The Officials The Benchmark Publication

Asia Edition (09:30 BST) 24-October-2024, Volume 1, Issue 102 (Asia)



We hear that one of your favourite and most widely used benchmark producers - not us, obviously - is going for a tight embrace when it comes to setting subscription renewal rates. Their grip is so tight your eyes bulge first and then your guts burst out, so we are told. A squeeze so tight, it's putting every trader's efforts in Dated Brent to shame. The grapevine also reported that at least one subscriber was invited to renew at a 300% increase!

We heard the issue came up rather organically at an FT conference in India, with subscribers feeling rather abused by these salesmen. With power comes responsibility, and a dominant position is not a license to misuse. Regulatory filings show that some of the parent corporate units of this beloved benchmark producer saw latest annual earnings growth of circa 9%. We're waiting for a new quarterly release today to watch out for y/y changes and determine if there is discriminatory pricing where some pay far more than others.

If you are one of the victims, let us know your story! If the dominant supplier wants to deny its intention to extract, among other words starting with "ext", at such hundreds of percent avaricious rates, you know where to knock. We are ready to listen!

The window was the choppiest we've seen for a long time. Chevron wasn't offering but was whacking low bids, ever the opportunist sneaking in after other sellers had hit higher bids. Exxon continued its efforts on the sellside, while Reliance pulled its weight there too. Totsa was the only buyer we saw lifting offers rather than just having its bids clobbered by the very zealous sellside. Others on the buyside, like BP and Petrochina, barely had a moment to breathe before their bids were smacked. Sellers certainly seem to have wrestled back control of the Dubai window in recent sessions. Chevron's sniping earned it a convergence with Tosta – an Al Shaheen to make a change from the monotonous Upper Zakums.

Summary				
Physical and Futures		24-Oct-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Brent Dec (fut)	(\$/bbl)	76.030	+0.440	+1.590
WTI Dec (fut)	(\$/bbl)	71.910	+0.640	+1.870
Dubai Dec (phys)	(\$/bbl)	75.400	+0.350	+1.330
OBI Continuous	(\$/bbl)	76.030	+0.440	+1.590
Crude Swaps Nov				
Brent	(\$/bbl)	75.570	+0.370	+1.580
DFL	(\$/bbl)	0.210	+0.050	+0.000
WTI	(\$/bbl)	71.760	+0.600	+1.820
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	74.160	+0.380	+1.170
Tenor		Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25
Crude Futures				
Brent (fut)	(\$/bbl)	76.030	75.600	75.170
WTI (fut)	(\$/bbl)	71.910	71.460	71.070



In detail

Whoosh, we're back up. This morning's early surge in Asia set the tone and Europe woke up and kept it going. After a messy bun fight in the window, Dubai closed at \$75.40/bbl, up 35c/bbl. The physical premium tightened slightly to \$1.53, the weakest since 3 October. Dubai physical may finally be slipping to align more closely with Brent's structure, having been disproportionately strong recently. Brent cashed in on the morning's moves, climbing to \$76.03/bbl, a daily rise of 44c/bbl. WTI gained even more, 64c/bbl, to \$71.91/bbl.

Following on from yesterday's report, in India, the absence of the windfall tax on crude and product exports, the outlook for refiners looks positive. Our refining source doesn't expect the tax to be reintroduced unless prices reach \$80-85/bbl. Doesn't sound too likely, except in the event of major Middle Eastern boom boom, so let's not worry our pretty heads too much about that one. There will be bigger fish to fry if we fall out of the frying pan into the fire.

As well as being pleased to see the hated windfall tax possibly on its last legs, our Indian refining source was optimistic about domestic demand in the short and medium term. Others seem to agree with that conclusion; the IMF's 6.5% 2025 GDP forecast for India suggests growth will remain strong, although it will likely slow from this year as "pent-up demand accumulated during the pandemic has been exhausted". Our source expects the upcoming festival season to give a boost to diesel demand over the next three months, and a recovery from the monsoon season's detrimental effects. He foresees a total annual growth of 2-3% diesel growth next year. An eyebrow was raised by his projection for a 9% global growth in jet fuel demand next year, which sounds rather optimistic to us. The outlook for product exports, though, isn't so good. In August, India exported 25.151 million metric tonnes of products – with diesel being just over 40% of this. Weak demand elsewhere around the globe could well hurt export prospects. Watch out for the cracks, especially in European product demand.

