

WINDOW COMMENTARY



FLAT PRICE

The Apr'25 Brent futures contract was initially supported up to around \$73.30/bbl circa 07:00 GMT on Wednesday, where it saw more selling and weakened to \$72.95/bbl at 10:20 GMT (time of writing). The soon-to-be prompt May'25 Brent futures contract similarly softened from \$72.75/bbl to \$72.40/bbl in this time. The market continues to be trading on thin liquidity amid the International Energy Week conference in London. The US and Ukraine have reportedly agreed on the terms of a draft minerals deal, injecting hope that we may see an end to the war between Ukraine and Russia soon. The contents of the deal are still unclear, although Reuters reported, via a source, that the deal does not specify any US security guarantees or continued flow of weapons. A future weapons shipment deal is still being discussed between Washington and Kiev. The market will now await EIA stats on weekly changes in US crude oil and product inventories for the week ending 21 Feb. API estimates for US crude oil showed a 0.640mb decline in stocks w/w. If the EIA confirms a decline in inventories at 15:00 GMT on Wednesday, it would mark the first weekly decline in US crude oil inventories since the week ending 23 Jan. In macroeconomic news, Taiwan has revised its 2025 GDP growth forecast from 3.29% to 3.14% due to budget cuts alongside the rising threat of US tariffs. The GDP growth rate for 2024 stood at 4.59%, by comparison. Finally, at the time of writing, the Apr/May'25 and Apr/Oct'25 Brent futures spreads stand at \$0.49/bbl and \$2.40/bbl, respectively.

CRUDE

Quiet start to the day in Dated. We finally saw a touch better selling of Mar DFL, now offered at \$0.56/bbl as sell-side interest in Mar/Apr DFL and Dated as well as Mar/May DFL emerged from trade houses, trading \$0.16/bbl, \$0.57/bbl, and \$0.19/bbl, respectively. Continued buying of Apr/may Dated supported the Apr/May DFL, well bid at \$0.02/bbl. 22-25 Apr vs 28-30 Apr saw selling at \$0.08/bbl, whilst there was hedge buying interest in 10-14 Mar vs Cal Apr.

This morning we moved lower again in Brent/Dubai, with Mar Brent/Dubai opening at -\$0.87/bbl and trading down to -\$1.00/bbl. There was refiner and major buying of May ICE vs Mar Dub and the May EFS, which traded \$0.89/bbl to \$0.97/bbl and \$0.38/bbl. The Dubai spreads strengthened slightly, with refiner offering the Mar/Apr/May Dubai spread, trading at -\$0.02/bbl. The Mar/Apr and Apr/May Dubai spreads traded \$0.64/bbl to \$0.69/bbl and \$0.66/bbl to \$0.77/bbl. There was Mar/Apr box buying, which traded -\$0.25/bbl to -\$0.26/bbl. In the quarterlies, there was a bank and Chinese refiner on the bid and bank on the offer, with some Q2'25 and Q4'25 trading -\$0.4/bbl and \$0.3/bbl.

FUEL

In HSFO, the front 380 structure saw aggressive buying from tradehouses in Mar/Apr, as we saw bids from \$19.50/mt to \$20.50/mt, structure down the curve also strengthened as a result of this. The strength in 380 led to the increased buyside interests in front 380 E/W, trading from \$20/mt to \$21/mt. This supported the front 380 crack, trading from -\$0.20/bbl to flat. In 3.5% barges, the front 3.5% barge crack was initially stronger following the strength of 380, but softened from -\$3.45/bbl to -\$3.55/bbl with a stronger front E/W. Front 3.5% barge structure was a touch better offered, with Mar/Apr trading at \$6/mt the whole morning.

In VLSFO, the front Sing crack saw aggressive selling heading into the window, with offers from \$9.40/bbl to \$9.15/bbl. Front structure caught up with the weakness during the window, as we saw selling in Mar/Apr from \$2.25/mt to the lows of \$1.25/mt. We also saw offers in front Sing Hi-5 and 0.5 E/W, which further put pressure on the front Sing crack down to \$9.10/bbl. As a result of a weaker Sing crack, front Euro crack was also trading weaker, from \$4.80/bbl to \$4.70/bbl. Euro structure in the front also saw offers, trading at \$6.50/mt from \$7/mt (yesterday's close).

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DISTILLATES

Sing gasoil spreads opened stronger but were hit down into the window. The Mar/Apr spread weakened to \$0.48/bbl from \$0.54/bbl, before recovering post-window to \$0.51/bbl, while the Apr/May spread traded at \$0.56/bbl. The prompt E/W was strong, trading up from -\$25.00/mt to -\$23.75/mt, while the Apr traded up to -\$17.00/mt with the May also getting lifted at -\$14.50/mt into the morning. There was also buy-side interest in quarterlies, with Q2'25 trading from -\$15.50/mt to -\$15.25/mt, with Q3'25 trading from -\$15.50/mt to -\$15.25/mt as well. The prompt regrade rallied into the morning window, getting lifted up from -\$1.20/bbl to -\$1.05/bbl, with Apr also stronger at -\$1.25/bbl post-window. Similarly, the Kero spreads were also stronger into the morning session. The Mar/Apr spread traded up from \$0.65/bbl to \$0.71/bbl, while the regrade roll rallied from \$0.17/bbl to \$0.20/bbl.

