Energy Infrastructure and Trade Route Disruption: Global Timeline

September 12, 2026

Updated through August 2026

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[Note: We continue to update this timeline, which we first published on May 4, 2026. Below the timeline, you will find comments about the implications and key impacts of these events, organized by monthly update.]

Every day, Solari adds links to our News Trends & Stories Aggregator. Catherine uses this database of top stories and events to prepare her weekly Money & Markets discussions with John Titus.

On occasion, we decide to take a deeper look at important patterns. The ongoing sabotage or destruction of oil and gas production and refining and transportation facilities worldwide is one such pattern. Rising costs or renegotiated agreements relating to trade channels and bottlenecks are closely related. We expect these events to have a dramatic impact on trade relations and the global economy.

We have made and fact-checked a chronology of these events so far this year (see Timeline and Key Statistics/Notes/Key Impacts below). We welcome comments and additions from subscribers—you can post in the comments section.

TIMELINE

Blue = Accidental or Possible Sabotage

Red = War-related

JANUARY 2026

Jan. 13

Ukraine War / Black Sea

Matilda tanker (Maltese-flagged) attacked by two Ukrainian unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in the Black Sea.

Jan. 14 – Near city of Almetyevsk, Russia

Ukraine War

Ukrainian strike drones hit the Kaleykino facility on the Druzhba pipeline. Kaleykino becomes a critical bottleneck—approximately 100,000 tons/year of crude (about a quarter of Russia's annual oil exports) flow through it.

Jan. 16 – Pine County, Minnesota, USA

Explosion to Northern Natural Gas Pipeline

Owned by Berkshire Hathaway Energy

The rupture ignited in two locations, causing evacuations and leaving hundreds of homes without heat during sub-zero temperatures. The 28-mile pipeline connects to an offshore rig and is part of Delfin LNG's proposed floating liquefied natural gas export terminal project in the Gulf of Mexico. It is fully operational again.

Mid- to late January

Caspian

Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) exports fell to 800,000–900,000 bpd [barrels per day], more than half below September 2025 levels, following the late-November 2025 drone attack that disabled mooring SPM-2. Kazakhstan losing ~$1 billion per month. CPC exports fell 45% from planned volumes in January 2026.

Jan. 27

Ukraine War

Russian oil shipments via the Druzhba pipeline to Hungary and Slovakia halted due to damage to the pipeline on Ukrainian territory in Lviv region. Ukrainian officials blame a Russian drone strike. Exports to Hungary and Slovakia effectively were halted. Resumed on April 23, 2026.

There were 23 Ukrainian strikes in January on Russian oil-processing, transport/storage, and industrial facilities, with seven successful strikes in January alone on Russian oil depots.

FEBRUARY 2026

Feb. 3 – Cameron Parish, Louisiana, USA

Fire at Delfin LNG Pipeline

Owned by Delfin Midstream – Parent Company: Fairwood Peninsula Energy Corp – Private Company with Shareholders. Minority Stakes: Vitol, Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Enbridge

A 42-inch line ruptured and exploded during routine maintenance, creating a massive fireball. It was contained pretty quickly. The first phase of Delfin LNG is designed to consist of up to three floating LNG units connected to existing onshore pipeline infrastructure through a deepwater port 50 miles south of the Louisiana coast.

Feb. 11

Ukraine War

Major Ukrainian drone strike on the Lukoil-Volgogradneftepererabotka refinery (one of Russia's largest, processing ~5% of Russian throughput). Crude distillation unit damaged—accounts for ~40% of the refinery's 140,000 bpd capacity. First major

Russian refinery shutdown linked to drone strikes in 2026.

Feb. 12

Ukraine War

Ukrainian drones damage a major Russian refinery in Ukhta (near-Arctic). First recorded deep-strike attack at this latitude.

Feb. 15–20

Iran War (pre-war)

Iran triples its oil export rate and draws down storage. Saudi Arabia takes similar steps. Iran conducts a temporary partial closure of the Strait of Hormuz mid-February, framed as a military drill; oil prices spike ~6%. War-risk ship insurance premiums for the strait rise from 0.125% to 0.2%–0.4% of ship insurance value per transit.

Feb. 17

Ukraine War

Ukrainian drones damage a Russian refinery near Krasnodar.

Feb. 19

Ukraine War

Neftogorsk gas-processing facility in Samara region struck. NASA satellites observe fires still burning two days later.

Feb. 19 – El Segundo, California, USA
Explosion at Chevron Refinery
Owned by Chevron Corp.
Top shareholders: Vanguard Group, State Street, BlackRock, Berkshire Hathaway
Capacity: 269,000 bpd
Supplies over 40% of Southern California's aviation fuel and 20% of automotive. It is the largest oil-producing oil refinery on the West Coast. This came after an explosion in October of 2025, raising concerns.

Feb. 23
Ukraine War
Ukrainian long-range kamikaze drones (35+ aircraft strike package flying 1,500 km) pummel the Kaleykino oil pumping station near Almetyevsk, Tatarstan. Multiple hits on pump lines and storage reservoirs at the Transneft-operated Druzhba facility. Fires visible for hundreds of meters. This is the key transit node

for Druzhba deliveries to Hungary and Slovakia. Resumed on April 23, 2026.

Feb. 28

Iran War (war begins)

U.S. and Israel launch ~900 strikes in 12 hours (Operation Epic Fury / Operation Roaring Lion). Opening salvo kills Supreme Leader Khamenei. Iran begins retaliatory missile/drone barrages across the Gulf. IRGC claims drone strike on Honduras-flagged tanker Athe Nova in the Strait of Hormuz. Iranian strike on UAE's Fujairah Oil Industry Zone causes debris fire. Airspace closures begin across Bahrain, Iraq, Israel, Kuwait, Qatar, Syria, UAE. Over 4,000 daily flight cancellations follow.

MARCH 2026

Mar. 1 – Ecuador

Fire – Petroecuador's Esmeraldas Oil Refinery

Owned by Ecuadorian government. Accounts for 63% of Ecuador's Total Refining Capacity.
Country's largest oil refinery. Fire in charge pumps during maneuvers to restart the plant. Third time in nine months. Capacity: 110,000 barrels/day. March 5th declared state of emergency. March 16 resumed

operations at half capacity, hoping to reach full capacity by May.

Mar. 1

Iran War

Major drone attack on Abu Dhabi and Dubai's Jebel Ali port (world's 11th-largest container port); DP World suspends operations. Bellingcat later documents two fires at Dubai's port including an area used by U.S. Navy. Palau-flagged tanker Skylight (Iranian shadow fleet) struck and set ablaze off Musandam, Oman. MKD Vyom struck off Oman—one killed. Hercules Star struck off UAE.

Mar. 2

Iran War

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officially declares the Strait of Hormuz closed. Automatic identification system (AIS) transmissions go dark. No U.S., UK, or EU-flagged vessels transit. Approximately 26 tankers drifting in Gulf; hundreds holding in Gulf of Oman.

Mar. 2

Iran War — Saudi

Ras Tanura refinery (550,000 bpd, Saudi Arabia's largest) hit by two Iranian drones. Debris fire. Aramco halts operations for ~16 days. Juaymah LPG exports halted.

Mar. 2

Iran War — Qatar

QatarEnergy halts LNG production after drone strikes target Ras Laffan (world's largest LNG complex, ~20% of global supply) and Mesaieed Industrial City. European TTF gas prices spike 45% to €46.19/MWh (4-year high).

Mar. 2

Iran War — Kuwait/Iraq/Bahrain

Kuwait Mina Al Ahmadi refinery (346K bpd) damaged. U.S.-flagged tanker Stena Imperative struck twice at port of Bahrain—worker killed. Iraqi tankers Zefyros and Safesea Vishnu attacked and catch fire in Iraqi waters; Iraqi oil terminals suspend operations. Halliburton compounds in Basra hit.

Mar. 3

Iran War

Sonangol Namibe tanker struck by sea drone near Kuwait's Mubarak Al Kabeer Port—800+ km from the strait. Oil spill.

Mar. 4

Iran War

QatarEnergy declares force majeure on gas contracts. Pakistan requests Saudi reroute oil via Yanbu on Red Sea. Brent crosses $120/bbl [barrel of crude oil].

Mar. 5

Iran War

War-risk protection and indemnity (P&I) insurance withdrawn for Strait of Hormuz; premiums multiply 10× in following days. Safeen Prestige tugboat struck by missiles and sinks.

Mar. 5 – Channelview, Texas, USA

Fire at Petromax Refining

Private company owned by NorthBridge Partners, with Investors

Capacity: 25,000 bpd

A process upset at a pump within the atmospheric gasoil unit. Was under control pretty quickly.

Mar. 7

Iran War

IRGC claims drone strikes on Malta-flagged Prima and U.S. tanker Louis P. Kuwait Petroleum Corporation declares force majeure.

Mar. 7

Iran War — major escalation

Israeli air strikes hit Iranian oil facilities for the first time: Tondgouyan (Shahr Rey), Shahran (Tehran City), Aghdasieh (NE Tehran), Fardis (Karaj). "River of fire," toxic soot, and acid rain over Tehran. Iran retaliates on Haifa oil refinery.

Mar. 8

Iran War

Bahrain desalination plant struck. Iraqi southern oil production collapses 70% since war began (4.3M → 1.3M bpd). Strikes on fuel depots near Tehran cause a "river of fire" through streets; Tehran engulfed in toxic black smoke, acid rain.

Mar. 9

Iran War

Bahrain's Bapco Energies declares force majeure after Sitra refinery complex strike (400K bpd—Bahrain's only refinery). Thirty-two civilians injured.

Mar. 10

Iran War / Baltic

Mine laying confirmed in Hormuz by U.S. military intelligence. Only two outbound Hormuz crossings, zero inbound. Bulk carrier transits down 44%; dry-bulk down ~91%. ~280 bulk carriers stranded.

Mar. 11

Ukraine War

Ukrainian drone strikes cause fires at oil depots in Nizhny Novgorod and Oryol Oblasts.

Mar. 12

Iran War

GCC oil production collectively down ≥10 million bpd. Khalifa Bin Salman port (Bahrain)—Maersk's APM Terminals suspends operations. Saudi Red Sea export pivot: 27 VLCCs [Very Large Crude Carriers] heading for Yanbu.

Mar. 13

Iran War / Ukraine War

Iran war: Saudi Arabia cuts production by 20% (10M → 8M bpd); Safaniya field shut down. U.S. bombs Kharg Island—90 targets, oil infrastructure deliberately spared. Ukraine war: Drones set fire to Rosneft's Ryazan Refinery (Russia's 7th-largest).

Mar. 14

Iran War

Parimal struck east of Khor Fakkan (UAE)—15 evacuated, captain missing. Indian tankers Shivalik and Nanda Devi given safe passage via India-Iran diplomacy.

Mar. 17 – Paraiso, Tabasco, Mexico
Fire & Explosion – Olmeca (Dos Bocas) Refinery
PEMEX is owned by Mexico. Capacity in 2025 reached 320,000 bpd. It is the most significant refinery in Mexico for energy independence.
Operated by PEMEX. Five killed. This was the second incident at the site in quick succession. An April 9 follow-up fire was confined to a petroleum coke warehouse with no injuries reported. PEMEX attributes the cause to heavy rains causing oil-contaminated water to overflow the facility's perimeter and ignite. First of four major safety incidents at Dos Bocas in 23 days. No fatalities.

Mar. 18
Iran War — major escalation
Israel strikes Iran's South Pars gas field / Asaluyeh complex. South Pars produces 730M m^3/day (~70% of Iran's domestic gas). Two refineries halted. Refinery #4 near-totally destroyed per satellite imagery. Within

hours, Iran retaliates on Qatar's Ras Laffan—destroying two LNG trains (12.8M tons/year combined, 17% of Qatar's capacity). Shell's Pearl GTL (world's largest gas-to-liquids plant) damaged. Repairs projected at 3–5 years.

Mar. 19

Iran War

Samref refinery (Saudi, ExxonMobil JV) drone strike. Mina Abdullah refinery (Kuwait) fire. Habshan (UAE's largest gas processing plant) suspended after fire. Yanbu port loadings briefly halted.

Mar. 21

Iran War

Bulk carrier explosion 15 nm north of Sharjah. UN Secretary-General calls for strait reopening.

Mar. 22–23

Ukraine War — major

Ukrainian drones strike Primorsk port (Russia's largest Baltic oil export hub, ~1M bpd capacity). Fuel depot ignited, most terminal berths and two tankers set on fire. Operations suspended. Ust-Luga (~700K bpd) also reportedly halted.

Mar. 23 – Valero, Texas, USA

Explosion – Valero Oil Refinery in Port Arthur, Texas

Valero Energy Corporation > Top: BlackRock, State Street, Vanguard

Capacity 435,000 bpd – refinery has partially restarted. Major supplier of jet fuel, 3.7% of all refining capacity on U.S. Gulf Coast, accounting for 10-12 million drivers.

Valero Refinery is one of the largest refineries in the United States. Central part of critical infrastructure in the U.S. Investigations showed it was an accident due to equipment failure. Litigation ongoing. Due to several past explosions in 2007, 2012, and 2022, with over 600 air-quality violations during that time, we would rule this as a likely accident but wouldn't discount sabotage.

Mar. 24

Iran War / Ukraine War

Iran war: QatarEnergy formally declares force majeure on long-term LNG supply contracts (including Italy, Belgium, South Korea, China). Ukraine war: Ukrainian strikes on the Kropotkinskaya CPC base.

Mar. 24–25

Ukraine War

SBU and General Staff confirm drone strike on Ust-Luga using Alpha Special Operations Center long-range drones (900+ km flight).

Mar. 25–26

Ukraine War

Ukraine strikes the KINEF Kirishi refinery—Leningrad region—one of Russia's top three, ~355,000 bpd. Russia's Defense Ministry reports downing 125 drones across 13 regions.

Mar. 26

Ukraine War / Iran War

Ukraine war: Third strike in five days on Ust-Luga and Primorsk ports (together handle two million bpd of Russian crude exports). NASA satellite data confirms fires at both ports. Severstal blast furnace in Cherepovets struck same night. Iran war: Iranian navy commander Tangsiri (accused of ordering Hormuz closure) killed in Israeli air strike.

Mar. 27

Iran War

Bushehr nuclear power plant grounds struck. Mayuree

Naree tanker aground on Qeshm Island. IRGC formally bans all vessels going to/from U.S., Israeli, or allied ports.

Mar. 28

Iran War

Houthis formally join war with missile/drone strikes on Israel. Opens Red Sea front. Salalah port (Oman) suspended after attack. Yemen's Abed al-Thawr: "We will use the trump card of closing the Bab al-Mandab."

Mar. 29

Ukraine War / Caspian

Drones hit Primorsk port (third strike in ~one week). Oil storage tanks damaged with satellite-confirmed fires. NORSI refinery (Nizhny Novgorod, Russia's 4th-largest, 320K bpd) hit—fire forces suspension. Russian oil exports down 43% for week of March 22–29 (4.07M → 2.32M bpd)—estimated $1 billion lost revenue.

APRIL 2026

Apr. 1

Iran War

Shahid Haghani port (Bandar Abbas, Iran)—U.S./Israeli strikes.

Apr. 3

Iran War

Mina Al-Ahmadi (Kuwait)—multiple operational units fire (facility had already been hit twice).

Apr. 5

Iran War

Kuwait Petroleum Corporation Shuwaikh complex and two power-and-desalination plants hit by Iranian drones. KPC headquarters hit. Bahrain Bapco storage facility hit again. Gulf Petrochemical Industries Co. fire. Ruwais (UAE—one of world's biggest refineries) multiple debris fires. Khor Fakkan port fire.

Apr. 5

Ukraine War

NORSI refinery (Nizhny Novgorod Russia) and Tuapse refinery (Krasnodar Krai Russia) hit. Both sustain fires and operational disruptions. Tuapse hit twice within one week.

Apr. 6

Ukraine War — CPC strike

Ukrainian drones attack the Caspian Pipeline Consortium's marine terminal at Novorossiysk. Single mooring point pipeline damaged; four oil product storage tanks caught fire. CPC handles ~1% of global oil supply and ~80% of Kazakhstan's exports. Same night: strikes hit Sheskharis oil terminal (Novorossiysk)—Russia's largest oil hub, handles up to 1 million bpd or ~20% of Russia's seaborne exports.

Apr. 7

Iran War

Fresh U.S. strikes on Kharg Island—50+ military targets. Trump gives Iran 8 PM ET deadline to reopen strait. Trump threatens to destroy "every bridge and power plant in Iran."

Apr. 7–8

Iran War — ceasefire

Satorp refinery (Saudi Arabia, 460K bpd Aramco/TotalEnergies)—units halted. U.S. and Iran announce two-week ceasefire intended to include strait reopening.

Apr. 8 (ceasefire day)

Iran War — major

IRGC drone strikes a pumping station on Saudi

Arabia's East-West Pipeline (Petroline)—the 1,200-km bypass of Hormuz. Saudis had boosted throughput to 5+ million bpd to compensate for Hormuz closure. Strike cuts throughput by 700,000 bpd. Restored April 12. Occurs hours after ceasefire announcement. Same day: Lavan oil refinery (Iran) hit—crude seeps from tanks into the Persian Gulf.

Apr. 9

Fire at Olmeca (Dos Bocas) Refinery

PEMEX is owned by Mexico. Capacity in 2025 reached 320,000 bpd.
Second fire at Mexico's Dos Bocas refinery in <four weeks—petroleum coke warehouse fire. 150+ PEMEX specialists respond. Minor injury. Controlled by 6:25 PM.

Apr. 9

Iran War

Saudi Arabia acknowledges extensive recent attacks. Manifa (-300K bpd), Khurais (-300K bpd), Majnoon field (Iraq) targeted, Riyadh's 120K bpd refinery attacked. Lanaz (Erbil, Iraq) suspended.

