend beyond Nigeria. The company plans to

double capacity at its Lagos site to 1.4 million b/d by the end of 2028. A further 700,000-b/d refinery is planned for Lamu in northern Kenya. Execution will be critical. Projects of this scale require sustained investment, reliable infrastructure, effective governance and access to markets. But the strategic proposition is compelling. A country that produces crude yet imports refined fuels remains vulnerable to international prices, supply disruptions, freight costs and foreign-exchange pressures. Domestic processing can capture more value locally, develop industrial capabilities and create export opportunities. Ultimately, the Dangote project is about more than fuel. It is an experiment in whether an African capital can build globally competitive industrial infrastructure, serve domestic and international markets, and turn resource wealth into lasting economic capacity. Its significance will be measured not simply by barrels processed, but by the industries it supports, the markets it serves and the opportunities it creates. If its expansion plans succeed, the impact could extend far beyond Lagos, helping redefine Africa's position in the global energy economy. ■

Source: Fujairah Energy Markets Forum 2026

marinetraffic
by kpler

Kpler Oil intelligence

Real-time visibility across every cargo, route and refinery. Gain critical visibility into hard to monitor areas of the globe with highly accurate tracking.



Learn more by
scanning the QR code





Toby Copson
Managing Partner
Davenport Energy

TOP 9 INSIGHTS



Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

October 21st, 2026



OIL MARKETS FACE PROLONGED TIGHTNESS AMID GEOPOLITICAL UNCERTAINTY

1. BRENT PRICES REMAIN ELEVATED

Brent futures reflect geopolitical risk and expectations of prolonged market tightness, while physical crude prices respond to immediate procurement pressures. The futures curve suggests oil prices could remain higher for longer.

2. PHYSICAL PREMIUMS FACE CORRECTION

Elevated Dated Brent premiums have begun correcting as refinery economics and freight netbacks struggle to support previous levels. Physical prices are moving toward more sustainable valuations despite continued market tightness.

3. TRADERS REDUCE MARKET EXPOSURE

Unpredictable geopolitical developments and shifting political narratives have discouraged aggressive trading positions. Commodity trading advisors and investment funds remain lightly positioned, with market participants adopting smaller exposures and a wait-and-see approach.

4. CRUDE INVENTORIES SIGNAL TIGHTNESS

Significant U.S. crude inventory drawdowns indicate genuine supply constraints ahead. Even with occasional product inventory builds, production recovery delays and logistical challenges suggest that normal market conditions will not return quickly.

5. MIDTERMS OFFER LIMITED RELIEF

The U.S. midterm elections could reshape political rhetoric and expectations surrounding the conflict. However, policy changes and supply recovery require time, leaving oil markets vulnerable to prolonged uncertainty and elevated prices.

6. CHINA PRIORITIZES ENERGY SECURITY

China has resumed some spot crude purchases despite elevated prices, reflecting its focus on energy security rather than immediate supply requirements. Strategic replenishment helps balance procurement costs across different price environments.

7. LONG-TERM CONTRACTS FACE UNCERTAINTY

Volatility surrounding the Iran conflict and upcoming U.S. elections complicates negotiations for 2027 crude supply agreements. Buyers and sellers may delay major contractual decisions until geopolitical developments provide greater clarity.

8. REFINING MARGINS SIGNAL DEMAND WEAKNESS

Declining refining crack spreads suggest emerging demand destruction across the refining complex. Elevated physical crude assessments and weakening differentials highlight growing resistance to previously unsustainable pricing levels.

9. RUSSIAN SUPPLY RELIEF REMAINS LIMITED

Potential easing of Russian sanctions could influence physical crude markets, but practical restrictions on sanctioned tanker operations may limit additional supply. Short-term trading strategies remain necessary until geopolitical conditions stabilize.

مجموعة واحدة
فرص لا محدودة.

One Group.
Endless Possibilities.



