

# **WINDOW COMMENTARY**



# **FLAT PRICE**

The May'25 Brent crude futures bounced above \$70/bbl on Monday morning, reaching a high of \$70.67/bbl at 09:51 GMT, and trading at \$70.40/bbl by 10:45 GMT (time of writing). As the market contends with bearish factors, including tariff uncertainty and OPEC+ output increases, \$70 is holding up as a critical level of support. The U.S. will push Ukraine for a ceasefire commitment at Saudi-led talks, following Trump's suspension of military aid to pressure Kyiv into negotiations. Meanwhile, European allies are drafting security proposals, though uncertainties remain over Russia's stance and the future of U.S. support. Kurdistan Region's oil exports may resume later this month, as Baghdad, Erbil, and international oil companies near a final agreement, with key disputes largely resolved but ongoing talks needed to secure payment guarantees and contractual adherence before full implementation. At CERAWeek, oil executives face a downturn with weak prices, layoffs, and investor pressure, while Trump's pro-drilling push clashes with industry caution on investment and output growth. China's newest refiner, Shandong Yulong Petrochemical, plans to test-run its second 200kb/d crude unit in late March, boosting crude imports and refined product output, though adding pressure to already thin refining margins amid waning domestic fuel demand. Finally, the front (May/Jun) and 6-month (May/Nov) Brent futures spreads are at \$0.48/bbl and \$2.29/bbl respectively.

# **CRUDE**

Quiet morning in Dated, with spreads ticking higher and the April DFL lifted up to \$0.62/bbl, May DFL going bid at \$0.51/bbl and the Apr/May DFL roll trading \$0.10/bbl. Also saw the Cal April vs 14-22 April roll offered in good size down to \$0.06/bbl by Gevena trade. March rolls were bid with buy-side interest in 24-28 Mar 1-week and Cal April roll and the 17-21 March vs Cal April.

This morning we moved lower in Brent/Dubai, with Apr B/D trading down from -\$0.87/bbl down to -\$0.97/bbl. This was led by strong Dubai spread buying down the whole curve, Tradehouse and Fund on the bid. Apr/May and May/Jun Dubai spreads traded between \$0.77/bbl to \$0.8/bbl and \$0.68/bbl to \$0.71/bbl. This meant there was selling in the Brent/Dubai boxes, with Apr/May and Aug/Dec boxes trading between -\$0.35/bbl to -\$0.37/bbl and -\$0.38/bbl to -\$0.41/bbl. Other than that it was very quiet, some May Ice vs fullmo Mar buyside interest came in from Major, with none trading.

## **FUEL**

Front 380 structure saw better buying this morning, with Apr/May trading from \$8.50/mt to \$8.75/mt. This and the outright buying both supported the front 380 crack, trading around -\$1.80/bbl handle. Post window, we saw some buyside interests in backend Q4 380 EW at \$13/mt, which supported the front EW at \$14/mt dollars. However, front 380 crack further softened to -\$2.05/bbl as the morning progressed as we also saw some selling in 380 structure. Barge structure on the other hand was a touch stronger as we saw buying in Apr/May from \$4.25/mt to \$4.50/mt.

Front Sing crack saw buyside interests, trading from \$7.30/bbl up to \$7.65/bbl. As a result, structure down the curve were better bid in the window with Apr/May trading up to \$1.75/mt. Post window, we saw sell-side interests in front 0.5 EW, this put some pressure on the front sing crack, softening to \$7.55/bbl, buyside interests in structure also reduced with Apr/May trading down to \$1.50/mt. A weaker 0.5 EW therefore supported front Euro crack, trading at \$2.70/bbl. We then saw some buyside interests in front Euro spreads, with Apr/May trading up to \$4.50/mt from \$4/mt (Friday's close), as a result front crack was a touch stronger, trading up to \$2.80/bbl.

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#### **DISTILLATES**

This morning in distillates, the Apr/May Sing gasoil spread was hit down on screen to \$0.55 in the window before rallying back to \$0.60/bbl as ICE gasoil rallied as the deferred spreads were bid, the Jul/Aug trading up to \$0.09/bbl. The Apr EW opened higher at -\$13.75/mt before getting sold down to -\$15.00/mt as the end of the window as the 3Q was bid, ticking up to -\$13.75/mt. The prompt regrade remained rangebound, trading between -\$1.18/bbl and -\$1.14/bbl as the kero spreads were bid, the Jun/Sep trading down to \$0.14/bbl as the Sep/Dec traded at \$0.45/bbl.

