The Officials

The Benchmark Publication



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Market Summary

Cushing catches the flu?

The \$85/bbl handle is here to stay, or at least until the Gods of trading get tired of holding it up. Do we sense some funny business in WTI as we head into the second half of the month? Yes, we saw a draw in Cushing inventories, but not to levels we would typically associate with such bullish backwardation and such wide WTI/Brent spreads. Yes, the spreads have eased a little since this morning but still remain elevated between sporadic bursts of activity. This leaves us wondering, who might be seizing the opportunity? Hermes, for sure, if not an earlier in the alphabet US major, cited for buying significant volumes of WTI; if you know anything more than this, please let us know. Also signals from Europe are awful, with Germany printing a huge contraction in construction output of -7% y-o-y for May.

Today, the North Sea window was quiet. Mercuria withdrew an offer of Forties at +\$2.55, while BP offered lower at +\$1.50, compared to the last bid of +90c, which was withdrawn on July 16.

Dangote has been importing more and more foreign crude, particularly WTI, despite ambitions for oil self-sufficiency in Nigeria. The 650kb/d refinery claims they are being priced out of domestic markets as international trading arms offer a \$2 to \$4 premium. Devakumar Edwin, the head of oil for Dangote, referred to trading arms as "non-value-adding middlemen." But surely this would also mean there are buyers at that premium? If you want crude now, you gotta pay; or, you must wait in line or look elsewhere.

The new UK government is looking to increase sanctions on Russia, having added at least 11 vessels to the naughty list. The UK is likely to push for further action from other G7 countries, but as we have seen, sanctions only hurt those who implement them. Since instigating sanctions, Russia has gained greater independence from the West and deepened ties with Asia, particularly India and China.

Semiconductors have plummeted. Yesterday, the champion of the AI revolution suffered the worst trading day since the pandemic, as tech stock positions unwound in favor of energy and SMEs. The SOX semiconductor index has fallen 7.8% since Tuesday evening. (Figure 1) Semiconductors are used in producing computer hardware.

Summary				
Physical and Futures		18-Jul-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Brent Sep (fut)	(\$/bbl)	85.010	+0.260	-0.350
WTI Sep (fut)	(\$/bbl)	81.330	+0.300	+0.020
Dubai Sep (phys)	(\$/bbl)	84.480	+0.160	-0.790
Crude Swaps Aug				
Brent	(\$/bbl)	83.800	+0.120	-0.595
DFL	(\$/bbl)	1.140	+0.050	+0.110
WTI	(\$/bbl)	80.850	+0.260	-0.100
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	83.430	+0.050	-0.880
Tenor		Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24
Crude Futures				
Brent (fut)	(\$/bbl)	85.010	83.840	82.970
WTI (fut)	(\$/bbl)	81.330	79.970	78.950



In detail

As of 16:30 BST, Brent stuck around \$85/bbl, but WTI is moving up amidst a market best characterized by minor gapping. Traders without conviction are scared of getting caught in the next squeeze or dump. September WTI and Brent futures bounced back to \$81.33/bbl and \$85.01/bbl, respectively. Against the same time yesterday, the Brent front-month futures contract rose by \$0.26/bbl, while the WTI contract crept up by \$0.30/bbl over the same period. The M1/M2 spreads for Brent futures also increased by 13c to an elevated \$1.17/bbl.

The demand picture in Europe continues to trouble markets. Construction in the Euro Area fell by 2.4% against the same time the year prior in May, the biggest y-o-y decline in over 3 years and the fourth month in a row of contraction. Concerningly, the fall was driven by the supposed powerhouse of Europe, Germany, which printed a 7% contraction against a year ago. We don't yet have headline Euro Area data for June, but the Eurozone HCOB construction PMI fell further into contractionary territory in June (41.8 v 42.9 in May). The trajectory does not look strong.

As expected, the ECB held its deposit rate at 3.75%. Europe's labor market has remained surprisingly robust despite persistent stagnation across the broader economy. Time is on the ECB's side, and since "energy-related base effects" are expected to limit downside potential in the price level this year, policymakers remain cautious.

Of course, monetary policy remains a double-edged sword, and despite the signs of labor market strength, the broader macro picture in Europe is bad. For the first quarter, GDP growth for the Euro Area was 0.3%, and Q2 is expected to be lower. As we discussed on Tuesday, the IMF has also warned of sticky services inflation and the resulting higher-for-even-longer path for interest rates. Others have echoed this sentiment.