THE WEEK IN NUMBERS



WEEKLY AVERAGE OIL PRICES

BRENT CRUDE	WTI CRUDE	DME	MURBAN
\$109.78/bi	\$98.82/bi	\$109.62/bi	\$110.93/bi

*Time Period: Week 3, Oct. 22, 2026
Source: GME, OilPrice.com, GI Research

FUJAIRAH WEEKLY BUNKER PRICES

VLSFO	MGO	IFO380
High = \$979.50/mt	High = \$1793.50/mt	High = \$758.50/mt
Low = \$967.00/mt	Low = \$1606.50/mt	Low = \$724.50/mt
Average = \$972.00/mt	Average = \$1693.50/mt	Average = \$748.00/mt
Spread = \$12.50/mt	Spread = \$187.00/mt	Spread = \$34.00/mt

Source: Ship and Bunker, *Time Period: October 16 – October 21, 2026

FUJAIRAH BUNKER SALES VOLUME (M³)

498 180cst Low Sulfur Fuel Oil	144,053 380cst Low Sulfur Fuel Oil	68,797 380cst Marine Fuel Oil
397 Marine Gasoil	22,990 Low Sulfur Marine Gasoil	2,247 Lubricants

Source: FEDCom & S&P Global Platts

ENERGY WITH PURPOSE

طاقة هادفة

Sharjah National Oil Corporation (SNOC) is the government-owned oil and gas executive arm of the Emirate of Sharjah, operating under the auspices of the Petroleum Department of Sharjah. Established in 2010, SNOC owns and manages all Sharjah oil and gas assets and is the main supplier of natural gas across the Emirate.

UPSTREAM



MIDSTREAM



TRADING



ENERGY TRANSITION

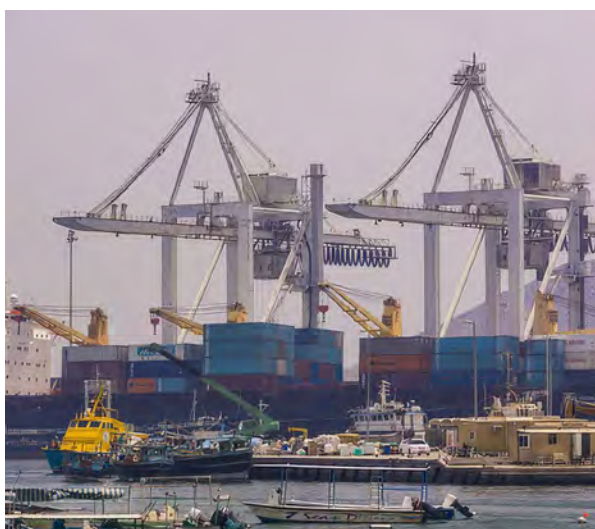
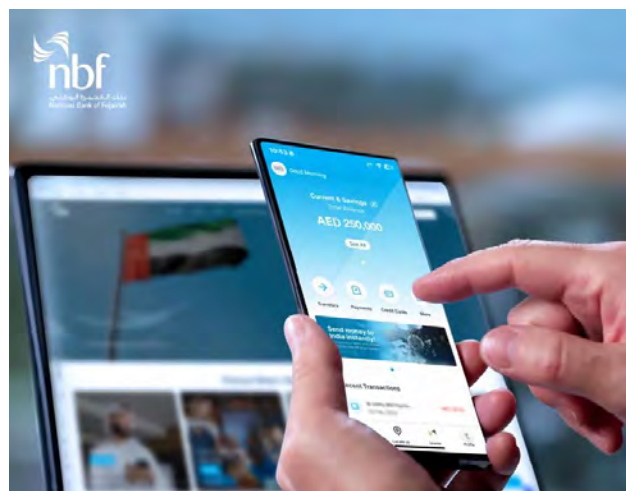


FUJAIRAH SPOTLIGHT

National Bank of Fujairah advances its digital banking journey with enhanced NBF Direct app features

New enhancements reinforce NBF's commitment to delivering a seamless, connected and customer-centric digital banking experience.

Zawya: <https://www.zawya.com/en/press-release/companies-news/national-bank-of-fujairah-advances-its-digital-banking-journey-with-enhanced-nbf-direct-app-features-1813007>



DP World says planned Fujairah terminals could cut Indian Ocean sailing times by up to five days

DP World says an east coast gateway could give cargo owners faster, alternative routes.

Source: Gulf News <https://gulfnews.com/business/dp-world-says-planned-fujairah-terminals-could-cut-indian-ocean-sailing-times-by-up-to-five-days-1.500713356>

Fujairah Oil Product Stockpiles Rebound 6.2% After Three Weekly Declines

According to data from the Fujairah Oil Industry Zone released on Oct. 21, oil product inventories at the UAE's Fujairah hub climbed 6.2% during the week ending Oct. 19, with a record 72% surge in light distillates including gasoline and naphtha driving the increase.

