Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries

OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report

11 March 2026

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Assessment of the global economy

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OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report

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Acknowledgements

Secretary General
HE Haitham Al Ghais

Director, Research Division
Dr. Ayed S. Al-Qahtani

Head, Petroleum Studies Department
Behrooz Baikalizadeh

Main contributors

Crude oil price movements
Yacine Sariahmed

Commodity markets
Angel Edjang Memba

World economy
Dr. Joerg Spitzy

World oil demand
Dr. Sulaiman Saad

World oil supply
Dr. Ali Akbar Dehghan

Product markets and refinery operations
Tona Ndamba

Tanker markets
Douglas Linton

Crude and refined products trade
Douglas Linton

Stock movements
Dr. Aziz Yahyai
Dr. Mohannad AlSuwaidan

Other contributors

Huda Almwasawy; Mhammed Mouraia; Dr. Asmaa Yaseen; Dr. Pantelis Christodoulides; Klaus Stoeger; Viveca Hameder; Dr. Mohammad Sattar; Mihni Mihnev; Dr. Justinas Pelenis; Dr. Mansi Ghodsi; Hataichanok Leimlehner

Editorial, Design, and Production Team

James Griffin; Mathew Quinn; Maureen MacNeill; Richard Murphy; Catherine Brannigan Conway; Carola Bayer; Andrea Birnbach; Soojung Jung; Boris Kudashev

Oil Market Highlights

Crude Oil Price Movements

In February, the OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) value increased by $5.59/b, month-on-month (m-o-m), to average $67.90/b. The ICE Brent front-month contract increased by $4.64/b, m-o-m, to average $69.37/b, and the NYMEX WTI front-month contract increased by $4.26/b, m-o-m, to average $64.52/b. The GME Oman front-month contract increased by $5.63/b, m-o-m, to $68.42/b. The Brent–WTI front-month spread increased by $0.38/b, m-o-m, to average $4.85/b. The forward curves of all major crude benchmarks remained in backwardation. The structure continued to be supported by firm physical market fundamentals, alongside supply outages and concerns over potential supply disruptions amid geopolitical developments. Hedge funds and other money managers turned increasingly bullish, boosting net long positions by 46%, m-o-m.

World Economy

The global economic growth forecasts remain unchanged from last month's assessment at 3.1% for 2026 and 3.2% for 2027. The US economic growth forecasts remain at 2.2% for 2026 and 2% for 2027. In the Eurozone, the economic growth forecasts remain at 1.2% for both 2026 and 2027. Japan's economic growth forecasts remain at 0.9% for both 2026 and 2027. The economic growth forecasts for China remain at 4.5% for both 2026 and 2027. India's economic growth forecasts remain at 6.6% for 2026 and 6.5% for 2027. Brazil's economic growth forecasts remain at 2.0% for 2026 and 2.2% for 2027. Russia's economic growth forecasts remain at 1.3% for 2026 and 1.5% for 2027.

World Oil Demand

The global oil demand growth forecast for 2026 remains at a healthy 1.4 mb/d, y-o-y, unchanged from last month's assessment. The OECD is forecast to grow by 0.15 mb/d, while the non-OECD is forecast to grow by about 1.2 mb/d. In 2027, global oil demand is forecast to grow by about 1.3 mb/d, y-o-y, unchanged from last month's assessment. The OECD is forecast to grow by 0.1 mb/d next year, while the non-OECD is forecast to grow by around 1.2 mb/d, y-o-y.

World Oil Supply

Non-DoC liquids production (i.e., liquids production from countries not participating in the Declaration of Cooperation) is forecast to grow by about 0.6 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, unchanged from last month's assessment, mainly driven by Brazil, Canada, the US, and Argentina. In 2027, non-DoC liquids production is also forecast to grow by about 0.6 mb/d, unchanged from last month's assessment, mainly driven by Brazil, Canada, Qatar, and Argentina. Natural gas liquids (NGLs) and non-conventional liquids from countries participating in the DoC are forecast to grow by 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, to average about 8.8 mb/d, followed by similar growth in 2027 of about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average about 8.9 mb/d. In February, crude oil production by countries participating in the DoC increased by 445 tb/d, m-o-m, to average about 42.72 mb/d, according to available secondary sources.

Product Markets and Refining Operations

In February, refining margins in the Atlantic Basin increased, given the reduction in product output due to seasonal refinery maintenance. Moreover, geopolitical tensions and concerns over product flow disruptions further contributed to upward pressure on product margins. On the US Gulf Coast (USGC), margins were backed by gasoline and middle distillate strength, while in Rotterdam, gains were seen across the barrel, except for low-sulphur fuel oil (LSFO). Refining margins in Singapore moved downwards as regional gasoline inventory builds, higher jet/kerosene availability in Southeast Asia, and stronger feedstock prices weighed on regional refining margins.

Tanker Market

VLCC spot freight rates showed a strong performance in February, as fleet consolidation and rising tanker demand on long-haul routes tightened availability. On the Middle East-to-East route, spot freight rates rose by 65%, m-o-m. Suezmax spot freight rates edged higher, lifted in part by spill-over support from the exceptionally strong VLCC market. Spot freight rates on the US Gulf Coast-to-Europe route rose by 7%, m-o-m. Aframax rates strengthened, particularly in the East of Suez. Rates on the Indonesia-to-East route were up 21%, m-o-m, and intra-Med rates increased 14%, m-o-m. Clean spot freight rates weakened East of Suez and edged slightly higher West of Suez as the maintenance season boosted the need for product imports.

Crude and Refined Product Trade

US crude imports rose by 5%, m-o-m, in February, while crude exports from the US averaged 4.2 mb/d, up by 87 tb/d, m-o-m. Product exports slipped to 6.7 mb/d, although flows of distillate and residual fuel oil remained strong. In January, crude imports into OECD Europe are estimated to have been below the 5-year range, as refinery closures reduced import requirements. Product imports into OECD Europe fell compared to the previous month, with declines across all major categories. Meanwhile, Japan's crude imports fell back in January from a multiyear high the month before to average 2.5 mb/d. Product exports from Japan moved above the five-year range, supported by higher outflows of gasoline and gasoil amid healthy margins in the region. Crude imports into China are estimated to have begun the year above the five-year average, at 12 mb/d, although supply sources varied from the previous month. Product imports into China remained above the five-year range, despite a seasonal decline, m-o-m. India's crude imports averaged just below 5 mb/d in January. Product imports performed well at 1.3 mb/d, while exports matched the five-year average.

Commercial Stock Movements

Preliminary January 2026 data show that OECD commercial oil inventories fell by 19.9 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 2,824 mb. At this level, OECD commercial stocks were 70.5 mb higher, y-o-y, and 9.8 mb above the latest five-year average, but 103.1 mb below the 2015–2019 average. Within the components, crude and products stocks fell by 3.0 mb and 16.9 mb, m-o-m, respectively. OECD crude oil commercial stocks stood at 1,313 mb. This was 24.6 mb higher, y-o-y, but 26.9 mb below the latest five-year average, and 118.1 mb lower than the 2015–2019 average. OECD total product stocks stood at 1,511 mb in January. This was 45.9 mb higher, y-o-y, 36.6 mb above the latest five-year average, and 15.0 mb above the 2015–2019 average. In terms of days of forward cover, OECD commercial stocks fell by 0.8 days, m-o-m, in January, to stand at 62.0 days. This was 1.3 days higher than in January 2025, but 0.8 days lower than the latest five-year average and in line with the 2015–2019 average.

Balance of Supply and Demand

The demand for DoC crude (i.e., crude from countries participating in the DoC) in 2026 is unchanged from the previous month's assessment of 42.9 mb/d, which is about 0.6 mb/d higher than in 2025. The demand for DoC crude in 2027 remains unchanged from the previous month's assessment, to stand at 43.6 mb/d, which is about 0.6 mb/d higher than the 2026 forecast.

