

# **WINDOW COMMENTARY**



## **FLAT PRICE**

The May'25 Brent futures contract climbed from \$69.55/bbl at 06:55 GMT to \$70.65/bbl at 10:55 GMT (time of writing). These gains may have come from players unwinding short risk ahead of the weekend due to rising uncertainty in the market on a tariff and geopolitical risk front. Despite this, oil prices are still set for a weekly decline, down from an intraday high of \$73.40/bbl on 3 Mar. The market will now be awaiting the release of US non-farm payrolls for February 2025 (consensus: 160k, prev: 143k). In other news, US President Donald Trump suspended the 25% tariffs he had imposed on most goods from Canada and Mexico, although the amended order does not cover non-USMCA-compliant Canadian energy products, on which a separate 10% duty was imposed. Tariffs on steel and aluminium imports to the US are expected to go into effect on 12 Mar, as scheduled. Finally, Ukraine's energy minister has claimed that Russian forces targeted Naftogaz's gas and energy infrastructure in various parts of the country in their latest drone attack. Finally, at the time of writing, the May/Jun'25 and May/Nov'25 Brent futures spreads stand at \$0.52/bbl and \$2.30/bbl.

### **CRUDE**

This morning in Dated, we saw spreads rally with strength in prompt rolls. The Balmo DFL traded up to \$0.94/bbl and the April DFL up to \$0.60/bbl. We saw a high lift of the 7-13 March vs 17-28 March at \$0.59/bbl, and the 10th vs 17th March Dated roll traded at \$0.36/bbl, pushing up the 10-14 1w. We also saw an offer at \$0.83/bbl for the 17-21 March CFD pulled with rolls moving higher, and the 17-21 1w traded up to \$0.30/bbl. There was continued strength in Jun and July, with the DFL roll trading up to \$0.08/bbl, and the June DFL reached highs of \$0.43/bbl.

This morning in Brent/Dubai, we continued to move lower, opening at -\$0.73/bbl and trading down to -\$0.86/bbl. The Dubai spreads continued to move higher, with trade house and major on the bid. The Apr/May and May/Jun Dubai spreads traded up from \$0.69/bbl and \$0.62/bbl to \$0.79/bbl and \$0.7/bbl. There was box selling off the back of this, with May/Jun, Jul/Aug and Sep/Oct trading -\$0.27/bbl to -\$0.3/bbl, -\$0.14/bbl and -\$0.08/bbl. There was also Jun and Jul EFS buying in the morning, which traded \$0.64/bbl to \$0.67/bbl and \$0.77/bbl to \$0.78/bbl. In the quarterlies, there was trade house buying in Q2 and selling in Q4, which traded -\$0.53/bbl to -\$0.54/bbl and \$0.33/bbl to \$0.34/bbl.

#### **FUEL**

In HSFO, the front 380 structure was well bid in the window, with Apr/May trading from \$7/mt to \$7.50/mt. We also saw aggressive bids in bal spread up to \$28.50/mt at the end of the window. As a result, this supported the front 380 cracks from -\$2.30/bbl to -\$2.15/bbl. However, we then saw sell side interests post window as we also saw sell side interests in Q3 380 crack. This further put pressure on the front crackdown to -\$2.50/bbl. In barges, front barge crack became better-offered post window, which allowed 380 E/W to trade up to \$14.50/mt. Front barge structure was also weaker, with Apr/May implied at \$3.50/mt from trading at \$4/mt earlier this morning.

In VLSFO, the front Sing crack saw aggressive selling the whole morning from \$7.65/bbl to \$7.10/bbl. We also saw sell-side interest in backend cracks in Q3 and Q4, which further put pressure on the front crack. As a result, front structure was better offered with Apr/May trading at \$1/mt. 0.5 E/W was also better offered, trading around \$27.50/mt. Though front Euro crack was also weaker following the move in the front Sing crack, trading from \$3/bbl to \$2.70/bbl. Front Euro structure was also better offered with Apr/May trading at \$4.25/mt.

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#### **DISTILLATES**

This morning in distillates, the front Sing gasoil spreads were better bid, the April/May trading up to \$0.66/bbl as the April E/W opened higher, getting lifted on screen to -\$15.50/mt before coming back off a tick to -\$15.75/mt as ICE gasoil rallied post-window. There was little volume trading in regrade, the Q2'25 trading between -\$0.83/bbl and -\$0.81/bbl as the kero spreads were bid, particularly in April/Jun, which traded up to \$0.70/bbl.

ICE gasoil spreads were stronger at the front of the curve, the front Mar/Apr/May and Apr/May/Jun rallying to highs of \$6.00/mt and \$3.75/mt. Gasoil cracks were similarly strong, the Mar swap rallying \$0.70 to \$18.80/bbl. European jet diffs opened a touch weaker, the Mar/April box offered at -\$1.50/mt as the Q3'25 traded at \$49.25/mt. Heating oil spreads rallied for the morning as the HOGOs continued to come off on relative gasoil strength, the Q2'25 to 9.40c/gal.

