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Argus LNG Daily

Daily LNG prices, news and analysis

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SUMMARY

Asia-Pacific: Prices sink below \$10/mn Btu

Prices for spot LNG deliveries to northeast Asia stepped below \$10/mn Btu as a fresh transaction finally confirmed a weakening market

Atlantic: Fob prices edge down

Fob prices for cargoes loading in the Atlantic basin decreased slightly on Tuesday

Europe: Des prices increase

Prices for LNG cargoes delivered into northwest Europe rose on Tuesday, tracking gains posted at the Dutch TTF hub

Chugoku delays Shimane No.2 reactor restart

Japanese utility Chugoku Electric Power has postponed the restart of its 820MW Shimane No.2 nuclear reactor in western Japan's Shimane prefecture from August to December, as reinforcement works are taking longer than expected

QatarEnergy fleet to outstrip liquefaction capacity

The expansion of state-owned QatarEnergy's LNG shipping fleet is set to expand beyond its liquefaction capacity growth by the end of the decade, even when accounting for the likely retirement of older vessels

Gas-fired units win Japan's clean power auction

A planned 10 gas-fired generation units have won Japan's first long-term zero emissions power capacity auction, with the awarded capacity totalling nearly 6GW

Turkey in talks with ExxonMobil for supply

The Turkish government is in talks with ExxonMobil to procure 2.5mn t/yr of LNG as part of a strategy to diversify the country's energy resources

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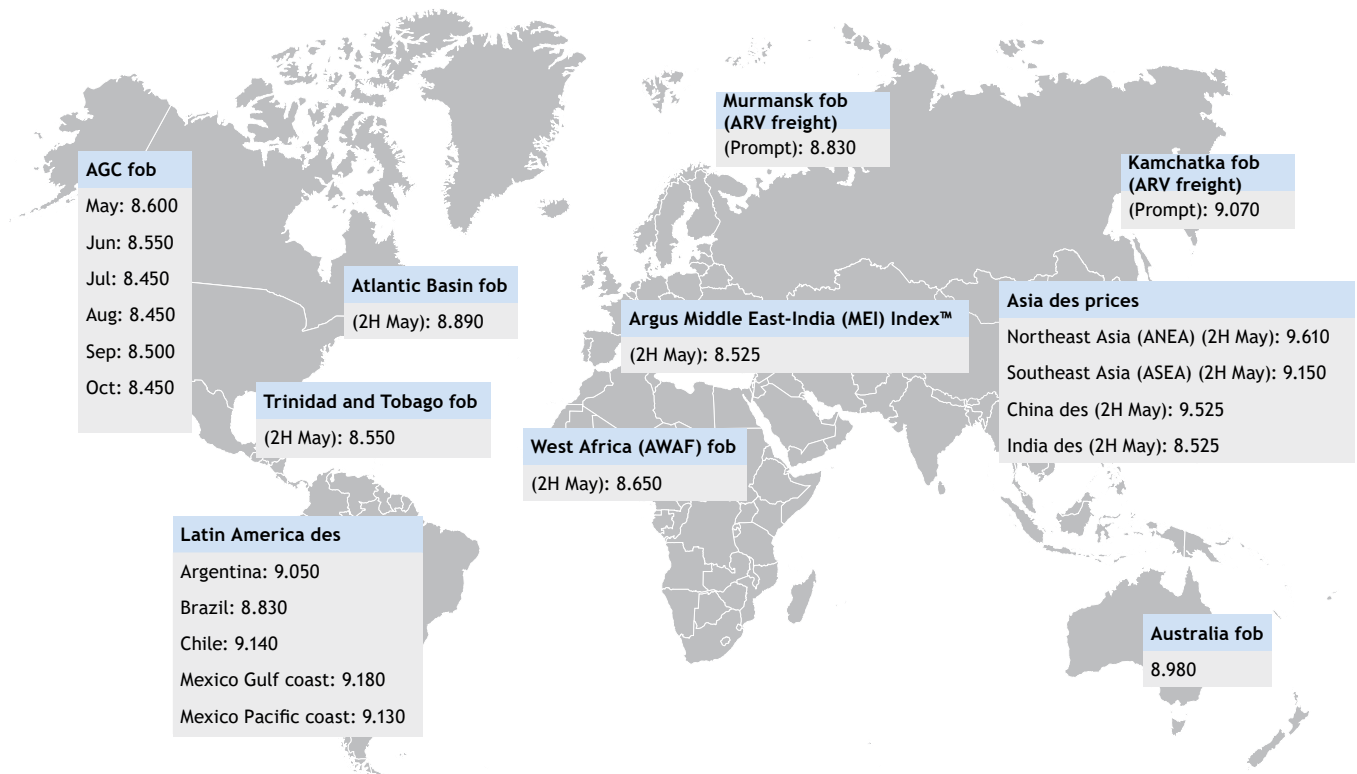
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FEATURED LNG PRICES

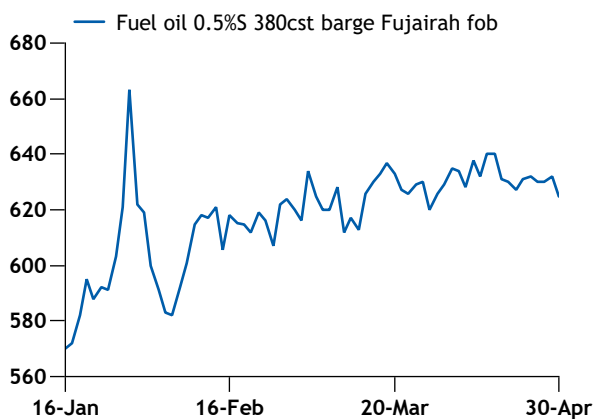
Global Front-Month and Index Prices				
Delivery Point	Midpoint	Change	Trend	Month Index
Argus Gulf Coast fob	8.600	-0.100	▼	8.610
Trinidad & Tobago fob	8.500	-0.200	▼	8.816
Argus West Africa fob	8.738	-0.337	▼	9.183
Mexico des (Pacific) (prompt)	9.130	-0.130	▼	na
Mexico des (Gulf) (prompt)	9.180	-0.140	▼	na
Brazil des (prompt)	8.830	-0.110	▼	na
Argentina des (prompt)	9.050	+0.030	▲	na
Chile des (prompt)	9.140	-0.150	▼	na
Murmansk fob (prompt) (ARV freight)	8.830	+0.340	▲	na
NW Europe fob (reload)	9.125	+0.350	▲	9.366
NW Europe des	9.000	+0.350	▲	9.241
Iberia fob (reload)	8.950	+0.400	▲	9.114
Iberia des	9.000	+0.350	▲	9.241
Italy des	9.050	+0.350	▲	9.291
Greece des	9.100	+0.350	▲	9.341
Turkey des	9.100	+0.350	▲	9.341
Middle east fob (Asia-Pacific bound) (prompt)	8.810	-0.390	▼	na
Middle East fob (Europe bound) (prompt)	8.310	+0.340	▲	na
Middle east des	8.628	-0.302	▼	9.123
India des	8.628	-0.302	▼	9.123
ASEA des	9.240	-0.370	▼	9.739
ANEA des	9.698	-0.365	▼	10.188
China des	9.645	-0.405	▼	10.185
Kamchatka fob (prompt) (ARV freight)	9.070	-0.400	▼	na
Australia fob (prompt)	8.980	-0.390	▼	na

Argus prompt LNG freight day rates			\$/day
	Price	±	Month index
Steam turbine - west of Suez	25,000	nc	25,857
Steam turbine - east of Suez	26,000	nc	24,476
TFDE - west of Suez	36,000	nc	37,190
TFDE - east of Suez	36,000	nc	35,333
Two-stroke - west of Suez	47,000	nc	48,857
Two-stroke - east of Suez	48,000	nc	47,048

Argus Round Voyage Rates			\$/day
	Price	+/-	Month index
ARV1: Australia-Northeast Asia	36,000	nc	na
ARV2: USGC-Northwest Europe	34,000	nc	na
ARV3: USGC-Northeast Asia	41,000	nc	na



Middle East bunker fuel - Fujairah

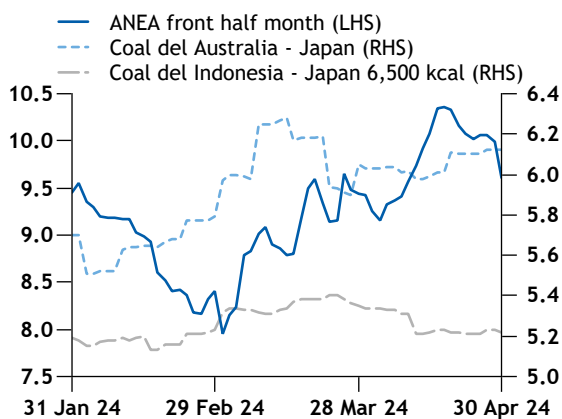


\$/t

Japan oil-linked des LNG (29 Apr 2024)

Contract	Price	\$/mn Btu ±
May	12.80	nc
Jun	12.59	nc
Jul	12.54	-0.03
Aug	12.58	-0.05
Sep	12.64	-0.07
Oct	12.80	-0.09
3Q24	12.59	-0.05
4Q24	12.84	-0.11
1Q25	12.66	-0.11
2Q25	12.39	-0.10
2025	12.30	-0.09
2026	11.61	-0.07

Japan: Coal vs LNG



\$/mn Btu

Japan-oil linked

Jun	12.59
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Benchmark price snapshot

Market	Delivery	Price
NBP	May	9.081
Zeebrugge (ZTP)	May	9.144
Peg	May	9.123
PSV	May	9.468
PVB	May	9.139
TTF	May	9.153
Nymex Henry Hub (29 Apr)	May	2.030
Argus JCC Index (Fixed) (\$/bl)	Feb	83.7109
Argus JCC Index (Preliminary) (\$/bl)	Mar	82.9972

MARKET COMMENTARY

Asia-Pacific: Prices sink below \$10/mn Btu

Prices for spot LNG deliveries to northeast Asia stepped below \$10/mn Btu as a fresh transaction finally confirmed a weakening market. Some tentative demand from northeast Asia has also finally emerged.

The ANEA price, the *Argus* assessment for spot LNG deliveries to northeast Asia, for second-half May was at \$9.61/mn Btu, about 39¢/mn Btu lower than a day earlier.

The first and second-half June ANEA also fell by 36-37¢/mn Btu to \$9.685/mn Btu and \$9.71/mn Btu. The first-half July ANEA was assessed at \$9.825/mn Btu, 34¢/mn Btu lower than a day earlier.

Thailand's state-controlled PTT has awarded its tender seeking a second-half May delivery to the country's 11.5mn t/yr Map Ta Phut LNG terminal, through a tender that closed on 29 April at around high-\$9s/mn Btu, traders said. This was the ideal transaction level that the firm had been targeting since they first began seeking for this delivery window about a week ago, they added.

Meanwhile, there is still some availability for May deliveries in the market at present.