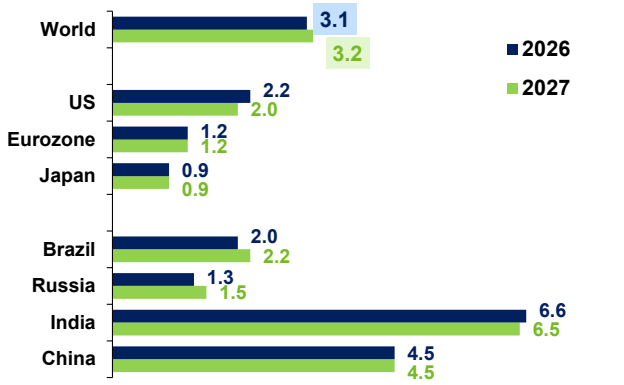
Feature Article

Assessment of the global economy

The momentum for global economic growth proved resilient through the end of 2025. Notably, India posted robust economic growth, and China achieved its annual growth target of 5%. The US also witnessed solid growth, despite a slight deceleration towards the end of the year on the back of the government shutdown. The Eurozone and Japan continued their steady, albeit moderate, growth. At the same time, Brazil and Russia sustained their growth trends. At the global level, this momentum is expected to continue in 2026, with economic growth forecast at 3.1%, y-o-y, followed by a slight acceleration to 3.2%, y-o-y, in 2027 (***Graph 1***). Ongoing geopolitical developments warrant close monitoring, although their impact, if any, on the growth forecast may be too early to determine.

The major non-OECD economies, particularly India and China, are projected to help maintain the global growth momentum as US-related trade issues are expected to normalize. Brazil and Russia are set to exhibit further solid expansion driven by domestic consumption and ongoing fiscal spending, although at a slightly decelerating pace. In the OECD, the US is anticipated to keep its healthy growth dynamics. Japan is forecast to be well supported by the new government's fiscal stimulus measures. And the outlook in the Eurozone points to continued stable growth momentum, supported by fiscal spending and accommodative monetary policy.

Graph 1: GDP growth forecast for 2026–27, %, y-o-y



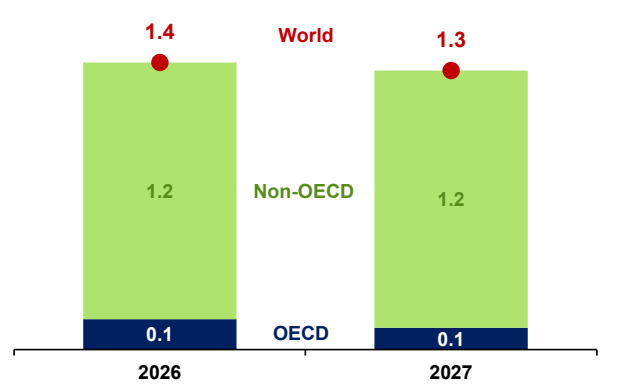
Note: 2026 and 2027 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.

Several factors are anticipated to support the global economic growth dynamic in the near-term, although trade-related and geopolitical dynamics and their implications require close monitoring. In 1H26, an early-year fiscal boost can be seen materializing in the US, as tax cuts and a recovery from the 4Q25 shutdown are expected to support robust growth. Support measures are also set to continue in China, as outlined during the 'Two Sessions' meeting at the beginning of March. Moreover, fiscal stimulus in Japan, and the Eurozone – particularly in Germany – are forecast to gather pace. India's economy is projected to sustain a robust dynamic as fiscal support continues and trade is anticipated to expand. This follows the recent lowering of US tariffs, as well as various other trade deals the Indian government has agreed on in recent months.

In terms of key central banks, they are expected to continue to vigilantly monitor the inflationary dynamic. Global inflation has moderated considerably since peaking in 2022. Consequently, most major central banks have lowered key policy rates, with the notable exceptions of Japan and Brazil. Despite some challenges, global economic growth has turned out to be resilient and is anticipated to continue at a steady pace.

Based on the healthy economic dynamics, global oil demand in 2026 is forecast to grow by a robust 1.4 mb/d, y-o-y, followed by a healthy increase of 1.3 mb/d in 2027. On a regional basis, most oil demand growth is expected in the non-OECD, with expansion of more than 1.2 mb/d, y-o-y, in both 2026 and 2027. At the same time, OECD oil demand growth is forecast at about 0.15 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, and 0.1 mb/d in 2027 (***Graph 2***).

Graph 2: World oil demand growth in 2026–27, mb/d



Note: 2026 and 2027 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.

In terms of oil products, transportation fuels are forecast to drive y-o-y growth in both 2026 and 2027, closely followed by petrochemical feedstock requirements. Global gasoline demand leads the way on the back of increased driving mobility, mostly in major non-OECD consuming countries and regions, such as Other Asia, the Middle East and India. Jet fuel demand is also forecast to show healthy growth. Moreover, the ongoing capacity expansions and upgrades in the petrochemical industry, particularly in China, the Middle East and the US, are forecast to continue to support feedstock demand.

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Crude Oil Price Movements

In February, the OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) value increased by $5.59/b, month-on-month (m-o-m), to average $67.90/b. The ICE Brent front-month contract increased by $4.64/b, m-o-m, to average $69.37/b, and the NYMEX WTI front-month contract increased by $4.26/b, m-o-m, to average $64.52/b. The GME Oman front-month contract increased by $5.63/b, m-o-m, to $68.42/b.

Oil futures forward curves remained in backwardation in February, with the front end of ICE Brent and NYMEX WTI largely unchanged, m-o-m. Meanwhile, the forward structure of GME Oman strengthened amid robust demand for medium-sour crude from Asia-Pacific buyers. The structure continued to be supported by firm physical market fundamentals, unplanned supply outages in some regions, and elevated geopolitical risk.

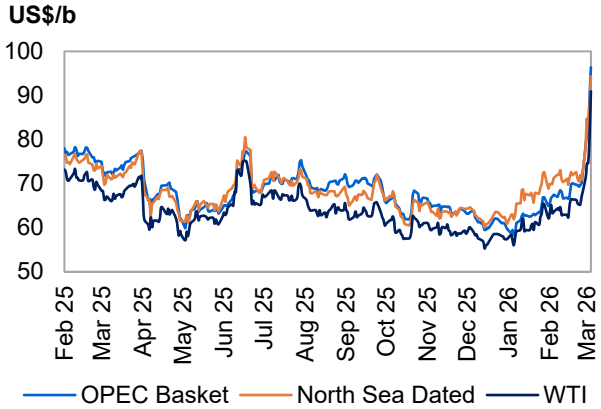
Hedge funds and other money managers turned increasingly bullish in February, with total net long positions rising by 46% m-o-m. The increase was driven mainly by ICE Brent, for which net length reached its highest level since April 2024. This occurred alongside sizeable financial inflows and a second consecutive month of short covering in both ICE Brent and NYMEX WTI, amid stronger-than-expected physical market fundamentals and elevated geopolitical risk.

Crude spot prices

Crude spot prices extended their gains in February, supported by firm physical market fundamentals. Demand remained strong, particularly from Asia-Pacific buyers, while robust buying interest in March-loading programmes lent support to spot prices in Northwest Europe. Higher refining margins in Europe and on the US Gulf Coast (USGC) also contributed to stronger buying interest.

Supply disruptions in some regions further tightened spot market conditions, particularly in the Atlantic Basin. A slow recovery in the Caspian region, alongside temporary disruptions in the US and North Africa due to weather conditions, raised concerns over near-term supply availability. In addition, geopolitical developments in several key producing regions contributed to elevated risk premiums.