Source: <https://www.indexbox.io/blog/fujairah-oil-product-stockpiles-rebound-62-after-three-weekly-declines/>

HARNESS OUR EXPERTISE TO NAVIGATE TOWARDS SUCCESS.

At NBF, we bring decades of expertise in supporting the oil & gas, and marine sectors with a comprehensive suite of products and services. Addressing the specialised requirements of the offshore sector, terminal operators and oil traders, defines our expertise in business banking.

As you navigate to new frontiers, we support you with tailored financial solutions and steadily sail towards a sustainable future.

OUR SERVICES



Trade finance for oil, petroleum, and energy commodities



Structured commodity finance



Asset and equipment finance



Capex and working capital finance



Marine financing, and more

ENERGY AND MARINE

WHOLESALE BANKING – NATIONAL BANK OF FUJAIRAH



Call 600565551
to start our partnership
nbf.ae     



Omar Najia
Derivatives Trader,
BB Energy

TOP 9 INSIGHTS



Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

October 19th, 2026



OIL PRICES COULD SURGE TOWARD \$145 AS MIDDLE EAST CONFLICT ESCALATES

1. OIL PRICES COULD REACH \$145

WTI could surpass \$120 per barrel and potentially approach historical highs of \$145 as escalating regional conflict, persistent supply disruptions and mounting geopolitical risks challenge current market expectations.

2. SUEZ CANAL FACES GROWING RISKS

Egypt's involvement in the regional conflict could expose the Suez Canal to attacks, potentially threatening another critical maritime chokepoint and intensifying disruptions to global energy trade.

3. OIL MARKETS UNDERESTIMATE CONFLICT

Recent declines in Brent futures overlook escalating regional tensions, attacks on vessels and widening geopolitical instability, suggesting markets may be significantly underpricing the risks to global oil supplies.

4. PHYSICAL OIL COSTS EXCEED FUTURES

With Brent futures near \$107 per barrel, additional freight and insurance expenses could push actual delivered crude costs toward \$140, highlighting the widening disconnect between financial benchmarks and physical markets.

5. DEMAND DESTRUCTION REMAINS LIMITED

Despite elevated crude and diesel costs, there is little visible evidence of widespread demand destruction, raising questions about whether current futures prices accurately reflect underlying consumption and supply pressures.

6. INVENTORY RELEASES DISTORT PRICE DISCOVERY

Repeated releases of crude and product inventories have temporarily increased available supply and suppressed price signals, potentially setting the stage for sharper price adjustments as these interventions become exhausted.

7. REGIONAL CONFLICT COULD EXPAND FURTHER

Growing military involvement across the Middle East could transform separate confrontations into a broader regional conflict, threatening energy infrastructure, maritime trade routes and global economic stability.

8. ECONOMIC FALLOUT COULD INTENSIFY

Prolonged geopolitical instability could increasingly affect inflation, government bond yields, equity markets and political sentiment, challenging expectations that the global economy can continue absorbing conflict-related disruptions.

9. OIL PRICES FACE SHARP REPRICING

As inventory buffers diminish and physical supply pressures become harder to conceal, oil markets could experience a significant repricing, with current futures valuations potentially failing to reflect mounting risks.



Delivering
energy in partnership
for sixty years





ENERGY MARKETS VIEWS YOU CAN USE



Kate Dourian, FEI

MEES Contributing Editor & Non-Resident Fellow,
Arab Gulf States Institute

Saudi Supply Risks and Gulf Export Disruptions Reshape Global Energy Markets

Repeated Houthi attacks on Saudi refineries, airports, pipelines and oil infrastructure pose serious risks to global energy supplies. Even partial disruption of Saudi production could tighten oil markets further. The consequences extend beyond immediate supply losses. Asian buyers negotiating 2027 contracts are questioning Saudi Arabia's reliability and considering alternative suppliers, including Venezuela and African producers. This could fundamentally reshape Saudi Aramco's relationships with traditional customers.

Gulf Product Shortages Persist

Although crude flows through the Strait of Hormuz are recovering, refined products and LNG exports remain constrained. Saudi Arabia's Red Sea refining capacity has fallen from 1.9 million to 1.5 million barrels daily, with a refinery remaining shut over Houthi attack concerns. Higher insurance costs, tanker shortages and congestion from ship-to-ship transfers continue complicating exports. Physical crude availability alone cannot resolve these bottlenecks.

