

WINDOW COMMENTARY



FLAT PRICE

The Sep'25 Brent crude futures came off gradually on Wednesday morning, finding support at \$68/bbl and trading at \$68.20/bbl by 11:30 BST (time of writing). In the news, despite Chevron's US-forced exit, Venezuela has held oil output near 1.1 mb/d in June-July by binge-buying diluent naphtha. Energy Minister Michael Shanks said the Prax Lindsey refinery will halt refining after this month as it goes into liquidation, with existing fuel sold off over the following weeks. U.S. Energy Secretary Chris Wright said sanctioning Russian oil is a "very real possibility" as part of efforts to end the Ukraine war, backing Trump's threat of 100% tariffs on buyers if Moscow doesn't agree to a peace deal by early September. India's Nayara Energy, newly sanctioned by the EU, cancelled a naphtha export tender after tightening payment terms, marking the first such move since the bloc's latest sanctions package targeting the Rosneft-backed refiner. Mexico plans to raise up to \$10 billion through a special-purpose vehicle to indirectly support debt-laden Pemex, boosting its bonds amid efforts to stabilise the oil giant's balance sheet without direct state intervention. Finally, the front (Sep/Oct) and 6-month (Sep/Mar) Brent futures spreads are at \$0.72/bbl and \$1.94/bbl respectively.

CRUDE

This morning in Dated, spreads came off from opening higher with selling across rolls. The 4-8 Aug 3-week roll was offered and the 11-15 Aug v Cal Sep traded at \$1.15/bbl down to \$1.10/bbl with the Aug/Sep DFL roll offered down to \$0.59/bbl from buying at \$0.66/bbl last night. The 4-8 Aug 1-week roll was more supported with buying of the 4-8 Aug CFD at \$1.81/bbl. We also saw the 1-5 Sep v Cal Sep offered down to \$0.30/bbl and selling interest in the 23-29 July v cal Aug roll.

FUEL OIL

Front 380 EW saw aggressive sellside interests in Aug Sep and Oct, with Aug trading down to -\$18/mt in the window. This weakened front 380 crack, trading down to \$-3.90/bbl. As a result, front spreads were also better offered, with Aug/Sep trading down to -\$2.50/mt. Post window, we saw some buying in front 380 EW, therefore it recovered back to -\$17.50/mt, but this did not last long before we saw outright buying in front barge crack, trading from -\$1.25/bbl to -\$0.7/bbl. The strength in the front crack and some buying in front barge structure caused front spreads to rally, with Aug/Sep and Sep/Oct bid to \$15/mt and \$10.50/mt respectively.

Front Sing crack had a rangebound morning, trading between \$9.90/bbl and \$10.05/bbl. Heading into the window, we saw some buying in front Sing structure, with bids in Aug/Sep at \$2.50/mt. We also saw bids in front 0.5 EW with Aug trading up to \$27.75/mt, as a result, this further supported the front crack at \$10.05/bbl. In Euro, front crack saw some buying at \$5.65/bbl due to the stronger front sing crack. Euro structure saw little interests, with Aug/Sep implied at \$5.75/mt.

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DISTILLATES

This morning in distillates, Sing gasoil spreads were mixed, Aug/Sep sold down to \$1.54 post-window as the Sep/Dec was bid, trading down from \$4.10 to \$4.00/bbl. The prompt EW opened higher at -\$32.75 and was sold down to -\$34.50 as the Q4 was well offered at -\$28/mt. Aug regrade rallied from -\$2.40 to -\$2.20 as the Q1'26 was hit on screen at -\$0.50/bbl.

ICE gasoil spreads softened for the morning, Aug/Dec to \$57.75/mt as the Aug crack ticked higher to \$26.70/bbl. Heating oil spreads similarly weakened for the morning, as did the HOGOs, Aug trading down to 16.5 c/gal.

GASOLINE

This morning in gasoline, flat price traded end window at \$75.2/bbl with MOC better offered. Gasoline was generally stronger this morning on higher RBBR's, with the Aug 92 Crack seeing good sellside interest but trading up from \$7.4/bbl to \$7.6/bbl, and Q2'26 getting valued at \$6/bbl. Spreads were well offered this morning with Aug/Sep softening slightly from \$0.77/bbl to \$0.75/bbl. E/W came off from -\$6.3/bbl to -\$6.4/bbl as EBOB cracks strengthened from \$13.7/bbl to \$13.85/bbl in the front and summer 26 cracks saw size buying by refiners at \$10.8/bbl. EBOB spreads were well bid with Aug/Sep firming from \$12/mt to \$12.5/mt and Apr/May 26 seeing strong buyside interest at -\$1.5/mt.