Apr. 9

Iran War — Red Sea threats

Houthi deputy FM Hussein al-Ezzi publicly threatens to close Bab el-Mandeb. Velayati: "The unified command of the Resistance front views Bab al-Mandeb as it does Hormuz."

Apr. 11–12
Iran War — talks collapse
U.S.–Iran Islamabad talks end without agreement. Trump says he no longer cares about negotiations.

Apr. 13 (U.S. blockade)
Iran War
Trump announces U.S. Navy blockade of Iranian ports. CENTCOM deploys 10,000+ personnel, 12+ warships, dozens of aircraft. Six ships redirected in first 24 hours.

Apr. 14 – Singhitarai, India
Boiler Explosion at Vedanta Limited Chhattisgarh Thermal Power Plant
Owned by Volcan Investments Limited, Controlled by Anil Agarwal (43.6%).
Foreign Institutional Investors (small): Vanguard Group, BlackRock + Mutual Fund Companies
A boiler explosion at this coal-fired power plant killed 19 people and injured others during routine

operations. Rupture of a steel tube carrying high-pressure steam from boiler to turbine. Plant is still shut down, pending investigations. FIR filed against Vedanta Chairman Anil Agarwal and others for negligence.

Apr. 15
Iran War
U.S. air strikes hit Iran's B1 bridge between Tehran and Karaj—Iran's largest, under construction—collapses. Death toll 13. Simultaneous strikes on multiple railway lines, freeways, and roads across Iran. Railway bridge in Kashan (2 killed). Tabriz-Zanjan highway bridge hit.

Apr. 15
Baltic
Sweden reports pro-Russian hackers attempted to breach a thermal power plant (cyber dimension of hybrid warfare now targeting power generation).

Apr. 15-16 – Victoria, Australia
Fire at Viva Energy's Geelong Refinery
Owned by Viva Energy Group Limited – 29% Vitol Investment Partnership, 36% institutional investors: Ubique Asset Mgmt, State Street, Perpetual Limited, L1 Capital, Vanguard Group, and so on. BlackRock

has a small share. Rest are retail/public shareholders.
Capacity: 120,000 bpd
Supplies over 50% of Victoria's and 10% of Australia's fuel.
Investigators say that the fire was caused by a faulty mechanical part that allowed for highly flammable gasses and liquid hydrocarbons to escape, which ignited, causing multiple explosions. They ruled out sabotage. Currently operating at 60% capacity for petrol and 80% for diesel and jet fuel. One of Australia's only two operating oil refineries.

Apr. 16-17 – Haripur, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Pakistan in Hattar Industrial Estate
Ruptured Sui Northern Gas Pipeline
Majority Owner – Government of Pakistan, some U.S. investors have a small stake.
Ruptured and ignited, triggering a massive fire that engulfed nearby residential quarters. (Eight dead). Still under investigation, only partial operations have resumed.

Apr. 18 – Blaine, Washington, USA
Explosion at BP Cherry Point Refinery
The explosion happened during a "planned

maintenance," and it is not fully up and running yet. It is still under inspection and investigation, but they claim the unit is not damaged and the refinery is still moving forward with major fuel commitments.

Apr. 18

Iran War

Iran declares Strait of Hormuz formally closed in response to U.S. blockade. Iranian gunboats fire on Sanmar Herald (India-bound) after giving clearance. Two Iranian gunboats fire on a second tanker 20 nm NE of Oman without radio warning. Container vessel hit by projectile 25 nm NE of Oman.

Apr. 19

Iran War

U.S. Navy fires on and seizes Iranian container ship in Gulf of Oman. U.S. Marines have custody of the vessel and Trump said that it is "under U.S. Treasury Sanctions because of their prior history of illegal activity."

Apr. 20

Industrial — U.S.

Well site explosion in Etoile, Nacogdoches County, East Texas (~140 miles NE of Houston) triggers a large fire visible for miles and forces evacuations. Natural gas/oil well. No injuries. Cause under investigation.

Apr. 20–21
Ukraine War
Ukrainian SSU Special Operations Centre Alpha drones strike the Samara line production and dispatch station (Prosvet, Samara Oblast). Damages five 20,000-m³ crude oil storage tanks. Station mixes high- and low-sulphur oil to produce the Urals export blend —a key Russian crude benchmark. Samara and Ulyanovsk airports temporarily closed. This is a critical Druzhba pipeline node.

Apr. 20 – Pachpadra, Balotra, Rajasthan, India
Explosion at HPCL Rajasthan Refinery Ltd
Hindustan Petroleum 74% Equity Stake and Gov of Rajasthan 26% Stake
Capacity: 9 million tonnes per annum (fuel and petrochemical)
Exchanger explosion in crude distillation unit caused a major fire. $9.5 billion refinery-petrochemical project. Preliminary investigation suggests a hydrocarbon leak from a valve or flange in the heat exchanger circuit

that erupted into a fire, a day before the scheduled inauguration of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. It was in commissioning and trial phase when the explosion occurred. Still planning to be operational in 2026, but running late.

Apr. 20 – Bucharest, Romania
Explosion at CET Vest Power Plant
97.51% owned by Romanian Government– 2.49% Owned by Romgaz > Goldman Sachs Asset Mgmt holds a small stake
A powerful explosion occurred at the CET Vest district heating/power plant (a key thermal facility serving the city), involving electrical transformers containing 30-40 tons of insulating oil. The incident severed the hot water and heating supply to over 2,300 apartment buildings. Partial operation. Can take up to a full year to get back to full operations.

Apr. 20 – Etoile, Texas, USA
Explosion at Oil Well
Revenant Energy operates this asset as part of a major development agreement with Black Stone Minerals, L.P. (BSM). Institutional Investors in Black Stone Minerals > Morgan Stanley, Rice University, Bank of

America, Fidelity
An explosion at a Texas natural gas/oil well site set off a large fire that was seen for miles and led to some evacuations. The fire was triggered by a "blowout"—an uncontrolled release of natural gas following a failure in pressure control. It's still burning today.

Apr. 20-21 – Homalin, Sagaing Region, Myanmar
Explosion at River Port along the Chindwin River
A major explosion at the river port along the Chindwin River ignited a blaze that engulfed more than 10 fuel tankers and 22 boats. It happened while loading fuel onto boats.

Apr. 21
Iran War
Ceasefire expiring this week; tensions teetering on renewed open war. Hormuz traffic down >90%.

Apr. 22 – Erbil, Iraqi Kurdistan
Fire at Khazir Refinery
Owned by local private businessmen
Capacity: 75,000 bpd
Under investigation—cause unknown thus far—possible sabotage.

Apr. 22 – Institute, West Virginia, USA

Explosion at Catalyst Refiners

A "violent chemical reaction" was triggered when nitric acid was accidentally mixed with a chemical known as M2000A (or M200A) during tank decommissioning. The facility was scheduled to permanently close in June 2026.

MAY 2026

May – Russia

18 Targets – Explosions and Fires to Refineries

Throughout the month of May, Ukrainian long-range strikes targeted 18 refineries and fuel logistics facilities in Russia, crippling central Russia's refineries. As of May, Ukraine has knocked out nearly 10% of Russia's total oil refining capacity. Details on one of these targets is documented below.

May – Ukraine

Bombing Multiple Energy Facilities

Russia continues to inflict severe damage across Ukraine's entire energy sector, with an official assessment indicating that every single power plant in Ukraine has been damaged or degraded. During the month of May, Russia carried out its largest single missile attack of 2026 with 90 missiles and 600 drones, targeting Kyiv and surrounding regions. Ukraine once possessed six major oil refineries, but only one was fully operational until Russia destroyed it in 2022. They are now 100% dependent on importing fuel.

Apr 26-28, May 1, and May 27 – Tuapse, Russia (Black Sea)
Multiple Explosions at Rosneft Tuapse Refinery & Oil Terminal
Ukrainian drone strikes—Numerous tank explosions, two oil storage tanks destroyed, and pumping station in oil depot destroyed. State of emergency declared, residents evacuated, total halt of refinery production. Environmental disaster with oil spills extending offshore and contamination of Tuapse River and coastline. It was one of the largest oil refineries in Russia, producing roughly 240,000 bpd, and has been out of operation since mid-April due to the multiple hits it has taken from Ukraine.

May 8 – St. Bernard Parish, Louisiana
Chalmette Refinery Explosion
Owned by PBF Holding
Explosion broke out in a 17,500-bpd reformer unit.

No injuries, fire was put out rather quickly, and it is still under investigation. The previous inspector (terminated in 2025) had filed a lawsuit for safety issues just three weeks prior to this fire.

May 22 – East Los Angeles, California
Ruptured Crude Oil Pipeline at Line 63
A telecommunications crew ruptured Line 63 when working on a fiber-optic line, spilling roughly 2,400 gallons of crude oil which overflowed into the Los Angeles River causing a massive cleanup and wildlife rescue.

May 28 – Dallas, Texas
Oak Cliff Pipeline Explosion
Owned by Atmos Energy
A construction crew, unrelated to Atmos Energy, accidentally ruptured a natural gas distribution pipeline that leveled a two-story residential apartment building, killing three people and injuring several others.

JUNE 2026

June 7-8 – Israel and Iran
Missile Strikes on Petrochemical Facilities
Israel struck a petrochemical facility in southwestern

Iran—the first confirmed strike on Iranian energy infrastructure since the April 8 ceasefire. Iran retaliated with missile strikes on Haifa's industrial zone, home to the Bazan Group refinery—Israel's largest—plus multiple chemical plants and storage terminals. Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) officially announced (Iran International) that they targeted the Bazan Group oil refinery and energy infrastructure in Haifa late Sunday, June 7 into Monday, June 8. They framed it as direct "precise revenge" for the Israeli strike on the Mahshahr petrochemical complex (Instagram video report). The Israeli military did not publicly confirm a direct hit on the Bazan refinery for the June 8 date (Firstpost). See also Israel and Iran appear to pause strikes after trading fire for the first time since April ceasefire (AP).

June 16-18 – Moscow, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Moscow's Kapotnva Oil Refinery

Waves of Ukrainian drones hit a major oil refinery in the city for the second time this week. Local commercial flights were also disrupted. The strike exacerbated a severe, nationwide refined product deficit (domestic fuel shortages). By June 24, at least

55 of Russia's 83 regions had imposed mandatory restrictions on gasoline and diesel sales. President Vladimir Putin publicly acknowledged energy shortages and long lines at gas stations. Given strict international sanctions on specialized refining equipment, repairs are anticipated to take six months or longer. See also:

- Ukrainian drones set another Russian oil refinery ablaze as Putin admits fuel shortages
- Moscow refinery ablaze as Ukraine launches biggest attack on Russian capital in years
- Fuel shortages spread across 50+ Russian regions as refinery strikes knock out quarter of output

June 18 – Baku, Azerbaijan

Heydar Aliyev Oil Refinery Fire

A localized fire erupted at the SOCAR oil refinery located in Baku's Nizami district.

Details & Impact: As Azerbaijan's only active oil-processing facility, any threat to it carries heavy regional energy implications. First responders brought the blaze under control rapidly that morning, preventing a catastrophic explosion. SOCAR Downstream LLC confirmed that no casualties occurred and production was not disrupted, avoiding what could have been a major Black Sea export supply shock.

June 21 – Qatar

Massive Explosion – Barzan Gas Processing Plant at Ras Laffan Industrial City

Occurred during the start-up phase after a long maintenance shutdown. The technical accident resulted in 13 deaths and 66 injuries, forcing a major disruption in local energy production. This supply is primarily used to fuel local electricity generation and power critical water desalination plants. A full restart is not expected for several months.

"One week after a mysterious explosion—attributed to a 'technical incident'—at Qatar's massive Ras Laffan industrial city killed dozens and set back restoration and recovery efforts at the giant LNG production facility by weeks if not months, a helicopter belonging to Saudi oil giant Aramco crashed on Sunday in Ras Tanura on Saudi Arabia's eastern coast on the Gulf, west of the Strait of Hormuz, killing 14 nationals, the state news agency reported, adding that the cause was unknown." (Saudi Aramco helicopter crash kills 14 in Ras Tanura, cause unknown)

See also:

- The Qatar gas plant explosion: what we know so far
- 2026 Ras Laffan explosion
- Qatar says gas export terminal blast killed 13 as workers tried to resume operations after Iran bombed it

June 27-28 – Slavyansk-on-Kuban and Yaroslavl Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes Targeted Two Major Russian Refineries

Ukraine executed a synchronized long-range drone operation targeting two major refineries simultaneously. While the Slavyansk-on-Kuban strike took place in the south, the second strike targeted a top-five refinery near Yaroslavl, deep inside Russian territory. Slavyansk Oil Refinery is an independent oil refinery and one of the group's key assets, focused on primary and secondary crude oil processing with a strong emphasis on exports. (See also One of Russia's biggest oil refineries burns following drone strike)

JULY 2026

Key recent information pertaining to Ukraine's drone strikes targeting Russia's refineries, from Ukraine's drone war is coming to American factories:

"Modern wars are won by those who can turn battlefield lessons into mass-produced technology faster than their adversaries. This month, the United States and Ukraine took a step toward doing exactly that. The two countries signed preliminary documents on drone cooperation that would allow Ukrainian systems to be sent to the United States for Pentagon testing, as negotiations over a broader bilateral 'drone deal' continue. 'The emerging partnership is aimed at turning Kyiv's battlefield-tested drone industry into a source of weapons, technology and manufacturing capacity for the U.S. military. It is important that Ukraine is now able to send its drones to the United States for testing,' Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said after meeting with U.S. Ambassador to NATO Matthew Whitaker on July 22. His office said the signed documents brought the two countries closer to a wider agreement. This budding Ukraine-U.S. partnership is taking several forms: Pentagon testing of Ukrainian drones, American factories operated by Ukrainian companies, joint ventures with

U.S. manufacturers, access to American capital markets and potential transfers of software and battlefield doctrine."

July 2 – Ukraine

Nord Stream Pipeline – Indictment

German federal prosecutors released an official statement regarding the indictment of a Ukrainian military officer, and stated that the Nord Stream gas pipeline sabotage was ordered by Ukrainian state authorities involving a team of Ukrainian military personnel who used a chartered yacht to plant explosives. Investigators claim the operation aimed to permanently halt Russian natural gas supplies to Europe and cut off war-funding revenues for Moscow. The accused denies all charges.

- Nord Stream blast ordered by Ukraine, say German prosecutors

July 2 – Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on NORSI Refinery

Russia's fourth-largest oil refinery, owned by Lukoil, was hit for a second time on July 2, 2026. The drone strike heavily damaged its primary crude processing unit (CDU-6), which accounts for 53% of the refinery's capacity, forcing a total suspension of crude processing.

- [What has been hit in Ukraine's attacks on Russian energy sites?]

July 6 – Novo-Yaroslavl, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Slavneft-YANOS Oil Refinery

Sustained a large-scale fire and structural damage from a July drone strike campaign. Detailed by Ukrinform/Ukranews.

- [Drones attack one of largest refineries in Russia: large-scale fire broke out after the explosions]

July 6 – Omsk, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Omsk Oil Refinery Owned and Operated by Gazprom Neft

Russia's largest oil refinery was hit by a sweeping series of Ukrainian drone attacks in early July, forcing a temporary shutdown of operations. Marked the first known strike on this facility and one of the deepest long-range drone attacks inside Russian territory. The facility still remains largely offline with its primary processing units severely disabled, removing approximately 440,000 barrels per day.

- At least 2 killed in Russia as Ukraine hits multiple oil refineries (Moscow Times)
- Ukraine knocked out nearly half of Russia's oil refining capacity

July 9 – Bushehr Province, Iran

U.S. Projectiles Targeted Military Infrastructure Near Bushehr Nuclear Power Plant

Perimeter Strikes and Localized Damage: Reports from Al Arabiya confirm that U.S. projectiles targeted the plant's outer perimeter on July 9, 2026, during an ongoing military campaign, hitting adjacent support zones but leaving the core reactor operating normally.

Power Grid and Infrastructure Failure: On July 22, 2026, a separate U.S. missile strike targeted and disabled an electrical power substation directly feeding the area, causing widespread outages in Bushehr city and neighboring villages, as documented by Anadolu Agency.

- Iran says US projectile hit area around Bushehr nuclear plant

July 9 – Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Saratov Oil Refinery

The Saratov Oil Refinery suspended all crude processing operations on July 9, 2026, after a drone strike hit its primary refining unit, CDU-6, with a capacity of 20,000 tons per day.

- Key Russian oil refinery halts production following Ukrainian attack, Reuters reports

July 10 – Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Ilsky Oil Refinery

Located in the southern Krasnodar region, this facility was struck on July 10, 2026, igniting substantial fires across its primary fuel storage and separation units.

- What has been hit in Ukraine's attacks on Russian energy sites?

July 12 – Syzran, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Rosneft Syzran Oil Refinery

The refinery was targeted as part of a massive, coordinated overnight operation. This wave also hit 10 Russian tankers and four ferries in the Sea of Azov. The refinery took on severe physical damage to its primary processing units and likely won't be fully operational for months.

- Every primary unit at a Rosneft refinery is burning—100% of its crude processing capacity

July 14 – Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Gazprom Neftekhim Salavat Refinery

Both of the plant's primary processing units were damaged and shut down. These are CDU-6, with a capacity of 17,140 tonnes per day, and CDU-4, which can process 11,430 tonnes of oil and gas condensate per day. Repairs could take weeks to months.

- Ukrainian drone attack shuts down one of Russia's largest oil refineries

July 17 – Yanbu Industrial City, Saudi Arabia

Houthi Drone and Missile Attacks on Alhamrani Fuchs Petroleum

Located on Saudi Arabia's western Red Sea coast, this joint-venture facility suffered a localized fire after a drone crashed into the property. Al Jubail was also targeted, and falling missile debris set fire to plants belonging to SABIC. A subsequent missile and drone barrage targeted the broader Yanbu export installations on July 25, 2026 (more on this below). While Greek-operated Patriot missile batteries successfully intercepted the projectiles over the oil terminal, the dual threats on Jazan and Yanbu have effectively choked Saudi Arabia's western export safety valve.