Infrastructure Solutions Will Take Years

US naval protection of tankers through Hormuz remains a stopgap measure rather than a permanent solution. Expanding crude and product pipelines could reduce regional vulnerabilities, but such infrastructure requires years to develop. Without a lasting resolution to the Hormuz crisis, further disruptions remain possible.

Gulf Cooperation Faces Competitive Realities

Saudi Arabia and the UAE may cooperate where strategic interests align, particularly over Yemen, but broader GCC coordination remains unlikely. Competition across energy, aviation, tourism and other sectors is intensifying as regional instability threatens investment flows. Gulf states are increasingly pursuing individual energy security strategies rather than collective solutions. ■

VTTI Fujairah Energy to Move Tomorrow

Driven by the expertise and commitment of our team, we deliver safe, reliable and efficient operations every day. As a regional terminal offering a wide range of storage solutions and services, we play a vital role in supplying both domestic and international markets.

Located at the Port of Fujairah, our facilities handle vessels of all sizes and a broad spectrum of products.

As part of VTTI's global network spanning 16 countries, Fujairah combines regional strength with global reach.

**Scan the QR code
to learn more:**





Mike McGlone
Senior Commodity Strategist
Bloomberg Intelligence

TOP 9 INSIGHTS



Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

October 22nd, 2026



RECORD NORTH AMERICAN OIL SUPPLY COULD TRIGGER PRICE COLLAPSE AFTER US MIDTERMS

1. US MIDTERMS COULD RESHAPE MARKETS

A Democratic sweep in the November midterm elections, currently assigned a 66% probability, could impose significant checks on presidential power and reshape US energy policy and market expectations.

2. DIESEL INFLATION REACHES HISTORIC HIGHS

The Bloomberg Heating Oil Index has surged 170% year-over-year, its largest increase in four decades, intensifying affordability pressures and making energy inflation a defining issue ahead of the US elections.

3. NORTH AMERICAN SUPPLY KEEPS EXPANDING

The US and Canada's combined surplus of crude oil and liquid fuels has risen from approximately 7 million to 8 million barrels a day, with projections reaching 10 million by 2028 unless prices decline.

4. OIL BOOM RISKS SHARP REVERSAL

Elevated crude prices are fueling a North American energy boom, but expanding supply and potential diplomatic progress with Iran could eventually trigger a significant downturn in oil prices.

5. STOCK MARKET WEAKNESS THREATENS COMMODITIES

Emerging weakness in US equities could trigger broader declines across risk assets and commodities, potentially accelerating the reversal of elevated oil prices as financial markets enter a volatile period.

6. FEDERAL RESERVE SIGNALS FURTHER TIGHTENING

Futures markets are pricing approximately three US interest rate hikes over the coming year, suggesting continued monetary tightening that could undermine equities, commodities and other risk assets.

7. ENERGY CRISIS RISKS POLICY MISTAKES

Central banks are raising interest rates in response to an energy-driven inflation shock that could prove temporary, risking excessive monetary tightening and potentially deepening the next economic downturn.

8. TREASURY YIELDS CHALLENGE RISK ASSETS

Five-year US Treasury yields approaching 5% offer investors attractive alternatives to equities, encouraging capital rotation away from risk assets and increasing pressure on already vulnerable stock markets.

9. MARKET VOLATILITY SIGNALS GROWING RISKS

Stock market volatility relative to gold has fallen to its lowest annual level since 2007, raising concerns that financial markets are underpricing risks of a major correction amid elevated asset valuations.

A Global Energy Trader

BB Energy is among the world's leading independent energy trading companies. With over six decades of experience in energy markets around the world, we responsibly connect energy producers and suppliers with the people, communities and businesses that need it most.

Our unique entrepreneurial culture, backed by our global reach, allows us to meet our clients' needs by providing safe, efficient and reliable access to energy.

#energisinggrowth



BB Energy

bbenergy.com



ENERGY MARKETS VIEWS YOU CAN USE



Maleeha Bengali

Founder

MB Commodity Corner

Oil Supply Tightness Meets Demand Destruction

There is a distinction between crude oil shortages and the diesel refining crisis. Supply remains tight, particularly for refined products, but higher prices are increasingly threatening demand. Oil reaching \$140–\$150 a barrel appears unlikely as rising freight costs and economic pressures constrain consumption. Higher prices ultimately cure higher prices.