#### **GASOLINE**

This morning in gasoline, we saw Sing 92 flat price trade end window at \$76.7/bbl with MOC offered. Cracks traded up to \$7.15/bbl in the window as gasoline went better bid in both curves and spreads saw some better buying this morning with Apr/May trading at \$0.35/bbl and MayJun seeing buying up to \$0.53/bbl post window but there was scaleback selling on the Q2/Q3'25 crack roll from \$0.60/bbl to \$0.70/bbl. E/W softened a touch, trading down to -\$4.20/bbl but recovering to trade at -\$4/bbl later. EBOB was initially better bid this morning, with the front crack trading up to \$11.55/bbl in the morning as arbs came off and RBBRs firmed, and the Q3'25 EBOB crack traded up to 11.6/bbl. EBOB spreads also seemed better supported with buying in the front spreads, with Apr/Jun trading up to -\$0.25/mt post window and buying on the Q3/Q4'25 crack roll at \$5.85/bbl. Arbs were mixed in the morning with shorts profit taking in the front but still softened from 20c/gal to 19.25c/gal, and RBBRs were weak through the window, trading down to \$18.90/bbl before some buying came in immediately after the window to push it up to trade up to \$19.25/bbl.

### **NAPHTHA**

In Naphtha this morning, MOPJ flat price traded the end window at \$608/mt with MOC offered. There was a scaleback of Chinese crack buying in the morning from -\$0.85/bbl to -\$1.1/bbl and a price buying end window. Spreads were initially offered in the morning, with Apr/May trading at \$7/mt but recovered later to trade at \$7.25/mt. The E/W initially came off in the morning to trade at \$19.75/mt before firming back to 20.25/mt. NWE cracks were rangebound around -\$3.35/bbl in the morning, and spreads were more balanced with Apr/May trading at \$6.75/mt.

## **NGLS**

This morning in NGLs, FEI was balanced with structure coming off significantly in prompt and balanced in deferred. In prompt, we saw Apr/May and Q2/Q3 trade down to \$10.25/mt and \$15/mt respectively; whilst in deferred we saw Sep25/Oct25 and Aug26/Sep26 trade -\$4/mt and -\$3.75/mt respectively. Physical window had a similar theme of being well bid, with bids being made for 1H Apr at Balmo Mar FEI plus \$3/mt and 2H Apr at Apr FEI plus \$13/mt. Arbs were balanced owing to crude, with just May trading at -\$158/mt, the same flows from yesterday. FEI/CP was stronger, with Apr and May trading up to -\$6/mt and -\$0.5/mt, respectively; CP structure was slightly weaker, with May/July and June/July trading down to \$29.5/mt and \$12.5/mt, respectively.

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#### **GLOBAL MACRO**

- U.S. Payrolls today at 1:30 p.m. The market consensus is +160k, and the unemployment rate remains at 4%. However, weak ADP and Challenger job layoffs suggest it could be weaker. Expect volatility. If it's weaker, then the FED comes into play, and economists revise GDP lower. If it surprises to the upside, there's a massive long bond position that will get squeezed.
- U.S. JOB CUTS TOTAL 172,017 IN FEBRUARY; PREV. 49,795 CHALLENGER \*HIGHEST SINCE JULY 2020
- After 14 consecutive monthly increases, small business payroll growth turned negative in February per ADP
- Nasdaq 100 finally closed below the 200-day moving average (a key technical level), closing its second-longest uptrend
  in history. 200dma is typically a key selling level...... TRUMP: I'M NOT EVEN LOOKING AT THE STOCK MARKET (This
  means he's looking at the stock market!)
- SCOTT BESSENT: "Let me be clear the US does NOT have a revenue problem, we have a spending problem."
- Fed Harker: Economy generally looks okay, but there are threats
- **ECB's wording**: "Monetary policy is becoming meaningfully less restrictive". A bit more hawkish. But the disinflation process is "well on track", and staff projections are broadly unchanged over the medium term, including 1.9% core inflation in 2027.
- ECB's Lagarde: Consumer confidence is fragile, uncertainty to weigh on investment
- LAGARDE: HIGH UNCERTAINTY HOLDING BACK INVESTMENTS, EXPORTS BBG
- LAGARDE: LABOR DEMAND HAS MODERATED
- LAGARDE: EMPLOYMENT GROWTH SUBDUED IN JAN., FEB.
- LAGARDE: UNCERTAINTY HAS RISEN, TO DAMP ECONOMY But...... uncertainty calls for a possible pause in rate
  cuts..... ECB SOURCES: THE CHANCE OF AN INTEREST RATE CUT PAUSE IN APRIL IS GROWING RATES ARE STILL LIKELY
  TO FALL FURTHER, 2.5% UNLIKELY TO BE THE BOTTOM OF THE CYCLE

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