Houthi aggression in the Red Sea is increasing, with reports of a large oil spill emerging. An oil tanker, Chios Lion, was reportedly investigating an oil spill and assessing damages from an unmanned watercraft. The Houthis claimed responsibility for the attack. Despite this, several vessels are still electing to transit through the Red Sea.

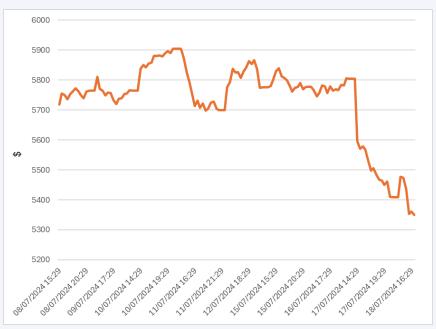


Figure 1: Philadelphia Stock Exchange Semiconductor Index, Bloomberg

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Front Month Out	riabte			
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August Swaps		18-Jul-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude				
Brent	(\$/bbl)	83.800	+0.120	
WTI	(\$/bbl)	80.850	+0.260	-0.100
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	83.430	+0.050	-0.880
Distillates				
Gasoil 0.1 NWE	(\$/mt)	763.860	+0.840	-14.360
NWE Jet	(\$/mt)	815.860	+1.840	-15.360
Singapore 10ppm	(\$/bbl)	99.340	+0.310	-1.430
Sing Kero	(\$/bbl)	98.220	+0.360	-1.580
Gasoline				
RBOB	(c/gal)	246.480	+0.650	-2.290
EBOB	(\$/mt)	822.660	+2.830	-11.650
Singapore 92	(\$/bbl)	90.860	+0.240	-0.750
Singapore 95	(\$/bbl)	95.200	+0.230	-0.750
Naphtha				
US C5 ENT	(c/gal)	155.390	-0.080	-1.710
NWE Naphtha	(\$/mt)	677.650	+0.540	+0.890
MOPJ Naphtha	(\$/mt)	694.900	-0.210	+1.480
Fuel Oil				
3.5% barges	(\$/mt)	471.420	-0.890	-8.830
Singapore 380	(\$/mt)	492.920	-1.640	-8.580
Singapore 180	(\$/mt)	499.420	-1.640	-9.080
0.5% barges	(\$/mt)	557.470	+1.020	-0.890
Singapore 0.5%	(\$/mt)	597.600	+1.140	-3.050
NGLs				
US Propane LST	(c/gal)	78.760	-0.116	-2.190
NWE Propane	(\$/mt)	568.840	-2.100	-1.910
Saudi Propane CP	(\$/mt)	584.340	-3.100	-2.460
Asian Propane FEI	(\$/mt)	633.750	-3.690	-3.100
US Butane ENT	(c/gal)	97.480	+0.100	-0.100
Saudi Butane CP	(\$/mt)	572.200	-3.290	+1.400



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Long Tenor S	Swaps	5						
		Balmo	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Q4-24	Q1-25
Crude								
Brent	(\$/bbl)	84.900	83.800	82.940	82.250	81.670	81.687	80.28
WTI	(\$/bbl)	81.780	80.850	79.670	78.700	77.910	77.947	76.13
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	84.290	83.430	82.630	81.870	81.220	81.243	79.79
Distillates								
Gasoil 0.1 NWE	(\$/mt)	762.500	763.860	765.740	764.070	759.670	760.270	752.50
NWE Jet	(\$/mt)	820.500	815.860	816.740	818.070	815.170	815.770	811.50
Singapore 10ppm	(\$/bbl)	99.210	99.340	99.450	99.310	98.900	98.913	98.23
Sing Kero	(\$/bbl)	98.020	98.220	98.440	98.520	98.310	98.310	97.79
Gasoline								
RBOB	(c/gal)	249.960	246.480	227.580	221.940	218.010	218.757	224.04
EBOB	(\$/mt)	825.660	822.660	809.660	765.160	744.910	746.993	730.61
Singapore 92	(\$/bbl)	91.460	90.860	89.810	88.780	87.880	87.997	86.84
Singapore 95	(\$/bbl)	95.950	95.200	94.050	92.970	91.870	92.020	90.43
Naphtha								
US C5 ENT	(c/gal)	154.640	155.390	156.010	156.510	156.630	156.590	155.88
NWE Naphtha	(\$/mt)	690.650	677.650	669.150	664.530	659.150	659.150	644.62
MOP-Japan Naphtha	(\$/mt)	700.900	694.900	687.400	681.780	675.900	675.987	659.19
Fuel Oil								
3.5% barges	(\$/mt)	475.420	471.420	465.920	457.170	450.670	451.587	444.08
Singapore 380	(\$/mt)	500.420	492.920	480.170	468.170	459.670	461.253	451.25
Singapore 180	(\$/mt)	505.670	499.420	488.170	478.170	470.670	472.170	464.25
0.5% barges	(\$/mt)	560.470	557.470	550.720	544.470	538.970	539.053	526.55
Singapore 0.5%	(\$/mt)	603.600	597.600	591.100	585.100	579.850	579.933	566.51
NGLs								
US Propane LST	(c/gal)	77.880	78.760	79.640	80.890	81.640	81.390	80.34
NWE Propane	(\$/mt)	574.340	568.840	564.340	562.840	561.840	562.173	542.34
Saudi Propane CP	(\$/mt)	584.340	584.340	587.340	596.340	604.340	603.173	595.34
Asian Propane FEI	(\$/mt)	636.750	633.750	635.250	639.750	643.750	641.750	618.91
US Butane ENT	(c/gal)	96.740	97.480	97.870	98.620	99.370	99.080	96.63
Saudi Butane CP	(\$/mt)	572.200	572.200	580.200	591.700	600.200	598.867	590.36