- New front in US-Iran war escalates as Houthis fire at Saudi oil facilities
- Saudi Aramco halts Abqaiq, taking ~7M bpd offline after attack
- Houthis claim attack on Saudi oil refinery as Iran war widens to Red Sea
- Houthi strike burns Jizan Aramco refinery; Yanbu attacks seals Saudi Arabia's oil trap
- Houthis fire on Saudi Red Sea oil sites
- Saudi Arabia blames Iran-backed militias for attack on oil facilities

July 20 – Lipetsk, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes and Missiles on Lipetsk Thermal Power Plant No 2

Faced localized grid shutdowns and turbine disruptions following a series of overnight drone detonations across the Lipetsk industrial zone. Verified by BBC Russian Service / Mash via Facebook and Kyiv Post.

July 20, 2026 – Gulf of Mexico

Chevron Petronius, BP, ConocoPhillips, and Valero

Chevron Petronius Platform Shutdown: On July 20, 2026, Chevron began shutting production and completely evacuating personnel onshore from its massive Petronius oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico due to the system that developed into Tropical Storm Bertha.

Worker Evacuations: Both Chevron and BP evacuated non-essential staff from multiple deepwater assets—including the Tubular Bells and Blind Faith platforms—disrupting regular drilling timelines and resulting in estimated temporary offshore losses of roughly two million barrels of crude.

Refinery Precautions: Major refining hubs across coastal Texas and Louisiana remained physically undamaged by the storm, but operators like Valero and ConocoPhillips had to activate localized storm-readiness procedures and reroute distribution networks.

- Chevron shuts production ahead of Tropical Storm Bertha
- Chevron shuts in US Gulf platform in preparation for developing tropical storm
- Chevron, BP evacuate some Gulf workers ahead of Tropical Storm Bertha….

- Gustav gusts on by

July 25, 2026 – Tyumen, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Tyumen Oil Refinery

Industry sources reported that the strike directly ignited and severely damaged a diesel hydrotreating unit (with a capacity of 2.6 million metric tons per year) and a combined high-octane gasoline production unit. The resulting fires forced the refinery to fully suspend operations. Industry experts note that it remains unclear how long repairs will take to get the systems back online.

- Tyumen oil refinery halts production after Ukrainian drone strike, sources say

July 25, 2026 – Jazan Province of Saudi Arabia

Houthi Ballistic Missile and Drone Attack on Jazan Oil Refinery

Saudi Aramco's Jazan oil refinery was struck overnight following ballistic missile and drone operations claimed by Yemen's Houthi movement. It sparked tank fires and thermal anomalies visible via satellite imagery, over the 400,000 barrel-a-day complex. The Jazan Refinery is a massive, state-of-the-art industrial complex that processes crude oil into highly refined petroleum products for both domestic use and

international export. Saudi Aramco officially implemented an emergency shutdown of the entire 400,000-barrel-per-day facility to assess the damage and begin structural repairs, which are slated to last through mid-August.
Concentrated in Storage Areas: Independent satellite imagery from the European Union's Sentinel-2 orbiter indicates the fire and damage are concentrated in the hydrocarbon storage tank farms on the eastern side of the complex.

- Houthis claim attack on Saudi oil refinery as Iran war widens to Red Sea
- Houthi strike burns Jizan Aramco refinery; Yanbu attacks seals Saudi Arabia's oil trap
- Satellites show tank fire at Saudi oil plant Jazan after attack
- Three Houthi ballistic missiles have hit Aramco refinery in Jazan. This is the 5th largest oil refinery in Saudi Arabia
- Yemen claims strikes on Aramco sites in Jizan and Yanbu after Saudi airstrikes
- Houthis claim strikes on Aramco sites in Saudi Arabia's Jizan, Yanbu
- Rebranded NNPC: What is new?

- 5 of the best oil and gas stocks to buy for high crude prices
- The biggest 25 refineries in the Middle East
- Saudi Arabia's SATORP refinery attack causes major shutdown
- MEMR confirms new oil refinery to be located on Pemping Island
- Saudi Aramco shuts Jazan oil refinery after attack, IIR note shows
- Battle damage assessment (BDA) of the Houthi strike on Saudi Aramco's Jazan Refinery (JRF)

July 25, 2026 – Tyumen, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Yugranefterazvedka Yug Oil Refinery

Ukrainian drone strike caused catastrophic damage to the refinery's infrastructure, forcing it to completely halt all crude oil processing and fuel production. The drone impact directly struck and set fire to a diesel hydrotreating unit (with an annual processing capacity of 2.6 million metric tons). They do not know how long it will take to repair due to technology import sanctions.

- Tyumen oil refinery halts production after Ukrainian drone strike, sources say

July 27, 2026 – Saudi Arabia's Eastern Province

Houthi Rebels or Iran-backed Militias Targeted Abqaiq Oil Processing & Stabilization Plant

Targeted by a heavy fleet of Houthi long-range drones. Sentinel-2 satellite imagery confirmed localized fires and structural damage near the vital processing plant. Abqaiq is essential because it processes the crude (7 million barrels per day) supplying Saudi Arabia's East-West pipeline—the primary route used to bypass the blocked Strait of Hormuz. It is also the world's largest oil processing and stabilization facility. It is fully shut down and will take weeks to months to repair.

Conflicting Claims: Yemen's Houthi rebels claimed direct responsibility for the long-range drone fleet. However, Saudi intelligence and the U.S. military believe the drones may have actually been launched by Iran-backed militias in Iraq, or operated as a coordinated multi-front assault.

- Saudi Arabia blames Iran-backed militias for attack on oil facilities
- Yemen's Houthi rebels claim strike on Saudi pipeline infrastructure

- Saudi Aramco halts Abqaiq, taking ~7M bpd offline after attack
- Saudi participation in U.S. airstrikes on Iraq signals impatience with Baghdad's inability to control armed factions
- Houthis claim drone strikes on Saudi oil facilities

July 27, 2026 – Australian Government Announcement

Due to extreme vulnerability from importing 90% of its liquid fuel, the Australian government announced an emergency plan on July 27, 2026, to fund a new large-scale refinery in Karratha, Western Australia, to shield the nation from ongoing global supply shocks.

- Potential for first Australian oil refinery in 60 years as treasurer braces for inflation from Middle East war

July 28, 2026 – Nuqat al-Khams District of Northwestern Libya

Sabotage by Protestors at the Mellitah Oil & Gas Complex

Angry protestors demonstrating against national grid failures and prolonged power cuts stormed and forcefully shut down this critical energy hub. The sabotage instantly halted output at the El Feel oil field (knocking 80,000 to 90,000 barrels per day offline), curbed production at the Al Wafa field, and briefly suspended all gas exports to Italy. Government forces regained control of the facility later that day to resume operations. Detailed reports are available via The Washington Post and Courthouse News Service.

- Protesters storm key energy complex in Libya during demonstrations over power outages
- Production at Libya's El Feel, Wafa oilfields resumes after disruption, NOC says
- Protesters storm Mellitah oil, gas complex, halt gas supplies in W. Libya
- Production resumes at Libya gas plant overrun by protesters

July 29, 2026 – Egypt

Drone Attack at Damietta LNG Port

An unidentified drone attack hit the Port of Damietta, a critical liquefied natural gas (LNG) hub near the Suez Canal. The drone struck the U.S.-owned floating storage and regasification unit Energos Winter, igniting a fire that spread to a second vessel, the GasLog Salem LNG tanker. Fires were extinguished immediately with no reported casualties. Both were moved offshore to undergo safety inspections and damage assessments.

- Egypt confirms drone caused fire on two gas vessels at Damietta

July 29, 2026 – Perm, Russia
Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Lukoil-Permneftergsintez Refinery
Targeted and heavily damaged the CDU-5 crude distillation unit, knocking out 34% of total refining output. Structural repairs will force the plant to run at a reduced 75% capacity for an extended period.

- Ukraine hits Lukoil refinery as Russian fuel risks return

July 29, 2026 – Ryazan, Russia
Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Rosneft Oil Refinery
UAV debris caused industrial fires that forced an immediate, unscheduled emergency shutdown of all crude oil processing for at least two weeks.

- Russia's Ryazan refinery has halted oil processing after drone attack, sources say

July 31, 2026 – Volgograd, Russia
Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Lukoil-Volgogradneftepererabotka Oil Refinery

Massive fires on key elements of the refinery's production facilities. Repair timeline and assessments are ongoing right now.

- Ukraine hits oil refinery in Russia's Volgograd

July 31, 2026 – Tatarstan, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Nizhnekamsk Industrial Zone Petrochemical Plant

Eyewitnesses reported over 30 explosions followed by fires in the industrial zone that is home to regional refining and synthetic facilities. One drone potentially struck the TAIF-NK facility, which is a major refining complex that produces millions of tons of crude into gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel.

- Massive drone attack hits Russia: oil refineries and Wildberries warehouses among possible targets

July 31, 2026 – Russia

By late July, Russia's nationwide gasoline production plummeted to roughly 65% of its average summer consumption. Across the country, the total volume of idled refinery capacity has hit a historic record, with 17% of Russia's entire national refining capacity entirely knocked out strictly by Ukrainian drone damage.

- Russia imports gasoline cargo from Morocco, market sources say
- Ukrainian drone strikes have disabled nearly half of Russia's oil refining capacity

AUGUST 2026

Power Grid and Critical Infrastructure Security and Maritime Trade Routes: Decree, Statement, and National Emergency

Public Statement by CSG (Consultative Shipping Group): In Defence of Free Shipping (Aug. 9)

An international coalition of 18 maritime governments has issued a joint statement emphasizing the security of global supply chains and adherence to established sea regulations. The group warns that rising geopolitical tensions and the growth of unauthorized shipping fleets threaten commercial logistics and drive up consumer costs. More than 80% of all global trade relies on maritime transport. According to The Economist, nearly 20% of tankers are bypassing baseline safety and insurance rules, creating a parallel system.

- Public statement by CSG: In defence of free shipping

- World in Brief: Britain imposes sanctions on Israeli settlers; Houthis attack Saudi Arabia

President Vladimir Putin Signed a "Repair at Any Cost" Decree – Temporary Seizure (Aug. 24 – Russia)

President Putin signed an emergency critical infrastructure decree on August 24, granting the Russian government power to temporarily seize and take over management of private facilities including energy, telecommunications, transportation, and utilities if their owners fail to prevent drone damage or delay post-strike repairs. This expands to data centers (especially if they host systems for government agencies), banks, refineries, and major service providers. According to several sources, the decree does not specify the requirements or deadlines for management takeover, and it can only be ended by Putin himself.

- Decree of the President of the Russian Federation of 24.08.2026 No. 604
- Putin decree lets Russia take control of infrastructure damaged in Ukrainian drone attacks
- Russian Offensive Campaign Assessment, August 25, 2026

- Russian data centers face new security requirements amid Ukraine's drone threats

President Trump Signed an Executive Order Declaring a National Emergency (Aug. 27 – U.S.)

To protect the electrical grid, a new directive grants the Secretary of Energy the authority to halt transactions for power equipment from foreign bodies considered security threats. This directive focuses particularly on hardware that could allow remote access or contains digital vulnerabilities. It applies to equipment operating at 69 kilovolts or above, such as industrial control software, battery storage networks, generators, and transformers. Additionally, the Department of Energy can mandate that power companies locate, quarantine, track, or swap out any compromised systems currently in use. Officials have a 120-day window to create the final rules for implementation. The policy notes that grid vulnerabilities are rising due to the swift growth of defense manufacturing, artificial intelligence, data centers, and advanced production lines. Consequently, new purchasing guidelines will be created to give preference to energy infrastructure built in the United States.

- White House declares national emergency over electric grid threat

Aug. 2 – Saratov, Saratov Oblast, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Saratov Oil Refinery

Rosneft-operated refinery was hit for the fourth time this year. The explosion caused a halt to the crude processing for two to three weeks.

- Ukraine hits Saratov refinery again as Russian fuel crisis deepens

Aug. 8 – Krasnodar Region and Samara Oblast, Russia

Ukrainian Drones Struck Ilsky Oil Refinery and Syzran Oil Refinery

A fire ignited by drone debris and was contained the next morning, but created additional strain on the site that has been repeatedly hit by drones this summer. Drones also struck key processing units at the Syzran Oil Refinery, causing several fires.

- Fire at Russia's Ilsky oil refinery put out after Ukrainian drone attack
- Ukrainian drones strike key units at Syzran Oil Refinery

Aug. 9 – Jubail Industrial City & Jizan, Saudi Arabia

Aramco Gas Facilities and Refinery Area Exploded and Caught Fire

Allegedly, Yemen's Iran-backed Houthi rebels claimed responsibility for targeting the Aramco facility with a drone strike. Secondary containment fires also impacted parts of the Jizan refinery complex. The refinery had already halted its 400,000-barrel-per-day production from July 27 attacks and was scheduled to complete repairs and restart mid-August. These fires pushed that date back.

- Fire extinguished at Aramco refinery in Jazan, Saudi Arabia says
- Houthi attack suspected at Saudi gas facility in Jubail; Aramco Jazan fire extinguished

Aug. 10 – Nizhnekamsk, Tatarstan, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Taneco Oil Refinery Killed 13 People

The strikes caused a fire and structural damage but did not halt operations, though it was targeted again on August 20. However, it was one of the deadliest strikes on Russian energy infrastructure during the conflict because it killed 13 people (including one child) and wounded 78 people.

- Ukrainian drone attack on oil hub deep inside Russia kills 13, official says

Aug. 11 – Zawiya, Libya

Drone Strikes on Zawiya Oil Refinery

A local, organized "sabotage cell" targeted the roof of the 4/4 and 2/4 diesel storage tanks which resulted in a massive fire and reservoir collapse. Libya's National Oil Corporation declared a temporary emergency and in early September arrested five conspirators. Zawiya refinery is the largest operational facility in Libya, and 1.2 million gallons of gasoline were incinerated in this strike.

- Libyan authorities battle big blaze at major oil refinery
- Authorities in western Libya have arrested five people….

Aug. 11 – Orsk, Orenburg Oblast, Russia

Ukrainian Drones Struck Orsknefteorgsintez Refinery

Drones damaged the recently modernized hydrocracking complex followed by a massive fire. It is non-operational and repairs are estimated to take as long as six months. This was the fourth strike on this facility.

- Russian oil refinery “completely shut down” for months following Ukrainian attack, local governor says

Aug. 11 – Komsomolsk-on-Amur, Khabarovsk Kraj, Russia

Large Fire Broke Out at Rosneft Komsomolsky Refinery

Auxiliary equipment lost pressure and depressurized, causing a blaze. Overall production was largely unaffected, and crews extinguished the fire.

- Russian Far East refinery catches fire after technical incident

Aug. 13 – Salavat, Bashkortostan, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Struck Gazprom Neftekhim Salavat Oil Refinery & Petrochemical Complex

The strike hit the facility’s main oil processing unit, sparking a fire, causing evacuations and wounding two civilians. The plant processes up to 74 million barrels of oil annually. The full extent of damage hasn’t been reported, but reports state that it is not fully operational.

- Ukrainian drones strike a major refinery deep inside Russia, setting it ablaze

Aug. 13 – Port of Rotterdam, Netherlands

Explosion Struck Petroleum Product Storage Facility

The explosion killed one person and injured several others. The police stated there was "no immediate sign of sabotage," but it remains under investigation. The blast happened during maintenance work on a storage tank. ExxonMobil's adjacent 191,000 bpd refinery shut down due to a separate power outage on the same day. Shell and LNG terminals reported no impact.

- Blast at Rotterdam port energy facility kills one person

Aug. 17, 21, and 25 – Multiple Regions in Ukraine

Russian Strikes on Ukraine Regional Power Substations, Gas Networks, and Naftogaz Assets

Russian drone and missile attacks targeted civilian gas grids and infrastructure belonging to the Naftogaz Group across multiple regions in Ukraine, causing severe grid blackouts. These attacks were intended to take out electricity and heating supply infrastructure. Over 31,000 households and subscribers lost power. They were able to reroute and stabilize power within days, but it was heavily strained, and another attack on August 21 cut power to an additional 22,000 consumers, followed by yet another attack on August 25, leaving 30,000 subscribers in the dark.

- Russian attacks hit energy infrastructure in six regions, with Donetsk Oblast worst affected
- Russian attack damages power facility in Chernihiv region, leaving more than 22,000 consumers without electricity
- Russians strike energy facility and warehouses in Chernihiv; power outages occur

Aug. 19 – Ufa, Republic of Bashkortostan, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Attack on Ufa Refinery Complex

An oil processing unit that was undergoing repairs was struck by a drone, causing damage that was estimated to be repaired in a few days.

- Drone attack damages oil processing unit at Ufa refinery complex

Aug. 21 – Per, Perm Krai, Russia

Ukrainian Long-Range Drone Attack on Lukoil-Permnefteorgsintez Oil Refinery

The drone strike hit its primary CDU-4 atmospheric-vacuum distillation unit, damaging 40% of the plant's capacity and halting its processing operations. It is Russia's seventh largest refinery. Repairs were expected to take a couple weeks but due to previous damage from drone strikes and additional attacks after August 21, it is still not operational. It was producing 13 million tons of oil per year and supplying fuel to civilians and the Russian army.

- Reuters: Perm refinery halts operations again after Ukrainian drone attacks on August 21

Aug. 21-22 – Novokuibyshevsk, Samara Oblast, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Novokuibyshevsk Oil Refinery

The blast created widespread fires rendering the refinery non-operational and could remain in this state until November, at the earliest. This halts roughly 136,000–160,000 barrels per day of crude processing capacity.