Graph 1 - 1: Crude oil price movements



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Spot crude prices continued to trade at firm premiums relative to futures in February, although these premiums narrowed, m-o-m, amid still-strong physical market conditions. The North Sea Dated premium to the ICE Brent front-month contract declined by $1.27/b, m-o-m, to $2.67/b.

In February, North Sea Dated and WTI first-month prices rose by $4.36/b and $4.17/b, m-o-m, respectively, averaging $71.09/b and $64.42/b. Dubai's first-month price increased by $6.19/b, m-o-m, to average $68.26/b.

In the Atlantic Basin, crude differentials eased in February as buying interest softened ahead of the European refinery maintenance season, while stronger refining margins limited losses. In the North Sea, crude differentials showed better performance compared with other regions like West Africa and the Mediterranean, as high freight costs raised demand for North Sea crude from European refiners. On a monthly basis, Forties crude differentials in February fell by $0.05/b, m-o-m, to a premium of $1.65/b against North Sea Dated, while Ekofisk differentials remained unchanged at a premium of $2.24/b against North Sea Dated. Johan Sverdrup dropped against North Sea Dated, falling by $1.62/b to a discount of $2.42/b.

Table 1 - 1: OPEC Reference Basket and selected crudes, US$/b

OPEC Reference Basket (ORB)	Jan 26	Feb 26	Change Feb 26/Jan 26	Year-to-date 2025	Year-to-date 2026
ORB	**62.31**	**67.90**	***5.59***	**78.16**	**65.04**
Arab Light	62.84	68.40	*5.56*	79.74	65.55
Basrah Medium	61.28	66.77	*5.49*	76.91	63.96
Bonny Light	67.66	71.96	*4.30*	78.10	69.76
Djeno	59.28	63.64	*4.36*	69.83	61.41
Es Sider	66.78	71.14	*4.36*	75.84	68.91
Iran Heavy	60.87	66.59	*5.72*	78.58	63.66
Kuwait Export	60.72	66.61	*5.89*	79.33	63.59
Merey	43.21	52.31	*9.10*	65.95	47.65
Murban	63.99	69.45	*5.46*	79.08	66.65
Rabi Light	66.27	70.63	*4.36*	76.82	68.40
Sahara Blend	67.73	73.59	*5.86*	78.25	70.59
Zafiro	66.73	68.39	*1.66*	79.49	67.54
Other Crudes					
North Sea Dated	66.73	71.09	*4.36*	77.28	68.86
Dubai	62.07	68.26	*6.19*	79.23	65.09
Isthmus	57.45	61.09	*3.64*	72.03	59.22
LLS	61.78	66.38	*4.60*	76.09	64.03
Mars	58.98	64.18	*5.20*	74.34	61.52
Minas	70.16	75.39	*5.23*	80.21	72.71
Urals	37.56	41.03	*3.47*	63.76	39.25
WTI	60.25	64.42	*4.17*	73.34	62.28
Differentials					
North Sea Dated/WTI	6.48	6.67	*0.19*	3.94	6.57
North Sea Dated/LLS	4.95	4.71	*-0.24*	1.18	4.83
North Sea Dated/Dubai	4.66	2.83	*-1.83*	-1.95	3.77

Sources: Argus, Direct Communication, and OPEC.

The value of West African crude differentials mostly weakened due to higher freight rates, steep backwardation in Brent, and limited demand for long-haul cargoes. Bonny Light and Cabinda crude differentials to North Sea Dated decreased by $0.88/b and $0.27/b to stand at a premium of $0.61/b and a discount of $1.45/b. Forcados and Qua Iboe also dropped by $1.16/b and $0.44/b, to premiums of $1.31/b and $0.66/b.

In the Mediterranean, Saharan Blend and Azeri BTC differentials decreased by $0.48/b and $2.17/b, m-o-m, to premiums of $1.05/b and $1.25/b to North Sea Dated. CPC Blend crude differentials dropped by $2.17/b, m-o-m, to a discount of $3.31/b, also relative to North Sea Dated.

In the USGC, crude differentials strengthened. Light Louisiana Sweet (LLS) rose by $0.48/b, m-o-m, to stand at a premium of $1.97/b to the WTI benchmark, and Mars sour increased by $1.06/b to a discount of $0.66/b to WTI. In the Middle East, the value of Oman crude differentials to Dubai rose by $0.87/b, m-o-m, to a premium of $0.80/b, compared with a discount of $0.07/b.

OPEC Reference Basket (ORB) value

In February, the ORB value increased by $5.59/b, m-o-m, to average $67.90/b. West and North African Basket components Bonny Light, Djeno, Es Sider, Rabi Light, Sahara Blend and Zafiro increased by an average of $4.15/b, m-o-m, to $69.89/b. Multiple-region destination grades, including Arab Light, Basrah Medium, Iran Heavy, and Kuwait Export, rose on average by $5.67/b, m-o-m, to $67.09/b. Murban crude rose on average by $5.46/b, m-o-m, to $69.45/b, and the Merey component increased by $9.10/b, m-o-m, to settle at $52.31/b.

The oil futures market

Crude oil futures prices averaged higher in February, m-o-m, supported by increased geopolitical risk premiums, concerns regarding potential supply disruptions, and firm physical market fundamentals. Price volatility remained elevated over the month amid heightened uncertainty across geopolitical and macroeconomic fronts.

At the start of the month, major crude benchmarks were underpinned by persistent supply disruptions in the Caspian region, alongside continued uncertainty surrounding developments in Eastern Europe and the Middle East. Additional support followed US Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showing a large draw in US crude oil stocks, reinforcing perceptions of tightening near-term physical market fundamentals.

In the second week, crude oil futures prices steadied as geopolitical risk premiums moderated. Market participants assessed evolving developments and their potential implications for supply flows. Reports indicating a gradual recovery in output at Kazakhstan's Tengiz oilfield contributed to an easing of supply concerns. At the same time, broader financial market sentiment softened following declines in major US equity indices amid weaker-than-expected US retail sales data.

During the second half of February, prices strengthened further as renewed caution regarding geopolitical developments in Eastern Europe led to a reassessment of associated risk premiums. Support was also provided by US macroeconomic data showing that consumer price growth in January rose less than anticipated, reinforcing expectations of a more measured monetary policy trajectory and lending support to the demand outlook. Further momentum followed the EIA's reporting of a substantial 9 mb draw in US crude oil stocks in the week ending 13 February.

In the final week of the month, crude oil futures were supported by elevated geopolitical risk premiums amid developments in the Middle East. However, gains moderated later in the month as renewed uncertainty surrounding US tariff policy weighed on market sentiment, alongside declines in major US equity markets. Additional adjustments followed EIA data, which indicated a large build of nearly 16 mb in US crude oil stocks in the week ending 20 February.

The ICE Brent front-month contract rose in February by $4.64/b, m-o-m, to average $69.37/b, and the NYMEX WTI front-month contract increased by $4.26/b, m-o-m, to average $64.52/b. The GME Oman front-month contract rose by $5.63/b, m-o-m, in February to $68.42/b.

Table 1 - 2: Crude oil futures, US$/b

Crude oil futures	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb 26/Jan 26	*Year-to-date* 2025	2026
NYMEX WTI	60.26	64.52	4.26	73.25	62.34
ICE Brent	64.73	69.37	4.64	76.73	66.99
GME Oman	62.79	68.42	5.63	78.82	65.53
Spread					
ICE Brent-NYMEX WTI	*4.47*	*4.85*	*0.38*	*3.48*	*4.65*

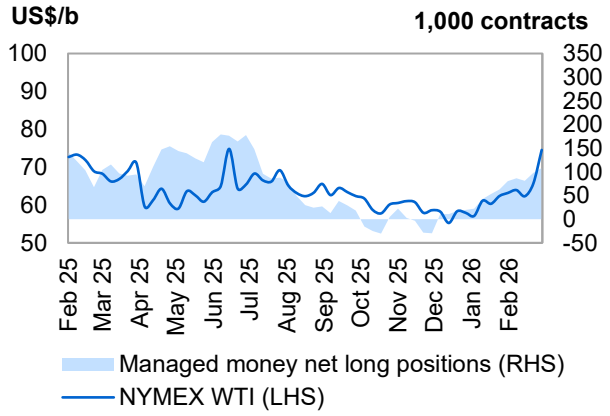
Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.
Sources: CME, ICE, GME and OPEC.