Front Month S	preads			
Aug/Sep		18-Jul-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude				
Brent	(\$/bbl)	0.860	+0.030	+0.045
WTI	(\$/bbl)	1.180	+0.100	+0.245
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	0.800	+0.010	-0.020
Distillates				
Gasoil 0.1 NWE	(\$/mt)	-1.880	-0.470	-1.420
NWE Jet	(\$/mt)	-0.880	+0.530	+0.580
Singapore 10ppm	(\$/bbl)	-0.110	+0.030	-0.010
Sing Kero	(\$/bbl)	-0.220	+0.040	-0.070
Gasoline				
RBOB	(c/gal)	18.900	-0.070	+0.020
EBOB	(\$/mt)	13.000	+1.000	-1.250
Singapore 92	(\$/bbl)	1.050	+0.000	+0.050
Singapore 95	(\$/bbl)	1.150	+0.000	+0.050
Naphtha				
US C5 ENT	(c/gal)	-0.620	+0.000	-0.240
NWE Naphtha	(\$/mt)	8.500	+0.000	+1.000
MOP-Japan Naphtha	(\$/mt)	7.500	-0.500	+1.000
Fuel Oil				
3.5% barges	(\$/mt)	5.500	-0.500	-2.750
Singapore 380	(\$/mt)	12.750	-1.000	-2.750
Singapore 180	(\$/mt)	11.250	-1.000	-3.250
0.5% barges	(\$/mt)	6.750	+0.250	+1.500
Singapore 0.5%	(\$/mt)	6.500	+0.250	+0.250
NGLs				
US Propane LST	(c/gal)	-0.880	+0.000	+0.000
NWE Propane	(\$/mt)	4.500	-1.000	-0.500
Saudi Propane CP	(\$/mt)	-3.000	-1.500	-1.500
Asian Propane FEI	(\$/mt)	-1.500	-0.500	-1.000
US Butane ENT	(c/gal)	-0.390	-0.010	+0.230
Saudi Butane CP	(\$/mt)	-8.000	-1.500	+3.500