NAPHTHA

This morning in naphtha, MOPJ MOC was slighlty better offered with flat price trading at \$568.5/mt by the end of the window. Structure was bid with buyside interest on spreads with buying on the Aug/Sep up from \$0/mt to \$0.75/mt with the Oct/Dec trading at \$4.75/mt post window. The East/West came off throughout the morning with Aug trading down to \$22.75/mt and the Aug/Sep box trading -\$0.75/mt. Naphtha cracks were bid trading up from -\$6.6/bbl to -\$6.1/bbl in Aug with Q1 also bid at \$5.75/bbl supported by crude coming off while spreads similarly traded up from \$1.25/mt to \$1.75/mt in Aug/Sep with Oct/Dec at \$3.5/mt post window.

NGLS

This morning in NGLs, FEI strengthened on a crude basis while spreads went better bid as Aug/Sep traded up from -\$11/mt to -\$9.5/mt, Sep/Oct up to -\$8/mt, Oct/Dec traded up to -\$7/mt, and Dec25/Dec26 was lifted at \$40/mt at bid on going into the window despite Cal FEI buyside interest. Despite FEI gaining on a crude basis going into the window, end of window FEI bids were hit, with Aug FEI trading at \$520/mt levels, as the Physical window remained better offered with 2H Aug offered down to Aug FEI -\$23/mt and 1H Sep offered down to -\$3/mt. CP was even stronger than FEI this morning, with a lack of offers and FEI/CP selling in Sep pushing Aug CP to trading up to \$530/mt while Sep FEI/CP was sold down to -\$5/mt. CP spreads were stronger too with Aug/Sep trading up to -\$4.5/mt, Oct/Nov at -\$6.5/mt and Nov/Dec at -\$3.5/mt post-window. E/W quiet with little trading in NWE apart from Aug/Sep NWE down to -\$6.5/mt. Arbs also quiet and not trading this morning, apart from Aug/Sep C4 ENT/C4 CP trading at -\$129/mt in the window.

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GLOBAL MACRO

- The Nikkei rallies 3.8%, and TOPIX up 4.8% on US-Japan trade deal, silver makes a new cycle high as precious metals continue their rally and the dollar index resumes its downtrend.
- The headline 15% reciprocal tariff is a considerable discount from the 25% in the letter earlier this month. Toyota shares rising as much as 10% after NHK reported the US would impose a tariff rate of 15% on auto imports, but no tariff on Japanese cars made in US.
- US equity breadth continues weakening. Another fresh 22-year low for the equal-weighted S&P 500 relative to the capweighted S&P 500, back to pre-GFC levels.
- I've never known the market so confused by the economic outlook. While BOA expect no FED cuts this year, Goldmans now calling for 3!Goldman Sachs expects the Fed to hold rates steady next week, then cut rates at its remaining three 2025 meetings as the slowing job market pressures policymakers. Private-sector hiring is near "stall speed," risking a self-reinforcing slowdown, while consumer spending has stagnated for six months, a pattern rarely seen outside recessions. Goldman also sees two more cuts in early 2026.
- GOOGLE SHARES HAVE NOW BEEN UP 10 DAYS IN A ROW ITS BEST STREAK IN OVER 10 YEARS GOOGLE REPORTS
 FARNINGS TOMORROW
- JAPAN PRIME MINISTER ISHIBA LIKELY TO ANNOUNCE RESIGNATION AS EARLY AS THIS MONTH, YOMIURI DAILY SAYS.
- JAPAN 40-YR JGB AUCTION BID-TO-COVER 2.13 LOWEST SINCE AUG 2011..... with the 10-year bond yield back at cycle highs. Buy more precious metals!
- Just a regional survey but still very weak versus last week's stronger US data. July Richmond Fed Manufacturing Index down to -20 vs. -2 est. & -8 prior ... new orders plunged to -25 vs. -12 prior; shipments fell to -18 vs. -5 prior; employment fell to -16 vs. -6 prior.
- Meme stock social media ramping is back. Krispy Kreme Donuts is the new GameStop, as it rallies 23% versus 30% short interest!
- Data today US mortgage applications & new homes sales.

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