- Ukraine confirms strike on Novokuibyshevsk oil refinery, one of Russia's largest

Aug. 24-25 – Afipsky, Krasnodar Krai, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Afipsky Oil Refinery

A drone strike created a major fire at the 144,000 barrel-per-day facility, causing it to shut down for a few days while also killing two people from falling debris at the adjacent railway junction.

- Deadly Ukrainian strikes in southern Russia force oil refinery to shut down

Aug. 25 – Superior, Wisconsin, U.S.

Pipeline Outage

Enbridge Line 5 pipeline outage, caused by a vehicle accident, interrupted light crude shipments from Superior, Wisconsin to Sarnia, Ontario which put a strain on Midwest and Canadian refinery feeds. The pipeline has remained entirely offline while crews are constructing a temporary bypass pipeline, expected to be completed by mid-September.

- Enbridge redirects crude flows to southern pipes amid Line 5 outage in US

Aug. 25-26 – Kstovo, Nizhny Novgorod Oblast, Russia

Ukrainian Drone Attack on Lukoil-Nizhegorodnefteorgsintez (NORSI) Refinery

A 426-drone blitz across 15 Russian regions was intercepted by Russian air defenses, but the additional drones that got through struck Russia's fourth largest oil refinery by capacity and second largest gasoline producer, providing 11% of Russia's gasoline supply, halting all operations.

- Ukraine's 426-drone night: Kstovo refinery and a Wildberries hub burn

Aug. 29 – Kirishi, Leningrad Oblast, Russia

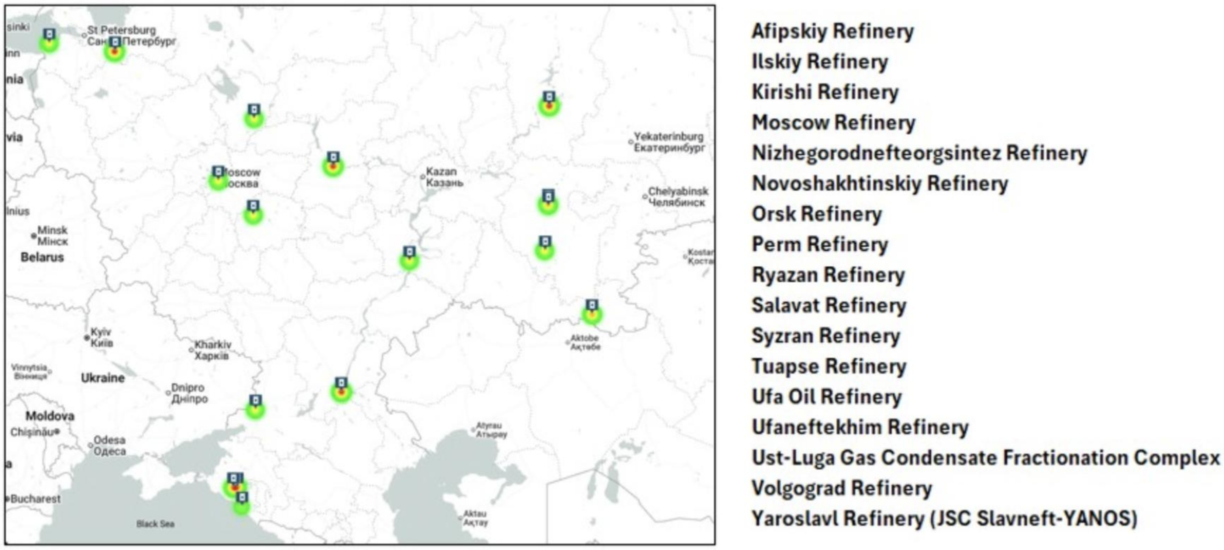
Ukrainian Drone Strikes on Kirishi Oil Refinery

The strikes set major processing units on fire just weeks after finishing months-long repairs on a previous attack, bringing it to a complete operational halt. It is Russia's second largest refinery, accounting for 7% of the country's total refining capacity, according to Ukrainian sources.

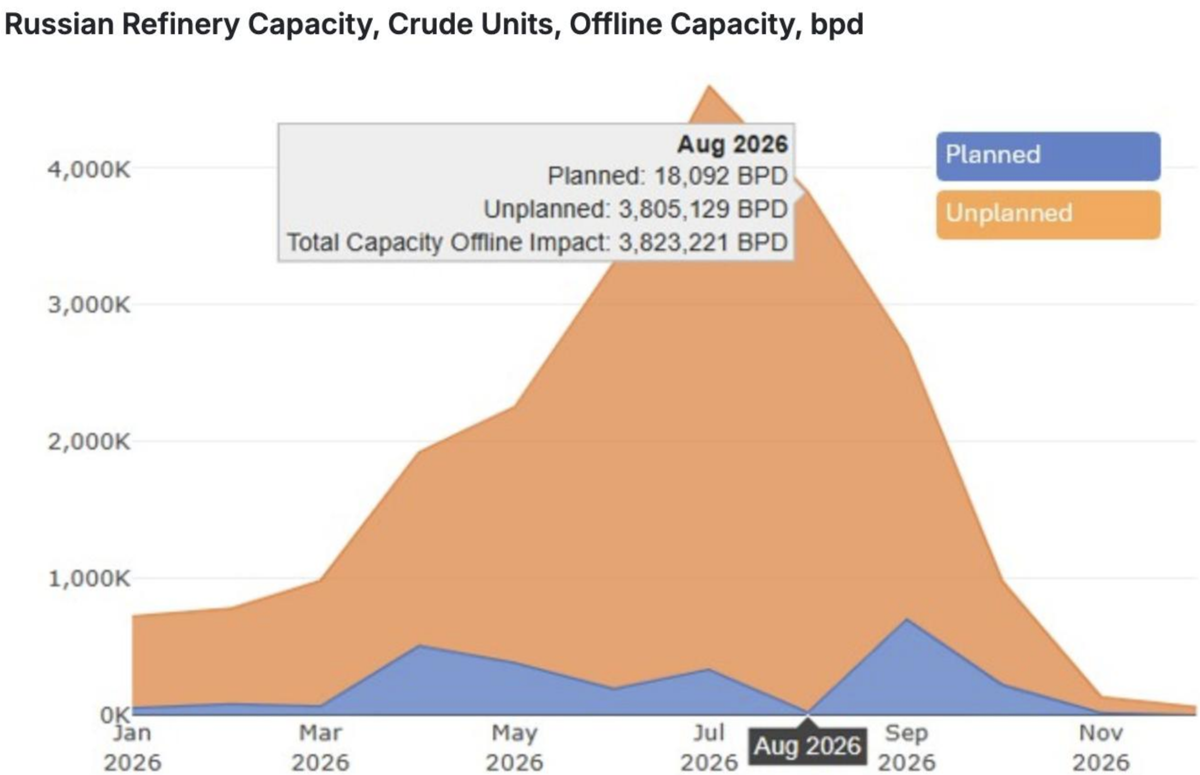
- Russia's Kirishi refinery catches fire after drone attack
- Second wave of fuel crisis hits Russia with long lines and tighter sales limits—NV analysis

Russian Refineries

By specific crude units analysis, there were 44 crude units at 17 Russian refineries that faced an unplanned outage in August.



Source: IIR Energy



Source: IIR Energy, Energy Capacity Insights (ECI) tool

KEY STATISTICS AND NOTES (as of May 4, 2026)

Based on reports from March and April 2026, a series of geopolitical conflicts, drone attacks, and infrastructure accidents caused the largest recorded oil supply disruption, with global production losses exceeding 10 million barrels per day (mb/d) in March 2026.

Oil Production Outages by Country (April 2026 Estimates)

The following data reflects major unplanned outages and production shut-ins resulting from infrastructure damage, including refinery fires and pipeline strikes, as well as export route blockages. IEA – International Energy Agency +3

Country	Estimated Outage (mb/d)	Primary Cause of Disruption
Iraq	3.00	Southern oilfield production fell 70% due to export route closure and local infrastructure damage.
Saudi Arabia	1.90	Strategic shut-ins and suspension of the **550,000-bpd Ras Tanura** refinery.
Kuwait	1.25	Force majeure declared on exports due to regional conflict.
Iran	0.64	Significant damage to refineries and domestic suppliers from military strikes.
Russia	0.60	Drone-linked fires at major facilities including **Tuapse** and **Yaroslavl** refineries.
Libya	0.13	Ongoing unplanned outages.
Nigeria	0.20	Consistent infrastructure-related unplanned disruptions.

Historical Comparison of Major Oil Shocks

Event	Peak Daily Loss	Historical Context
2026 Middle East War	~13.0 mb/d	Largest disruption on record by daily output.
1978-79 Iranian Revolution	5.6 mb/d	Higher cumulative loss over 3 years, but lower daily peak.
1973 Arab Oil Embargo	4.3 mb/d	Led to famous gas lines in the U.S. and major policy shifts.
1991 Gulf War	4.3 mb/d	Four-month disruption totaling 516 million barrels.
World War II (Nazi Germany)	N/A (Total)	Strategic targeting destroyed 50-90% of Axis supply.

Primary Affected Waterways and Trade Routes (as of April 25, 2026)

- Strait of Hormuz: Effectively closed to most commercial traffic after Iran laid mines, engaged in drone/missile attacks, and issued threats.
  - "Dual Blockade": Following the closure by Iran, the U.S. Navy began a blockade of Iranian ports and the strait itself on April 13, 2026.
  - Impact: About 20,000 mariners and 2,000 ships were initially stranded, with traffic

dropping by over 70%. Shipping through this, and the Gulf of Oman, is largely blocked.

- Red Sea & Bab el-Mandeb Strait: While the focus shifted to Hormuz, the Houthi movement continues to pose high risks to shipping in this area, restricting traffic from returning to the Suez Canal.
- Cape of Good Hope (alternative route): Shipping companies are heavily rerouting around South Africa, adding 10 to 20 days to voyages between Asia and Europe/North America.
- Black Sea: The ongoing Russia-Ukraine war has intensified in 2026, with drone attacks targeting tankers, particularly those associated with the Russian shadow fleet, restricting traffic in the region.

Affected Sea Ports and Terminals

- Jebel Ali Port (UAE): The world's 9th busiest port and a critical transshipment hub suspended operations in March 2026 following nearby explosions and debris.
- Port of Fujairah (UAE): Energy loading operations were disrupted by Iranian drone attacks.

- Port of Duqm & Salalah (Oman): Drones struck in the vicinity of these ports, damaging fuel storage, and they are now classified as high-risk areas.
- Chabahar Port (Iran): A focal point of U.S. blockade efforts, with many Iranian vessels anchored there.
- Ras Laffan Industrial City (Qatar): Damaged in attacks, reducing Qatar's LNG capacity by 17%.

Key Incidents & Explosions

- Tanker Attacks: Numerous tankers, including the MT Skylight and MKD VYOM, were damaged or abandoned on March 1, 2026, with several crew fatalities reported.
- Mining: The U.S. Navy has been engaged in clearing naval mines laid by Iran in the Strait of Hormuz since early April.
- Seizures: Multiple ships, including the Greek-owned Epaminondas and MSC Francesca, were seized by Iranian forces in the Gulf of Oman in late April 2026.
- GPS Jamming: Widespread jamming has been reported, forcing ships into zig-zag patterns and creating high-risk situations in the Gulf of Oman.

Global Economic Impact

- Oil Prices: Surged past $100 a barrel in March, with high volatility continuing in April.
- Insurance: War-risk premiums have tripled or quadrupled for the region, making passage financially unviable for many.
- Freight Rates: Spiked 30–50% on Asia-to-U.S. corridors.
- Shortages: The disruption has already caused manufacturing shutdowns due to lack of components.

Chokepoints, Ports, and Pipelines

Strait of Hormuz: Effectively closed since March 2; formally reclosed April 18. Commercial traffic down >90%. U.S. Navy blockade of Iranian ports in force since April 13.

Bab el-Mandeb / Red Sea: Traffic "sharply reduced" per Windward. Houthis joined war March 28, threats to close strait April 9. Suez Canal crossings down ~32.5% on peak days; Cape of Good Hope rerouting elevated.

Druzhba Pipeline (Russia-Hungary-Slovakia): Effectively halted since January 27. Kaleykino hit

January 14 and February 23. Samara station hit April 20–21. Hungary's Orbán and Slovakia's Fico threaten to block EU aid to Ukraine; Bratislava declared an energy-sector state of emergency February 18.

Saudi East-West Pipeline (Petroline): Hit April 8 (ceasefire day); 700K bpd throughput cut; restored April 12. The only major non-Hormuz Saudi export alternative.

Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC): Hit multiple times — November 29, 2025 SPM-2 disabled; March 24 Kropotkinskaya base; April 6 Novorossiysk marine terminal (mooring plus four oil tanks on fire). Kazakhstan's ~80% oil export route. Kazakhstan losing ~$1B/month; forced to reroute Kashagan crude to China for first time ever.

Baltic Ports (Primorsk/Ust-Luga/Novorossiysk/Sheskharis): Repeatedly hit by Ukrainian deep-strike drones March 22–29. Together handle 2M+ bpd of Russian crude. At least 50 tankers stuck offshore in the Gulf of Finland. Smoke visible from Finland.

Iranian transport infrastructure: Multiple railway lines, freeways, and roads hit April 15 by U.S. strikes.

Tehran-Karaj B1 bridge collapsed. Kashan railway bridge hit (two killed). Tabriz-Zanjan highway bridge hit.

Gulf ports: Jebel Ali (Dubai, suspended Mar 1), Fujairah (UAE), Khalifa Bin Salman (Bahrain, Maersk suspended Mar 12), Sohar (Oman), Salalah (Oman, suspended Mar 28), Mina Al Fahal (Oman), Duqm (Oman) all hit or suspended at various points.

No confirmed direct disruptions at Panama Canal, Strait of Malacca, or Strait of Gibraltar, though global shipping rerouting and Singapore refining tightness have system-wide effects.

As of April 25, 2026, the Strait of Hormuz remains effectively closed or severely restricted to commercial traffic. Despite ceasefire talks, a "dual blockade" exists where Iran controls the strait and the U.S. blockades Iranian ports, leading to minimal shipping traffic and continued energy sector volatility.

KEY IMPACTS (as of Apr. 23-May 30, 2026)

- The Strait of Hormuz remains closed since February 28, 2026. Although minimal openings were announced in April, there has been no measurable recovery on crude oil, LNG, or fertilizer flowing through the strait. Crude oil through the Strait is down 95%, LNG down 99%, and fertilizer cargos down 94%. The Strait handles one-fifth of all energy exports and one-fourth of global fertilizer, having a massive impact on global supply and pricing. As of May 8, 2026, 1,550 vessels remained stranded.
- The Panama Canal is near capacity from rerouted Hormuz-conflict trade.
- Houthi attacks in the Red Sea are blocking both major Middle Eastern maritime corridors simultaneously for the first time in modern history—the Bab el-Mandeb Strait and Red Sea route to the Suez Canal. Approximately 4.5 – 5.1 million bpd are diverted.
- Russian refineries that have partially or fully halted operations account for roughly a combined 283,000 tons per day—about one quarter of Russia's total refining capacity. Moscow set a gasoline exports ban from April until the end of July.

- The Philippines declared a state of emergency in March; 98% of their oil is sourced from the Middle East. Multiple domestic and international flight routes were suspended to conserve on gas. The Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) estimates 1.3 to 3.1 million Filipinos are at risk of poverty.
- Singapore, Japan, South Korea, Myanmar, and Vietnam are facing severe shortages and price hikes. India and China are also suffering due to their import dependency.
- Reuters, June 1, 2026: "U.S. crude exports climbed to a record 5.6 million barrels per day in May as the Middle East crisis pushed up demand for the country's oil from Asian and European refiners, ship tracking estimates showed on Monday."
- The U.S. faces a synthetic motor oil shortage since nearly half of the U.S.'s imported Group III base oils come from Persian Gulf producers. Retail prices have climbed 35% and are expected to continue to climb.
- Reuters: "To offset a catastrophic 32% slump in Middle Eastern exports, oil production and maritime shipments out of Brazil, Mexico, and Canada have surged to historic highs."

Global Oil & Petroleum Wartime Rerouting Chart

Origin Country / Region	Traditional Route	Wartime / Conflict Detour	Primary Operational Impact
Russia	Baltic & Black Sea → Western Europe	**Baltic Sea → Long-Haul Sea Route via Cape of Good Hope → India & China**	Circumvents European Union sanctions and G7 price caps using a specialized "shadow fleet."
Saudi Arabia	Persian Gulf → Strait of Hormuz → International Markets	**Overland East-West Pipeline (Abqaiq-to-Yanbu) → Red Sea Terminals**	Shifts export loading away from Persian Gulf risks, though throttled by pipeline capacity limits.
United Arab Emirates	Persian Gulf → Strait of Hormuz → International Markets	**Overland Pipelines → Port of Fujairah (Gulf of Oman)**	Completely bypasses the Strait of Hormuz by moving crude directly to the open ocean via domestic land lines.
Iraq & Gulf States	Persian Gulf → Strait of Hormuz → Global Markets	**Overland Transport → Syrian Ports (Mediterranean Sea)**	Uses regional land bridges to access European and Mediterranean buyers without relying on marine chokepoints.
Iraq (Northern Fields)	Persian Gulf Shipping Lanes	**Kurdistan-Turkey Pipeline Network → Port of Ceyhan (Mediterranean)**	Prioritizes overland northern flow directly to European markets to entirely avoid volatile southern maritime routes.
India & Gulf Refining Hubs	Suez Canal / Red Sea → Europe & North America	**Circumnavigation of Africa via the Cape of Good Hope**	Adds 10 to 14 days of travel time and thousands of miles for refined fuels heading westbound.
United States & Brazil	Atlantic Ocean → Suez Canal → East Asia	**Direct Transpacific Route OR Southward around the Cape of Good Hope**	Completely avoids the Middle Eastern corridors, placing severe strain on global tanker availability.