One area that isn't hurting is coal production in China. Raw coal produced in Shanxi increased by 933.66 million tonnes between Jan and Sep this year according to Chinese media, to this year's high point. But what's driving this? China's power grid infrastructure is heavily dependent on coal. Coal power generation in China increased by 8.9% y/y in September. All those EVs have to get their electricity from somewhere, why not hydrocarbons? Those environmentally friendly substitutes aren't looking quite so green after all.

That said, while coal production in China is on the up, the government has dramatically curtailed the approval of new coal generation capacity. Compared to a year ago, total approvals are 80% lower. Despite this slowdown, total capacity is still growing. They're also looking to boost renewable sources; around two thirds of global new solar and wind projects are happening in China. But what happens when the wind doesn't blow and the sun doesn't shine? You need a reliable and consistent source of electricity for EVs when the weather doesn't play ball.

Speaking of EVs, Tesla beat its earnings per share forecast by nearly 20% last night. This looks amazing and is the marketer's dream. Maybe that's where the \$1 million election lottery got its funding from. It's certainly given Musk something to toot his own trumpet about – not that he usually needs an excuse. Automotive sales were strong, showing a quarterly growth of \$301 million. But don't get carried away. Overall Q3 revenue was \$25.182 billion, while Q2 revenue was \$25.5 billion, so a 1.23% decline. A key driver in the increased profits was the reduced cost of restructuring from Q2 to Q3, which fell by \$567 million. The 20-30% growth Musk promised for next year is sounds awesome on paper, but a win on 5 November for his BFF, Donnie T, likely wouldn't the EV market in the US, Tesla's biggest market.

Things are also hotting up in the South China Sea, where Indonesia drove a Chinese coast guard ship away from an ongoing survey by state energy company Pertamina. Yet another incident in the endless spat over the resource-rich area. China's really been throwing its weight around over there, enforcing its extensive, but unrecognised, claims.

Jorge Montepeque:

Will Cunliffe:

Ed Hayden-Briffett:

Managing Director for Benchmarking Research Analyst

Research Analyst

jmontepeque@onyxcapitalgroup.comwcunliffe@onyxcapitaladvisory.com_ehayden-briffett@onyxcapitaladvisory.com





Front Month Outrig	ıhte			
	iits			
November Swaps		24-Oct-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude				
Brent	(\$/bbl)	75.570		+1.580
WTI	(\$/bbl)	71.760	+0.600	+1.820
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	74.160	+0.380	+1.170
Distillates				
Gasoil 0.1 NWE	(\$/mt)	676.420	+4.420	+18.090
NWE Jet	(\$/mt)	726.420	+7.670	+22.840
Singapore 10ppm	(\$/bbl)	88.100	+0.530	+2.650
Sing Kero	(\$/bbl)	89.020	+0.950	+3.070
Gasoline				
RBOB	(c/gal)	202.910	+0.530	+1.890
EBOB	(\$/mt)	692.760	+2.560	+6.260
Singapore 92	(\$/bbl)	79.390	+0.390	+0.310
Singapore 95	(\$/bbl)	84.240	+0.340	+0.030
Naphtha				
US C5 ENT	(c/gal)	151.940	+1.130	+3.410
NWE Naphtha	(\$/mt)	650.950	+5.250	+14.070
MOPJ Naphtha	(\$/mt)	674.040	+5.590	+15.570
Fuel Oil				
3.5% barges	(\$/mt)	453.580	-5.020	+34.040
Singapore 380	(\$/mt)	451.080	+1.730	+24.790
Singapore 180	(\$/mt)	465.210	+2.110	+24.170
0.5% barges	(\$/mt)	517.520	+2.730	+15.110
Singapore 0.5%	(\$/mt)	575.310	+7.810	+24.320
NGLs	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·			
US Propane LST	(c/gal)	77.770	+3.219	+2.494
NWE Propane	(\$/mt)	591.680	+8.270	+3.990
Saudi Propane CP	(\$/mt)	628.680		+3.490
Asian Propane FEI	(\$/mt)	655.680		-3.460
US Butane ENT	(c/gal)	109.390		-0.880
Saudi Butane CP	(\$/mt)	621.680		+4.540