Offers for June deliveries, which have held above \$10/mn Btu for the past one week, have finally dropped to around \$9.70-9.80/mn Btu as the supply overhang finally hit prices, traders said. Hence, spot transactions around the mid-\$9s/mn Btu range could be a next possible landing point for June deliveries.

Some fresh interest for the month has also emerged. South Korean trading firm Posco International is seeking a 1-2 June delivery through a tender that is closing at 5pm Singapore time (9am GMT) on 30 April, likely for the power generation needs of its steel plant, traders said.

But other northeast Asian utilities are still holding back on spot purchases, as inventories remained high. Upcoming planned term deliveries are also widely expected to be more than sufficient even after accounting for potentially higher temperatures as compared to last year for the upcoming summer, buyers said.

There is a 50pc probability of above-normal temperatures throughout most of South Korea through April-May, according to the latest three-month forecast published by the Korea Meteorological Administration (KMA) on 23 April. The probability of the same scenario is expected to drop just slightly to around 40pc for June. Buyers in the country have remained largely unruffled by these forecasts, and are unlikely to pick up any additional spot cargoes as a result.

Argus Asia-Pacific des spot LNG				\$/mn Btu	
	Delivery	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
Northeast Asia (ANEA™)	2H May	9.17	10.05	9.610	-0.385
	1H Jun	9.24	10.13	9.685	-0.370
	2H Jun	9.27	10.15	9.710	-0.360
	1H Jul	9.38	10.27	9.825	-0.340
China	2H May	9.09	9.96	9.525	-0.455
	1H Jun	9.19	10.06	9.625	-0.425
	2H Jun	9.23	10.10	9.665	-0.385
	1H Jul	9.35	10.23	9.790	-0.340
India	2H May	8.11	8.94	8.525	-0.355
	1H Jun	8.20	9.03	8.615	-0.315
	2H Jun	8.23	9.05	8.640	-0.290
	1H Jul	8.35	9.18	8.765	-0.215

ANEA forward curve		\$/mn Btu	
Contract	Price		±
Jun	9.698		-0.365
Jul	9.825		-0.340
Aug	10.250		-0.150
Sep	10.350		-0.150
Oct	10.650		-0.250
Nov	11.450		-0.250
Dec	12.700		+0.200
3Q24	10.142		-0.213
4Q24	11.450		-0.250
1Q25	12.150		-0.250
2Q25	10.850		-0.050

The ongoing golden week in Japan has likely also suppressed spot demand, although some buyers have pointed out that some resurgence in demand may take place after the golden week. Most Japanese utilities are still evaluating the effect that higher forecasted summer temperatures will have on power demand.

The month-ahead Dutch TTF contract price for May deliveries closed at \$8.819/mn Btu on 29 April, lower still by about 23¢/mn Btu from a day earlier. This could be mostly owing to higher temperature forecasts in western Europe, which is expected to weigh on heating demand and gas prices. Furthermore, the US' 17.3mn t/yr Freeport LNG export facility in Texas may be restarting its second liquefaction train, just a day after it restarted one out of its total three trains. This could ease any remaining anxiety over potential production shortfalls at the facility and help to bring the contract price down further.

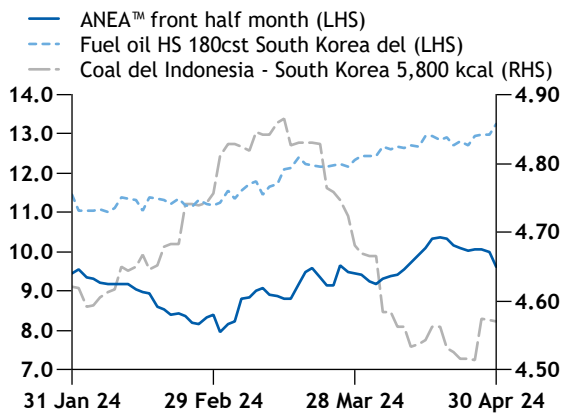
Change to LNG freight naming convention

Following consultation, *Argus* will include "TFDE" in the names of existing LNG freight and cargo price assessments using *Argus* Round Voyage (ARV) spot charter rates from 7 May.

ASIA-PACIFIC COMPETING FUELS

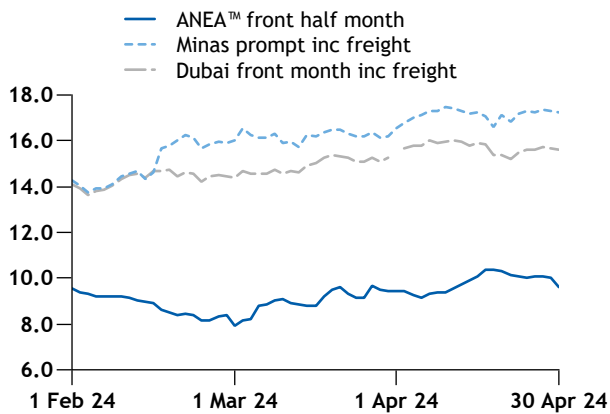
South Korea: Fuel oil, coal vs LNG

\$/mn Btu



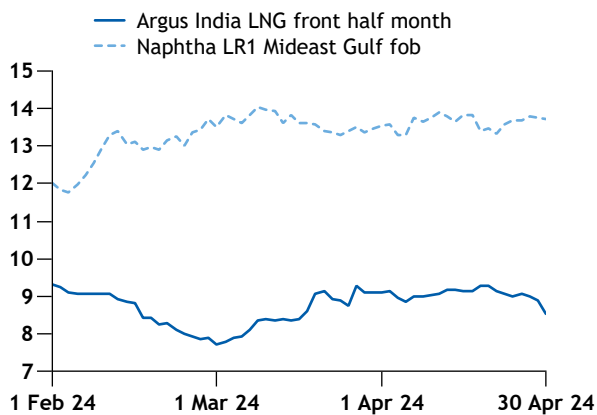
Japan: Crude vs LNG

\$/mn Btu



India: Naphtha vs LNG

\$/mn Btu



LNG vs conventional marine fuel		\$/mn Btu
weekly avg., week ending 26 Apr		
LNG des southeast Asia (ASEA) half-month net calorific value-adjusted		10.727
Singapore 0.5S fuel oil delivered		16.156
Singapore 0.1S MGO delivered		18.596
Singapore 3.5S fuel oil delivered		13.512

OTHER ASIA-PACIFIC PRICES

Argus Middle East des spot LNG				\$/mn Btu
Delivery	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
2H May	8.11	8.94	8.525	-0.355
1H Jun	8.20	9.03	8.615	-0.315
2H Jun	8.23	9.05	8.640	-0.290
1H Jul	8.35	9.18	8.765	-0.215

Argus Middle East-India (MEI) Index				\$/mn Btu
Delivery	Bid	Offer	Mid	±
2H May	8.11	8.94	8.525	-0.355
1H Jun	8.20	9.03	8.615	-0.315
2H Jun	8.23	9.05	8.640	-0.290
1H Jul	8.35	9.18	8.765	-0.215

Key netforwards and netbacks				\$/mn Btu
	Delivery	Price		±
Southeast Asia (ASEA)	2H May	9.150		-0.400
	1H Jun	9.220		-0.380
	2H Jun	9.260		-0.360
	1H Jul	9.360		-0.320
Middle East fob (Asia-Pacific bound)	Prompt	8.810		-0.390
Middle East fob (Europe-bound)	Prompt	8.310		+0.340
Kamchatka fob (ARV freight)	Prompt	9.070		-0.400
Australia Gladstone fob	Prompt	9.150		-0.380
(Unit: A\$/GJ)	Prompt	13.290		-0.480
Australia Gladstone oil indexed fob	Prompt	12.400		nc
(Unit A\$/GJ)	Prompt	17.990		+0.090
Australia fob	Prompt	8.980		-0.390

China carbon emission allowance (CEA) price				
26 Apr 24	CNY/t	±	USD/t	±
CEA Closing Price	103.00	-0.47	14.49	-0.07
Open Trade Volumes, t	104,950	-477,090		

Data source: Shanghai Environment and Energy Exchange

AUSTRALIAN GAS PRICES

Argus Wallumbilla Index (AWX) - Friday 26 Apr 2024					
Delivery	Units	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
May	A\$/GJ	12.47	13.33	12.900	+0.200
May	\$/mn Btu	8.60	9.20	8.897	+0.295

Argus Victoria Index (AVX) - Friday 26 Apr 2024					
Delivery	Units	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
May	A\$/GJ	12.13	13.00	12.567	-0.421
May	\$/mn Btu	8.37	8.97	8.667	-0.131

The AWX and AVX indexes, the first month-ahead indexes for Australia's east coast Wallumbilla and Victorian natural gas markets, are assessed each Friday and reproduced through the week. The date shown is the date of the assessment. The indexes will also appear in the east coast Australian gas markets page each Friday.

MARKET COMMENTARY

Atlantic: Fob prices edge down

Fob prices for cargoes loading in the Atlantic basin decreased slightly on Tuesday.

The Argus Gulf Coast (AGC) fob price for June fell to \$8.55/mn Btu from \$8.70/mn Btu a day earlier. The price has mostly tracked the northwest European delivered market since mid-April as European markets offered greater returns following a rally in prices on supply constraints and late season heating demand. On the other hand, delivered prices to different parts of Asia, though they had also risen in response, have been constrained by demand weaker than previously expected. The AGC June price rose over the month from \$8/mn Btu on 2 April.

Market participants have noted that buying interest from Asian players was not as strong as expected for cargoes loading in May and early June. May and June were typically the peak thermal power generation season in south Asia and southeast Asia, as cooling demand picks up but the regions have not yet entered into wet season with more hydroelectric output into their grids. And cooling demand in south China also usually starts to ramp up at the beginning of May. But so far, buying interest from Vietnam and India for cargoes in May and June were not enough to offset the demand gap left by LNG importers from Japan, China and South Korea. South China is forecast to see another week of heavy rainfall during the May Labour Day holiday, after heavy rain have kept the region cooler than normal in the past two weeks. This is likely to delay the start of high power demand and the rise of power sector gas demand.

Some Atlantic sellers may still prefer to send uncommitted cargoes into Europe where – contrary to the postponed demand peak in Asia – there could be some lingering heating demand even during the first two weeks of May, according to the latest weather forecasts. Forecast daily lows in Essen in western Germany were revised slightly lower on Tuesday for next week to around 7°C, holding around 1-2°C lower than seasonal norm for the city.

The spot charter rate for journeys between the US Gulf Coast and northeast Asia loading in late April to early June has stayed low throughout the whole of April – it was \$41,500/d until 11 April, and then fell to \$41,000/d and remaining at this level for the rest of the month.

Click [here](#) to download “LNG open bids, offers and recent deals” and [here](#) to download “LNG global shipping highlights”.