The ICE Brent-NYMEX WTI front-month spread widened in February, m-o-m. The widening of the spread reflected the ongoing impact of supply disruptions affecting the Caspian Pipeline Consortium (CPC) export terminal and Kazakhstan's Tengiz oil field, alongside heightened geopolitical risk premiums on the international benchmark ICE Brent, driven by potential tensions in key oil-producing regions and their possible implications for crude flows. The ICE Brent/NYMEX WTI spread widened by $0.38/b in February to average $4.85/b, keeping US crude more competitive for international buyers.

The spread between North Sea Dated and WTI Houston remained wide last month, rising above $7/b daily, reflecting strong buying in Northwest Europe, while a build in US crude stocks in February weighed on the NYMEX WTI price. On a monthly basis, the North Sea Dated-WTI Houston spread rose by $0.02/b to a premium of $5.48/b.

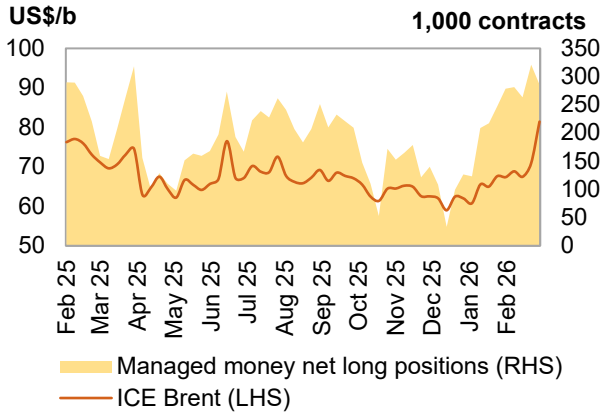
Hedge funds and other money managers turned increasingly bullish over February, boosting their net long positions, with total net length rising by 46%, m-o-m. The increase was more pronounced in ICE Brent, where net long positions reached their highest level since April 2024. The expansion in net long positions was accompanied by sizeable financial inflows, with money managers being net buyers of an equivalent of 126 mb over the month. For a second consecutive month, money managers reduced a substantial volume of short positions in both ICE Brent and NYMEX WTI, following the build-up of short positions observed in 4Q25. The adjustment in positioning reflected stronger-than-expected physical market fundamentals, supply disruptions, and elevated geopolitical risk perceptions. At the same time, long positions increased sharply, contributing further to an expansion in overall net long positions.

Graph 1 - 2: NYMEX WTI vs. Managed Money net long positions



Sources: CFTC, CME and OPEC.

Graph 1 - 3: ICE Brent vs. Managed Money net long positions



Sources: ICE and OPEC.

Money managers adopted a more optimistic stance toward ICE Brent futures in February, adding positions equivalent to about 74 mb over the month. Combined Brent-related futures and options net long positions increased by 74,035 lots, or 30.0%, over the month, to stand at 320,952 contracts during the week of 24 February. This is due to long positions increasing by 35,766 lots, or 9.5%, to stand at 413,137 contracts and short positions falling by 38,269 lots, or 29.3%, over the same period, to stand at 92,185 contracts, the lowest since August 2025.

Money managers also raised WTI-related net long positions over February, with net long positions in the week of 24 February rising to their highest point since July 2025. Between the weeks of 27 January and 24 February, NYMEX WTI futures and options net long positions increased by 52,121 lots, to stand at 81,058 contracts. During the same period, short positions dropped by 25,409 lots, or 17.0%, to 124,254 contracts, and long positions rose by 26,712 lots, or 15.0%, to 205,312 contracts.

The ICE Brent long-to-short ratio of speculative positions rose slightly to about 4:1 in February, compared with about 3:1 in late January. The NYMEX WTI long-to-short ratio also rose slightly to 2:1 in February, compared with 1:1 in January.

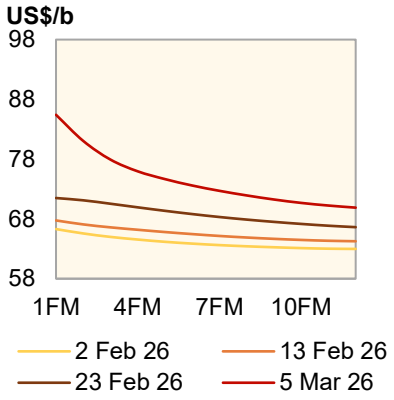
Total open interest volumes related to ICE Brent, NYMEX and ICE WTI futures and options increased in February by 154,664 lots, or 2.0%, to stand at 7.9 million contracts in the week ending 24 February. Open interest volumes related to ICE Brent futures and options fell by 31,029 contracts, or 0.7%, m-o-m, to stand at 4.2 million contracts in the week ending 24 February. However, open interest volumes related to NYMEX and ICE WTI futures and options increased by 185,693 lots, or 5.2%, to stand at 3.7 million contracts in the last week of February.

The futures market structure

The oil futures forward curves remained in backwardation in February, with the front end of both the ICE Brent and NYMEX WTI curves little changed m-o-m. The structure continued to be supported by firm physical market fundamentals, alongside supply outages, concerns over potential supply disruptions amid geopolitical developments that kept risk premiums elevated, and increased buying interest from financial participants. Meanwhile, the forward structure of the medium sour benchmark GME Oman strengthened from the previous month, supported by firm demand from Asia-Pacific buyers, including India.

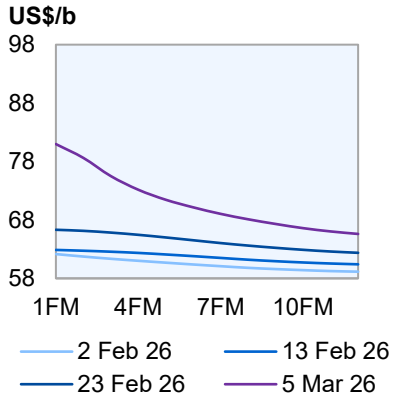
The ICE Brent forward structure remained in firm backwardation in February, particularly at the front end of the curve, which was broadly unchanged m-o-m. ICE Brent, the largest oil futures contract, continued to reflect heightened uncertainty surrounding geopolitical developments and their potential impact on oil supply. Prompt prices were further supported by firm demand in the physical market, alongside supply outages in the Caspian region and temporary disruptions in the US and North Africa that tightened near-term availability. On a monthly average, the ICE Brent M1/M3 spread fell by $0.11/b, m-o-m, to a backwardation of $1.02/b in February, while the ICE Brent M1/M6 spread widened last month by $0.58/b, with backwardation standing at $2.34/b on average, compared with a backwardation of $1.75/b in January.

Graph 1 - 4: ICE Brent WTI forward curves



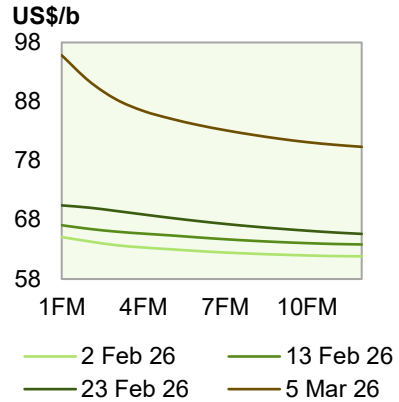
Sources: ICE and OPEC.