China's Weakening Demand Limits Oil Upside

China's apparent oil demand has fallen approximately 15% year-on-year. Its economy faces disinflation, declining bond yields and a prolonged property crisis. China accumulated substantial inventories when prices were lower and subsequently reduced purchases as the war pushed costs higher. Expectations of a strong Chinese demand recovery overlook these structural weaknesses. China's slowing economy could ultimately cap oil prices.

Bond Markets and the Fed's Policy Dilemma

Today's debt burden makes comparisons with the 2008 oil price shock misleading. The US economy is considerably more leveraged, meaning financial stress could emerge at lower inflation-adjusted oil prices. Persistent inflation suggests the Federal Reserve should raise rates, yet mounting government debt creates pressure to ease monetary policy. Higher borrowing costs threaten consumers, property markets and heavily leveraged companies.

AI Investment Holds the Key to Market Direction

AI investment remains a critical driver of US economic growth, equity markets and energy demand. Although financing costs are squeezing smaller players, the broader investment cycle remains intact. Bond yields, Federal Reserve policy and AI spending will determine market volatility and asset allocation. A slowdown in AI investment would ultimately weaken economic growth and oil demand. ■

DOW JONES ENERGY

Bringing together global energy intelligence through price reporting capabilities, deep research, proprietary data, world-class news, and influential events from trusted heritage brands:

- OPIS
- McCloskey
- Chemical Market Analytics
- PetroChem Wire
- Axxis
- Eco-Movement
- A2i



**LEARN
MORE**



Dow Jones Energy Forum | October 21, 2026 | New York City



Securing Supply in a Volatile World

Request your invitation

djenergyforum.dowjones.com

© 2026 Oil Price Information Service, LLC. All rights reserved.



ENERGY MARKETS VIEWS YOU CAN USE



Adi Imsirovic

Director, Surrey Clean Energy & Guest Lecturer,
University of Oxford

Geopolitics Driving Oil Prices

Oil prices are likely to rise as neither the Iran war nor the Russia-Ukraine conflict shows signs of ending. Geopolitics is increasingly determining Brent futures prices, with traders pricing in expectations of prolonged conflict. The US midterm elections could influence market sentiment, particularly if Democrats gain congressional control and pressure the administration to end the Iran war. However, a political breakthrough remains uncertain.

Iran War Deepens Diesel Supply Crisis

The global diesel crisis is primarily linked to the Iran war, which accounts for roughly two-thirds of lost diesel supply, rather than disruptions caused by Ukraine. Meanwhile, Russian refineries have been recovering, with gasoil inventories reportedly approaching tank capacity in the Baltic region. Russian products would likely have found export markets regardless of sanctions easing, including Turkey, Brazil and Africa.

Brent Differentials See Sharp Reversal

Physical crude markets have undergone significant correction. Dated Brent differentials, which previously exceeded \$30 above futures, have collapsed to below \$10. This sharp reversal highlights how rapidly physical market conditions can change, even as geopolitical uncertainty continues supporting futures prices.

Europe's Growing Energy Security Challenges

Europe faces mounting energy security challenges, having lost Russian supplies while confronting uncertainty over its relationship with the United States. Gas storage remains concerning, particularly in the UK, where inventories stand around 30%. Europe's clearest long-term response is to accelerate renewable energy deployment, reduce fossil fuel dependence and strengthen regional cooperation. ■



مرفأى الفجيرة
FUJAIRAH TERMINALS

Energy moves. We make it possible.

From ship to shore and beyond,
Fujairah Terminals powers resilient
energy supply chains through world-class
infrastructure, seamless multimodal
connectivity, and integrated logistics.
Building stronger connections.
Strengthening resilience.
Enabling the future of
global energy trade.

Connecting energy.
Enabling trade.
Driving growth.

www.adports.ae



ENERGY MARKETS VIEWS YOU CAN USE



Tim Mulders

General Manager
Star Energy Advorio

Hormuz Disruption is Reshaping Oil Storage: Reliability, Flexibility and Strategic Reserves Take Priority

The Middle East conflict has fundamentally changed what customers value in oil storage. Reliable access is now the top priority, closely followed by operational flexibility, while storage space itself is increasingly becoming a commodity. Previously, discussions centered on capacity and rates. Today, customers want assurance they can move barrels in and out. With trade flows shifting almost weekly, terminals capable of handling different products offer a significant commercial advantage.

Fujairah's Growing Strategic Importance

Fujairah's position outside the Strait of Hormuz strengthens its role in regional energy resilience. Flows through Fujairah are set to increase as markets prioritize supply security, potentially encouraging further investment in terminals and product pipelines.