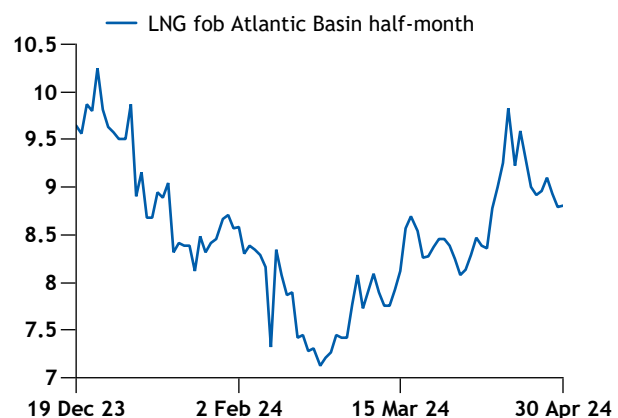
Argus Gulf Coast (AGC) fob LNG		\$/mn Btu
	Price	±
Apr	8.700	-0.450
May	8.600	-0.100
Jun	8.550	-0.150
Jul	8.450	nc
Aug	8.450	+0.100
Sep	8.500	nc
Oct	8.450	+0.200

Argus Atlantic Basin fob spot LNG					\$/mn Btu
	Loading	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
Murmansk fob (ARV freight)	prompt			8.830	+0.340
Iberian peninsula reload	2H May	8.55	9.35	8.950	+0.400
	1H Jun	8.55	9.35	8.950	+0.400
	2H Jun	8.55	9.35	8.950	+0.400
Northwest European reload	2H May	8.70	9.45	9.075	+0.325
	1H Jun	8.75	9.50	9.125	+0.350
	2H Jun	8.75	9.50	9.125	+0.350
West Africa (AWAF™)	1H May	8.15	9.10	8.625	-0.350
	2H May	8.20	9.10	8.650	-0.375
	1H Jun	8.25	9.10	8.675	-0.350
	2H Jun	8.35	9.25	8.800	-0.325
Trinidad and Tobago	1H May	8.55	8.65	8.600	-0.100
	2H May	8.50	8.60	8.550	-0.150
	1H Jun	8.50	8.60	8.550	-0.150
	2H Jun	8.40	8.50	8.450	-0.250

Argus Atlantic Basin fob spot LNG index					\$/mn Btu
	Loading	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
Atlantic Basin	2H May	8.48	9.30	8.890	+0.115
	1H Jun	8.52	9.32	8.920	+0.135
	2H Jun	8.55	9.37	8.960	+0.145

Atlantic Basin fob

\$/mn Btu



US GULF COAST INDICATIVE FOB PRICE

Indicative USGC fob LNG (29 Apr 2024)		\$/mn Btu
Contract	Price	±
Jun	5.33	+0.13
Jul	5.72	+0.10
Aug	5.86	+0.09
3Q24	5.82	+0.10
4Q24	6.51	+0.08
1Q25	7.11	+0.04
2Q25	6.63	+0.03
Winter 24-25	6.81	+0.06
Summer 2025	6.83	+0.02
Winter 25-26	7.73	+0.02
Summer 2026	7.29	+0.03
2025	7.07	+0.02
2026	7.61	+0.02
2027	7.68	+0.01

The US Gulf Coast indicative fob price is a derived price series based on the price of Henry Hub gas futures. A subset of these prices is published in the print edition of Argus LNG Daily. The full series is available electronically.

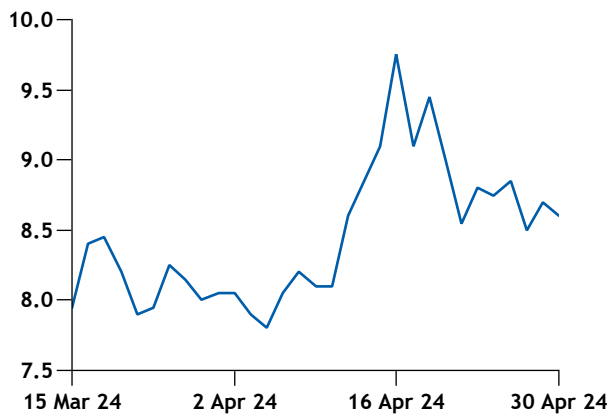
Argus LNG Daily also includes assessments of US Gulf Coast fob LNG prices (see page 1).

For more information, please see the Argus LNG Daily methodology:

<http://www.argusmedia.com/methodology-and-reference/>

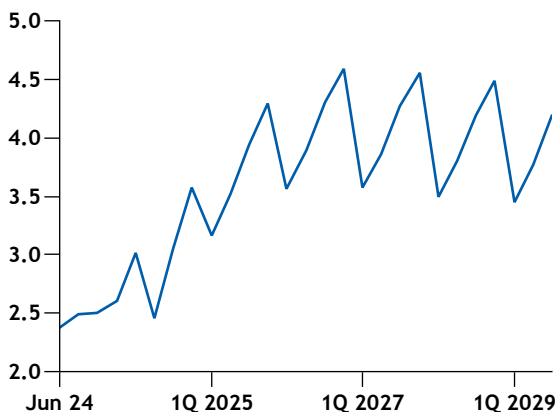
USGC fob LNG Curve

\$/mn Btu



US Nymex gas

\$/mn Btu



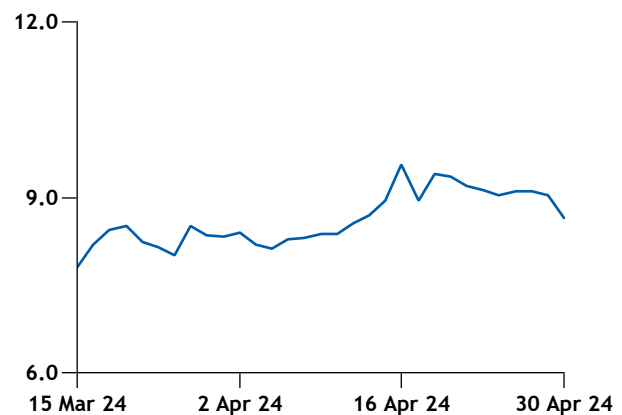
OTHER ATLANTIC PRICES

NBP - AGC fob LNG Spread		\$/mn Btu
May 24		0.48
Jun 24		0.47
Jul 24		0.52
Aug 24		0.64
Sep 24		1.09
Oct 24		1.34

LNG US Boston Harbor delivered ARV		\$/mn Btu	±
prompt		8.726	-0.137

West Africa (AWAF) LNG fob

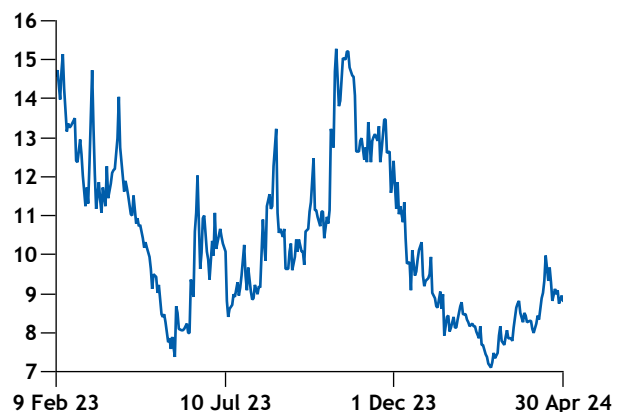
\$/mn Btu



Argus Latin America des spot LNG		\$/mn Btu
Delivery	Price	±
Argentina	Prompt	9.050 +0.030
Brazil	Prompt	8.830 -0.110
Chile	Prompt	9.140 -0.150
Mexico Gulf coast	Prompt	9.180 -0.140
Mexico Pacific coast	Prompt	9.130 -0.130

Argus Brazil des

\$/mn Btu



MARKET COMMENTARY

Europe: Des prices increase

Prices for LNG cargoes delivered into northwest Europe rose on Tuesday, tracking gains posted at the Dutch TTF hub.

The northwest Europe delivered price for June closed at \$9.00/mn Btu, up from \$8.65/mn Btu at the previous market close. The corresponding TTF contract increased to €29.20/MWh from €28.08/MWh on Tuesday. The discount to the TTF for deliveries in June was assessed at 21¢/mn Btu, little changed from last week's average discount of 20¢/mn Btu.

Low prompt availability for flexible cargoes as well as greater competition with Asia for Atlantic basin cargoes have contributed to discounts holding around 20¢/mn Btu, market participants said.

European delivered prices may have been supported by a marginal downward revision in temperature forecasts across the region, which likely lifted heating demand expectations. Minimum temperatures in the Netherlands' Amsterdam were forecast to average 8.9°C on 1-13 May, down slightly from the 9.3°C from the previous day's forecast.

And an unplanned delay to the return to operations at Norway's 9mn m³/d Dvalin field may have supported hub prices slightly. The field is set to come back on line on 2 May, a day later than previously planned, according to off-shore operator Gassco.

Sendout from Lithuania's 2.9mn t/yr Klaipeda LNG terminal has been strong in recent weeks ahead of scheduled maintenance starting on 1 May. Regasification on 24 April stood at 79.3GWh, up from the three-year average of 45.9GWh for that day. Send out in April so far has averaged 74.7GWh, again above the three-year average of 66.1GWh for the same period. Klaipeda is scheduled to be off line on 1 May-14 June, terminal operator KN Energies said in December last year, while the facility's *Independence* floating storage and regasification unit (FSRU) undergoes drydocking.

Storage at the terminal stood at 281GWh on 27 April, according to GIE data. Reserves have been drawn down consistently since the 155,000m³ *Arctic Aurora* delivered a cargo on 16 April ahead of the drydocking.

Aggregate injections into underground storage in the EU resumed on 26 April, having briefly turned to net withdrawals on 21-26 April. Aggregate EU underground storage was 699TWh on Monday morning, up from 666TWh on same day last year. Storage levels have fluctuated between net withdrawals and injections during the second half of April, having reached a high of 703TWh on 17 April after 18 consecutive days of injections.