Graph 1 - 5: NYMEX WTI forward curves



Sources: CME and OPEC.

Graph 1 - 6: GME Oman forward curves



Sources: GME and OPEC.

In the US, the NYMEX WTI forward structure also remained in backwardation in February, although the front end of the curve eased slightly amid rising US crude stocks that weighed on prompt prices. The NYMEX WTI M1–M3 spread narrowed marginally by $0.01/b, m-o-m, to average a backwardation of $0.41/b.

The market structure of GME Oman strengthened in February, supported by firm demand in the East of Suez market. On a monthly average, the GME Oman M1/M3 spread rose by $0.27/b, m-o-m, to a backwardation of $0.85/b in February.

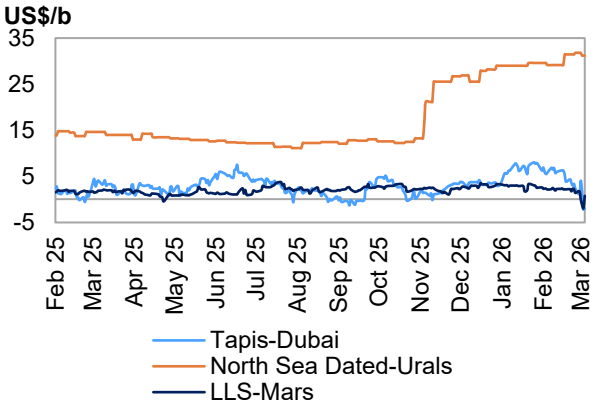
In terms of M1–M3 structure, the North Sea Brent spread narrowed on a monthly average by $0.49/b to a backwardation of $1.24/b, compared with $1.73/b in the month before. In the US, WTI backwardation also narrowed by $0.06/b to $0.35/b, compared with a backwardation of $0.41/b in January. However, the Dubai structure strengthened, with the M1–M3 spread rising on average by $1.09/b, m-o-m, flipping to a backwardation of $0.92/b in February, compared with a contango of $0.17/b in January.

Crude spreads

In February, premiums of light sweet crudes over medium sour grades narrowed in Asia and on the USGC, in line with a decline in the Brent–Dubai spread, which retreated from the previous month's surge. This reflected a strengthening in the sour crude market amid concerns about potential supply disruptions to medium-sour grades linked to geopolitical developments in the Middle East and Eastern Europe. In Europe, sweet–sour crude differentials widened, with light sweet crudes continuing to outperform heavy and medium sour grades. Stronger light and middle distillate margins relative to heavy distillate margins contributed to the widening spread in the region.

In Europe, the value of sour crude weakened compared with light sweet crude, as the largest North Sea sour stream, Johan Sverdrup, came under pressure from softer seasonal demand by European refiners and less favourable export arbitrage economics regarding the Asian market. Meanwhile, light sweet North Sea grades were supported by limited competitiveness from other similar grades in the Atlantic Basin amid high freight rates. Additional support came from higher gasoline, diesel and jet fuel cracks. A wider spread between naphtha and fuel oil 1.0% crack spreads in Europe further favoured light sweet grades over sour. As a result, the sweet–sour crude spread, represented by the Ekofisk–Johan Sverdrup differential, widened by $1.63/b, m-o-m, to a premium of $4.66/b.

Graph 1 - 7: Differentials in Asia, Europe and the USGC



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Urals crude differentials to the North Sea Dated in the Baltic and Black Sea also weakened in February on lower demand from some refiners in the Asia-Pacific region, falling by $0.89/b and $1.61/b, respectively, to discounts of $30.06/b and $28.28/b.

In Asia, the Tapis premium over Dubai narrowed in February, m-o-m, but remained elevated relative to historical levels. The contraction in the spread occurred as sour crude values strengthened more than those of light sweet crude. The sour crude market was supported by firm demand from Asia-Pacific refiners, including China and India, which sought to secure available non-sanctioned medium sour grades amid mounting concerns over trade disruptions linked to geopolitical developments. A strong high-sulphur fuel oil (HSFO) crack spread further supported sour crude values. At the same time, gasoline and other light product margins weakened. As a result, the Tapis–Dubai spread narrowed by $1.30/b, m-o-m, to average a premium of $5.32/b. Similarly, the Brent–Dubai differential declined by $1.83/b, m-o-m, to average a premium of $2.83/b in February.

In the USGC, premiums of light sweet crudes over sour grades narrowed in February, as medium sour crudes strengthened on robust US refinery demand and firm export demand from the Asia-Pacific region. However, weaker HSFO margins and prospects for higher sour crude supply from Latin America limited gains in medium sour grades in the USGC. As a result, the LLS premium over medium sour Mars narrowed by $0.60/b, m-o-m, to average $2.20/b.

Commodity Markets

Most select commodity price indices trended downwards in February, except the precious metals index.

In the futures market, sentiment remained bullish in February, as both combined open interest (OI) and money managers' net length experienced gains.

In February, weather normalization eased upward pressure on energy prices following peak winter demand the previous month. A modest decline in the US dollar provided some support to commodity prices, though momentum slowed for most base metal prices following normalization of post-holiday activity in China.

Trends in select energy commodity markets

The energy price index dropped by 0.5%, m-o-m, in February, given the declines in natural gas prices in the US and Europe. Gains in coal and average crude oil prices partially offset losses. The index was down by 6.8%, y-o-y, under pressure from lower average crude oil and natural gas prices over the same period.

Table 2 - 1: Select energy prices

Commodity	Unit	Monthly average			% Change		Year-to-date	
		Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Feb 26/ Jan 26	Feb 26/ Feb 25	2025	2026
Energy*	*Index*	**82.9**	**92.8**	**92.4**	**-0.5**	**-6.8**	**101.3**	**92.6**
Coal, Australia	*US$/boe*	10.3	10.5	11.3	7.8	10.7	10.8	10.9
Coal, US	*US$/boe*	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.9	8.0	6.7	7.2
Crude oil, average	*US$/b*	60.9	63.7	68.0	6.9	-7.9	76.0	65.8
Natural gas, US	*US$/boe*	23.0	41.0	19.6	-52.3	-14.4	22.5	30.3
Natural gas, Europe	*US$/boe*	51.3	63.6	60.8	-4.4	-26.7	81.2	62.2

*Note: * World Bank commodity price index (2010 = 100).*
Sources: World Bank and OPEC.

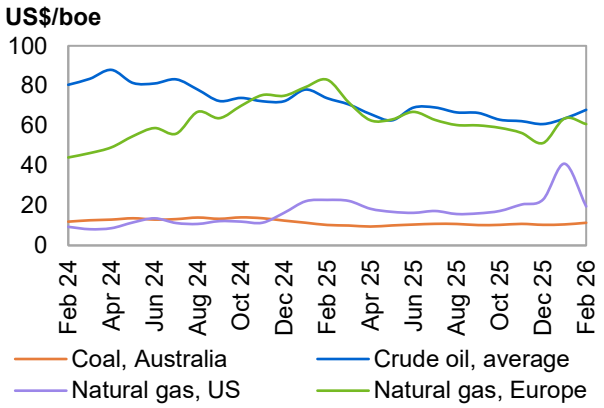
Australian thermal coal prices increased for a second consecutive month in February, increasing by 7.8%, m-o-m. Prices were supported by a combination of higher Asian demand, particularly in China and India, along with government policies in Indonesia and China, which limited supply availability. Elsewhere, prices in Europe found additional support from increased coal burns amid gas-to-coal fuel switching. Reports of healthy storage levels and expectations of higher production in India limited further upside. Prices were up by 10.7%, y-o-y.