Front Month Cracks and Diffs			
August	18-Jul-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude			
Brent/Dubai (\$/bbl)	0.370	+0.070	+0.260
WTI/Brent (\$/bbl)	-2.950	+0.140	+0.510
Distillates			
Gasoil 0.1 NWE crack (\$/bbl)	18.730	-0.010	-1.240
NWE Jet crack (\$/bbl)	19.740	+0.120	-1.320
NWE Jet Diff (\$/mt)	52.000	+1.000	-1.000
Gasoil E/W (\$/bbl)	-23.750	+1.500	+3.750
Regrade (Sing Kero vs Sing 10ppm) (\$/bbl)	-1.120	+0.050	-0.150
Gasoline			
TA Arb (RBOB vs EBOB) (c/gal)	11.400	-0.100	+1.150
EBOB crack (\$/mt)	14.910	+0.170	-0.830
Singapore 92 crack (\$/bbl)	7.010	+0.070	-0.170
Gasoline E/W (Sing 92 vs EBOB) (\$/bbl)	-7.900	-0.100	+0.650
European Gasnaph (EBOB vs Naphtha) (\$/mt)	145.120	+2.400	-12.470
Asian Gasnaph (Sing 92 vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	62.060	+2.220	-7.620
Naphtha			
US C5 ENT vs WTI Crack	-15.600	-0.320	-0.610
NWE Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	-7.700	-0.100	+0.700
MOPJ Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	-5.760	-0.180	+0.760
Naphtha E/W (NWE vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	17.250	-0.750	+0.500
Fuel Oil			
3.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	-9.600	-0.300	-0.800
Singapore 380 crack (\$/bbl)	-6.210	-0.410	-0.760
Singapore 180 crack (\$/bbl)	-5.190	-0.420	-0.840
Visco (180-380) (\$/mt)	6.500	+0.000	-0.500
HSFO E/W (380 vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	21.500	-0.750	+0.250
0.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	3.950	+0.000	+0.450
Singapore 0.5% crack (\$/bbl)	10.250	+0.000	+0.100
VLSFO E/W (Sing 0.5% vs 0.5% barges) (\$/mt)	40.000	-0.010	-2.230
European Hi5 (0.5% barges vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	86.040	+1.900	+7.940
Asian Hi5 (Sing 0.5% vs 380) (\$/mt)	104.550	+2.660	+5.470
0.5% barges/gasoil (\$/mt)	-206.650	-0.210	+13.020
Sing 0.5% vs Sing 10ppm (\$/mt)	-142.800	-1.610	+7.170
NGLs			
US Propane LST vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-158.500	+1.500	-9.500
US Propane LST vs Asian Propane FEI (\$/mt)	-223.500	+3.000	-8.500
Asian Propane FEI vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	65.000	-1.500	-1.000
Asian Propane FEI vs Saudi Propane CP (\$/mt)	49.500	-0.500	-0.500
European Pronap (NWE Propane vs NWE Naphtha) (\$/mt)	-108.810	-2.820	-2.730
Asian Pronap (FEI vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	-110.380	-2.710	-3.550



Long Tenor Cracks / Diffs							
	Balmo	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Q4-24	Q1-25
Crude							
Brent/Dubai (\$/bbl)	0.610	0.370	0.310	0.380	0.450	0.443	0.500
WTI/Brent (\$/bbl)	-3.120	-2.950	-3.270	-3.550	-3.760	-3.740	-4.153
Distillates							
Gasoil 0.1 NWE crack (\$/bbl)	17.45	18.73	19.84	20.31	20.30	20.36	20.72
NWE Jet crack (\$/bbl)	19.22	19.74	20.71	21.57	21.78	21.84	22.69
NWE Jet Diff (\$/mt)	58.00	52.00	51.00	54.00	55.50	55.50	59.00
Gasoil E/W (\$/bbl)	-23.39	-23.75	-24.84	-24.24	-22.89	-23.37	-20.67
Regrade (Sing Kero vs Sing 10ppm) (\$/bbl)	-1.19	-1.12	-1.01	-0.79	-0.59	-0.60	-0.44
Gasoline							
TA Arb (RBOB vs EBOB)(c/gal)	14.010	11.400	-3.800	3.290	5.150	5.297	15.207
EBOB crack (\$/mt)	14.190	14.910	14.220	9.580	7.720	7.953	7.413
Singapore 92 crack (\$/bbl)	6.530	7.010	6.830	6.500	6.170	6.270	6.517
Gasoline E/W (Sing 92 vs EBOB) (\$/bbl)	-7.660	-7.900	-7.390	-3.080	-1.540	-1.677	-0.887
European Gasnaph (EBOB vs Naphtha) (\$/mt)	135.120	145.120	140.620	100.740	85.870	87.953	86.250
Asian Gasnaph (Sing 92 vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	61.060	62.060	60.810	57.850	56.240	57.123	64.303
Naphtha							
US C5 ENT vs WTI Crack	-16.840	-15.600	-14.160	-12.970	-12.130	-12.183	-10.673
NWE Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	-7.310	-7.700	-7.780	-7.600	-7.640	-7.650	-7.867
MOPJ Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	-6.170	-5.760	-5.730	-5.670	-5.760	-5.763	-6.240
Naphtha E/W (NWE vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	10.250	17.250	18.250	17.250	16.750	16.837	14.510
Fuel Oil							
3.5% bgs crack (\$/bbl)	-10.050	-9.600	-9.600	-10.270	-10.730	-10.597	-10.377
Singapore 380 crack (\$/bbl)	-6.130	-6.210	-7.370	-8.560	-9.310	-9.083	-9.253
Singapore 180 crack (\$/bbl)	-5.290	-5.190	-6.090	-6.970	-7.570	-7.353	-7.197
Visco (180-380) (\$/mt)	5.250	6.500	8.000	10.000	11.000	10.917	13.000
HSFO E/W (380 vs 3.5% bgs) (\$/mt)	25.000	21.500	14.250	11.000	9.000	9.667	7.167
0.5% bgs crack (\$/bbl)	3.320	3.950	3.750	3.460	3.180	3.170	2.603
Singapore 0.5% crack (\$/bbl)	10.110	10.250	10.100	9.850	9.610	9.600	8.890
VLSFO E/W (Sing 0.5% vs 0.5% bgs) (\$/mt)	43.000	40.000	40.250	40.500	40.750	40.750	39.833
European Hi5 (0.5% bgs vs 3.5% bgs) (\$/mt	85.040	86.040	84.790	87.290	88.290	87.457	82.457
Asian Hi5 (Sing 0.5% vs 380) (\$/mt)	103.050	104.550	110.800	116.800	120.050	118.550	115.127
0.5% bgs/gasoil (\$/mt)	-202.290	-206.650	-215.280	-219.860	-220.960	-221.477	-226.303
Sing 0.5% vs Sing 10ppm (\$/mt)	-135.830	-142.800	-150.120	-155.080	-157.270	-157.290	-165.717
NGLs							
US Propane LST vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-168.59	-158.5	-149.42	-141.41	-136.5	-138.137	-123.77
US Propane LST vs Asian Propane FEI (\$/mt		-223.5				-217.803	
Asian Propane FEI vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	62.5	65	71	77	82	79.667	76.667
Asian Propane FEI vs Saudi Propane CP (\$/		49.5	48	43.5	39.5	38.667	23.667
European Pronap (\$/mt)	-116.31	-108.81		-101.69	-97.31		-102.347
Asian Pronap (FEI vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	-116.38	-110.38	-99.88	-85.26	-71.38	-72.633	-63.677