IMPACTS on the U.S. (as of June 30, 2026)

Rapid Commercial Inventory Drawdowns: U.S. commercial crude oil inventories (excluding the Strategic Petroleum Reserve) have fallen to 412.1 million barrels, a level roughly 7% below the five-year average for this time of year.

- U.S. commercial crude oil inventories have decreased in June
- New York imports more electricity from Canada after high-voltage transmission line opens

Refining Capacity Strain: Domestic refineries are operating at a blistering 96.1% capacity utilization to keep up with demand. However, overall crude processing still dipped by 81,000 barrels per day mid-month due to localized operational hiccups and maintenance backlogs.

- U.S. commercial crude oil inventories have decreased in June
- New York imports more electricity from Canada after high-voltage transmission line opens

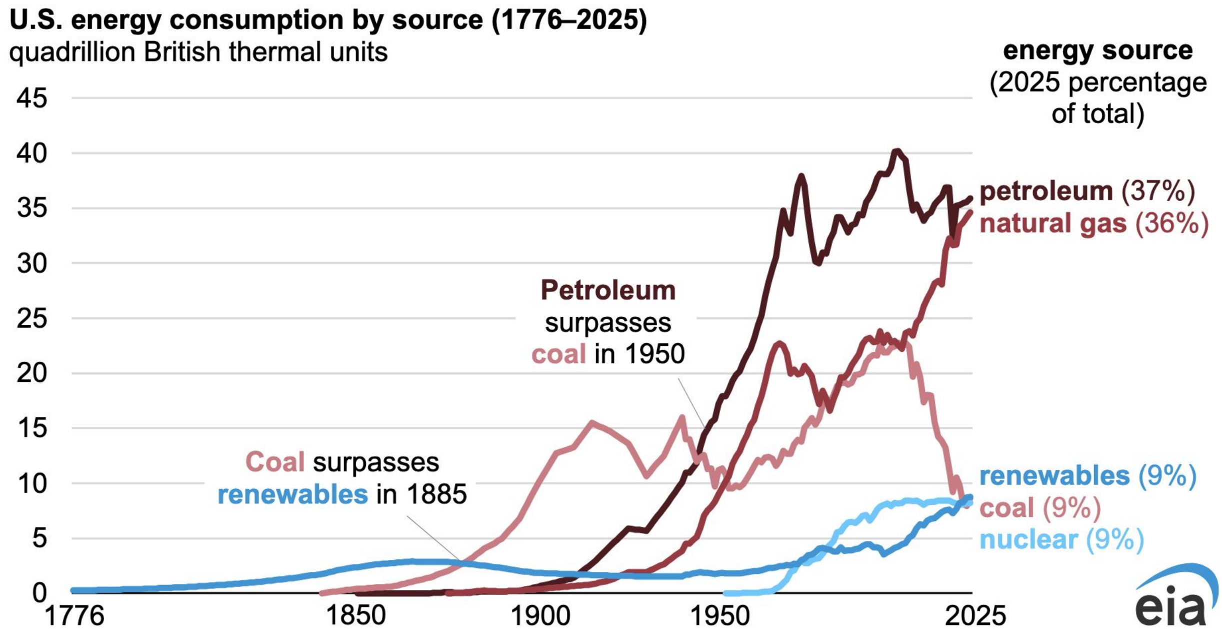
Shrinking Deployable Power Reserves: The North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has warned that the nation's deployable electricity reserves are shrinking due to rising forced outage rates among traditional coal and gas plants.

- Deployable reserves shrinking as coal, gas forced outage rates rise: NERC
- The grid operates in seconds, but financial settlement still moves in months

The AI Demand Mismatch: This grid instability coincides with a massive, historic surge in electricity demand coming from massive new data center installations and AI infrastructure. As a result, the Department of Energy (DOE) has been forced to issue emergency orders to keep older plants running, incurring massive extra costs for grid operators.

- Deployable reserves shrinking as coal, gas forced outage rates rise: NERC
- 2025 Report Card for America's Infrastructure
- 2026 Energy Future Forum: Rewriting the Energy Playbook
- The grid operates in seconds, but financial settlement still moves in months

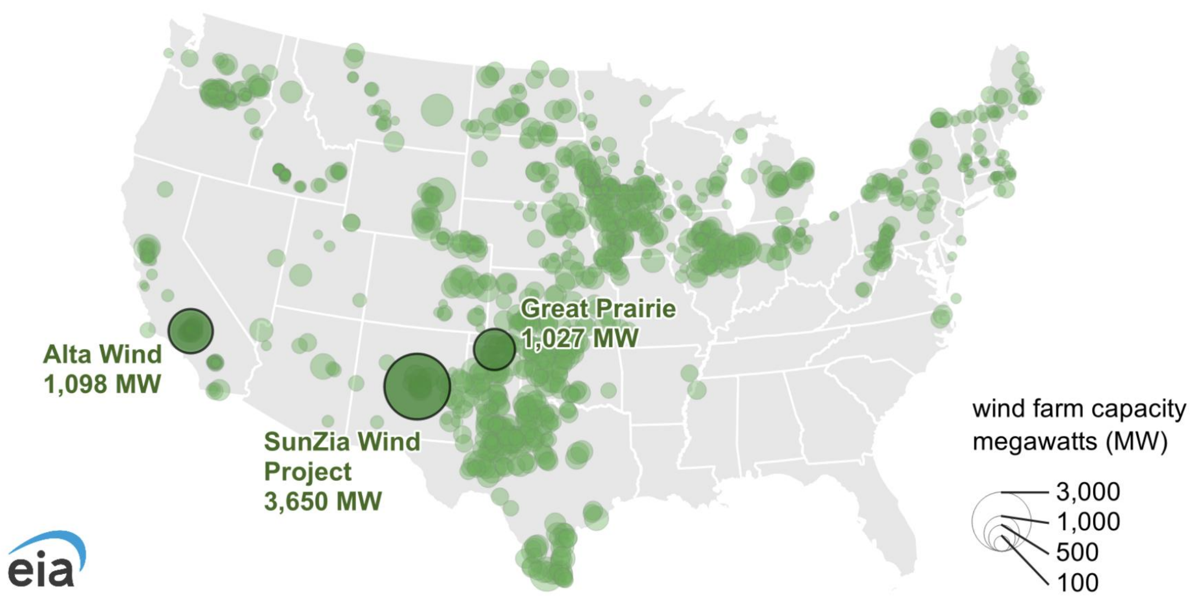
The 250-year history of U.S. energy consumption



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*
Data Values: Primary Energy Consumption by Source and Estimated primary energy consumption in the United States, selected years, 1635–1945
Video: Video summary of the 250-year history of energy in the United States

Largest wind farm in the United States slated to begin commercial operations

U.S. generating capacity for onshore wind farms



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Preliminary Monthly Electric Generator Survey*, April 2026

U.S. National Average Gasoline Prices (Jan – June 2026)

Month	Average Price (USD / Gallon) Bureau of Transportation Statistics WalletHub	Month-over-Month Change (%)
January 2026 Motor Fuel Prices – January 2026	$2.81	—
February 2026 Gas Prices Over Time	$3.04	+8.2%
March 2026 Gas Prices Over Time	$3.77	+24.0%
April 2026 Motor Fuel Prices – May 2026	$4.10	+8.8%
May 2026 Motor Fuel Prices – May 2026	$4.48	+9.3%
June 2026 Motor Fuel Prices – June 2026	$4.05	-9.6%

Source: https://wallethub.com/edu/gas-prices-over-time/121770

TRADE ROUTES & PORTS (as of mid-July, 2026)

1. The Strait of Hormuz: Fragile Reopening and Renewed Strikes

The Strait of Hormuz—largely blocked since February 2026 due to the U.S.-Iran conflict—experienced severe whiplash in June.

- Another Hormuz? What to know about the Houthi threat to the Red Sea
- 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis
- The Strait of Hormuz's future is unsettled even as more ships venture through

The Interim Peace Deal: In mid-June, Washington and Tehran signed a temporary ceasefire agreement intended to lift the naval blockade and resume normal commercial traffic. The European Commission noted that trade flows were slowly starting to recover following the memorandum.

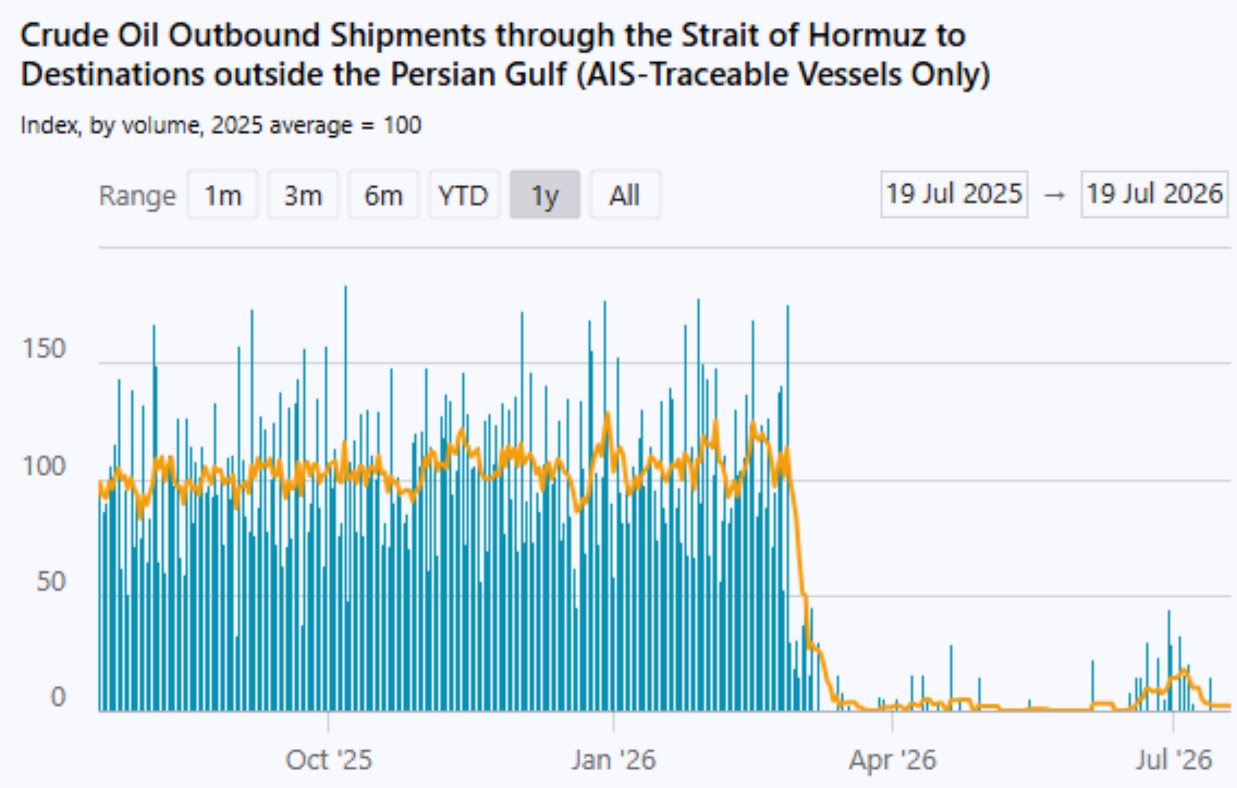
- June 27, 2026—US launches more strikes on Iranian sites
- The next Strait of Hormuz crisis could be even worse
- The Commission takes stock of situation on oil markets amid developments in the Middle East

The Backlog: Despite the deal, over 1,150 cargo vessels representing $125 billion in trapped goods remain stalled in the Persian Gulf. Progress is bottlenecked by the slow, dangerous process of clearing Iranian sea mines laid during the war.

- The next Strait of Hormuz crisis could be even worse
- $125 billion in ships and cargo await departure from the Persian Gulf

June 27-28 Escalation: The recovery was abruptly threatened at the end of the month. Following drone encounters, the U.S. launched fresh airstrikes on Iranian radar and missile storage sites, prompting Iranian retaliatory strikes on U.S. facilities in Kuwait and Bahrain. Tehran continues to insist the Strait remains solely under Iranian control.

- June 27, 2026—US launches more strikes on Iranian sites
- Iran war updates: Trump announces Qatar talks; Tehran says nothing planned
- Araghchi: Strait of Hormuz remains under Iranian control for 30 days
- Renewed strikes threaten to set back shipping recovery in Persian Gulf



2. The Red Sea: The New Bottleneck

As the Strait of Hormuz showed a highly volatile window of reopening, a secondary crisis worsened rapidly in the Red Sea.

- Another Hormuz? What to know about the Houthi threat to the Red Sea
- Strait of Hormuz reopens fitfully as oil flows resume, security remains fragile

Total Houthi Shipping Ban: On June 8, 2026, Yemen's Iran-aligned Houthi rebels announced a complete ban on Israeli-linked vessels transiting the Red Sea, declaring them "legitimate military targets."

- Another Hormuz? What to know about the Houthi threat to the Red Sea
- How a Houthi blockade in the Red Sea tightens Iran's grip on global energy supplies

Targeting the Saudi Oil Lifeline: During the Hormuz closure, Saudi Arabia kept oil moving by diverting 70% of its crude exports to its Red Sea port of Yanbu. The new Houthi threat directly targets this energy lifeline, sending Red Sea maritime war-risk insurance premiums spiking back up.

- How a Houthi blockade in the Red Sea tightens Iran's grip on global energy supplies
- Container lines still refuse to sail the Red Sea. Oil tankers just surged back through Suez, up 28% year on year. Why are they sailing into the danger everyone else fled?

3. Global Freight Costs Explode

Drewry's World Container Index: Ongoing Middle East instability, carrier network re-routings, and blank sailings pushed global ocean freight rates up violently. By early June, Drewry's index jumped 23% to $3,433 per 40ft container.

- Global freight update: June 2026 fuel prices and supply chain disruptions

4. The Panama Canal: New Climate Restrictions

The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) implemented its first major operational restrictions of the year due to emerging water scarcity risks.

- Panama Canal to reduce Neopanamax draft limit as El Niño concerns mount
- Advisory to Shipping

Draft Reductions: Citing falling water levels at Gatun Lake and the rising meteorological risk of a late-year El Niño event, the ACP announced that the maximum authorized draft for the larger Neopanamax locks will be cut from 50 feet to 49.5 feet, effective July 1, 2026.

- Panama Canal reduces maximum draught as El Niño concerns mount

Supply Chain Impact: While the seasonal restriction will not immediately reduce the daily number of permitted transits, heavy container ships and bulk energy carriers must now trim or off-load cargo volume to safely cross. This limits the channel's capability to act as an unrestricted relief valve for diverted Middle Eastern traffic.

- Panama Canal reduces maximum draught as El Niño concerns mount
- Update: Panama Canal draft restriction suspended after drought improves

5. The Strait of Malacca: Heightened Security & Congestion

As the primary maritime artery connecting the Middle East to East Asian markets, the Malacca Strait faces overlapping pressures.

Security Level 2 (SL2) Activation: Maritime registries issued urgent circulars advising all San Marino and regional flagged vessels to escalate to Security Level 2 (SL2) while transiting the Malacca Strait. The directive requires masters to fortify anti-boarding protocols following an uptick in regional piracy, armed robbery, and localized vessel seizure attempts.

- INTLREG Circular 26-009: San Marino Directive on Maritime Security Warnings for Vessels Operating in the Specified High-Risk Areas

“Ghost Armada” Clutter: Compounding the traffic, shipping watchdogs like United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI) tracked dozens of heavily laden “ghost fleet” tankers anchored or loitering near the Malaysian East

Outside Port Limits (EOPL). These vessels are wait-listing or dark-routing cargo to exploit volatile compliance shifts from the ongoing U.S.-Iran diplomatic talks.

- Iran Shipping Update – June 25, 2026
- Iran Shipping Update – June 23, 2026
- Iran Shipping Update – June 22, 2026
- The Week in Charts: Container spot rates still rising | Analysis exposes who dares use Iran's Hormuz Lanes

6. The Suez Canal & Bab el-Mandeb: The Ongoing Cape Detour

Perpetual Re-routing: The Suez Canal and the Bab el-Mandeb Strait remain highly hollowed out compared to historical baselines. The aggressive enforcement of the Houthi shipping ban continues to force the majority of container lines to entirely bypass East Africa.

Tonnage Drop: Long-term ocean traffic through the Suez remains suppressed by roughly 50% to 60%, entrenching the 10-to-14-day transit detour around the Cape of Good Hope as the standard, costly operational norm for global carriers.

- Red Sea Shipping Crisis 2026: Impact on your supply chain

7. Rail Corridor from China to Tehran: Hinder China's Land-Based Trade Corridor

Beijing helped activate a 10,400-kilometer overland rail corridor running from China through Central Asia to Tehran. In early April 2026, the Israel Defense Forces bombed several sections of this key Iranian railway network and bridges to disrupt Iranian military and trade infrastructure.

- Tracking recent US-Israeli strikes on Iranian infrastructure
- China built the railway Iran needed; America's strategy is obsolete
- Israel conducts airstrike on China-Iran railway, marking first direct strike on Belt and Road core asset

Key Details:

The Route: The rail link connects Xi'an in central China to the Aprin Dry Port in Tehran via Kazakhstan and Turkmenistan. It was established to help bypass Western blockades and maritime strait of Hormuz chokepoints.

- Iran turns to China rail link to try to bypass US blockade
- Key China-Iran infrastructure exposes critical hole in Trump's war strategy

The April 2026 Strikes: Following threats by the Israel Defense Forces warning civilians against using Iran's trains, Israeli warplanes bombed key rail sections and collapsed bridges—including the Yahya Abad bridge—in central Iran.