In the US, coal prices advanced for the fifth consecutive month, increasing by 0.9%, m-o-m. Prices benefited from steady export demand to Europe. However, gains were partially offset by lower domestic demand as higher temperatures in the period reduced coal burns. Upside support was further limited by lower gas-to-coal fuel switching amid a decline in natural gas prices. Coal prices were 8.0% higher, y-o-y.

Average crude oil prices experienced a consecutive monthly gain in February, increasing by 6.9%, m-o-m. Bullish sentiment in the futures markets remained supportive of prices over the month, though they were down by 7.9%, y-o-y.

Henry Hub's natural gas prices dropped in February, after five consecutive months of gains, falling by 52.3%, m-o-m. Prices experienced a sharp correction as temperatures normalized across the region in February following a cold snap the previous month, leading to a decline in heating. Higher LNG exports, coupled with a decline in storage levels, limited downside pressure. According to data from the US Energy Information Administration (EIA), average weekly natural gas storage decreased by 29.0%, m-o-m, in February. Prices were down by 14.4%, y-o-y.

Graph 2 - 1: Select energy prices



Sources: World Bank, Haver Analytics and OPEC.

The average Title Transfer Facility (TTF) price receded in February, falling by 4.4%, m-o-m. US LNG imports improved in the month ahead of the beginning of the storage refill season, which reduced the supply risk premium, despite a decline in current storage levels. According to data from Gas Infrastructure Europe, EU storage levels fell to 30% as of the end of February, down from 41% the previous month, representing an 11-percentage point decrease, m-o-m. Moderate coal burns in the region also contributed to easing pressure on gas prices in the period. Prices were down by 26.7%, y-o-y.

Trends in select non-energy commodity markets

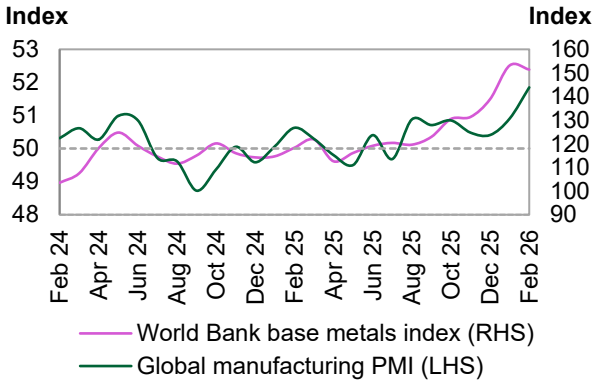
The non-energy price index declined in February after six consecutive months of increases, falling by 1.2%, m-o-m. A decline in the base and agriculture sub-indices dragged down the index, with the latter falling by 1.4%, m-o-m. Compared with the same period last year, the non-energy index was higher by 0.3%, y-o-y, while the agriculture index was lower by 10.4%, y-o-y.

Base metals

The base metal index dropped in February after five consecutive months of gains, falling by 1.1%, m-o-m, pressured by declines across most select metal prices, except zinc. Normalization of post-holiday activity in China, coupled with the prospect of the US scaling back tariffs on key metals, weighed on metal prices. Nonetheless, improvements in global industrial activity in the period limited losses. The global manufacturing PMI rose to 51.9 in February, up from 50.9 the previous month, a 1.9%, m-o-m, increase. The base metal index was up by 28.0%, y-o-y.

At the London Metal Exchange (LME) warehouses, combined base metals stocks increased by 6.2%, m-o-m; however, they were down by 3.0%, y-o-y.

Graph 2 - 2: Global manufacturing PMI and World Bank base metals index



Sources: JP Morgan, IHS Markit, Haver Analytics, World Bank and OPEC.

Table 2 - 2: Base metal prices

Commodity	Unit	Monthly average			% changes		Year-to-date	
		Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Feb 26/ Jan 26	Feb 26/ Feb 25	2025	2026
Non-energy*	*Index*	**117.4**	**120.7**	**119.3**	**-1.2**	**0.3**	**118.1**	**120.0**
Base metal*	*Index*	**139.0**	**153.2**	**151.5**	**-1.1**	**28.0**	**116.6**	**152.4**
Copper	*US$/mt*	11,795	13,018	12,967	-0.4	38.7	9,185	12,992
Aluminium	*US$/mt*	2,885	3,145	3,075	-2.2	15.8	2,620	3,110
Nickel	*US$/mt*	14,924	17,806	17,209	-3.4	12.3	15,381	17,508
Lead	*US$/mt*	1,950	2,004	1,926	-3.9	-2.0	1,948	1,965
Zinc	*US$/mt*	3,149	3,222	3,333	3.4	18.8	2,818	3,278
Iron Ore	*US$/mt*	107	106	99	-6.6	-7.5	105	103

*Note: * World Bank commodity price indices (2010 = 100).*

Sources: LME, Haver Analytics, World Bank and OPEC.

Copper prices declined in February by 0.4%, m-o-m, though they were down by 38.7%, y-o-y. At LME warehouses, stocks rose by 37.0%, m-o-m, in February, though they were down by 17.8%, y-o-y.

Aluminium prices receded in February by 2.2%, m-o-m, though they were up by 15.8%, y-o-y. LME warehouse stocks decreased over the month by 3.4%, m-o-m, and were down by 13.1%, y-o-y.

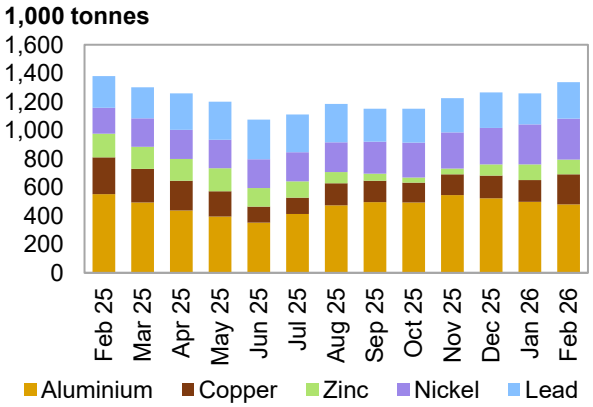
Nickel prices fell by 3.4%, m-o-m, in February, but were higher by 12.3%, y-o-y. At LME warehouses, stocks rose over the month by 2.4%, m-o-m, and were higher by 56.1%, y-o-y.

Lead prices dropped by 3.9%, m-o-m, in February, and were down by 2.0%, y-o-y. At LME warehouses, stocks grew by 16.8%, m-o-m, and were up by 15.7%, y-o-y.

Zinc prices increased in February by 3.4%, m-o-m, and were up by 18.8%, y-o-y. Stocks decreased by 4.3%, m-o-m, at LME warehouses, and were down by 37.2%, y-o-y.

Iron ore prices declined in February, falling by 6.6%, m-o-m, and were lower by 7.5%, y-o-y. At the same time, China's steel industry PMI retracted further below expansionary territory. The benchmark fell to 46.7 in the month, down from 49.9 the previous month, representing a 6.4%, m-o-m, decrease.

Graph 2 - 3: Inventories at the LME



Sources: LME, Thomson Reuters and OPEC.

Precious metals

The precious metals index increased for the eighth consecutive month in February. It was up by 1.7%, m-o-m, supported by higher gold prices; however, a retraction in silver and platinum prices over the period partially offset gains. The index was up by 85.2%, y-o-y.