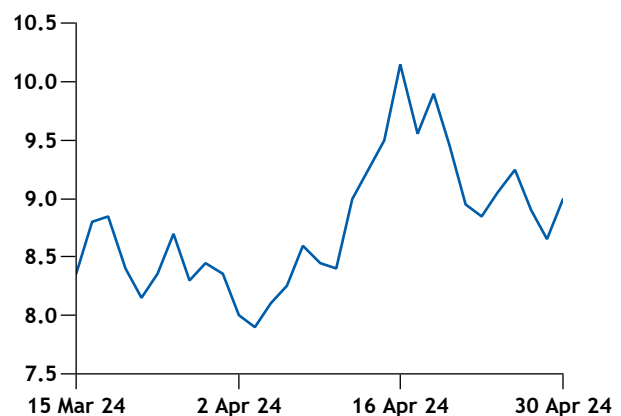
UK GAS AND EUROPEAN LNG PRICES

Argus European des spot LNG					\$/mn Btu
	Delivery	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±
NW Europe	2H May	8.95	9.05	9.000	+0.350
	1H Jun	8.95	9.05	9.000	+0.350
	2H Jun	8.95	9.05	9.000	+0.350
	1H Jul	9.00	9.10	9.050	+0.350
Iberian peninsula	2H May	8.95	9.05	9.000	+0.350
	1H Jun	8.95	9.05	9.000	+0.350
	2H Jun	8.95	9.05	9.000	+0.350
	1H Jul	9.00	9.10	9.050	+0.350
Italy	2H May	9.00	9.10	9.050	+0.350
	1H Jun	9.00	9.10	9.050	+0.350
	2H Jun	9.00	9.10	9.050	+0.350
	1H Jul	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
Greece	2H May	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
	1H Jun	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
	2H Jun	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
	1H Jul	9.10	9.20	9.150	+0.350
Turkey	2H May	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
	1H Jun	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
	2H Jun	9.05	9.15	9.100	+0.350
	1H Jul	9.10	9.20	9.150	+0.350

Northwest Europe des forward curve				\$/mn Btu
Contract	Price	±	diff. vs TTF	±
Jun	9.000	+0.350	-0.210	-0.003
Jul	9.050	+0.350	-0.225	-0.008
Aug	9.150	+0.350	-0.243	-0.023
Sep	9.300	+0.350	-0.316	-0.022
Oct	9.600	+0.400	-0.297	+0.026
Nov	10.450	+0.300	na	na
3Q24	9.167	+0.350	-0.261	-0.017

Argus NW Europe LNG des

\$/mn Btu



LNG SPREADS AND OIL-LINKED SNAPSHOT

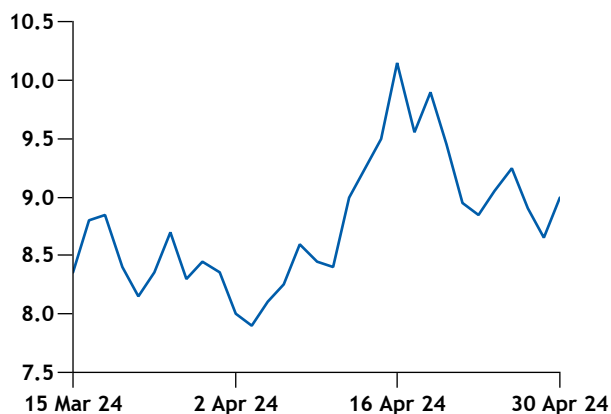
European hubs to LNG price spreads										\$/mn Btu
	Northeast Asia		China		India		Middle East		Middle East-India (MEI)	
	2H May	Jun avg	2H May	Jun avg	2H May	Jun avg	2H May	Jun avg	2H May	Jun avg
NBP	0.53	0.68	0.45	0.63	-0.56	-0.39	-0.56	-0.39	-0.56	-0.39
TTF	0.46	0.49	0.37	0.44	-0.63	-0.58	-0.63	-0.58	-0.63	-0.58

Snapshot of oil-linked LNG prices (29 Apr 2024)						\$/mn Btu
Jun	10pc	11pc	12pc	13pc	14pc	
601	8.23	9.05	9.87	10.69	11.52	
301	8.18	9.00	9.82	10.64	11.45	
311	7.94	8.73	9.52	10.32	11.11	
101	8.47	9.31	10.16	11.01	11.85	

Contracts defined as: Oil-linked LNG on six-month crude average (601) contract; Oil-linked LNG three-month crude average (301) contract; Oil-linked LNG three-month crude average plus one month lag (311) contract; Oil-linked LNG one-month crude average (101) contract. For more oil-linked LNG forward curve prices, please see the appendix at the back of the LNG Daily report.

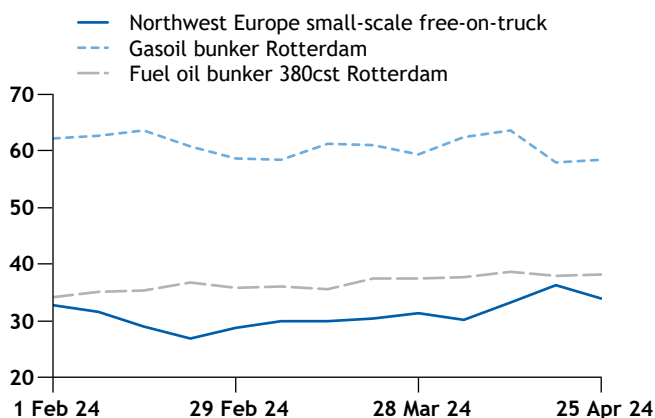
Argus Iberian peninsula des

\$/mn Btu



Small Scale LNG vs. Gasoil and fuel oil

€/MWh



SMALL-SCALE LNG

Small-scale LNG assessments (25 Apr 2024)				
	€/MWh	+/- 18 Apr	\$/t MGOe	+/- 18 Apr
Northwest Europe free on truck front month	33.925	-2.250	430	-27
Southwest France free on truck front month	34.425	-2.400	436	-28
Northwest Europe LNG bunker delivered on board	40.950	-2.850	519	-34

Competing fuels snapshot (25 Apr 2024)				
Gas	€/MWh	+/- 18 Apr	\$/t MGOe	+/- 18 Apr
TTF	29.870	-2.410	379	-29
Zeebrugge (ZTP)	29.820	-2.360	378	-28

Oil products	€/MWh	+/- 18 Apr	\$/t	+/- 18 Apr
Gasoil bunker Rotterdam prompt	58.479	+0.396	741	+8
Gasoil diesel 10ppm German NWE barge prompt	60.944	-0.486	773	-3
Fuel oil bunker 380cst Rotterdam prompt	38.246	+0.232	480	+5

NBP					\$/mn Btu
Delivery	Bid	Offer	Midpoint	±	
May	9.08	9.08	9.081	+0.410	
Jun	9.01	9.03	9.020	+0.395	
Jul	8.96	8.98	8.971	+0.395	
Aug	9.08	9.10	9.086	+0.359	
Sep	9.58	9.60	9.589	+0.345	
Oct	9.77	9.81	9.791	+0.356	
3Q24	9.21	9.22	9.215	+0.366	
4Q24	10.84	10.85	10.845	+0.353	
1Q25	11.68	11.70	11.691	+0.391	
2Q25	10.51	10.55	10.528	+0.363	
2025	10.94	10.97	10.951	+0.364	
2026	9.63	9.75	9.689	+0.173	

Spain Tanque Virtual de Balance (TVB) LNG hub (30 Apr)			
	€/MWh	Change	
Mibgas TVB intraday	29.00	+1.25	
Mibgas TVB day-ahead	28.65	+0.90	
	MWh	Change	
Mibgas TVB volume intraday	330	-4,794	
Mibgas TVB volume day-ahead	750	-8,215	

LNG OPEN BIDS, OFFERS AND RECENT DEALS

Global Open Bids				
Submission date	Validity date	Bid	Period	Note
02-May-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des Vietnam to PetroVietnam Gas	delivery 25-31 May 2024	
02-May-24	10-May-24	3 cargo(es) des Bangladesh to RPGCL	delivery 07-21 Jun 2024	For delivery over 7-9, 9-11 and 19-21 June.
30-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des South Korea to Posco	delivery 01-02 Jun 2024	Closes at 5pm SGT
26-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des Thailand to PTT	delivery 15-31 May 2024	Not awarded.
25-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des Thailand to PTT	delivery 16-23 May 2024	Delivery over either 16-17 May or 22-23 May. Not awarded
24-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des to Egas	delivery 18-19 May 2024	Delivery to Jordan
23-Apr-24	unknown	10 cargo(es) des to Energia Argentina	delivery 16 Jun 2024 - 05 Aug 2024	to Escobar. DW: 3 June, 6 July, 1 August. tender delayed by a week
19-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des India to HPCL	delivery 01-07 May 2024	Delivery to Chhara terminal. Not awarded.
19-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) des to PetroVietnam Gas	delivery 01-10 Jun 2024	Delivery to Thi Vai. Closes 9am local time. Not awarded

Global Open Offers				
Submission date	Validity date	Offer	Period	Note
unknown	24-Apr-24	1 cargo(es) fob Abu Dhabi from Adnoc	loading 20-22 May 2024	Loading from Das Island
unknown	unknown	1 cargo(es) des from HPCL	delivery 25-30 Apr 2024	offering Chhara commissioning cargo
23-May-24	unknown	0 cargo(es) des from Angola LNG	delivery 01 Jul 2025 - 31 Dec 2026	Enquire to Angola LNG for number of cargoes
02-May-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) fob Indonesia from Pertamina	delivery 02-13 Jul 2024	Delivery over either 2-3, 7-9 or 13 July.
01-May-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) fob Angola from Angola LNG	delivery 18 May 2024 - 06 Jun 2024	Offered on a des basis.
01-May-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) fob Oman from Oman LNG	delivery 30 May 2024 - 01 Jun 2024	
10-Apr-24	11-Apr-24	1 cargo(es) des from Angola LNG	delivery 21 Apr 2024 - 15 May 2024	For delivery to Europe and various destinations, to as far as Indonesia
08-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) fob Australia from Ichthys	loading 27 Apr 2024 - 01 May 2024	Also offered on DES. Closes 9:30am SGT.
05-Apr-24	unknown	1 cargo(es) fob USA from Gail	loading 23 Mar 2024	From Cove Point

Global Recent Deals				
Date	Transaction	Period	Price	Note
unknown	PTT bought from Unknown 1 cargo(es) des Thailand	delivery 15-31 May 2024		Awarded at high-\$9s/mn Btu
unknown	PTT bought from Unknown 2 cargo(es) des Thailand	delivery 15-23 Jun 2024	\$10.00/mnBtu	Awarded at a 10-15c discount to a north-east Asian spot LNG price, equivalent to about \$10/mn Btu
unknown	Ichthys sold to Glencore 1 cargo(es) fob Australia	loading 21-25 May 2024		Offered on either FOB or DES basis. At an 80¢ discount to a northeast Asian spot LNG price
unknown	Ichthys sold to BP 1 cargo(es) fob Australia	loading 16-18 May 2024		Offered on either FOB or DES basis. At an 80¢ discount to a northeast Asian spot LNG price
unknown	Kansai Electric sold to Unknown 1 cargo(es) fob Australia	loading 01-30 Jun 2024	\$10.01-10.50/mnBtu	Loading from Pluto
17-Apr-24	Oman LNG sold to Unknown 1 cargo(es) fob Oman	loading 27-29 May 2024	\$10.20-10.30/mnBtu	
unknown	Ichthys sold to Unknown 1 cargo(es) fob Australia	loading 20-22 May 2024		Offered both on fob and des basis.
unknown	PTT bought from Unknown 1 cargo(es) des Thailand	delivery 01-02 May 2024	\$10.00-10.39/mnBtu	