- Israel hits railway bridge, threatens trains before Trump deadline expires
- Iran says train service resumed on routes damaged by strikes during war
- Tracking recent US-Israeli strikes on Iranian infrastructure

Current Status: Despite attempts by Iran to quickly rebuild the damaged railways, the disruptions have significantly hindered China's land-based trade corridor into the region.

- Middle East war makes the fate of China-Iran railway corridor uncertain
- Tracking recent US-Israeli strikes on Iranian infrastructure

- Iran says train service resumed on routes damaged by strikes during war
- Key China-Iran infrastructure exposes critical hole in Trump's war strategy

REGULATORY BOTTLENECKS & TARIFF ENFORCEMENT (as of mid-July, 2026)

The De Minimis Suspension: On June 24, 2026, a major federal interim final rule went into effect, executing an indefinite suspension of the de minimis administrative exemption for merchandise valued at $800 or less arriving via non-postal commercial shipping.

- Indefinite Suspension of the De Minimis Exemption for Merchandise Arriving Through All Modes Other Than the International Postal Network

Customs Gridlock: All imports that previously passed seamlessly through ports under de minimis rules were suddenly subjected to rigid formal or informal entry procedures. Coupled with an intensive border enforcement sweep, customs clearance times slowed to a crawl, driving cargo seizure risks to historic highs and straining port warehousing capacities.

- How to navigate the HME industry's regulatory changes
- Indefinite Suspension of the De Minimis Exemption for Merchandise Arriving Through All Modes Other Than the International Postal Network

ADDITIONAL DATA POINTS (as of mid-July, 2026)

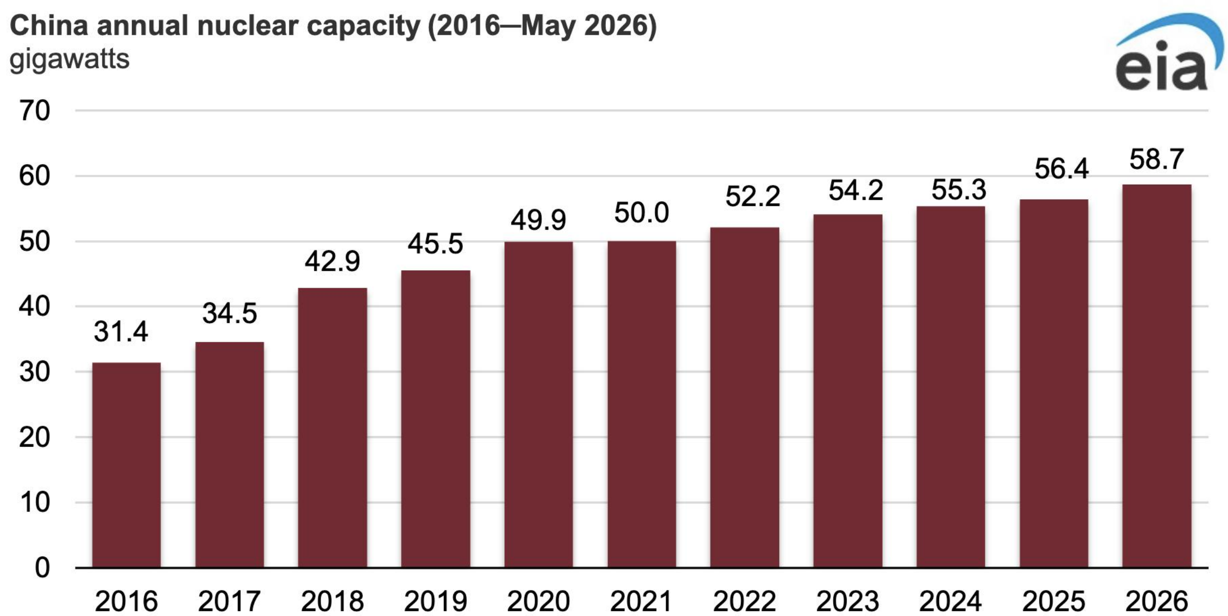
Market Metrics Comparison

The following structural data points from the IEA's June 2026 Market Assessment illustrate how the market balanced during this period:

Metric	May 2026	June 2026	Impact Direction
Global Crude Supply [Oil market to return to surplus, says IEA, amid demand destruction/CNBC, 13 May 2026/IEA]	95.1 mb/d	94.5 mb/d	**- 0.6 mb/d** (Worsened by ongoing infrastructure strikes)
Global Crude Demand [IEA cuts 2026 demand forecast, sees huge 2027 surplus/ArgusMedia]	104.0 mb/d	103.3 mb/d	**- 0.7 mb/d** (Contracted due to high consumer pricing)
Net Market Shortage [Oil market to return to surplus, says IEA, amid demand destruction/CNBC, 13 May 2026/IEA]	**8.9 mb/d**	**8.8 mb/d**	**Deficit narrowed slightly (-0.1 mb/d)**
Benchmark Price (Brent) [Short-Term Energy Outlook - EIA/EIA, EIA forecasts lower oil prices in 2027/Engine]	~$107 / bbl	~$85 / bbl	**Dropped $22/bbl** on expectations of a year-end resolution

Source: https://www.iea.org/reports/oil-market-report-june-2026

China's nuclear power capacity nearly doubled since 2016



Data source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, International Energy Statistics and estimates, and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)
Note: IAEA data are used to identify capacity additions in 2025 and 2026, which we then add to our International Energy Statistics estimate for 2024 to get the total capacities for 2025 and 2026. All values are in reference unit power.

TRADE ROUTE DISRUPTIONS (as of mid-August, 2026)

Comparing July 2025 to July 2026:

Maritime Chokepoints & Ports

Trade Route / Hub	July 2025 Status	July 2026 Status	Core Impact Driver
Suez Canal	**Depressed Baseline** Operating ~60% below historic capacity; averaging 146 monthly container transits.	**Paralyzed** Commercial shipping lines have cut services entirely due to open Red Sea naval warfare.	Unabated missile threats & carrier liability
Cape of Good Hope	**High Sustainable Use** Routinely absorbing container traffic diverted from the early Red Sea crisis.	**Extreme Surge / Peak Congestion** Forced to absorb massive volumes of unexpected Persian Gulf cargo, causing severe refueling (bunkering) delays.	Overflow from Hormuz & Red Sea closures
Panama Canal	**Drought Recovery** Summer rains replenished Gatun Lake, allowing transits to normalize without major draft cuts.	**Constrained / Surcharged** Early El Niño weather slashed max draft to 49 feet; major carriers implemented immediate emergency surcharges.	Gatun Lake depletion from early El Niño
Strait of Hormuz	**Fluid / Monitored** Standard commercial shipping; over 900 vessel crossings recorded during the month.	**Heavily Restricted** Under 10–15 daily crossings; 70% traffic drop as the U.S. and Iran trade direct missile and drone strikes.	Active geopolitical warfare & blockades

Bab el-Mandeb / Red Sea	**Volatile / Guarded** Transits guarded under naval escorts; Saudi land bypass pipelines functioning cleanly.	**Severe Bottleneck** Anti-tanker missile strikes and a naval embargo on Saudi assets dropped transits to a historic low.	Direct missile and drone strikes on tankers
Ukrainian Black Sea Ports *(Odesa, Chornomorsk, Izmail)*	**Regulated Corridors** Consistent grain shipments moving via unilateral and international security frameworks.	**Critically Disrupted** Inbound cargo purchases frozen; civilian grain vessels struck by missiles, killing multiple crew members.	Relentless Russian airstrikes on port infrastructure
Sea of Azov / Kerch Strait	**High-Risk Active** Navigated via strict military corridors to export regional coal and grain.	**Suspended** Commercial transit applications halted entirely; 27% of Russian grain export capacity frozen.	Coordinated Ukrainian drone campaign expansions
Port of Jeddah *(Saudi Arabia)*	**Fluid Hub** Functioning normally as a primary logistics receiver for western Saudi Arabia.	**Heavily Congested** Strained by Red Sea shipping disruptions; landside container delays grew to 10–12 days post-discharge.	Carrier scheduling chaos & Red Sea war spillover
U.S. Container Ports *(LA, Long Beach, NY/NJ)*	**Record Highs** Strong import volumes driven by massive Southeast Asian demand and early inventory builds.	**Strained Volume Records** Hit an all-time monthly record of 2.47 million TEUs as retailers rushed to aggressively front-load cargo.	Preemptive racing against new tariff deadlines

Aviation & Air Cargo (Including United States)

Trade Route / Hub	July 2025 Status	July 2026 Status	Core Impact Driver
U.S. International Air Freight *(Asia-to-US / Europe-to-US)*	**Fluid Baseline** Consistent air freight tonnage routing via standard North Pacific and Transatlantic lanes.	**Bottlenecked & Delayed** Air cargo capacity dropped sharply as U.S. carriers were forced onto longer detour flights, spiking fuel burn and reducing max payload weight.	Detours avoiding closed Russian and Middle Eastern airspace
U.S. Domestic Cargo Gateways *(Memphis/FedEx, Louisville/UPS)*	**Standard Operations** Normal domestic sortation volumes with predictable international flight connections.	**Severely Congested** Cargo flows choked as flight cancelations in Europe and the Gulf triggered massive parcel backlogs at U.S. import hubs [1.15].	Spillover from international airline suspensions [1.15]
Middle East Airspace	**Open Transit** Standard commercial overflights routing normally through international Gulf corridors.	**Closed / Restricted** Universal emergency bans implemented by EASA covering Iran, Iraq, UAE, Kuwait, and Lebanon airspace.	Commercial aviation pushed out by missile interception risks
Gulf Air Freight Hubs *(Bahrain, Kuwait, Erbil)*	**94% Capacity** Fluid cargo handling, sortation, and distribution running smoothly across the region.	**74% Capacity / Embargoes** Total freight capacity dropped 22%; airlines implemented mandatory cargo embargoes through late July [1.15].	Renewed military activity delaying return of airline capacity [1.15]
Hong Kong to Europe Corridor	**Peak E-Commerce Volume** Record-breaking daily cargo flights carrying high-value retail goods directly to the EU.	**Volume Slump** Drastic contraction in air freight tonnage departing Hong Kong for European destinations.	Implementation of strict new EU customs reporting and tax laws

Rail & Land Logistics (Including North America)

Trade Route / Hub	July 2025 Status	July 2026 Status	Core Impact Driver
U.S. Northeast & Midwest Rail *(Amtrak / Freight corridors)*	**Fluid Operations** Normal high-volume agricultural and intermodal freight routing smoothly through Chicago and Northeast networks.	**Widespread Heat Delays** Over 165 million people under dangerous heat waves forced extreme "heat-speed restrictions," triggering heavy backlogs and route cancellations.	Record-breaking summer thermal grid strains
Canadian Transcontinental Rail *(CPKC network)*	**Fluid Baseline** Grain and commercial freight moving seamlessly from Vancouver to Montreal.	**Intermittent Strikes / Contingencies** A major IBEW signaling and communications union strike forced the railway to rely on heavily strained automated safety bypasses.	Labor strikes/ disputes over yard signaling
Mexican Interoceanic Rail *(Isthmus of Tehuantepec corridor)*	**Partially Operational** The route was handling both freight and initial passenger service as a Panama Canal alternative.	**Freight-Only Constraint** Passenger traffic remained completely suspended through July following a devastating derailment accident, locking focus onto freight bypass.	Critical infrastructure rework post-fatal derailment
German Freight Rail *(Leverkusen/Cologne Hub)*	**Operational Baseline** Standard high-volume freight moving seamlessly through North Rhine-Westphalia networks.	**Disrupted / Delayed** Heavily traveled Deutsche Bahn cargo routes experienced severe delays and scheduling backlogs.	Coordinated cable-duct arson/ sabotage by far-left group
Eastern European Rail	**Managed Delays** Frequent route adjustments due to shifting frontlines; cross-border freight continued to move.	**Critically Strained** Widespread destruction of rolling stock and locomotives; freight forced onto road bypasses.	Targeted, deep-strike sabotage campaigns aimed at rail grids

Maritime Shipping Lanes (as of mid-August 2026)

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

Remained heavily restricted and intermittently blockaded due to renewed military exchanges and naval actions between the U.S. and Iran in July 2026. Covered by The National News.

- Oil, shipping, flights: Disruptions are back as U.S.-Iran war reignites
- Oil jumps amid fears of prolonged disruption in Strait of Hormuz
- The 2026 Iran war: Impact on global shipping routes, trade, and future scenarios
- US-Iran Strait of Hormuz conflict: The 2026 energy crisis explained
- Oil prices drop after US, Iran pause fighting over weekend

The critical oil chokepoint remained heavily restricted due to the ongoing U.S.-Israel-Iran conflict. Despite a brief pause in strikes, fewer than 10 commodity vessels transited the strait daily by late July as Iran rejected proposed transit sharing agreements with regional mediators.

- 2026 Strait of Hormuz crisis
- Iran and Oman exchange proposals to manage Strait of Hormuz
- Red Sea shipping slows after Houthi attack on Saudia Arabia, data shows

The Strait of Hormuz faced a near-total collapse in trade traffic and intense geopolitical escalation between July 27 and July 31, 2026, as the ongoing war between the United States and Iran effectively closed off normal commercial navigation.

- U.S.-Iran negotiations set to begin Monday, Trump says after calling off strikes
- Hormuz traffic levels continue decreasing, Houthis in Yemen threaten Saudi tankers

Single-Digit Transits: Commercial shipping traffic through the strait fell to historic lows. Daily vessel transits dropped into the single digits—reaching as low as only two documented crossings on some days—representing a 52.4% collapse in flow compared to the prior week.

- Hormuz traffic levels continue decreasing, Houthis in Yemen threaten Saudi tankers

- As traffic in Strait of Hormuz drops, Trump says he doesn't know when US can loosen Iran's grip

Route Divergence: Mainstream commercial shippers completely avoided the waterway. The rare vessels that did make passage were exclusively Iranian- or Chinese-linked ships navigating a northern route preferred by Tehran, while the standard U.S.-preferred route closer to Oman saw zero traffic. A very brief transit rebound on July 28–29 (including a single Qatari LNG carrier) immediately faded by July 30.

- As traffic in Strait of Hormuz drops, Trump says he doesn't know when US can loosen Iran's grip
- What the Strait of Hormuz's fragile recovery signal means for oil flows and prices
- Global shipping disruption continues despite Iran peace deal
- US, Iran step up attacks as fears grow of return to full war

Transit Permits Paused: On July 31, Iran's newly established Persian Gulf Strait Authority officially announced that transit through the Strait of Hormuz was "not possible" due to ongoing aggressive actions by U.S. military forces. The authority declared a full pause on issuing shipping transit permits.

U.S. Counter-Blockade: Concurrently, U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM) maintained its heavy naval blockade of Iranian oil exports exiting the Gulf. The U.S. rejected Iran's claims that the strait was legally closed, asserting the corridor remained an open international waterway despite the high security risks.

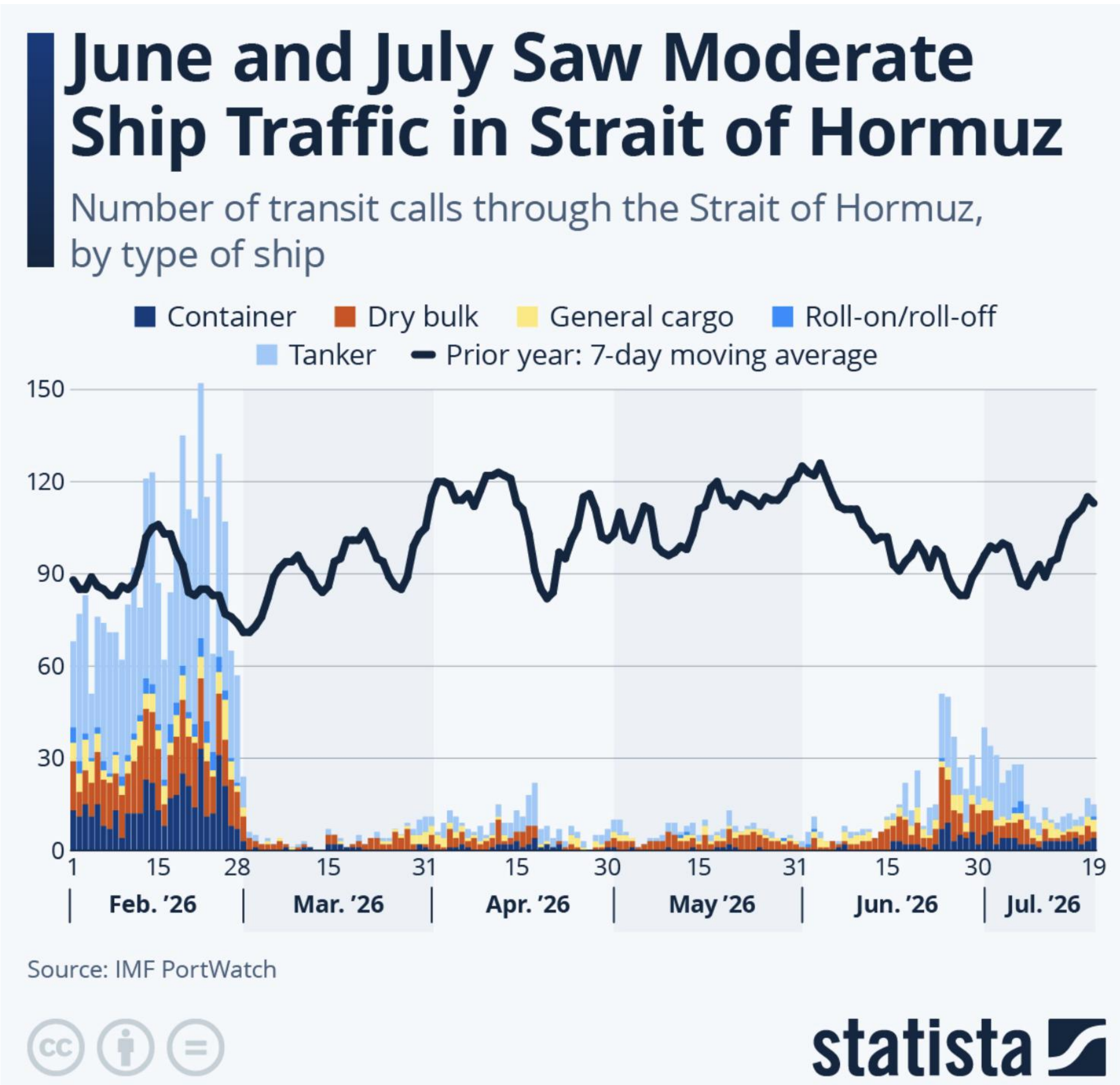
- Strait of Hormuz brief: 29 July, 2026
- U.S.-Iran negotiations set to begin Monday, Trump says after calling off strikes
- As traffic in Strait of Hormuz drops, Trump says he doesn't know when US can loosen Iran's grip
- Oil price rises after Iran says it stops ships in Hormuz
- Strait of Hormuz

The Oman Proposal: Behind the scenes, diplomatic talks mediated by Pakistan and Oman progressed through July 30 to establish a 50-50 joint regional mechanism to manage the strait. However, negotiations hit a strict bottleneck by July 31: Iran demanded sole authority over the northern lanes and a compulsory transit fee for all passing vessels, which U.S. and Saudi negotiators rejected.