Long Tenor S	Swaps							
	•	Balmo	Nov-24	Dec-24	Jan-25	Feb-25	Q1-25	Q2-25
Crude								
Brent	(\$/bbl)	75.950	75.570	75.130	74.840	74.600	74.613	74.033
WTI	(\$/bbl)	71.890	71.760	71.310	70.920	70.640	70.647	69.937
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	75.410	74.160	73.870	73.430	73.160	73.203	72.767
Distillates								
Gasoil 0.1 NWE	(\$/mt)	676.750	676.420	676.250	677.340	678.240	677.750	676.177
NWE Jet	(\$/mt)	721.750	726.420	729.000	730.090	730.990	730.500	728.927
Singapore 10ppm	(\$/bbl)	88.550	88.100	87.710	87.570	87.680	87.683	87.937
Sing Kero	(\$/bbl)	89.620	89.020	88.420	87.950	87.760	87.787	87.607
Gasoline								
RBOB	(c/gal)	206.610	202.910	201.080	201.520	203.280	208.640	219.570
EBOB	(\$/mt)	719.760	692.760	674.260	671.510	673.260	674.260	713.843
Singapore 92	(\$/bbl)	79.890	79.390	79.550	79.710	79.980	79.980	79.910
Singapore 95	(\$/bbl)	83.540	84.240	83.750	83.510	83.730	83.780	83.677
Naphtha								
US C5 ENT	(c/gal)	151.560	151.940	151.940	152.690	152.070	151.860	147.237
NWE Naphtha	(\$/mt)	652.450	650.950	645.700	640.950	635.200	635.283	620.117
MOP-Japan Naphtha	(\$/mt)	678.040	674.040	668.040	662.040	655.540	655.707	638.707
Fuel Oil								
3.5% barges	(\$/mt)	476.580	453.580	430.580	422.330	417.580	418.580	412.413
Singapore 380	(\$/mt)	458.580	451.080	438.080	429.330	424.080	425.247	418.497
Singapore 180	(\$/mt)	473.710	465.210	449.330	440.710	435.710	436.833	431.083
0.5% barges	(\$/mt)	532.520	517.520	506.770	501.020	496.270	496.687	487.520
Singapore 0.5%	(\$/mt)	583.560	575.310	559.810	549.560	543.060	543.560	529.893
NGLs								
US Propane LST	(c/gal)	72.770	77.770	79.145	80.145	79.895	79.228	74.437
NWE Propane	(\$/mt)	600.680	591.680	582.180	568.180	553.680	551.180	499.347
Saudi Propane CP	(\$/mt)	628.680	628.680	625.680	620.680	613.180	610.513	551.847
Asian Propane FEI	(\$/mt)	658.180	655.680	652.180	643.680	630.180	627.013	571.680
US Butane ENT	(c/gal)	113.890	109.390	107.510	105.630	103.130	101.797	90.963
Saudi Butane CP	(\$/mt)	621.680	621.680	618.180	613.180	605.680	602.680	548.513