Table 2 - 3: Precious metal prices

Commodity	Unit	Monthly average			% changes		Year-to-date	
		Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Feb 26/ Jan 26	Feb 26/ Feb 25	2025	2026
Precious metals*	*Index*	**336.1**	**393.3**	**400.2**	**1.7**	**85.2**	**209.3**	**396.8**
Gold	*US$/Oz*	4,309	4,753	5,020	5.6	73.4	2,802	4,886
Silver	*US$/Oz*	62.3	92.1	81.9	-11.0	154.9	31.3	87.0
Platinum	*US$/Oz*	1,893	2,434	2,137	-12.2	118.5	964	2,286

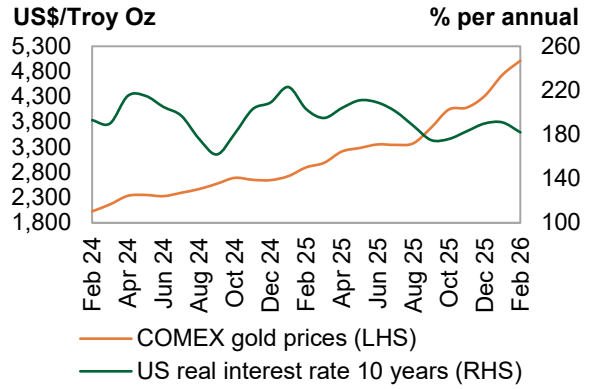
*Note: * World Bank commodity price index (2010 = 100).*

Sources: World Bank and OPEC.

Gold prices advanced for the seventh consecutive month, increasing by 5.6%, m-o-m, in February. Safe-haven status and ongoing diversification trends by major central banks provided a floor to prices. Prices were further supported by a decline in US real yield benchmarks amid expectations of potential future US Fed rate cuts. They were up by 73.4%, y-o-y.

Silver and platinum prices declined by 11.0% and 12.2%, m-o-m, respectively, in February. Prices fell sharply, pressured by profit-taking following price rallies the previous month. Moreover, elevated prices weighed on industrial demand, adding more downward pressure on prices. Nonetheless, positive sentiment on precious metals in general limited further downside pressure. Silver and platinum prices were up by 154.9% and 118.5%, y-o-y, respectively

Graph 2 - 4: US real interest rate and gold price



Sources: Commodity Exchange Inc., Federal Reserve Board, Haver Analytics and OPEC.

Select other minerals

The 'other minerals' price index continued its upward trajectory, increasing for a seventh consecutive month in February. The index rose by 4.3%, m-o-m, on the back of positive performance in cobalt and lithium prices. The 'other minerals' price index was up by 135.6%, y-o-y.

Cobalt prices rose for a sixth consecutive month in February, increasing by 0.4%, m-o-m. The moderate upside was supported by ongoing supply constraints from key producing countries. However, lower downstream demand, particularly from battery makers, coupled with higher supply from Indonesia, offset gains. Prices were up by 157.5%, y-o-y.

Table 2 - 4: Select other minerals prices

Commodity	Unit	Monthly average			% changes		Year-to-date	
		Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Feb 26/ Jan 26	Feb 26/ Feb 25	2025	2026
Other minerals*	*Index*	**62.3**	**70.4**	**73.4**	**4.3**	**135.6**	**32.1**	**71.9**
Cobalt	*US$/mt*	51,947	55,690	55,930	0.4	157.5	22,739	55,810
Graphite	*US$/mt*	413	413	413	0.0	-5.1	435	413
Lithium	*US$/mt*	11,825	17,769	21,551	21.3	124.8	9,526	19,660

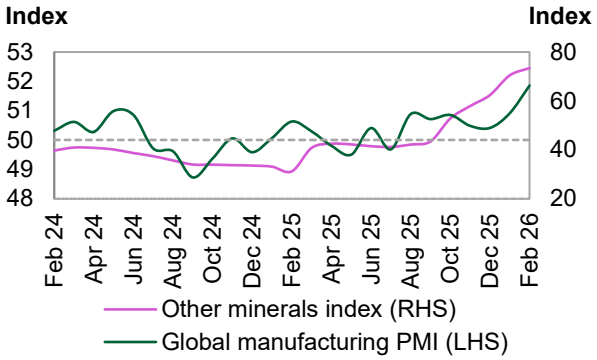
*Note: * OPEC price index (2022 = 100).*

Sources: LME, Haver Analytics and OPEC.

Graphite prices remained muted in February, as supply constraints in China were offset by increased production and recycling activities outside the country. Prices were down by 5.1%, y-o-y.

Lithium prices rose for a fourth consecutive month in February, increasing by 21.3%, m-o-m. Supply constraints, coupled with geopolitical developments, lifted prices in the month. Moreover, long-term market fundamentals continued to provide a floor to prices amid policy-anchored decarbonization targets. Prices were up by 124.8%, y-o-y.

Graph 2 - 5: Global manufacturing PMI and other minerals index*



*Note: * OPEC price index (2022 = 100).*
Sources: JP Morgan, Haver Analytics, IHS Markit, LME and OPEC.

Investment flows into commodities

Combined money managers' net length and OI increased in February by 28.3% and 1.6%, m-o-m, respectively. The increase in both categories was driven by gains in select energy commodities, though these were partially offset by decreases in select non-energy commodities. Combined net length was down by 50.9%, y-o-y, while combined OI was up by 8.8%, y-o-y.

Table 2 - 5: CFTC data on non-commercial positions, 1,000 contracts

Selected commodity	Open interest			Long		Short		Net length				
	Jan 26	Feb 26	Feb 26/ Jan 26	Jan 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 26	Jan 26	% OI	Feb 26	% OI	Feb 26/ Jan 26
Crude oil (WTI)	2,485	2,668	***7.4%***	165	183	120	96	45	2	87	3	***90.7%***
Natural gas (HH)	1,636	1,646	***0.6%***	192	163	268	191	-76	-5	-28	-2	***63.5%***
Gold	820	721	***-12.2%***	151	119	20	23	130	16	96	13	***-26.6%***
Copper	310	301	***-2.8%***	72	66	10	13	62	20	53	18	***-14.2%***
Total	**5,251**	**5,335**	***1.6%***	**580**	**531**	**418**	**323**	**162**	**33**	**208**	**32**	***28.3%***

Note: Data on this table is based on a monthly average.

Data on this table is based on commitments of traders futures and options.

Open interest includes both commercial and non-commercial positions.

Sources: CFTC and OPEC.

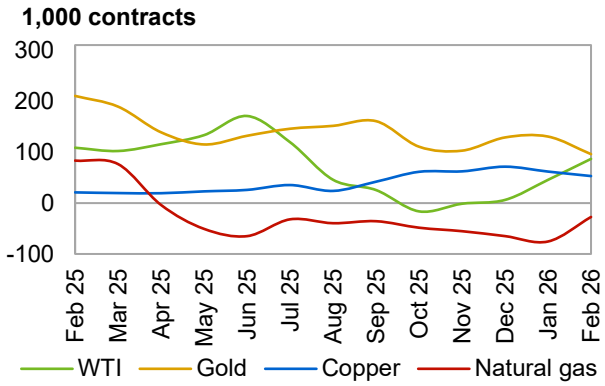
Crude oil's (WTI) OI rose in February by 7.4%, m-o-m. Money managers' net length grew by 90.7%, m-o-m, over the same period. OI was up by 21.6%, y-o-y, while net length was down by 20.3%, y-o-y.

The natural gas (Henry Hub) OI rose by 0.6%, m-o-m in February. At the same time, money managers increased net length by 63.5%, m-o-m. OI was up by 2.7%, y-o-y, while net length was down by 133.3%, y-o-y.

Gold's OI dropped in February by 12.2%, m-o-m, and money managers cut net length over the same period by 26.6%, m-o-m. Both OI and net length were down by 13.9% and 54.6%, y-o-y, respectively.