- What the Strait of Hormuz's fragile recovery signal means for oil flows and prices
- West Asia war updates: Iran says struck two tankers under U.S. "air escort" trying to pass Hormuz
- Iran and Oman exchange proposals to manage Strait of Hormuz: What we know
- As traffic in Strait of Hormuz drops, Trump says he doesn't know when US can loosen Iran's grip
- In Iran, the U.S. appears headed for a strategic defeat, allies fear

U.S. Central Command said it targeted Iranian military operations centers, maritime capabilities, aircraft hangars, drone storage facilities and military logistics infrastructure in its 11th consecutive night of attacks. It said the attacks were aimed at degrading Iran's control over the Strait of Hormuz—a vital shipping channel.

On July 22, President Trump repeated his threat for Iran to stop attacking vessels in the strait or else face U.S. strikes against Iranian civilian infrastructure. "From this point forward, any time the Islamic Republic of Iran shoots at a ship in the Strait of Hormuz, whether it be by Missile, Rocket, Drone, or any other device or weapon, the United States will bomb and destroy ONE BRIDGE OR POWER PLANT, including those located next to, or in, the Capital City of Tehran," he wrote online.



https://www.statista.com/chart/35984/ship-traffic-in-the-strait-of-hormuz/

CPC BLACK SEA TERMINAL

Novorossiysk, Russia/Kazakhstan route: Suspended regular tanker loading operations around July 20–22, 2026, following repeated drone strikes on vessels and port infrastructure. Reported by S&P Global.

- A drone attacked the Tyumen Oil Refinery, causing a fire

SUEZ CANAL

- Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd to resume sailings through Suez Canal for one of their services

The Suez Canal & Northern Red Sea Corridor (Egypt): The Incident: Following the July 29 drone strike on the LNG tankers at Damietta Port, international energy markets experienced severe security shocks regarding the Suez Canal. Until this attack, the Suez Canal and the Sumed pipeline had served as the primary safe alternative route for bypassing the heavily restricted Strait of Hormuz. Security analysts warned that the spread of drone warfare to the Mediterranean coast threatens up to 5 million barrels per day of oil bypass capacity.

- Iran update special report, July 30, 2026

- Drone strike in Egypt sparks security concerns about Suez oil exports

KAZAKHSTAN'S EXPORT ROUTES

Regular crude loadings for Kazakh export routes were paralyzed between July 20–22, 2026, due to localized drone strikes hitting port infrastructure and nearby vessels. Verified by S&P Global Commodity Insights.

RED SEA

Intended as the primary bypass route for Saudi crude oil via the East-West land pipeline, this corridor faced a severe bottleneck after the Houthis declared a "naval embargo" against Saudi Arabia. Missile and drone strikes on Saudi facilities and tankers slashed western terminal loadings by 36% by late July, causing crossings through the Bab el-Mandeb to drop nearly 22%.

- Bab el-Mandeb: tanker attacks challenge alternative oil routes
- Strait of Hormuz brief: 21 July, 2026
- Tankers keep sailing Red Sea despite Houthi threats as Saudi oil lifeline faces strains

The Bab el-Mandeb Strait & Red Sea Blockade (Yemen): The Incident: Commercial shipping traffic ground to a near-halt following a newly declared blockade. The Impact: Data from July 27 revealed that commercial traffic slowed dramatically. Tankers carrying millions of barrels of crude reversed course mid-transit. Commercial fleets were forced to abandon the Red Sea routing entirely, triggering the formation of a new Saudi-led maritime defense alliance on July 30 to safeguard the strategic corridor.

- Can the Suez save Asian oil consumers after Houthis shut Bab al-Mandeb?
- Red Sea shipping slows after Houthi attack on Saudia Arabia, data shows
- Saudi Arabia announces maritime defence alliance to secure vital waterways
- The impact of geopolitical risks on global supply chains and procurement strategies
- The blockade of the Straits of Hormuz

THE SEA OF AZOV

Russian maritime authorities suspended commercial transit applications through the Kerch Strait following intensive Ukrainian drone campaigns. The restrictions effectively blocked grain, coal, and petroleum exports exiting the Don River, halting up to 27% of Russia's typical grain transport capacity.

THE PANAMA CANAL

The Incident: On July 31, the Panama Canal Authority (ACP) announced it was actively choking capacity down to 34 vessels per day (from its standard baseline of 36 to 38). The Impact: Driven by an 81% probability of a severe El Niño system drying out Gatun Lake, a strict new Neopanamax vessel draft limit of 49.0 feet went into effect. Ocean carriers responded immediately by hitting shippers with surcharges ranging up to $320 per TEU.

- Panama Canal cuts capacity, snarling more trade routes

SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRANSSHIPMENT HUBS (Singapore & Malaysia)

Because of the compounding Middle East diversions, major Southeast Asian hubs reached critical gridlock during the last week of July. The Ports of Singapore and Tanjung Pelepas operated at full yard capacity, resulting in intense vessel bunching, elevated container dwell times, and berthing delays spiking to 5–7 days.

- Latest port operations and disruption updates
- Ports, containership operators ride wave of uncertainty

Rail and Land Logistics (as of mid-August, 2026)

Russian & Ukrainian Rail Freight Networks: Both warring nations targeted critical rail backbones in July. The Ukrainian military deployed drone strikes against over 196 vessels and adjacent ports, forcing Russian logistics networks to depend on heavily [overburdened road and rail alternatives in occupied regions]. Simultaneously, escalated Russian strikes heavily damaged private and state locomotives in Ukraine.

- Russia and Ukraine justify their strikes the same way. Only one justification holds up
- Ukraine reports sharp rise in locomotive damage from Russian attacks

Panamanian Commercial Rail & Flag Shipping (Global Friction): A major diplomatic and legal trade war escalated dramatically on July 30 after Panama ousted a prominent Hong Kong port operator from its canal terminals. Chinese maritime authorities retaliated by executing widespread safety detentions, trapping nearly 500 Panamanian-flagged commercial vessels inside

Chinese ports and severely breaking up standard carrier rotations.

- Panama infuriated China. Now it's paying the price.
- At least 70% of the ships that cross the Panama Canal are either heading to or departing from U.S. ports….

Aq Tekeh Khan railway bridge: On July 9, the U.S. attacked the Aq Tekeh Khan railway bridge in the North Eastern Golestan province of Iran with cruise missiles (also referred to as the Ogtay Khan bridge). This piece of infrastructure is a vital component of the Iran-Turkmenistan-China rail corridor, which serves as a primary overland route for Iranian trade and as part of China's Belt and Road Initiative. The strike occurred the day after the collapse of the MOU ceasefire agreement which had been intermediated by Pakistan. So, it could also be interpreted as an attack (or a slap in the face) on Pakistan which works closely with China.

- American missile strike damages key Iran-Russia railway bridge

- Boom Finance and Economics and CMN News

Aviation and Air Cargo Corridors (as of mid-August, 2026)

Middle East Overflight Space: Major global aviation routes linking Europe and Asia faced intense disruptions. The European Union Aviation Safety Agency (EASA) advised operators to completely avoid the airspace of Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Kuwait, and the UAE.

- War in the Gulf is grounding flights in London and Paris—and airlines are using it to dodge compensation
- Middle East airspace – Current operational picture

Aviation Cancellations and Rerouting: Air cargo capacity across the Asia-Europe corridor dropped by roughly 26%. Major carriers completely suspended routes to regional hubs like Dubai, Erbil, and Kuwait through late July and August, resulting in significant flight delays and cancellations across primary European transit hubs.

- Airlines resume some Middle East flights but disruption continues

- Middle East conflict is disrupting global shipping routes
- War in the Gulf is grounding flights in London and Paris—and airlines are using it to dodge compensation

The war with Iran is preventing huge amounts of oil from flowing out of the Persian Gulf, but the prices that many people track don't fully capture the scale of the disruption.

Listen · 4:05 min

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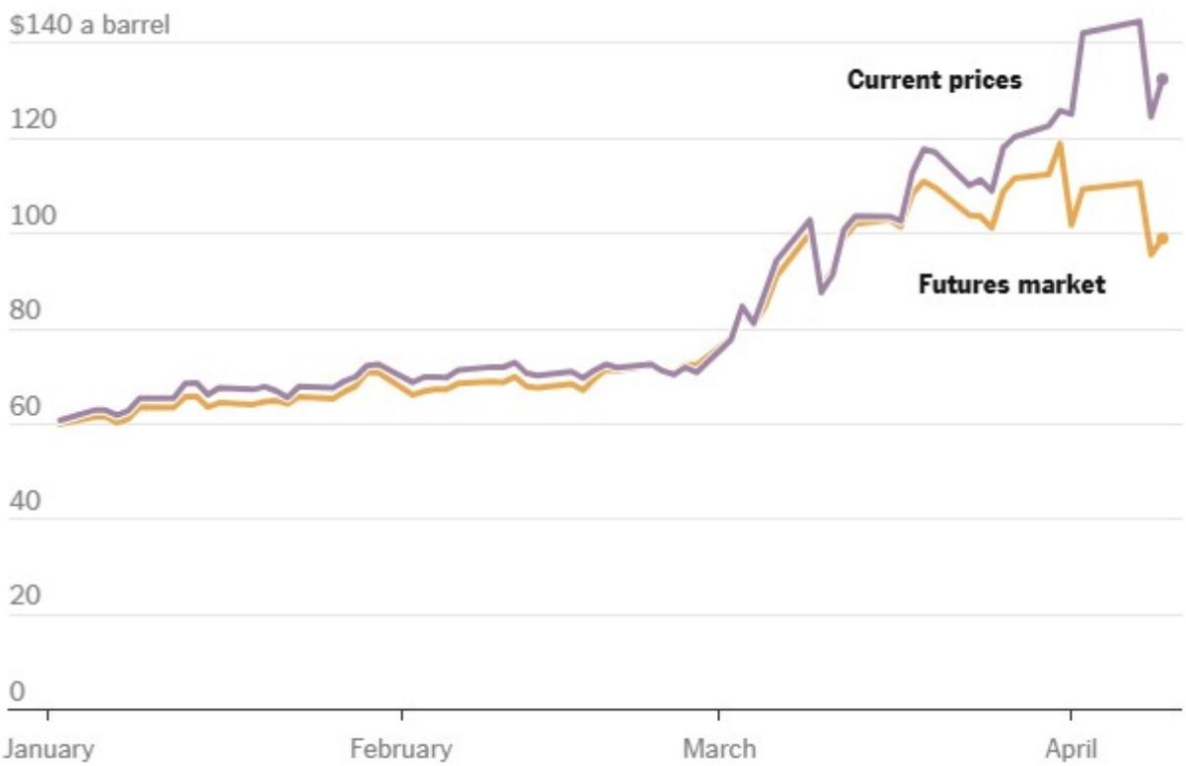
68

How oil prices have diverged

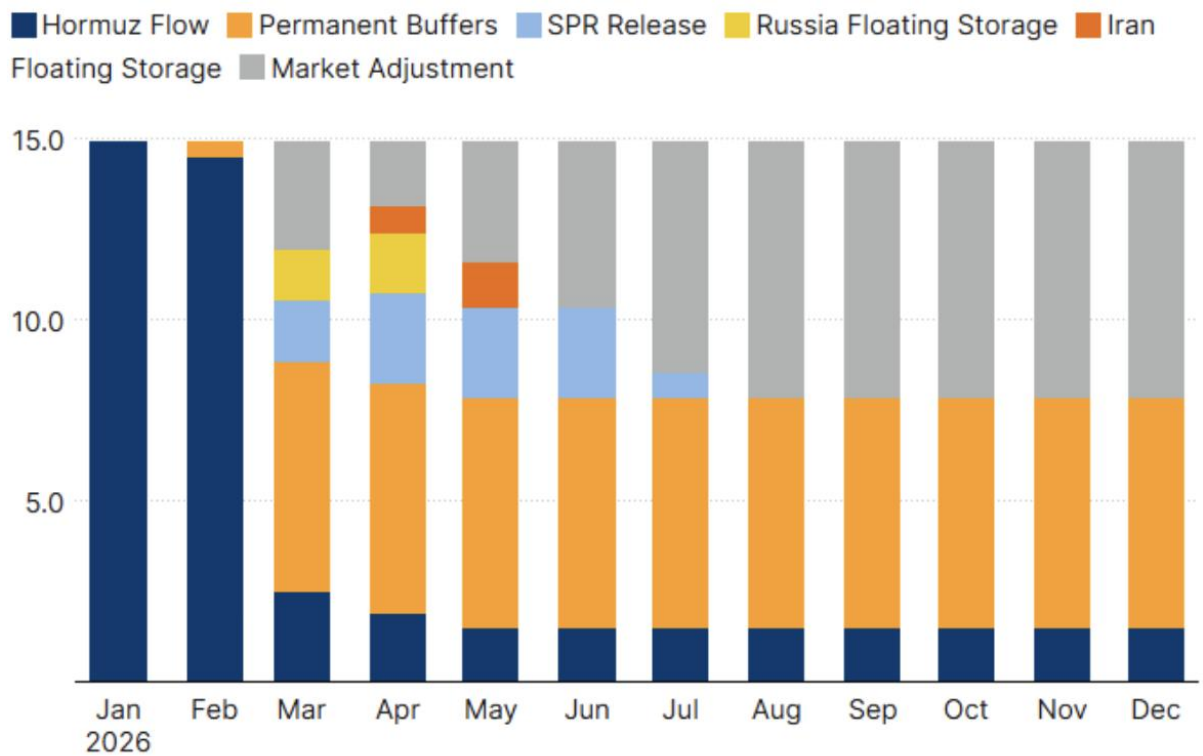


Note: Data is as of Thursday. Current prices are North Sea Dated crude oil. Futures prices are ICE Brent crude oil. Source: Argus Media. Rebecca F. Elliott/The New York Times

Source: https://www.unz.com/runz/the-iran-war-and-the-manipulation-of-oil-markets/

Crude oil market adjustment

Flow of crude oil by source in millions of barrels per day



Note: Hormuz Flow is the sum of all crude oil exports transiting the Strait of Hormuz at any time. Permanent Buffers include incremental increases to crude oil pipleline bypasses and the pre-war crude oil surplus. SPR Release, Iran Floating Storage, Russia Floating Storage, and Hormuz Flow are adjusted to their average monthly impact. Market Adjustment is calculated as the difference between pre-war Hormuz Flow and the sum of current Hormuz Flow, permanent buffers, and temporary buffers.

BROOKINGS

Information on the misconception of oil prices, where supply and futures are at, how the market is being manipulated:

- The Iran war and the manipulation of oil markets (good information, charts, and videos)
- 70% of daily trading is done by AI systems.
- Trump paused war to manipulate oil prices (video)

- Trump is lying about oil coming out of Hormuz (video)
- Quote from The Financial Times: "But while the futures price hovered around $100 per barrel during the most intense kinetic action, actual cargoes were changing hands at levels 80 to 100 per cent higher. Diesel and jet fuel prices were at a similar premium, reflecting widening refining spreads and shortages in key locations."

TRADE ROUTE DISRUPTIONS (as of mid-September, 2026)

Maritime Shipping Lanes

STRAIT OF HORMUZ

The shipping freeze remains strong. As of August 11, U.S. forces have redirected 55 commercial vessels trying to run the blockade, disabled three non-compliant ships, and enforced compliance on two others by boarding them. Historically, the Strait handled roughly 125 commercial vessels per day. By late August, daily traffic has plummeted by nearly 90%. According to Kpler and Marine Traffic, it now sees between 4 and 16 vessels per day, which are restricted to heavily guarded or covert movements.

- Iran Shipping Update – August 12, 2026

The economic fallout of the August blockades is highly concentrated among a few key nations

Top Affected Exporters (Persian Gulf Share of Flows):

1. Saudi Arabia: 37.2%
2. Iraq: 22.8%
3. United Arab Emirates: 12.9%
4. Kuwait: 10.1%
5. Iran: 10.6%

These five countries represent 93.6% of all crude oil transiting the strait.

Top Affected Importers (Asymmetry of Demand):

1. China: 37.7%
2. India: 14.7%
3. South Korea: 12.0%
4. Japan: 10.9%
5. United States: 2.5%

Asia receives 89.2% of the crude and condensate flowing through the strait. The above is the baseline mapping done in March 2026.