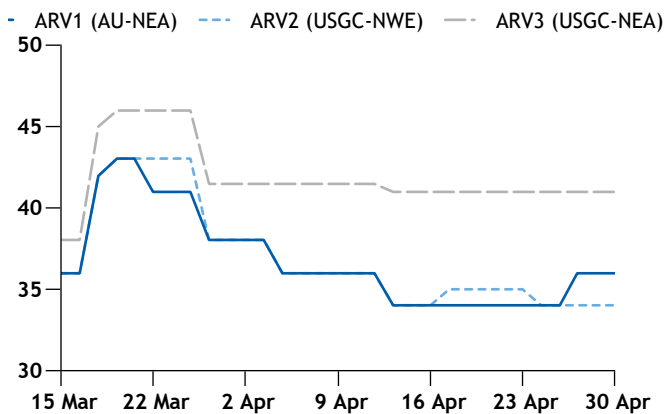
Global shipping highlights						
Vessel	Capacity m ³	From	To	Loading	Arrival	Notes
LNG Bonny II	177000	Dominican Republic	Bonny, Nigeria	3 Mar	30 Apr	Empty, holding in the Atlantic
Cobia LNG	174000	Freeport, US	TBC	5 Apr	30 Apr	Via Cape Horn
Methane Patricia Camila	170000	Peru	TBC	7 Apr	30 Apr	
Adam LNG	162000	Ras Laffan, Qatar	Zeebrugge, Belgium	27 Mar	1 May	Via Cape of Good Hope
Velikiy Novgorod	170200	Caofeidian, China	TBC	9 Mar	2 May	Empty, used to ship cargoes from Portovaya
LNG Sokoto	137000	Bonny, Nigeria	Fos Cavaou, France	20 Apr	3 May	
Marvel Eagle	155000	Cameron, US	Thailand	22 Mar	4 May	Via Panama
Minerva Amorgos	174000	Idku, Egypt	TBC	19 Apr	4 May	Previously declared for Swinoujscie, Poland
Minerva Amorgos	174000	Idku, Egypt	TBC	19 Apr	4 May	Previously declared for Swinoujscie, Poland
Adriano Knutsen	180000	Corpus Christi, US	TBC	23 Apr	4 May	
Marvel Falcon	174000	Cameron, US	TBC	2 Apr	6 May	
LNG Finima II	175000	Sines, Portugal	Bonny, Nigeria	3 Mar	7 May	Empty. Holding offshore, diverted from Tema, Ghana
Minerva Psara	173400	Sabine Pass, US	TBC	4 Apr	7 May	Via COGH. Diverted from Zeebrugge, Belgium
Sonangol Benguela	160000	Soyo, Angola	Dahej, India	16 Apr	7 May	
Attalos	174000	El Musel, Spain	Krk, Croatia	18 Apr	7 May	Partial reload at El Musel
Gaslog Savannah	155000	Piombino, Italy	El Musel, Spain	31 Mar	8 May	Empty, holding offshore, possible reload
Umm Al Amad	210200	Ras Laffan, Qatar	Rovigo, Italy	5 Apr	10 May	
Energy Atlantic	159700	Freeport, US	Japan	2 Apr	11 May	
BW Lilac	173400	Ras Laffan, Qatar	Zeebrugge, Belgium	9 Apr	12 May	
Vivit City LNG	174000	Punta Europa, Equatorial Guinea	Dahej, India	23 Apr	14 May	Previously declared for Chittagong, Bangladesh
Gaslog Glasgow	174000	Pampa Melchorita, Peru	Asia	17 Apr	15 May	
North Air	174000	Zhoushan, China	TBC	18 Apr	15 May	Empty
Sevilla Knutsen	173400	Cameron, US	TBC	16 Apr	16 May	
Methane Julia Louise	170000	Bonny, Nigeria	TBC	16 Apr	18 May	Via Cape of Good Hope
Clean Vision	162000	Yamal, Russia	TBC	10 Apr	20 May	Via Cape of Good Hope
Hoegh Galleon	170000	Singapore	TBC			FSRU for Egypt, Moored in Singapore
North Star	174000	Zeebrugge, Belgium	TBC	29 Mar	23 May	
Pskov	170200	Portovaya, Russia	TBC	8 Apr		Via Cape of Good Hope
Independence	170100	Klaipeda, Lithuania	TBC	1 May		FSRU, will soon depart for dry dock
Maran Gas Mystras	159800	Chhara, India	TBC	12 Apr		Remarketing of commissioning cargo
Amur River	149700	Kribi, Cameroon	TBC	29 Apr		
Maran Gas Ulysses	174000	Rovigo, Italy	Idku, Egypt	25 Apr		Holding offshore

FREIGHT RATES

Argus round voyage forward curves (26 Apr)						
Month	ARV1: Australia-Northeast Asia		ARV2: USGC-Northwest Europe		ARV3: USGC-Northeast Asia	
	\$/day	+/- 19 Apr	\$/day	+/- 19 Apr	\$/day	+/- 19 Apr
Jun	37,000	-3,000	38,000	-2,000	45,000	-2,000
Jul	51,000	nc	51,500	nc	59,000	nc
Aug	59,500	nc	60,000	nc	66,000	nc
Sep	69,000	nc	70,000	nc	73,000	nc
Oct	101,000	nc	102,000	nc	105,000	nc
Nov	130,000	nc	132,000	nc	140,000	nc
Dec	128,000	nc	130,000	nc	137,000	nc
Jan	105,000	nc	108,000	nc	115,000	nc
Feb	75,000	nc	77,000	nc	80,000	nc
Mar	50,000	nc	52,000	nc	55,000	nc
Apr	40,000	nc	40,000	nc	43,000	nc
May	40,000	nc	40,000	nc	43,000	nc

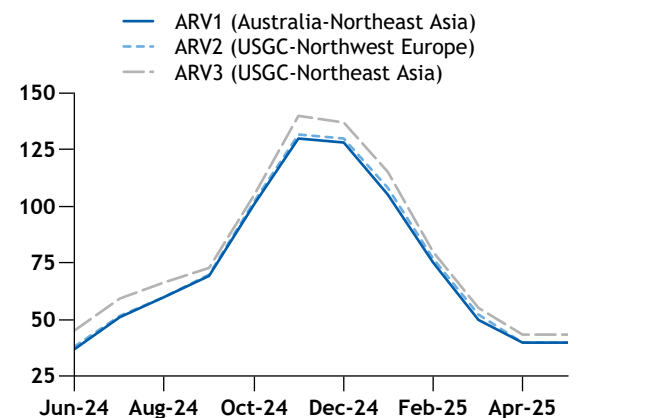
Argus Round Voyage spot rates

\$'000/day



Argus Round Voyage forward curves

\$'000/day

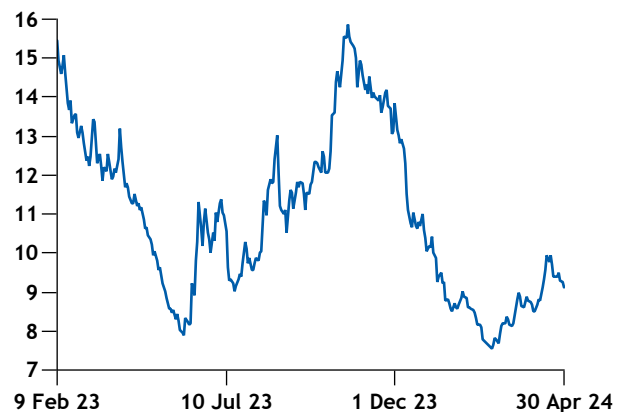


Argus ballast leg TFDE rates (26 Apr 2024)

	%	+/- 19 Apr
Day rate - west of Suez	90	nc
Day rate - east of Suez	90	nc
Fuel cost - west of Suez	35	nc
Fuel cost - east of Suez	35	nc

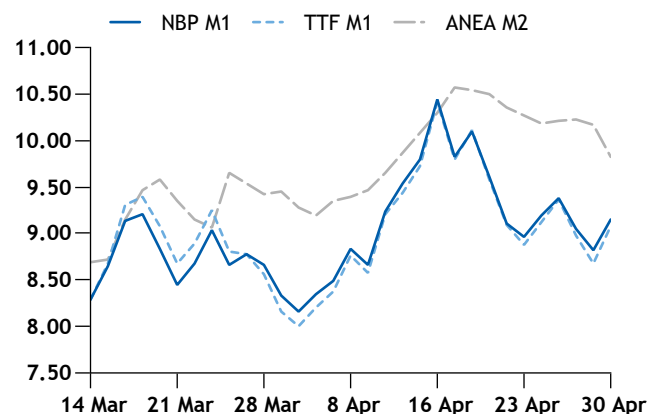
Argus Mexico Pacific des

\$/mn Btu



European gas hubs vs ANEA

\$/mn Btu


 download data on [Argus direct](#)

FREIGHT COSTS AND NETBACKS

Standard round-trip freight costs*																\$/mn Btu
	route via	Ain Sukhna and Aqaba	Aliaga	Altamira	Dahej and Qasim	Escobar	Incheon	Jebel Ali and Mina al-Ahmadi	Manzanillo	Map ta Phut	Milford Haven	Pecem	Quintero	Shenzen and Taipei	Singapore	Tokyo
Angola	-		0.57	0.52	0.55	0.34	1.02	0.59	0.82	0.64	0.49	0.27	0.52	1.21	0.58	1.05
	Suez Panama	0.72							0.76							
Bintulu and Tangguh	-	0.58			0.36	0.95	0.26	0.44	0.84	0.14		0.94	1.03	0.18	0.10	0.30
	Suez Panama		0.88	1.50 1.34							1.14					
Bonny	-		0.53	0.49	0.59	0.36	1.06	0.64	0.83	0.67	0.44	0.25	0.52	0.73	0.64	1.09
	Suez Panama	0.69							0.73							
Bontang	-	0.62			0.43	0.95	0.30	0.50	0.83	0.22		0.98	0.95	0.21	0.17	0.30
	Suez Panama		0.96	1.54 1.33							1.19					
Dampier	-	0.49		1.15	0.34	0.87	0.42	0.40	0.88	0.28		0.89	0.92	0.34	0.22	0.42
	Suez Panama		0.96								1.19					
Gladstone	-	0.67		0.96	0.49	0.80	0.46	0.55	0.68	0.44		1.01	0.72	0.42	0.38	0.43
	Suez Panama		1.15								1.38					
Rotterdam	-		0.36	0.41		0.53			1.03			0.34	0.71			
	Suez Panama	0.54			0.73		1.37	0.76		0.98				1.30	0.91	1.41
Papua New Guinea	-	0.67		0.96	0.46	0.87	0.42	0.55	0.68	0.37		1.01	0.72	0.34	0.38	0.38
	Suez Panama		1.15								1.38					
Ras Laffan and UAE	-	0.24			0.12	0.95	0.66	0.06	1.22	0.48			1.11	0.57	0.41	0.70
	Suez		0.65	1.23							0.88	1.06				
Sakhalin	-	0.89			0.62	1.10	0.18	0.70	0.60	0.37		1.24	0.92	0.25	0.37	0.17
	Suez Panama		1.15	1.82 1.09							1.41					
Singapore	-	0.51			0.33	0.94	0.30	0.39	0.91	0.13		0.94	1.03	0.21		0.34
	Suez		0.84	1.43							1.08					
Sagunto	-		0.18	0.43		0.46			0.96		0.21	0.29	0.65			
	Suez Panama	0.43			0.61		1.22	0.63		0.85				1.13	0.79	1.26
Trinidad and Tobago	-		0.53	0.19		0.36			0.85	0.91	0.40	0.16	0.55		0.85	
	Suez Panama	0.69			0.88		1.58 1.20	0.90						1.49 1.24		1.62 1.12
USGC	-		0.64	0.06		0.46	1.58		0.24	0.95	0.49	0.28	0.62		0.90	1.61
	Suez Panama	0.72			0.88			0.91						1.62 1.28		
							1.24		0.42				0.47	1.28		1.13