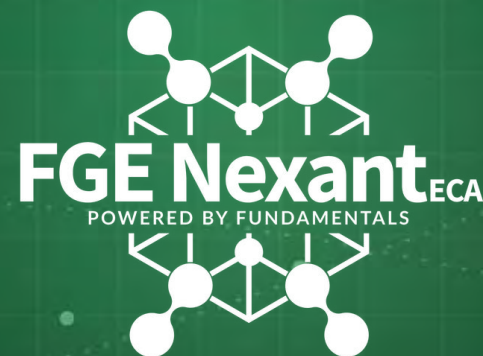
Lean Inventories Amid Persistent Uncertainty

At Jebel Ali, backwardation and elevated prices are encouraging customers to maintain lean inventories and maximize tank turnover. Some are holding additional stocks as insurance against disruption. Confidence remains cautious. Berth occupancy is currently around 20–30% and recovering volumes will likely precede a broader restoration of market confidence.

Strategic Storage Requires Government Support

Even reopening Hormuz would not eliminate the need for strategic buffers. Governments are exploring storage investments across different locations to strengthen energy security. However, commercial financing mechanisms remain insufficient. Government and national oil company support will likely be essential for developing long-term strategic storage infrastructure alongside conventional commercial terminals. ■

YOUR TRUSTED PARTNER IN ENERGY MARKETS



Independent market intelligence, strategic advisory and consulting for the global oil, gas, LNG, petrochemicals and energy transition sectors.

01

MARKET INTELLIGENCE

Supply, demand, trade & price forecasting across oil, gas, LNG, NGLs & petrochemicals

02

STRATEGIC ADVISORY

M&A support, feasibility studies, technology evaluation & project finance

03

ENERGY TRANSITION

Hydrogen, e-fuels, low-carbon fuels & clean-tech market analytics

04

DIGITAL PLATFORMS

Client portals, interactive dashboards & scenario modelling tools



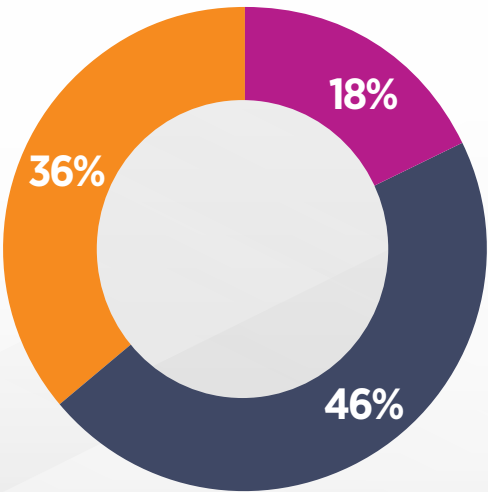
Lumen by FGE Nexant ECA

Proud Branding Partner — Fujairah Energy Markets Forum 2026

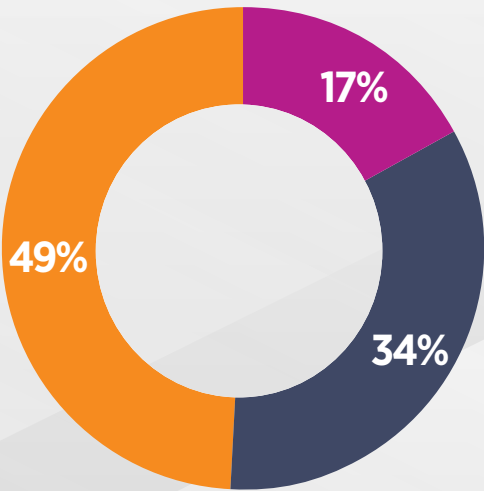
fgenexanteca.com

GI WEEKLY SURVEY

What impact would an “AI” investor pullback correction have on oil markets?



How will a Democratic party sweep in US midterms impact energy markets?



Oil markets on pause until Midterm elections are over?



EVERY BARREL TELLS A STORY. SEE THE WHOLE PICTURE.

From crude oil flows to refined products demand, access the trusted intelligence behind today's markets and tomorrow's trends—with Platts price benchmarks, market insights and CERA outlooks.