Front Month Co	wa a ala			
Front Month Sp	reaus			
Nov/Dec		24-Oct-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude				
Brent	(\$/bbl)	0.440	+0.000	+0.030
WTI	(\$/bbl)	0.450	+0.050	+0.040
Dubai	(\$/bbl)	0.290	+0.010	-0.170
Distillates				
Gasoil 0.1 NWE	(\$/mt)	0.170	+0.230	+0.460
NWE Jet	(\$/mt)	-2.580	+0.480	-0.540
Singapore 10ppm	(\$/bbl)	0.390	-0.020	+0.100
Sing Kero	(\$/bbl)	0.600	+0.150	+0.200
Gasoline				
RBOB	(c/gal)	1.830	-0.010	-0.070
EBOB	(\$/mt)	18.500	-1.000	-1.500
Singapore 92	(\$/bbl)	-0.160	-0.040	-0.350
Singapore 95	(\$/bbl)	0.490	+0.060	-0.450
Naphtha				
US C5 ENT	(c/gal)	0.000	+0.000	+0.250
NWE Naphtha	(\$/mt)	5.250	+0.500	+1.250
MOP-Japan Naphtha	(\$/mt)	6.000	+0.750	+1.250
Fuel Oil				
3.5% barges	(\$/mt)	23.000	-4.250	+10.000
Singapore 380	(\$/mt)	13.000	+0.000	+3.250
Singapore 180	(\$/mt)	15.880	+0.380	+2.880
0.5% barges	(\$/mt)	10.750	+0.000	+2.000
Singapore 0.5%	(\$/mt)	15.500	+2.500	+6.000
NGLs				
US Propane LST	(c/gal)	-1.375	+0.125	+0.000
NWE Propane	(\$/mt)	9.500	-0.250	+0.500
Saudi Propane CP	(\$/mt)	3.000	-0.500	-2.500
Asian Propane FEI	(\$/mt)	3.500	-0.500	-3.000
US Butane ENT	(c/gal)	1.880	+0.130	-1.000
Saudi Butane CP	(\$/mt)	3.500	-3.000	+0.500





Front Month Cracks and Diffs			
November	24-Oct-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude			
Brent/Dubai (\$/bbl)	1.420	+0.010	+0.420
WTI/Brent (\$/bbl)	-3.830	+0.210	+0.220
Distillates			
Gasoil 0.1 NWE crack (\$/bbl)	15.200	+0.130	+0.810
NWE Jet crack (\$/bbl)	16.590	+0.520	+1.280
NWE Jet Diff (\$/mt)	50.000	+3.250	+4.750
Gasoil E/W (\$/bbl)	-20.100	-0.500	+1.650
Regrade (Sing Kero vs Sing 10ppm) (\$/bbl)	0.920	+0.420	+0.420
Gasoline			
TA Arb (RBOB vs EBOB) (c/gal)	4.900	-0.200	+0.100
EBOB crack (\$/bbl)	7.590	-0.090	-0.840
Singapore 92 crack (\$/bbl)	3.800	-0.020	-1.300
Gasoline E/W (Sing 92 vs EBOB) (\$/bbl)	-3.790	+0.070	-0.460
European Gasnaph (EBOB vs Naphtha) (\$/mt)	42.260	-2.210	-7.160
Asian Gasnaph (Sing 92 vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	-12.350	-1.880	-12.530
Naphtha			
US C5 ENT vs WTI Crack	-7.980	-0.170	-0.450
NWE Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	-2.480	+0.140	-0.080
MOPJ Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	0.100	+0.160	+0.090
Naphtha E/W (NWE vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	23.000	+0.250	+1.500
Fuel Oil			
3.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	-4.200	-1.250	+3.700
Singapore 380 crack (\$/bbl)	-4.670	-0.260	+2.180
Singapore 180 crack (\$/bbl)	-2.470	-0.230	+2.050
Visco (180-380) (\$/mt)	14.000	+0.250	-0.750
HSFO E/W (380 vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	-2.500	+6.750	-9.250
0.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	5.850	-0.050	+0.700
Singapore 0.5% crack (\$/bbl)	14.950	+0.750	+2.150
VLSFO E/W (Sing 0.5% vs 0.5% barges) (\$/mt)	57.780	+5.070	+9.200
European Hi5 (0.5% barges vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	63.820	+7.620	-19.050
Asian Hi5 (Sing 0.5% vs 380) (\$/mt)	124.100	+5.950	-0.600
0.5% barges/gasoil (\$/mt)	-159.250	-1.670	-3.400
Sing 0.5% vs Sing 10ppm (\$/mt)	-81.360	+3.930	+4.190
NGLs			
US Propane LST vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-186.500	+8.500	+9.000
US Propane LST vs Asian Propane FEI (\$/mt)	-250.500	+10.000	+16.500
Asian Propane FEI vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	64.000	-1.500	-7.500
Asian Propane FEI vs Saudi Propane CP (\$/mt)	27.000	+1.500	-7.000
European Pronap (NWE Propane vs NWE Naphtha) (\$/mt)	-59.180	+3.140	-9.900
Asian Pronap (FEI vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	-45.270	-0.200	-11.900