ICE gasoil spreads weakened into the morning post-window, with Mar/Apr weakening to \$13.50/mt, and Apr/Jun lower at \$14.75/mt post-window. Similarly, the ICE gasoil cracks trended downwards this morning. The Mar crack is at \$19.45/bbl and the Q4'25 crack is at \$18.20/bbl, with the prompt weaker relative to yesterday's levels at close. NWE jet saw a quiet start to the day again, with some interest in the Cal'26 crack as it traded at \$19.65/bbl, while there was some interest in the Q3'25 diff around \$49.50/mt and \$50.75/mt. The HOGOs also weakened into the morning, with the Mar swap at 13.15c/gal and the Q4'25 swap at 13.35c/gal post-window.

GASOLINE

This morning in gasoline, we saw Mar 92 flat price valued at \$82/bbl at the end of the window equivalent to \$9.25/bbl on a crack basis. Mar 92 cracks saw selling down to \$9.25/bbl from \$9.35/bbl before strengthening post-window to \$9.45/bbl with Q4'25 seeing selling at \$5.90/bbl. Spreads also came off in the window with Mar/Apr trading from \$0.60/bbl to \$0.55/bbl before going better bid up to \$0.58/bbl and Apr/May seeing buying to \$0.73/bbl. Mar E/W was valued at -\$0.85/bbl with Mar EBOB cracks seeing selling at \$10.10/bbl before going better bid up to \$10.25/bbl as Mar/Apr traded between -\$28.50/mt and -\$28.25/mt and Apr/May valued at \$2.25/mt. Front arbs saw little activity with Q2'25 arbs seeing buying at 16.45c/gal as May RBBRs were bid from \$20.57/bbl to \$20.80/bbl.

NAPHTHA

This morning in naphtha, we saw MOPJ MOC valued at \$652/mt with MOC better bid. MOPJ structure was strong this morning with Apr cracks trading up to -\$0.5/bbl from -\$0.9/bbl pre-window and softening towards end window to trade at -\$0.63/bbl while spreads were also well bid going into the window with Mar/Apr trading up to \$13.25/mt before cooling to \$12.75/mt end window and Apr/May following trading up to \$10/mt and back at \$9.25/mt in the window. Front E/W was implied higher in the morning but was valued at \$15.5/mt end window with Apr also trading at \$19/mt. NWE cracks were also well bid in the morning with the front trading up to -\$1.05/bbl post-window from -\$1.2/bbl value during the window while spreads were also bid up with Mar/Apr and Apr/May trading at highs of \$17/mt and \$10/mt, respectively.

NGLS

This morning in NGLss, FEI was slightly better bid with prompt structure balanced but deferred slightly stronger. In the front, we saw Mar/Apr and Apr/May trade at \$11.5/mt and \$10.5/mt, respectively, post-window we saw Mar/Apr trade up to \$12/mt. In deferred, we saw Sep/Dec and Nov/Dec trade at -\$8/mt and flat, respectively. Quieter physical window with a bid being made for 1H Apr FEI at \$600/mt fixed and an offer for 1H Apr at Apr FEI plus \$15/mt. FEI/MOPJs had strong interest in both prompt and deferred with Q2'25 and Q4'25 trading up to -\$49/mt and -\$24/mt, respectively. Arbs were quiet but implied weaker owing to FEI slight strength with Mar implied at -\$148/mt. FEI/CP gained strength towards the end of the window with Apr and May trading up to \$2.5/mt and \$6/mt, respectively; whilst E/W was quiet and unchanged with Mar implied at \$58.5/mt.

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GLOBAL MACRO

- US bond sell off now has OIS pricing 59bp cuts by year end, was 48bp just 24 hours before.
- Nvidia earning tonight has the equity market focus. The implied move is around 10%, while the entire semiconductor sector has an implied move of approximately 4%. This is the most bearish sentiment heading into NVDA earnings in years.
- US FEB. CONSUMER CONFIDENCE 98.3; EST. 102.5 BBG
- Present situation confidence fell to 136.5 vs. 139.9 last month.
- Consumer confidence expectations fell to 72.9 vs. 82.2 last month.
- Median inflation expectations at 4.8% following 4.2% the prior month.
- TREASURY'S BESSENT SAYS U.S. ECONOMY IS "BRITTLE UNDERNEATH" DUE TO EXCESSIVE SPENDING BY BIDEN ADMINISTRATION.
- Expect more Yen strength. USDJPY should trade lower once 148.63 previous swing low is take out.
- Japan December final leading indicator index rises 108.3 vs 107.8 prior
- German GfK Consumer Confidence Index dropped from -22.6 to -24.7, its lowest level since Apr 2024. Economists polled by Bloomberg had predicted an improvement to -21.6.
- Mag 7 stocks are now in correction territory (-10% from peak). Magnificent 7 = Apple, Nvidia, Microsoft, Amazon, Google, Meta, Tesla.
- Tesla shares extend decline to 10% on the day as sales fall 45% in Europe.
- MicroStrategy (ponzi) falls 10% (down 50% from its highs).
- Fartcoin is now down 90% from it's peak in January. (Clown investors everywhere! the market is NOT rational).

Data Today:

Australian CPI, US new home sales, Nvidia earnings.

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