*Standard freight costs include full charter costs and fuel for the return leg of a delivery fixture

Netbacks (standard freight costs*)											\$/mn Btu (prompt)
	India	China	Japan	South Korea	Taiwan	Iberian peninsula	Greece	Italy	Turkey	NW Europe	North-east US
Middle East	8.35	8.91	8.87	8.91	9.03	8.20	8.45	8.32	8.44	8.12	0.72
Australia	8.12	9.15	9.18	9.19	9.27	7.90	8.14	8.02	8.14	7.81	0.53
Nigeria	7.78	8.47	8.44	8.48	8.59	8.60	8.57	8.53	8.54	8.52	1.11
Norway	7.52	8.14	8.10	8.15	8.19	8.71	8.65	8.61	8.62	8.76	1.19
Algeria	7.82	8.36	8.36	8.40	8.51	8.87	8.96	8.92	8.93	8.78	1.21
Trinidad and Tobago	7.43	8.10	8.03	8.06	8.39	8.59	8.54	8.52	8.53	8.55	1.30
Russia	7.94	9.31	9.46	9.44	9.40	7.70	7.95	7.82	7.92	7.63	0.64

FREIGHT COSTS AND NETBACKS

Spot (ARV) freight costs*															\$/mn Btu	
	route via	Ain Sukhna and Aqaba	Aliaga	Altamira	Dahej and Qasim	Escobar	Incheon	Jebel Ali and Mina al-Ahmadi	Manzanillo	Map ta Phut	Milford Haven	Pecem	Quintero	Shenzen and Taipei	Singapore	Tokyo
Angola	-		0.46	0.40	0.42	0.26	0.83	0.45		0.49	0.40	0.20	0.40	0.98	0.44	0.86
	Suez	0.60														
Bintulu and Tangguh	Panama							0.62								
	-	0.47			0.29	0.77	0.21	0.36	0.69	0.12		0.77	0.84	0.15	0.08	0.24
Bonny	Suez		0.76	1.26							0.97					
	Panama			1.12												
Bontang	-	0.43	0.38	0.45	0.28	0.87	0.49			0.52	0.36	0.19	0.40	0.57	0.49	0.89
	Suez	0.57														
Bontang	Panama							0.59								
	-	0.51			0.35	0.77	0.24	0.41	0.68	0.18		0.80	0.78	0.17	0.14	0.24
Dampier	Suez		0.82	1.30							1.01					
	Panama			1.11												
Dampier	-	0.38		0.94	0.26	0.71	0.34	0.30	0.72	0.23		0.73	0.75	0.28	0.18	0.34
	Suez		0.82								1.01					
Gladstone	Panama			1.12												
	-	0.51		0.78	0.38	0.65	0.37	0.42	0.56	0.36		0.83	0.58	0.34	0.31	0.35
Rotterdam	Suez		0.98								1.17					
	Panama			0.96												
Rotterdam	-		0.29	0.31		0.40						0.26	0.55			
	Suez	0.46			0.61		1.16	0.63		0.80				1.09	0.75	1.19
Papua New Guinea	Panama							0.57					0.63			
	-	0.51		0.78	0.36	0.71	0.34	0.42	0.56	0.30		0.83	0.58	0.28	0.31	0.31
Ras Laffan and UAE	Suez		0.98								1.17					
	Panama			0.99												
Sakhalin	-	0.19			0.09	0.77	0.54	0.05	1.01	0.39			0.91	0.46	0.33	0.57
	Suez		0.57	1.04							0.76	0.90				
Singapore	-	0.73			0.51	0.90	0.15	0.58	0.49	0.30		1.02	0.75	0.20	0.30	0.14
	Suez		0.98	1.52							1.19					
Singapore	Panama			0.92												
	-	0.42			0.27	0.77	0.24	0.32	0.74	0.11		0.77	0.84	0.17		0.28
Sagunto	Suez		0.73	1.21							0.92					
	-		0.15	0.32		0.35					0.17	0.22	0.50			
Trinidad and Tobago	Suez	0.37			0.52		1.03	0.53		0.70				0.96	0.65	1.06
	Panama							0.57					0.62			
Trinidad and Tobago	-		0.43	0.14		0.28				0.70	0.33	0.12	0.42		0.66	
	Suez	0.58			0.73		1.33	0.74						1.25		1.36
USGC	Panama						1.01		0.36				0.40	1.04		0.94
	-		0.53	0.04		0.36	1.29			0.74	0.40	0.22	0.49		0.70	1.31
USGC	Suez	0.60			0.74			0.76						1.36		
	Panama						1.04		0.36				0.40	1.07		0.95

*ARV freight costs take into account a varying proportion of return leg fuel and charter costs, in line with Argus' ballast bonus assessments. For more details, consult the Argus Round Voyage methodology.

Netbacks (ARV freight costs*)												\$/mn Btu (prompt)
	India	China	Japan	South Korea	Taiwan	Iberian peninsula	Greece	Italy	Turkey	NW Europe	North-east US	
Middle East	8.38	9.02	9.01	9.04	9.14	8.30	8.53	8.41	8.53	8.24	0.76	
Australia	8.19	9.22	9.26	9.27	9.33	8.06	8.28	8.17	8.28	7.99	0.59	
Nigeria	7.91	8.66	8.66	8.69	8.78	8.67	8.67	8.63	8.65	8.61	1.14	
Norway	7.66	8.37	8.35	8.39	8.41	8.76	8.73	8.69	8.71	8.80	1.21	
Algeria	7.91	8.54	8.56	8.59	8.67	8.89	8.98	8.94	8.96	8.82	1.23	
Trinidad and Tobago	7.59	8.34	8.29	8.32	8.63	8.66	8.65	8.62	8.64	8.63	1.32	
Russia	8.04	9.35	9.49	9.47	9.44	7.90	8.12	8.01	8.10	7.84	0.71	

NEWS

Japan's Chugoku delays Shimane No.2 reactor restart

Japanese utility Chugoku Electric Power has postponed the restart of its 820MW Shimane No.2 nuclear reactor in western Japan's Shimane prefecture from August to December, as reinforcement works are taking longer than expected.

The reinforcement works are taking longer, as the utility is also conducting facility inspections to prepare to reactivate the reactor after an extended closure since January 2012 for stricter nuclear safety inspections, said Chugoku on 30 April.

Chugoku previously planned to [complete the reinforcement works in May](#), but has now postponed this to October. The utility had aimed to begin normal operations at the reactor [in September](#), but has now delayed it to January 2025. Chugoku had previously [modified the restart schedule multiple times](#).

The return of the Shimane No.2 reactor could have helped Chugoku reduce its reliance on thermal generation fuels including oil, LNG and coal, especially during the peak power demand season of summer.

Chugoku is currently building the 1,373MW No.3 reactor at Shimane, aiming to complete its safety-enhanced construction sometime during April-September 2025. The company has filed an application with the Nuclear Regulation Authority for a safety screening of the No.3 reactor. Its 460MW Shimane No.1 reactor was scrapped in April 2015.

By Nanami Oki

QatarEnergy fleet to outstrip liquefaction capacity

The expansion of QatarEnergy's LNG shipping fleet is set to expand beyond its liquefaction capacity growth by the end of the decade, even when accounting for the likely retirement of older vessels.

QatarEnergy is expanding liquefaction capacity at the 77mn t/yr Ras Laffan terminal to 142mn t/yr by the end of the decade. The firm is also set to receive about 12.7mn t/yr of offtake through its 70pc equity share in the US' 18.1mn t/yr Golden Pass export terminal.

The firm currently charters about 70 vessels, but has announced the chartering of 122 vessels to date as a part of its fleet expansion project (*see tables*).

Assuming the firm exports all of its offtake at present from Ras Laffan with the 70 vessels in its fleet, it has capacity for an average round trip of up to 29½ days. This is enough to ship every cargo from Ras Laffan to Shenzhen, while meeting the terminal's loading demand, assuming a sailing speed of 17 knots and one day each for loading and discharge.

This maximum average journey time would be trimmed to about 29 days if assuming a 30-day dry dock for each vessel every four years.

Should the current fleet remain in operation in addition to the newbuilds and the 154.7mn t/yr of capacity both be reached by the end of the decade, then the firm would be able to reach as high as a 39-day average journey time.

But with 25 of the present fleet consisting of older steam-turbine vessels, some of these vessels could be scrapped or removed from QatarEnergy's fleet before the newbuild vessels are delivered – particularly the 10 carriers delivered before 2001. Assuming all 25 are removed from the fleet by the end of the decade, it would allow for a maximum average journey time of just over 35 days – still above the present shipping capacity.

271,000m³ vessels	
Firm/joint venture	Number of vessels
Shipowner	
China Merchants	4
Shandong Marine Energy	3
China LNG Shipping	2
Shipbuilder	
Hudong-Zhonghua	18
– QatarEnergy	

174,000m³ vessels	
Firm/joint venture	Number of vessels
Shipowner	
Nakilat	25
H-line Shipping, SK Shipping, PanOcean JV	15
JP Morgan	14
NYK Line, K Line, MISC, China LNG Shipping JV	12
Knutsen	10
MOL, COSCO JV	7
China Merchants	6
Shandong Marine Energy	6
K Line Hyundai Glovis JV	4
MISC	3
TMS Cardiff Gas	2
Shipbuilders	
Hyundai Heavy	34
Samsung Heavy	33
Hanwha Ocean	25
Hudong-Zhonghua	12
– QatarEnergy	

QatarEnergy fleet		m ³
Type	Number of vessels	Capacity
Operational		
Steam turbine	25	143,500*
Q-Flex	31	210,000
Q-Max	14	266,000
On order		
Two-stroke	104	174,000
QC-Max	18	271,000
– QatarEnergy		
*Average of 135,000-152,000 range		

An average of 35 days of shipping availability would be more than enough for the 32-day round trip to South Korea's Incheon import terminal from Ras Laffan, and also the 26-day round trip from Golden Pass to the UK's Isle of Grain import terminal. This could leave extra capacity to ship some US-loaded cargoes to northeast Asia.

The extra shipping capacity would give QatarEnergy the flexibility to ship cargoes to Europe via the Cape of Good Hope, were transit issues through the Red Sea to remain, and if the present order book is delivered and the firm's Q-Flex and Q-Max carriers remain in service. The firm has 6.6mn t/yr of supply commitments to Poland's PGNiG and Italy's Edison, and has also signed a further 7.5mn t from its expansion projects to TotalEnergies, Shell and Italy's Eni, although the volumes are understood to not be tied to Europe.