00.05
Q2-25
4 000
1.280
-4.103
16.72
18.47
52.75
-21.04
-0.33
15.523
11.657
5.853
-5.803
94.177
27.317
-8.143
-4.413
-2.340
18.500
-9.157
-8.277
-6.310
12.500
6.083
2.653
9.320
42.363
74.987
111.433
-189.200
-125.857
-111.537
-183.87
72.333
19.833
-120.68
-86.77
11 -18 -12 -11 -1 -1 -1





Inter-month Crack Spreads			
Nov/Dec	24-Oct-24	1-Day Change	7-Day Change
Crude			
Brent/Dubai (\$/bbl)	0.150	+0.000	+0.210
WTI/Brent (\$/bbl)	0.010	+0.050	+0.000
Distillates			
Gasoil 0.1 NWE crack (\$/bbl)	-0.450	-0.030	+0.010
NWE Jet crack (\$/bbl)	-0.800	+0.030	-0.120
NWE Jet Diff (\$/mt)	-2.750	+0.250	-1.000
Gasoil E/W (\$/bbl)	2.920	-0.180	+0.550
Regrade (Sing Kero vs Sing 10ppm) (\$/bbl)	0.210	+0.170	+0.100
Gasoline			
TA Arb (RBOB vs EBOB) (c/gal)	-3.440	+0.290	+0.370
EBOB crack (\$/bbl)	1.780	-0.130	-0.210
Singapore 92 crack (\$/bbl)	-0.600	-0.050	-0.380
Gasoline E/W (Sing 92 vs EBOB) (\$/bbl)	-2.380	+0.080	-0.170
European Gasnaph (EBOB vs Naphtha) (\$/mt)	13.250	-1.500	-2.750
Asian Gasnaph (Sing 92 vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	-7.330	-1.080	-4.160
Naphtha			
US C5 ENT vs WTI Crack	-0.440	-0.030	+0.080
NWE Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	0.160	+0.060	+0.120
MOPJ Naphtha Crack (\$/bbl)	0.240	+0.080	+0.120
Naphtha E/W (NWE vs MOPJ) (\$/mt)	0.750	+0.250	+0.000
Fuel Oil			
3.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	3.190	-0.670	+1.550
Singapore 380 crack (\$/bbl)	1.620	+0.010	+0.510
Singapore 180 crack (\$/bbl)	2.050	+0.040	+0.420
Visco (180-380) (\$/mt)	2.750	+0.250	-0.500
HSFO E/W (380 vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	-10.000	+4.250	-6.750
0.5% barges crack (\$/bbl)	1.260	+0.000	+0.290
Singapore 0.5% crack (\$/bbl)	2.010	+0.390	+0.920
VLSFO E/W (Sing 0.5% vs 0.5% barges) (\$/mt)	4.750	+2.500	+4.000
European Hi5 (0.5% barges vs 3.5% barges) (\$/mt)	-12.250	+4.250	-8.000
Asian Hi5 (Sing 0.5% vs 380) (\$/mt)	2.500	+2.500	+2.750
0.5% barges/gasoil (\$/mt)	11.000	+0.630	+1.870
Sing 0.5% vs Sing 10ppm (\$/mt)	12.600	+2.660	+5.260
NGLs			
US Propane LST vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-16.660	+0.900	-0.500
US Propane LST vs Asian Propane FEI (\$/mt)	-10.660	+1.150	+3.000
Asian Propane FEI vs NWE Propane (\$/mt)	-6.000	-0.250	-3.500
Asian Propane FEI vs Saudi Propane CP (\$/mt)	0.500	+0.000	-0.500
European Pronap (NWE Propane vs NWE Naphtha) (\$/mt)	4.250	-0.750	-0.840