- Charted: Oil trade through the Strait of Hormuz by country – Visual Capitalist

THE BLACK SEA

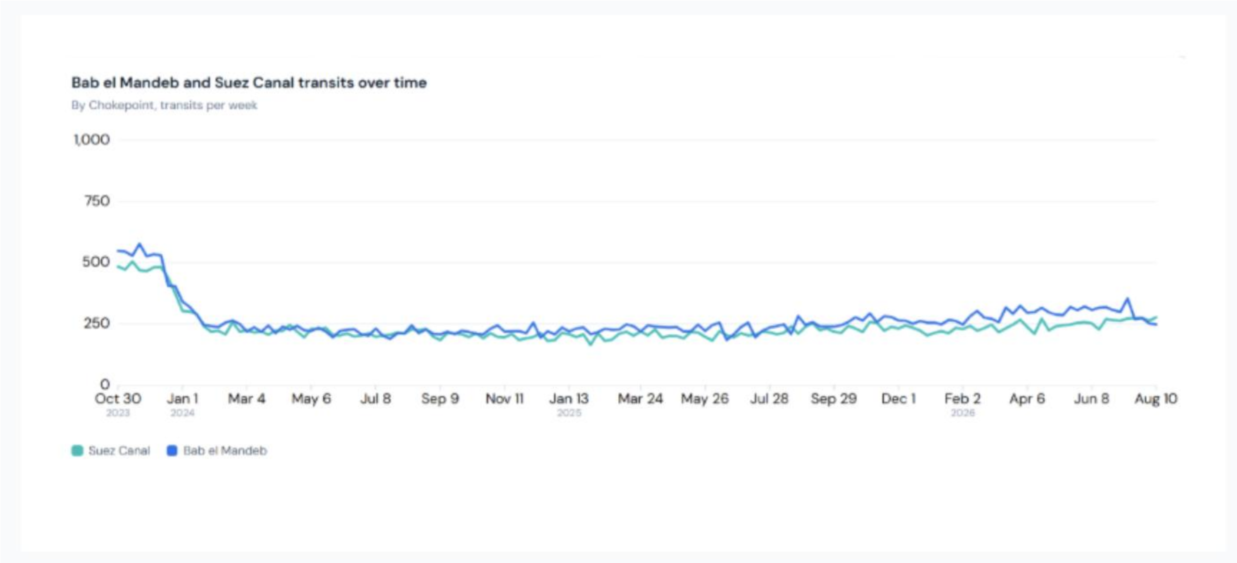
There was an escalation of strikes on maritime infrastructure and commercial tankers throughout August with Russia's ongoing war in Ukraine. Ukraine targeted tankers involved in Russia's oil trade, and Russia targeted grain corridors. This threat has restricted movements across the Black Sea, which generally transports 25% of global wheat supplies as well as heavy petroleum and fertilizer.

- Surge in Black Sea attacks adds to strain on global commodity flows

SUEZ CANAL

Suez Canal transits reached their highest level in more than two years, but still hovered at 41% below pre-crisis levels. The majority of container carriers were forced to bypass the region, rerouting around Africa's Cape of Good Hope, adding 10-15 days to Asia-Europe transit times.

- Red Sea Brief: 20 August 2026



Source: [Lloyd's List Intelligence Red Sea Transit Monitor]

RED SEA and BAB AL-MANDEB STRAIT

Yemen's Houthi forces enforced a strict maritime embargo on ships traveling toward Saudi Arabian ports and Western-aligned nations.

On August 11, Houthi forces attacked the Egyptian-owned cargo vessel Tihamah with a missile in the Bab al-Mandeb Strait, killing six seafarers and injuring ten. They claimed the ship carries Saudi military equipment. The claim was disputed and Lloyd's List Intelligence tracking showed a measurable drop in Red Sea vessel transits in the following weeks.

- Six killed in Houthi attack on Bab al-Mandeb ship, Yemen's government says

On August 24, Houthi forces attacked the Amzan, a Saudi oil supertanker operated by Bahri 63 miles west of Yanbu. A ballistic missile strike caused a fire aboard the vessel but all crew members were reported safe.

- Yemen's Houthis report attack on Saudi oil tanker in Red Sea

Megatron reports, "Saudi Arabia finds itself in a catastrophic situation. With the latest strike on the Abqaiq-to-Yanbu pipeline—which served as the last remaining route for oil exports following the blockade of the Strait of Hormuz—Saudi Arabia has essentially ceased exporting oil. Furthermore, it has already applied for a massive loan from the World Bank due to its dire economic state. The fall of the Bab al-Mandab Strait into Houthi hands represents yet another disaster of unprecedented proportions for the Saudis, who were already seeing 50% of their ships attacked and blocked. It is truly baffling to imagine how they will extricate themselves from this quagmire they have plunged into."

THE PANAMA CANAL

Below-average rainfall choked operations. It typically handles 36 to 38 daily ship transits, but due to drought, that number has dropped to two-thirds. On August 26, the Panamanian government officially declared a nationwide state of emergency regarding El Niño water shortages. Slots were capped at 34 vessels per day beginning September 3 and will drop to 32 vessels on September 15.

- Panama canal to reduce shipping as El Niño strikes vital route

Port Disruptions

⚓ Port Disruption & Congestion Summaries

Geopolitical rerouting, combined with end-of-summer peak demands, triggered a global container port congestion crisis peaking at **4.3 million TEUs** in late August. Airgroup

Region / Port	Primary Cause of Disruption	August 2026 Impact & Statistics
Jebel Ali Port (Dubai)	Hormuz Closure / Diverted Cargo	Experienced massive, cascading container congestion and delayed berthing windows, which only began to show signs of stabilizing late in the month.
East Asian Hubs (Shanghai / Ningbo-Zhoushan)	Geopolitical Bottlenecks & Extreme Weather	Suffered severe yard backlogs. Operations were further halted on **August 26–27** due to Typhoon Saudel, compounding existing war-routing delays.
West African Hubs (Apapa & Lagos, Nigeria / Pointe Noire, Congo)	Overflow from Cape of Good Hope Rerouting	Underwent immense logistical pressure from vessels seeking refueling. Yard utilization Maxed out, resulting in average vessel wait times stretching from **24 hours to 3.4 days**.

Source: https://airgroup.com/news/airgroup-fmu-8-27-26

Rail and Land Logistics

Eurasian / Russian Rail Corridors

Due to attacks in Black Sea ports, Russian and Eastern European agricultural trade shifted to railways away from the Black Sea and toward Russia's Baltic ports, with an increase of five million metric tons for August and September.

- Russian grain exports shift to Baltic as Black Sea trade disrupted

Middle East Landbridge Constraints

Due to the Strait of Hormuz closure, shippers attempted to load cargo at alternative ports to transit via overland trucking and rail corridors. By mid-August, the volume of goods exceeded the physical capacity of landside infrastructure, which in turn created freight rate spikes.

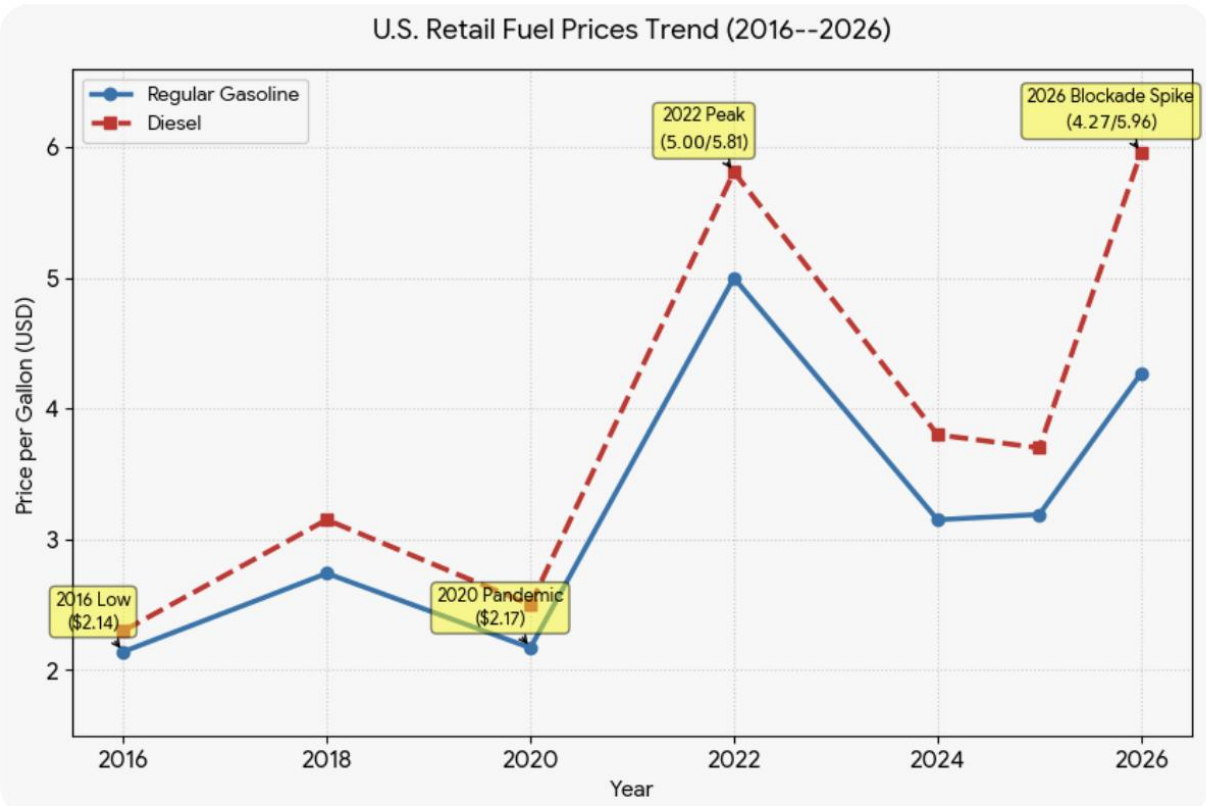
- Shippers see disruptions from Iran war, but cargo and freight rates are rising

Air Cargo Changes

Commercial air cargo carriers have had to bypass multiple national airspaces due to the warfare in the Middle East. Global demand rose 3.9% year on year, while capacity grew just 1.7%. This imbalance pushed the global cargo load factor to nearly 70.5%. Rising ocean freight rates are making air cargo more price-competitive.

- Air cargo demand holds as disruption reshapes trade flows

Various Charts

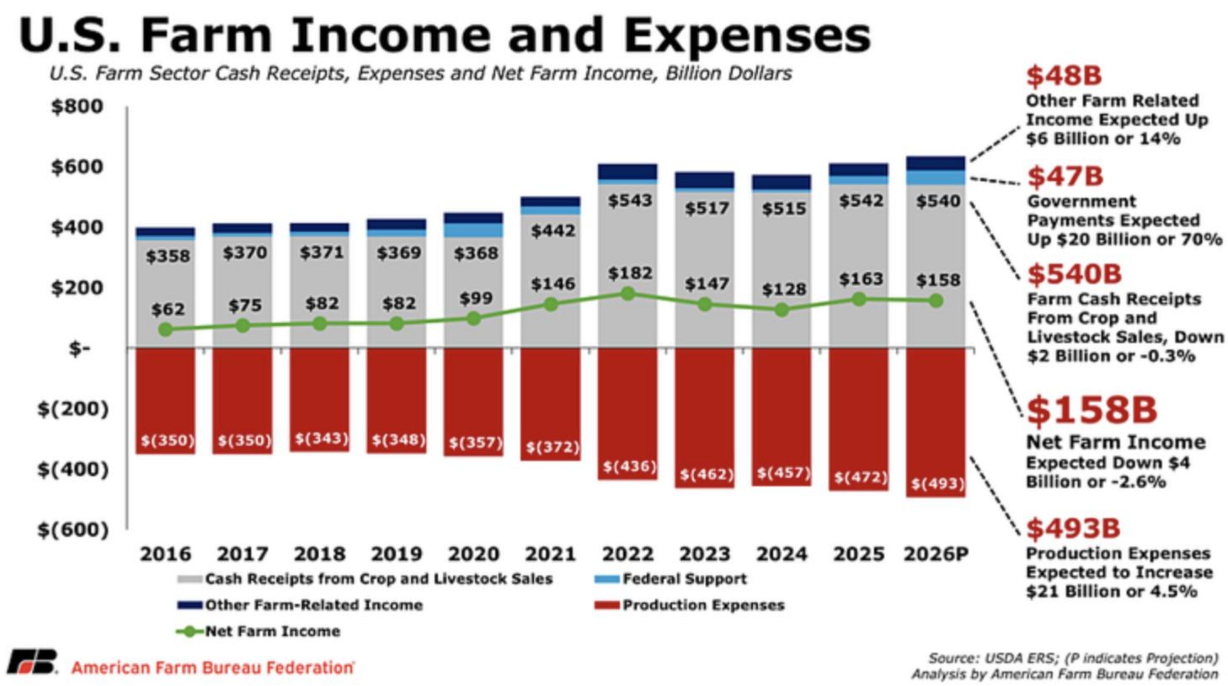


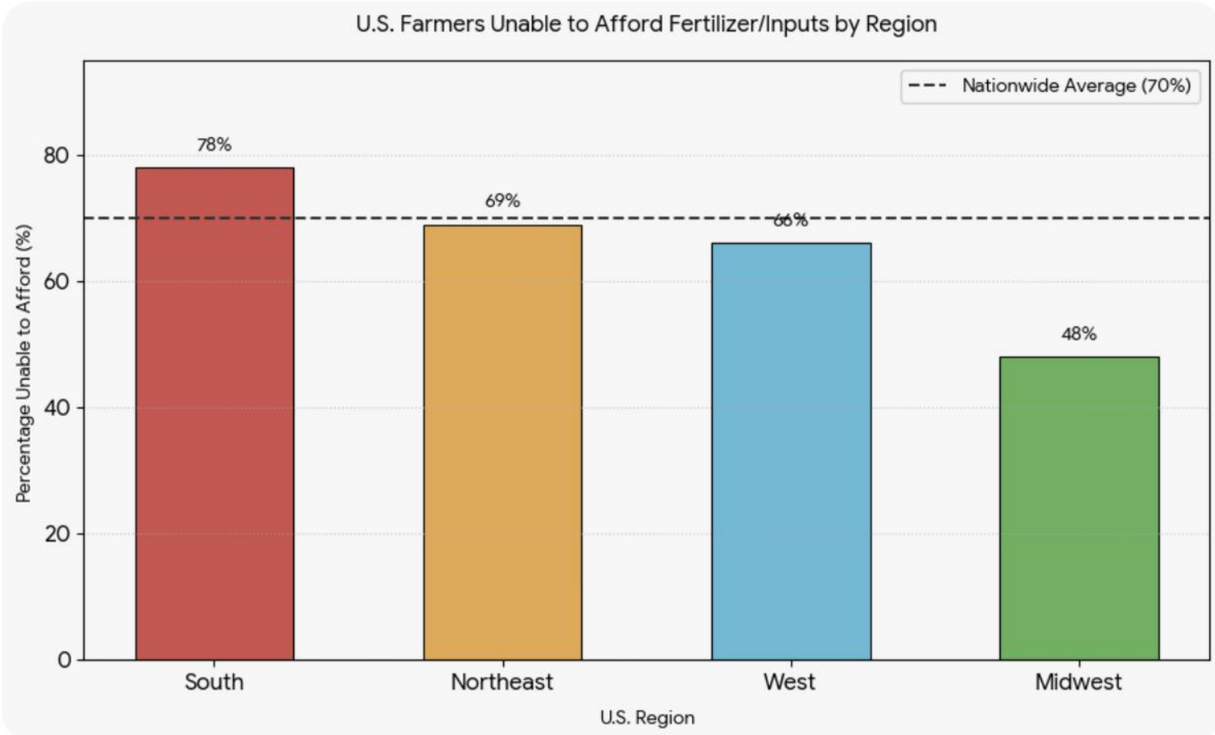
📊 Global Trade Bottleneck Index (August/September 2026)

📦 Key Product / Commodity	📉 Decrease in Global Volume Availability	⌛ Average Route Delay Time	📍 Primary Chokepoint & Cause
Crude Oil & Products	**-10% to -15%** (Seaborne)	**10 to 18 Days**	**Strait of Hormuz** (90% traffic collapse due to ongoing blockade and active strikes).
Petroleum & Diesel	**-25%** (Russian Regional Supply)	**N/A** (Total Export Bans)	**Russian Refineries** (Drone strikes knocking out 25-30% of domestic processing capacity).
Wheat & Agricultural Grains	**-35%** (Black Sea Corridors)	**7 to 12 Days**	**The Black Sea** (Targeted drone/ missile strikes forcing grain onto congested rail alternatives).
Fertilizer	**-22%** (Potash & Phosphate)	**12 to 15 Days**	**Bab al-Mandab & Suez** (Rerouting around Africa's Cape of Good Hope to avoid drone attacks).
Liquefied Natural Gas (LNG)	**-19%** (Global Supply Choke)	**14 to 20 Days**	**Strait of Hormuz** (Complete freeze on Qatari LNG vessels traveling westward).
Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG)	**-15%** (Neopanamax Transit)	**Up to 24 Days**	**Panama Canal** (Severe El Niño drought forcing auction bidding wars for limited daily slots).

The compounding crises across global trade routes and cost increases have caused severe financial strain for American agriculture. According to updated USDA projections, total U.S. farm production expenses are forecast to reach $492.8 billion—a figure corroborated by an AFBF survey of over 5,700 producers.

- [2026 farm income outlook brightens while fuel and fertilizer costs surge]





Links

[The Map They're Not Showing You]

[How the US Pulled Off an Armed Robbery of the World's Energy Supply and Created the Petrogas-Dollar]

[Electricity Prices by Country: Global Comparison of Residential and Industrial Rates]

[Corey's Digs]