Explore Crude & Refined Solutions >



ENERGY MARKETS COMMENTARY

WEEK IN REVIEW

ADNOC **DAILY ENERGY MARKETS VII SEASON** **PODCAST**
MONDAY / Oct. 19th

 **Omar Najia**
Derivatives Trader
BB Energy

 **Jamie Ingram**
Managing Editor
Middle East Economic Survey

 **Tim Mulders**
General Manager
Star Energy Advanio

ON AIR
GI

GI Publishing Intelligence Consultancy

ADNOC **DAILY ENERGY MARKETS VII SEASON** **PODCAST**
MONDAY / Oct. 20th

 **Mehmet Ögütçü**
Group CEO,
Global Resources

 **Maleeha Bengali**
Founder
HB Commodity Corner

 **Jorge Montepeque**
Managing Director, Benchmarks
Oryx Capital Group

ON AIR
GI

GI Publishing Intelligence Consultancy

ADNOC **DAILY ENERGY MARKETS VII SEASON** **PODCAST**
WEDNESDAY / Oct. 21st

 **Adi Imsirovic**
Director, Surrey Clean Energy &
Guest Lecturer, University of Oxford

 **Toby Copson**
Managing Partner
Davenport Energy

 **Clyde Russell**
Asia Commodities & Energy Columnist
Thomson Reuters

ON AIR
GI

GI Publishing Intelligence Consultancy

ADNOC **DAILY ENERGY MARKETS VII SEASON** **PODCAST**
THURSDAY / Oct. 22nd

 **Mike McGlone**
Senior Commodity Strategist
Bloomberg Intelligence

 **Kate Dourian, FEI**
MEES Contributing Editor &
Non-Resident Fellow,
Arab Gulf States Institute

 **Arne Lohmann Rasmussen**
Chief Analyst and Head of Research
Global Risk Management

ON AIR
GI

GI Publishing Intelligence Consultancy

LISTEN ON





**Built on trust.
Backed by
liquidity.**

Markets and data
happen here.



FUJAIRAH WEEKLY

OIL INVENTORY DATA

TOP TAKEAWAYS

- Total oil product stocks in Fujairah stood at 7.247 million barrels. Overall, there was a net build of 422,000 barrels, or a 6.2% week-on-week build. The weekly stock movement in Fujairah saw builds in light distillates and heavy residues while middle distillates posted a draw.
- Stocks of light distillates, including gasoline and naphtha, rose by 544,000 barrels, or up 71.6% week-over-week, to 1.304 million barrels. The gasoline complex East of Suez was rangebound as market participants continue to monitor product flows out of the Middle East and gasoline exports from China. One source closely following the Chinese market said that as many as two gasoline cargoes could have been canceled recently. One Singapore-based source said that the cancellations could push October Chinese export volumes below 400,000 mt, lower than previously expected. Meanwhile, rising naphtha demand from the chemical sector is eroding blending value for gasoline producers. Up in the Mediterranean market, seasonal demand weakness weighed on the market, with more downside potential due to “insufficient demand to support market strength,” leading to a narrowing of backwardation.
- Stocks of middle distillates, including diesel and jet fuel, posted a draw seeing a decline of 513,000 barrels, or a 18.5% fall week on week, to 2.261 million barrels. The East of Suez gasoil complex saw backwardation widen despite ample supply, as high freight costs cut into refinery margins. In Europe stocking of fuel for winter was slowly underway. Europe’s heating oil demand had been slow in previous weeks heading into this winter, and buyers had been holding back on seasonal stock building as gasoil flat prices have roughly doubled from a year ago. However, a recent cold snap coupled had led to an uptick in demand in recent days.
- Stocks of heavy distillates and residues saw a build this week, with a week-on-week rise of 391,000 barrels, or a 11.9% build on the week to stand at 3.682 million barrels. At Fujairah in the bunker market on Oct. 20, trading activity picked up, with several deals heard in the Fujairah-delivered HSFO front Offers for Fujairah-delivered 0.5%S Marine Fuel were heard at \$990-\$995/mt for prompt deliveries during the Oct. 22-24 period. A 600 mt parcel was heard traded at \$982/mt for prompt delivery. Offers for Fujairah-delivered 380 CST HSFO were heard at \$740-\$765/mt for the same period. A 750-mt parcel was heard concluded at \$750/mt, while another trade for delivery over Nov. 9-13 was heard concluded at \$731/mt.

Source: S&P Global Energy



Our energy for change

Because energy is the driving force behind industry and everyday life. Even and especially in challenging times. That's why our heart beats for a reliable, flexible and increasingly greener energy supply.