If 14.1mn t/yr was delivered via the Cape of Good Hope to Europe from Ras Laffan instead of Golden Pass, QatarEnergy would be able to maintain a 30-day round trip for its other operations. This is about the same as for delivery to southeast China from Ras Laffan, and less than for deliveries from Golden Pass to northwest Europe. And given that the firm delivers to countries closer to Qatar than northeast Asia – such as Kuwait, India, Pakistan and Bangladesh – the firm is likely to have extra shipping capacity at the start of the 2030s.

QatarEnergy may have to charter additional vessels for delivery towards the middle of the 2030s, should the firm seek to replace its Q-Flex and Q-Max vessels, which were delivered around 2007-10. Vessels around 25 years old have previously been considered for retirement. Should they retire the vessels and not charter new carriers, the maximum average sailing days would fall to around 24.5 – below present levels.

By Martin Senior

Gas-fired units win Japan's clean power auction

A planned 10 gas-fired generation units have won Japan's first long-term zero emissions power capacity auction, with the awarded capacity totalling nearly 6GW, or auction volumes sought for the first three years of the programme.

Japan launched the clean power auction system from the April 2023-March 2024 fiscal year, aiming to spur investment in clean power sources by securing funding in advance to drive the country's decarbonisation towards 2050.

The auction generally targets clean power sources – such as renewables, nuclear, storage battery, biomass, hydrogen and ammonia. But the scheme also applies to a new power plants burning regasified LNG as an immediate measure to ensure stable power supplies, subject to a gradual switch from gas to cleaner energy sources.

The first auction held in January saw 10 new gas-fired units with a combined capacity of 5.76GW secure the funding of ¥176.6bn/yr (\$1.12bn), the nationwide transmission system operator Organisation for Cross-regional Co-ordination of Transmission Operator (Occto), which manages the auction, said on 26 April.

All winners can receive the money for 20 years through Occto, which collect money from the country's power retailers, although they need to refund 90pc of other revenue.

Winners with a new gas-fired project should start commissioning their plants within six years and then begin refurbishment work to introduce clean fuels and technology within 10 years after commissioning. This means all the projects selected in the 2023-24 auction need to start operations by the end of 2030-31. Hokkaido Electric Power previously planned to begin operations of its Ishikariwan-Shinko No.2 gas-fired unit in December 2034 but it has advanced the start-up to 2030-31.

Japan has secured a total of 9.77GW net zero capacity through the 2023-24 auction. Contract volumes include 1.3GW of nuclear, 1.1GW of storage batteries, 770MW for ammonia co-firing, 55.3MW hydrogen co-firing, 199MW biomass and 577MW of hydroelectric power projects, along with the 5.76GW of gas-fired projects.

By Motoko Hasegawa

Turkey in talks with ExxonMobil for LNG supply

The Turkish government is in talks with ExxonMobil to procure 2.5mn t/yr of LNG as part of a strategy to diversify the country's energy resources, energy minister Alparslan Bayraktar said on 28 April.

The parties are yet to reach a deal, but the minister envisages a 10-year contract with the firm for deliveries of 5.5bn standard m³/yr – roughly equivalent of 2.5mn t/yr of LNG. This would equate to \$1.1bn of trade at "today's prices", albeit the commercial clauses are still under discussion, the minister added.

Turkey's gas consumption totalled 50.5bn m³ last year, 8pc of which was met with spot US LNG, according to energy regulator EPDK.

Demand is expected to grow in the coming years as household heating and industrial production are heavily reliant on gas.

The country has multiple long-term contracts with Russia, Azerbaijan and Iran for a total of 37.5bn m³/yr of pipeline deliveries, as well as two LNG supply contracts for a total of 9.8bn m³/yr with Algeria and a 1.4bn m³/yr LNG deal with Oman. The remaining demand comes from spot pipeline gas and LNG purchases depending on prices.

One of the two Algerian contracts, for 5.4bn m³/yr, will expire this October, possibly another factor pushing the country to seek alternative resources.

There are five operational LNG terminals in Turkey with a combined regasification capacity of over 50bn m³/yr and storage capacity of over 1mn m³ of LNG, enough to meet the country's gas demand.

These facilities are yet to be used at capacity and the Turkish parliament discussed how to better [commercialise them](#) last week. Botas and Bulgarian supplier Bulgargaz also hold a deal that gives the Bulgarian firm [access to Turkish LNG and transmission capacities](#).

By Ugur Yildirim

[Milei's bid to open Argentina's economy passes](#)

Argentina's congress on Tuesday approved the government's sweeping economic legislation that could open the door to more private-sector investment in energy and commodities.

The bill passed on a 142-106 vote, with five abstentions, after a marathon 20-hour debate. Changes include privatizing some state-owned companies, controversial labor reforms and measures to promote LNG development.

The omnibus legislation, which includes 279 articles, is an important victory for President Javier Milei's administration and will change the way many sectors, including energy, operate in the country.

Lawmakers aligned with Milei's Liberty Advances party swiftly moved to the second stage of the process, which requires approval of individual articles. The omnibus bill was initially approved in February, but the [administration withdrew it](#) after congress failed to approve several key individual articles. That original version included 664 articles.

Several of the more controversial articles were brought up immediately after the blanket approval and easily passed. They included an article allowing for privatization of state-run enterprises – national power company Enarsa is on the list – and another delegating to the administration the power to eliminate state agencies without having to consult with congress.

Also approved was the article on labor reform. The country's oilseed industry and port workers' unions called a

strike the previous day to pressure congress to modify the labor reform. That did not happen. It passed in a separate 136-113 vote. The strike started to fizzle with approval of the legislation.

Approval of the package includes several articles the administration says will open the door to major investments in the energy sector.

Chapter II specifically covers natural gas, and introduces new regulations for LNG. The chapter includes five articles that allow for 30-year contracts for LNG export projects and guarantees that gas supply cannot be interrupted for any reason. The energy secretariat has six months to design the implementing rules for LNG.

The government wants to speed up monetization of the Vaca Muerta unconventional play, which has an estimated 308 trillion cf of natural gas reserves. It is pushing for Malaysia's Petronas to fully commit to a large-scale LNG facility that would start with a \$10bn investment.

Chapter IX of the legislation creates a new framework, known as the Rigi, for investments above \$200mn. It offers tax, fiscal and customs benefits. Companies have two years from implementation of the legislation to take advantage of the Rigi.

The chapter on this framework is one of the most complex in the bill, including 56 articles. It includes specific references to energy projects, from power generation to unconventional oil and gas development.

The administration claims the legislation will help tame inflation and stabilize the economy. Inflation was 276pc annualized through February, but is declining, and Milei announced that monthly inflation would be in single digits when the March numbers are announced. The country recorded a 0.2pc quarterly fiscal surplus in the first quarter of this year, something not achieved since 2008.

By Lucien Chauvin

[US again renews Russian energy sanctions waiver](#)

The US administration on Tuesday renewed a sanctions waiver for foreign buyers of Russian oil, natural gas and other energy commodities.

The US Treasury Department's waiver allows trade and US dollar-denominated financial transactions by foreign buyers of Russian energy products, even if they involve entities on the US sanctions list. The new waiver is valid until 1 November 2024.

The authorization is part of a complex set of actions and messaging from President Joe Biden's administration and its allies, which are keen to ensure the continued flow of Russian oil and natural gas to world markets in an effort to prevent supply disruptions and price hikes.

The sanctions waiver does not affect the terms of price caps that the US, the EU and other members of the G7 group of advanced economies have imposed on seaborne exports of Russian crude and refined products.

The US in 2022 banned all Russian energy imports, while the EU and UK have banned imports of Russian crude and refined products. The G7 group of advanced economies at the same time is explicitly allowing buyers in emerging economies to continue importing Russian oil and natural gas.

By Haik Gugarats

Japan's Jera cuts LNG imports in 2023-24

Japan's largest power producer by capacity Jera cut its LNG imports in the April 2023-March 2024 fiscal year, despite higher gas-fired output in the fourth quarter following an unexpected shutdown at a coal-fired unit.

Jera used 23.01mn t of LNG in 2023-24, down by 2.6pc from a year earlier. The company met its LNG demand through 4.5mn t in spot purchases, which fell by 36pc on the year. The company was forced to buy more spot LNG in 2022-23, because of the extended closure of the US' 15mn t/yr Freeport LNG export project.

But Jera boosted gas-fired generation in January-March, up by 3.7pc on the year to 47.5TWh. This increased LNG burn by 3.8pc to 6.29mn t during the period. Higher LNG use came partly on the back of an unscheduled closure at the fire-hit 1,070MW Taketoyo No.5 coal- and biomass-fired unit on 31 January. It is still unclear when the unit will be brought back on line.

The company estimates the impact of the shutdown will cost the company over ¥10bn (\$63.7mn) in the 2024-25 fiscal year, with around half of it being replacement cost for the lost capacity, which are mainly LNG procurement costs, the company said.

Jera cut coal consumption in 2023-24, down by 6.7pc on the year to 20.03mn t. Coal use in January-March fell by 6pc from a year earlier to 5.12mn t.

Jera boosted fuel oil burn to 207,000 kilolitres (1.3mn bl) in 2023-24, compared with 29,000kl a year earlier, as the company restarted the 600MW Hirono No.2 oil-fired unit in June 2023 to help meet electricity demand in the Tokyo metropolitan area.

Jera's power sales totalled 236.2TWh in 2023-24, down by 7.4pc from a year earlier, pressured by procurement diversification by power retailers and power-saving efforts by its customers, said the company.

By Motoko Hasegawa

Japan 2023-24 decarbonisation power capacity auction result

Winner	Power plant	MW*	Planned start-up
Hokkaido Electric Power	Ishikariwan-Shinko No.2	551	FY2030
Tohoku Electric Power	Higashi Niigata No.6	616	FY2030
Kansai Electric Power	Nanko No.1	592	FY2029
Kansai Electric Power	Nanko No.2	592	FY2030
Kansai Electric Power	Nanko No.3	592	FY2030
Chugoku Electric Power	Yanai new No.2	464	Mar '2030
Tokyo Gas	Chiba Sodegaura Power Station	605	FY2029
Osaka Gas	Himeji No.3	566	FY2030
Jera	Chita No.7	590	FY2029
Jera	Chita No.8	590	FY2029
Total gas-fired capacity		5,756.3	

Source: Occto, Argus

* Sending end capacity



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APLNG's Jan-Mar output higher: Origin

The 9mn t/yr Australia Pacific LNG (APLNG) project in Queensland state produced and sold more LNG than the previous quarter and year earlier, Australian independent Origin Energy said in its January-March results.

Output rose from the final quarter of 2023 because of the [power failure of a vessel docked at APLNG's terminal in Gladstone harbour in late November](#), which prompted upstream operator Origin to cut flows to the liquefaction plant and APLNG to defer three cargoes to 2024.

APLNG results					
	Jan-Mar '24	Oct-Dec '23	Jan-Mar '23	y-o-y % ±	q-o-q % ±
Production (PJ)	176	167	165	7	5
Sales (PJ)	168	160	158	6	4
Commodity revenue (A\$mn)	2,303	2,149	2,583	-11	7
Average realised LNG price (\$/mn Btu)	12.17	11.88	14.50	-15	3
Average realised domestic gas price (A\$/GJ)	6.90	6.39	6.17	12	8

Source: Origin Energy

APLNG exported 134PJ (2.4mn t) of LNG through 34 cargoes for January-March, 8pc up from 124PJ and 32 cargoes the previous quarter and 4pc up on the 129PJ and 33 cargoes shipped in January-March 2023.