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Inter-month Crack Spreads			
Aug/Sep	18-Jul-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude			
Brent/Dubai (\$/bbl)	0.060	+0.030	+0.060
WTI/Brent (\$/bbl)	0.320	+0.060	+0.200
Distillates			
Gasoil 0.1 NWE crack (\$/bbl)	-1.110	-0.090	-0.180
NWE Jet crack (\$/bbl)	-0.970	+0.030	+0.040
NWE Jet Diff (\$/mt)	1.000	+1.000	+2.000
Gasoil E/W (\$/bbl)	1.090	+0.730	+1.390
Regrade (Sing Kero vs Sing 10ppm) (\$/bbl)	-0.110	+0.010	-0.060
Gasoline			
TA Arb (RBOB vs EBOB)(c/gal)	15.200	-0.350	+0.390
EBOB crack (\$/mt)	0.690	+0.080	-0.220
Singapore 92 crack (\$/bbl)	0.180	-0.050	-0.010
Gasoline E/W (Sing 92 vs EBOB) (\$/bbl)	-0.510	-0.120	+0.200
European Gasnaph (EBOB vs Naphtha) (\$/mt)	4.500	+1.000	-2.250
Asian Gasnaph (Sing 92 vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	1.250	+0.510	-0.580
Naphtha			
US C5 ENT vs WTI Crack	-1.440	-0.100	-0.340
NWE Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	0.080	-0.070	+0.060
MOPJ Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	-0.030	-0.120	+0.060
Naphtha E/W (NWE vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	-1.000	-0.500	+0.000
Fuel Oil			
3.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	0.000	-0.140	-0.480
Singapore 380 crack (\$/bbl)	1.160	-0.180	-0.470
Singapore 180 crack (\$/bbl)	0.900	-0.210	-0.570
Visco (180-380) (\$/mt)	-1.500	+0.000	-0.500
HSFO E/W (380 vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	7.250	-0.500	+0.000
0.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	0.200	+0.000	+0.190
Singapore 0.5% crack (\$/bbl)	0.150	-0.010	+0.000
VLSFO E/W (Sing 0.5% vs 0.5% barges) ($\$/mt$)	-0.250	+0.000	-1.250
European Hi5 (0.5% barges vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	1.250	+0.750	+4.250
Asian Hi5 (Sing 0.5% vs 380) (\$/mt)	-6.250	+1.250	+3.000
0.5% barges/gasoil (\$/mt)	8.630	+0.570	+2.680
Sing 0.5% vs Sing 10ppm (\$/mt)	7.320	+0.020	+0.330
NGLs			
US Propane LST vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-9.080	+1.000	+0.510
US Propane LST vs Asian Propane FEI (\$/mt)	-3.080	+0.500	+1.010
Asian Propane FEI vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-6.000	+0.500	-0.500
Asian Propane FEI vs Saudi Propane CP (\$/mt)	1.500	+1.000	+0.500
European Pronap (NWE Propane vs NWE Naphtha) (\$/mt)	-4.000	-1.000	-1.500