ICE gasoil spreads rallied for the morning, the Mar/Jun to \$27.25/mt as the Mar crack rallied to \$18.00/bbl. Heating oil spreads were rangebound as the HOGOs came off, the Q2 to 9.3 c/gal

#### **GASOLINE**

This morning in gasoline, we saw 92 flat price trade end window at \$77.01/bbl with moc better offered. Cracks were valued around \$7.15/bbl towards end window and spreads were more supported this morning with Apr/May trading at \$0.4/bbl end window from \$0.3/bbl and MayJun trading at \$0.52/bbl post window from \$0.45/bbl. EW was better offered this morning with the front softening to trade around -\$4.05/bbl from -\$3.9/bbl while in EBOB structure was better supported this morning as well with cracks trading around \$11.1/bbl in the window in the front and Q3 had buying around \$11.45/bbl. Spreads recovered a bit post window with Apr/May seeing buying up to -\$2.25/mt from -\$3/mt and Jun/Sep trading up to \$22.5/mt later on from \$21.5/mt. Arbs were still seeing buying in the morning in the front up to 19.1c/gal and RBBRs were better bid with May firming from trading around \$18.4/bbl to \$18.7/bbl end window and continuing to trend up to \$18.9/bbl post-window.

## **NAPHTHA**

In naphtha we saw MOPJ flat price trade end window at \$615/mt with MOC better offered. Front cracks traded around -\$0.75/bbl in the window and end window there was better flat price buying end window. Spreads were a touch stronger on the day with Apr/May trading at \$7.75/mt and in the backend buyside interest in Sep/Oct at \$3.5/mt. EW was balanced through the morning trading at \$20/mt in the front and in Q3 while in NWE cracks were stronger on MOPJ flat price buying trading at -\$3/bbl end window from -\$3.15/bbl and spreads saw little interest but Apr/May was valued at \$7.5/mt.

### **NGLS**

This morning in NGL's, FEI was balanced with prompt structure slightly weaker and deferred balanced. In the front, we saw Apr/May trade down to \$10/mt during the window before being supported at \$10.5/mt; in the back of the curve, we saw Nov/Dec25 and Oct/Nov25 trade at -\$4/mt and -\$0.25/mt respectively. Physical window was better bid with bids being made for 1H Apr at Apr FEI plus \$17/mt at Port Qingdao and 2H Apr at Apr FEI plus \$13.5/mt. Arbs were quiet with Apr Arb implied higher at -\$153.5/mt owing to crude; whilst EW was also quiet with Apr implied at \$65/mt. CP flat price was better bid with Apr handles trading up to \$584/mt during the window, whilst structure saw strength in the front of the curve but weaker on the back owing to strong sell side interest from importers. In the front, we saw Apr/May and May/July trade up to \$17/mt and \$29.5/mt respectively; whilst in the back we saw May/Aug and July/Dec trade down to \$34.5/mt and -\$13/mt respectively.

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#### **GLOBAL MACRO**

- CHINA SLUMPS INTO DEFLATION AGAIN, WITH FIRST NEGATIVE CORE CPI PRINT SINCE 2021.
- CHINA CPI INFLATION -0.7% Y/Y, EST. -0.4%.
- CHINA PPI INFLATION -2.2% Y/Y, EST. -2.0%...These numbers will amplify concerns about the risk of a self-reinforcing process of "Japanification" of the Chinese economy.
- China's planned deficit now at 4% of GDP compared to the earlier record of 3.6% in 2020. Is China looking to add more stimulus as the US data turns softer?
- Bitcoin fell 6% yesterday to \$80,000, risk off again this morning with US equity futures and yields on the lows following Chinese deflation data.
- The Dollar had its worst weekly drop since Nov 2022 and its third worst week in over 15 years.
- Japan Sees Fastest Base Pay Gains in 32 Years in Boost for BOJ.
- Japanese 40-year bond yield hits highest level ever.
- The weaker part of the Friday US payrolls data. Multiple job holders hits a new high. Part time for economic reasons is also rising, highest level since July 2021 (coming off the COVID highs).
- China hits Canada with retaliatory tariffs on agricultural products. This is also to prevent US farmers selling produce to China through Canada......FT - "China's commerce ministry on Saturday said it would impose 100 per cent tariffs on Canadian rapeseed oil and pea imports and a 25 per cent levy on pork and some seafood imports. It said it was responding to "discriminatory" tariffs of 100 per cent on electric vehicles and 25 per cent on steel and aluminium that Ottawa announced in August, which followed similar actions by the US."

### Data this week:

- Tuesday JOTLS job openings
- Wednesday US CPI, mortgage applications, BOC rate decision
- o Thursday US PPI
- Friday US consumer sentiment, UK GPD & IP

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