Total APLNG production for July 2023-March 2024, the first three quarters of Origin's fiscal year to 30 June, was 519PJ, 4pc higher than 498PJ a year earlier, because of effective well and field optimisation activities, fewer maintenance disruptions and the continuing benefit of reducing workover backlog resulting in more wells being on line, Origin said.

The terminal will take [half a train of capacity off line for 12 days in June](#), following a two-day maintenance period in January.

APLNG's domestic gas sales were 36PJ, steady on the previous quarter but higher by 24pc from the 29PJ sold a year earlier. Gas sales volumes for Origin's energy markets business fell by 5pc to 36PJ from 38PJ in January-March 2023.

Origin said it continues to negotiate a deal with the government of New South Wales (NSW) [regarding the 2,880MW Eraring coal-fired power station's future](#).

The power plant had been due to close in 2025 but insufficient new generation capacity has been completed in NSW for this to occur.

"We continue to progress large-scale batteries under development at Eraring and Mortlake power stations and recently announced our first storage offtake agreement from the Supernode battery in Queensland, taking Origin's storage portfolio to around 1GW of capacity once these batteries come on line," chief executive Frank Calabria said on 30 April.

By Tom Major

PetroChina's 1Q profit up on gas sales

Chinese firm PetroChina's profit rose by 4.7pc on the year to Yn45.7bn (\$6.3bn) in the first quarter as the oil giant benefited from higher natural gas sales margins.

The company, which is also China's biggest gas producer, said natural gas sales profits rose by 22pc on the year to Yn12.3bn in the January-March quarter, helping to offset weaker refining segment profits and lower profit from oil products.

The company said it also had a drop in profits from trading products overseas.

PetroChina boosted gas sales volumes following a drop in the procurement cost of imported gas, it said. Natural gas sales volume reached

83.37bn m³ in January-March, up by 14pc on the year compared with 73.01bn m³ a year prior.

Domestic gas output grew by 4pc on the year to 14.2 Bcf/d in January-March.

The company is also boosting its LNG trading business and has this month [bought its first LNG spot cargo from Papua New Guinea's Kumul Petroleum](#). PetroChina is boosting its carrier fleet as well, and last month started constructing another LNG carrier.

PetroChina cut diesel output in favour of jet fuel in January-March and it, along with fellow state-owned firm Sinopec plan to cut crude runs in May from April levels, but raise gasoline and jet fuel output to cater to rising demand during the labour day holidays in China over 1-5 May. This is likely to result in lower diesel output, where demand remains depressed.

A total of 151,612 flights are scheduled to take off and land at domestic airports during 1-5 May, an increase of 9pc and 36pc respectively from the same period in 2023 and 2019, which may set a new record high, aviation platform Variflight data showed.

PetroChina attributed the drop in its refining profitability to weaker refined products margins. However, the company's chemical business returned to profitability following a loss in the previous year after its 400,000 b/d Jieyang refinery in China's southern Guangdong province reversed year-ago losses to make a profit this year, it said.

Sales of more chemical products also helped boost the company's chemical profitability in January-March, PetroChina said. The company's ethylene, synthetic resin and urea output were up by 13.5pc, 13.2pc and 68.5pc respectively in the latest quarter, from a year prior. Sinopec also had an improvement in its chemicals business in the latest quarter [although weakness persists due to rising capacity](#), the company said earlier.

APPENDIX

Full methodology of oil-linked LNG prices available at <http://www.argusmedia.com/methodology-and-reference/>. A subset of the oil-linked LNG prices are published in the print edition of Argus LNG Daily. The full series is available electronically.

Oil-linked LNG on six-month crude average (601) contract (29 Apr 2024)										\$/mn Btu
Delivery	10pc	10.5pc	11pc	11.5pc	12pc	12.5pc	13pc	13.5pc	14pc	14.5pc
May	8.36	8.77	9.19	9.61	10.03	10.45	10.86	11.28	11.70	12.12
Jun	8.23	8.64	9.05	9.46	9.87	10.28	10.69	11.10	11.52	11.93
Jul	8.22	8.63	9.04	9.45	9.86	10.28	10.69	11.10	11.51	11.92
Aug	8.31	8.72	9.14	9.55	9.97	10.38	10.80	11.21	11.63	12.05
Sep	8.46	8.88	9.30	9.73	10.15	10.57	11.00	11.42	11.84	12.26
Oct	8.57	9.00	9.42	9.85	10.28	10.71	11.14	11.57	12.00	12.42
3Q24	8.33	8.74	9.16	9.58	9.99	10.41	10.83	11.24	11.66	12.08
4Q24	8.60	9.03	9.46	9.89	10.32	10.75	11.18	11.61	12.04	12.47
1Q25	8.47	8.89	9.31	9.74	10.16	10.58	11.01	11.43	11.86	12.28
2Q25	8.28	8.69	9.10	9.52	9.93	10.35	10.76	11.17	11.59	12.00
2025	8.21	8.62	9.03	9.44	9.85	10.26	10.67	11.08	11.50	11.91
2026	7.72	8.11	8.50	8.88	9.27	9.65	10.04	10.43	10.81	11.20

Oil-linked LNG on three-month crude average (301) contract (29 Apr 2024)										\$/mn Btu
Delivery	10pc	10.5pc	11pc	11.5pc	12pc	12.5pc	13pc	13.5pc	14pc	14.5pc
May	7.94	8.33	8.73	9.13	9.52	9.92	10.32	10.71	11.11	11.51
Jun	8.18	8.59	9.00	9.41	9.82	10.23	10.64	11.05	11.45	11.86
Jul	8.49	8.92	9.34	9.77	10.19	10.62	11.04	11.47	11.89	12.31
Aug	8.68	9.11	9.54	9.98	10.41	10.85	11.28	11.71	12.15	12.58
Sep	8.73	9.17	9.61	10.04	10.48	10.92	11.35	11.79	12.23	12.66
Oct	8.64	9.08	9.51	9.94	10.37	10.80	11.24	11.67	12.10	12.53
3Q24	8.63	9.07	9.50	9.93	10.36	10.80	11.22	11.66	12.09	12.52
4Q24	8.57	9.00	9.43	9.85	10.28	10.71	11.14	11.57	12.00	12.43
1Q25	8.37	8.78	9.20	9.62	10.04	10.46	10.88	11.29	11.71	12.13
2Q25	8.19	8.60	9.01	9.41	9.82	10.23	10.64	11.05	11.46	11.87
2025	8.13	8.54	8.94	9.35	9.76	10.16	10.57	10.98	11.38	11.79
2026	7.68	8.06	8.44	8.83	9.21	9.60	9.98	10.36	10.74	11.13

Oil-linked LNG on three-month crude average with one month lag (311) contract (29 Apr 2024)										\$/mn Btu
Delivery	10pc	10.5pc	11pc	11.5pc	12pc	12.5pc	13pc	13.5pc	14pc	14.5pc
May	7.95	8.35	8.74	9.14	9.54	9.94	10.33	10.73	11.13	11.52
Jun	7.94	8.33	8.73	9.13	9.52	9.92	10.32	10.71	11.11	11.51
Jul	8.18	8.59	9.00	9.41	9.82	10.23	10.64	11.05	11.45	11.86
Aug	8.49	8.92	9.34	9.77	10.19	10.62	11.04	11.47	11.89	12.31
Sep	8.68	9.11	9.54	9.98	10.41	10.85	11.28	11.71	12.15	12.58
Oct	8.73	9.17	9.61	10.04	10.48	10.92	11.35	11.79	12.23	12.66
3Q24	8.45	8.87	9.29	9.72	10.14	10.57	10.99	11.41	11.83	12.25
4Q24	8.65	9.08	9.52	9.94	10.38	10.81	11.24	11.68	12.11	12.54
1Q25	8.43	8.85	9.27	9.69	10.12	10.54	10.96	11.38	11.80	12.22
2Q25	8.24	8.66	9.07	9.48	9.89	10.30	10.72	11.13	11.54	11.95
2025	8.18	8.59	9.00	9.41	9.82	10.23	10.64	11.05	11.45	11.86
2026	7.71	8.09	8.48	8.86	9.25	9.63	10.02	10.40	10.79	11.17

Oil-linked LNG on previous-month crude average (101) contract (29 Apr 2024)										\$/mn Btu
Delivery	10pc	10.5pc	11pc	11.5pc	12pc	12.5pc	13pc	13.5pc	14pc	14.5pc
May	8.17	8.58	8.99	9.40	9.81	10.22	10.62	11.03	11.44	11.85
Jun	8.47	8.89	9.31	9.74	10.16	10.58	11.01	11.43	11.85	12.28
Jul	8.84	9.28	9.72	10.17	10.61	11.05	11.49	11.93	12.38	12.82
Aug	8.72	9.16	9.59	10.03	10.46	10.90	11.34	11.77	12.21	12.64
Sep	8.64	9.07	9.51	9.94	10.37	10.80	11.23	11.67	12.10	12.53
Oct	8.57	9.00	9.42	9.85	10.28	10.71	11.14	11.57	12.00	12.42
3Q24	8.73	9.17	9.61	10.05	10.48	10.92	11.35	11.79	12.23	12.66
4Q24	8.50	8.92	9.35	9.77	10.20	10.62	11.05	11.47	11.90	12.32
1Q25	8.30	8.72	9.13	9.55	9.96	10.38	10.79	11.21	11.62	12.04
2Q25	8.14	8.54	8.95	9.35	9.76	10.17	10.57	10.98	11.39	11.79
2025	8.08	8.49	8.89	9.29	9.70	10.10	10.50	10.91	11.31	11.72
2026	7.65	8.03	8.41	8.79	9.17	9.56	9.94	10.32	10.70	11.08

Crude oil forward prices												\$/bl
	Jun 2024	Jul 2024	Aug 2024	Sep 2024	Oct 2024	Nov 2024	Dec 2024	Jan 2025	Feb 2025	Mar 2025	Apr 2025	May 2025
Argus Calculated Japanese Crude Cocktail	93.45	93.39	92.66	91.95	91.28	90.63	90.00	89.41	88.86	88.35	87.87	87.44
Ice Brent (Singapore close)	88.52	87.34	86.59	85.87								

Months 13-24 available to LNG Daily data subscribers. Months 25-47 available to Asia Crude Oil Forward Curves subscribers.

JAPAN, KOREA AND TAIWAN LNG PRICES

Argus Japan, South Korea, Taiwan des spot LNG					\$/mn Btu
	Delivery	Bid	Offer	Mid	±
Japan, South Korea, Taiwan	2H May	9.18	10.04	9.610	-0.395
	1H Jun	9.25	10.11	9.680	-0.395
	2H Jun	9.27	10.13	9.700	-0.385
	1H Jul	9.39	10.25	9.820	-0.355



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