We are shaped by change and our strength is our experienced team. We are doing all we can to accelerate the green transformation. Like no other company, we master the interplay between electricity and gas – both regionally and on the international markets.

We deliver the right energy to the right place at the right time at the right price – for all our customers.

Uniper. The beating heart of energy.



**uni
per**

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

📅 THURSDAY, JANUARY 7th, 2027 📍 VIRTUAL FORUM ON ZOOM

TOP 100



ANALYSTS FORECASTS

25 SESSIONS FROM 18 TIMEZONES IN ONE DAY

ASIA – MIDDLE EAST – EUROPE – AMERICAS

GI Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy

uni
per

OMV



المشرق
mashreq

أدنوك
ADNOC

S&P Global
Energy

دانة غاز
DANA GAS

شركة النفط الوطنية
SNOC

FOIZ
Fujairah Oil Industry Zone

Oct. 19th, 2026

MONDAY MORNING QUARTERBACK

ENERGY MARKETS
WEEKLY BRIEFING NOTE

CLICK HERE!

🔴🔴 **China's Weak Recovery Caps Oil Price Upside
as 25% Drop in Chinese Crude Imports
Raises New Normal Question** 🔴🔴

The Monday Morning Quarterback
Series is supported by:

أدنوك
ADNOC

Supporting energy security to help the world flow forward



Vopak Horizon Fujairah Limited, established in 1998, provides storage and infrastructure solutions for vital products that enrich everyday life. With a focus on sustainability, the terminal ensures safe, clean and efficient storage and handling of the full spectrum of petroleum products and crude oil. Strategically located at Port of Fujairah, Vopak Horizon Fujairah is the leading storage and handling service provider for petroleum products and crude oil in Fujairah. As the world evolves towards a sustainable economy, we are working with partners and customers to accelerate the development of infrastructure solutions for new energies including bio-fuels. Vopak Horizon Fujairah is a joint venture between Royal Vopak, Horizon Terminals Ltd, the Government of Fujairah and Independent Petroleum Group.

Terminal highlights

- Designed to state of-the-art specifications, complying with the most stringent safety and environmental standards
- World-class deepwater storage terminal with about 2.65 million cubic meters capacity, capable of handling VLCCs with ease
- International Sustainability and Carbon Certification ISCC+ and ISCC Europe, demonstrating our capabilities to safely handle biofuels.
- Dedicated team of well experienced and qualified specialists

Vopak Horizon Fujairah Ltd.

Phone: +971 9 228 1800

P.O.Box 1769, Fujairah, United Arab Emirates

www.vopakhorizonfujairah.com



GI SOUNDINGS WEEK IN REVIEW

“Oil Supply Risks Persist, but Weakening Demand Threatens to Cap Further Price Gains!”

Over the last week, Gulf Intelligence has held high-level interviews with energy experts in the Middle East, Asia, Europe, and the US. This intel is harvested from the exclusive briefings.

RUSSIAN DIESEL RECOVERY DELAYED

“It will take time for Russia to regain strong export capacity, even if there’s a peace agreement. Russia simply doesn’t have the diesel to export. They’ve actually been importing diesel from South Korea, and potentially some of that diesel originated in Iran.”

Arne Lohmann Rasmussen, Chief Analyst and Head of Research,
Global Risk Management



CHINA’S CRUDE IMPORT OUTLOOK

“I expect to see higher crude imports into China in October, but they may start moderating again by late November or December. That will reflect prices moving back above \$100 and closer to \$110, as China pulls back when prices rise.”

Clyde Russell, Asia Commodities & Energy Columnist, Thomson Reuters



GI SOUNDINGS WEEK IN REVIEW**IRAQI EXPORTS RECOVER**

“Iraqi exports are recovering towards pre-war levels, with crude reaching buyers through routes outside the Strait of Hormuz, including Turkey’s Ceyhan terminal and Syria’s Mediterranean coast. A missing pipeline link between Basra and Kirkuk needs to be built quickly to support exports.”

Mehmet Ögütçü
Group CEO, Global Resources Partnership
Chairman, London Energy Club

**OIL FUTURES LIQUIDITY CRISIS**

“We’re seeing liquidity falling out of futures because of concerns about how much prices can be influenced by political issues rather than fundamentals. That lack of trust has reduced liquidity, while financial money in the market further exacerbates the disconnect from physical oil.”

Jamie Ingram
Managing Editor
Middle East Economic Survey





Publishing
Intelligence
Consultancy