

# Weekly Market News

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Check out the extensive Bunker Quality Trends Report 2023: Analysing data from 60 million metric tonnes of supply

READ  
REPORT



## OCI Global supplies first bio-methanol stem in Ulsan

Danish shipping major A.P. Moller-Maersk's first dual-fuelled methanol feeder ship was bunkered with OCI Hyfuel's **biomethanol** at the Port of Ulsan in South Korea. "The successful bunkering is a testament to the collaboration of our partners including the Ulsan Port Authority, Maersk and transportation and storage partner, Odfjell SE, with the support of the Korean Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries," OCI HyFuel said. The 2,100 TEU vessel has embarked on a voyage from Ulsan to Copenhagen. On the way, OCI Hyfuel will bunker it with biomethanol in the ports of Singapore and Rotterdam, and also in Egypt. The voyage shows biomethanol's "reliability, safety, and efficiency as the first low carbon shipping fuel," OCI Global said.

## Shell expands its Americas' LNG bunker barge fleet

Oil and gas major Shell has deployed another **LNG bunker barge** to cater to LNG-fuelled vessels in the Americas. The 18,000-cbm capacity LNG bunkering vessel, New Frontier 2, is the third vessel to be deployed in the Americas and part of Shell's global LNG bunkering fleet of 12. It is "capable of bunkering multiple ship types, both in port and offshore" along with providing "loading and gas-up/cool-down services to LNG carriers and LNG-fuelled vessels." The move will increase "Shell LNG's availability across key bunkering locations worldwide," Shell Trading's global head of downstream LNG Tahir Faruqi said. Also this month, Shell launched an 8,000-cbm capacity LNG bunker barge to supply vessels in the ARA region.

## Antwerp-Bruges' throughput dropped 6% in 1H 2023

The port's total throughput in the first half of 2023 declined by 6% on the year to 139 million mt as **weaker global economic activity** impacted demand for container transport and cargo flows. "Operational challenges and congestion at the container terminals were resolved after two years, with deviated cargo returning," the Port of Antwerp-Bruges authority said. Liquid fuels' throughput grew by 6% in the first half of 2023. The growth was mainly driven by a 57% surge in gasoil and diesel throughput, which rose as EU importers were eager to build stocks in the lead-up to the region's ban on oil product imports from Russia from 5 February. "LNG throughput remained status quo (down 1.4% y-o-y), compared to a strong 2022," it said.

## Tacoma accelerates net zero target by 10 years

The Port of Tacoma has voted to eliminate its direct **greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions** by 2040, moving its target forward from a previous deadline of 2050. The target will cover Scope 1 and Scope 2 emissions, which include direct emissions from the port's buildings and vehicles, and the electricity purchased for port facilities. However, it does not cover Scope 3 emissions, which include emissions from the third-party sources, such as cargo ships and drayage trucks. To achieve the decarbonisation target by 2040, the Port of Tacoma plans to invest in electric vehicles, replace natural gas with electricity in its buildings, and buy renewable fuels to replace the fossil fuels consumed by its vehicles.

Tacoma is a part of the Northwest Seaport Alliance (NWSA), which manages cargo operations in both the ports of Seattle and Tacoma. Last year, Seattle fixed a similar net-zero emissions target for 2040.



## FuelEU Maritime ‘not ambitious enough’ – T&E

A Transport & Environment (T&E) study found that FuelEU Maritime will leave the EU dependent on fossil fuels even after 2050, which contradicts Paris Agreement goals. Ships will have to cut the GHG intensity of the energy they use by 2% by 2025, 14.5% by 2035, 31% by 2040 and 80% by 2050, from 2020 levels. T&E says this is "not ambitious enough" and that fossil fuels will still provide 75% of European shipping's energy needs by 2040.



## WinGD to launch ammonia-fuelled engine in 2025

Swiss marine engine maker Winterthur Gas & Diesel's (WinGD) is on track to deliver its first **dual-fuel ammonia engine** by the first quarter of 2025. That puts it one step behind its competitor MAN Energy Solutions (MAN ES), but ahead of Wärtsilä. WinGD is developing two-stroke dual-fuel engines with ammonia options for multiple vessels to be built by Mitsubishi Shipbuilding. It said the first of these vessels will enter into service in 2026.

Singapore Q2  
bio-bunker sales

106,000 mt

Singapore Q1  
bio-bunker sales

84,000 mt

## Singapore bio-blended bunker sales surged 30% in Q2

Singapore sold more biofuels in the first six months of this year than over the whole of last year, according to preliminary port figures. Nearly all of the biofuel blends sold in the first half of this year were **bio-VLSFO**. The port's monthly biofuel sales volumes have remained above 30,000 mt for a third consecutive month. Around 1,180 mt/day of biofuel was sold in June, up from 1,130 mt/day in May. But it was still less than the 1,280 mt/day recorded in April. In spite of Singapore's biofuel volume increase, it still falls short of Rotterdam's volumes. The European bunker hub sold 149,000 mt of biofuel blends in the first quarter of this year, which was much higher than what Singapore sold in either Q1 and Q2.

This marked the first time that the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore released official data on alternative bunker fuel sales. The Port of Rotterdam Authority has yet to release bunker sales data for the second quarter.

## Weekly Brent Developments

Front-month Brent is heading for a **minimal drop** on the week after the US Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported a lower-than-expected draw in crude stocks.

### Downward pressure:

Commercial US crude stocks fell by 708,000 bbls in the week that ended 14 July, to 457.42 million bbls, according to the EIA data. The weekly stock draw was slightly smaller than the American Petroleum Institute (API) projection of an 800,000-bbl draw. Brent felt additional downward pressure after China reported weaker-than-expected gross domestic product (GDP) figures, and after oil production resumed from Libya's El-Sharara and El-Feel oil fields. "Crude prices are lower as China's economic recovery stalled and as Libya resumed production at key oil fields," said OANDA's market analyst Ed Moya.

### Upward pressure:

Brent drew some support after China's top economic planner, the National Development and Reform Commission (NDRC), pledged to roll out policies to restore consumption in the world's biggest oil-importing nation, Reuters reported. Besides, Chinese trade figures released by market intelligence provider JLC showed that China recorded its second-highest ever monthly oil imports, with 52.06 million mt (12.72 million b/d) imported in June.

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