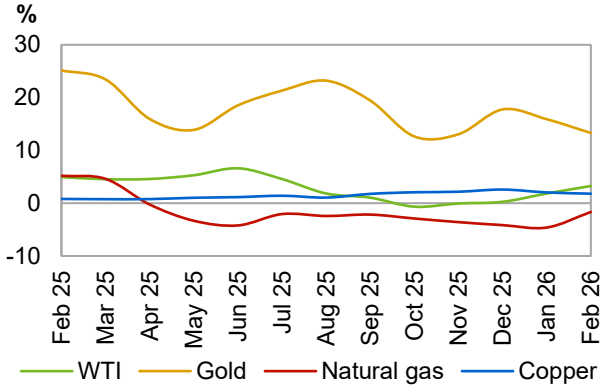
Copper's OI decreased in February by 2.8%, m-o-m, and money managers cut net length by 14.2% m-o-m, over the same period. Both OI and net length were higher by 10.7% and 153.7%, y-o-y, respectively.

Graph 2 - 6: Money managers' activity in key commodities, net length



Note: Data on this graph is based on a monthly average.
Sources: CFTC and OPEC.

Graph 2 - 7: Money managers' activity in key commodities, as % of open interest



Note: Data on this graph is based on a monthly average.
Sources: CFTC and OPEC.

World Economy

Global economic growth continued its steady momentum that was registered towards the end of last year. This healthy growth dynamic is maintained into 2026, supporting the global economic growth forecast of 3.1% for 2026 and 3.2% for 2027. While current geopolitical developments require close monitoring, sound growth in the United States, India, and China is projected to remain a key driver of global economic expansion in 2026. Combined with steady growth in the Eurozone and Japan, this is expected to provide additional support to the global outlook. At the same time, Brazil and Russia are also expected to sustain steady growth trends into 2026. This sound global economic growth dynamic is forecast to accelerate slightly in 2027.

The most recent ruling of the US Supreme Court has led to a lowering of the effective average US tariff rate, likely supporting the global trading system and hence providing a positive impulse for the world economy. This is in addition to several recently concluded trade agreements between non-US trading partners, which are expected to provide further support to global trade.

Although trade-related and geopolitical dynamics and their implications will need close monitoring, several factors are anticipated to support the global economic growth dynamic in the near term. In 1H26, an early-year fiscal boost effect is materializing, as the US tax cuts and the reversal of the 4Q25 shutdown-related drag are likely supporting robust growth. Support measures are also set to continue in China, as outlined during the Two Sessions meeting at the beginning of March. Moreover, fiscal stimulus in Japan and Germany is forecast to gather pace. Elsewhere, following the strong reported growth in 2025, India's economy is projected to sustain a robust dynamic as fiscal support continues, and trade is anticipated to expand as well. This follows the recent lowering of US tariffs and various trade deals the government has agreed upon in recent months. Despite the continued challenges in global trade and geopolitical developments, the global economic growth dynamic has demonstrated resilience and is anticipated to continue growing at a steady pace.

Table 3 - 1: Economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	World	US	Eurozone	Japan	China	India	Brazil	Russia
2026	**3.1**	**2.2**	**1.2**	**0.9**	**4.5**	**6.6**	**2.0**	**1.3**
Change from previous month	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
2027	**3.2**	**2.0**	**1.2**	**0.9**	**4.5**	**6.5**	**2.2**	**1.5**
Change from previous month	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast. The GDP numbers are based on 2021 ppp.*

Source: OPEC.

Update on the latest global developments

Global economic growth remained robust in 2025, despite numerous uncertainties throughout the year, and is estimated to have remained sound throughout the beginning of 2026 as well. The non-OECD economies of India and China, in particular, posted sound growth rates in 2025, expanding by 7.5% and 5%, respectively, steady growth that has carried over into 1Q26. Among the OECD economies, the US reported growth of 2.2%, the Eurozone expanded by 1.5%, and Japan grew by 1.1%. Private household consumption was a key pillar in supporting growth, particularly in advanced economies. In non-OECD economies, government-led support turned out to be a very important factor in driving growth, including supportive fiscal measures and easing monetary conditions, among other factors.

The issue of trade came sharply into focus again in recent weeks following a ruling by the US Supreme Court on the new administration's reciprocal and country-specific tariffs. The Supreme Court struck down the tariffs imposed under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, including "reciprocal" tariffs, as well as tariffs applied under separate emergency declarations. Following this ruling, the incumbent US administration announced the implementation of a 10% global blanket tariff under the so-called Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974. While these tariffs have remained at 10% to date, the US administration could lift them to 15% by applying this legal framework, something that it has announced it will do soon. The decision does not affect other statutory trade authorities already in use, including Section 232 (national security) used for auto and steel tariffs. Tariffs under Section 122 are temporary and valid for up to 150 days without congressional approval. These tariffs must also be applied on a largely non-discriminatory basis across countries and cannot be imposed on products already subject to other tariffs. This implies differentiated impacts across trading partners.

Economies that negotiated lower bilateral arrangements (e.g., the EU, UK, Japan, Korea, Switzerland) may face higher effective rates, while countries previously subject to higher headline tariffs (e.g., China, India, Brazil, Canada, Mexico) could see reductions, potentially leading to short-term changes in export volumes to the US. Estimates from the Yale Budget Lab suggest that this ruling and the 10% Section 122 tariff reduce the effective average US tariff rate from 13.7% to around 10.9%. As much of the pass-through to consumer prices has already occurred, the macroeconomic impact on the US economy is likely to be limited for now. However, upcoming trade negotiations – including with China, Canada and Mexico – may be affected. While policy uncertainty remains high, trading partners will likely refrain from revisiting prior agreements, given the country's broader strategic leverage.

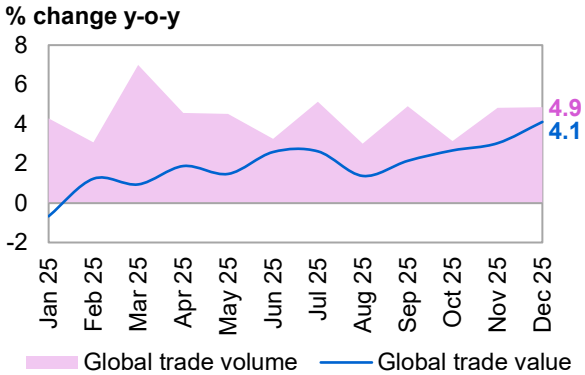
Elsewhere, inflationary dynamics continued to ease across major economies. In the OECD, inflation stood at or around central banks' inflation targets of 2%. Headline inflation in the US stood at 2.4%, y-o-y, in January, compared with 2.7%, y-o-y, in December and November. In the Eurozone, inflation stood at 1.9%, y-o-y, in February, compared with 1.7%, y-o-y, in January, 2.0% in December and 2.2% in November. In Japan, inflation declined sharply in January to 1.5%, y-o-y, compared with 2.1%, y-o-y, in December and 2.9% in November. Trends in non-OECD economies indicated slowing or low inflation levels as well. In China, the CPI rose to 1.3%, y-o-y, in February, compared with 0.2%, y-o-y, in January, and following 0.8%, y-o-y, in December. In India, inflation edged up to 2.7%, y-o-y, in January, after 1.2%, y-o-y, in December and 0.5% in November. This sharp rise was due to an annual rebound in food prices and rising precious metal prices. In Brazil, inflation in January was almost steady at 4.4%, y-o-y, following 4.3%, y-o-y, in December and 4.5% in November. Of note, inflation in Brazil is moving within the upper limit of the target range set by the Banco Central do Brasil (BCB). In Russia, inflation increased to 6.0%, y-o-y, in January, following 5.6%, y-o-y, in December and 6.6%, y-o-y, in November.

In terms of monetary policies, the US Federal Reserve (Fed) kept interest rates unchanged at its January meeting following three consecutive cuts at the end of 2025. The European Central Bank (ECB) also kept rates unchanged at its February meeting, citing continued economic resilience and supportive public spending. The Bank of Japan (BoJ) held rates unchanged at its January meeting as well, while upgrading its economic outlook. The People's Bank of China (PBoC) implemented a 25 bp rate cut across central bank facilities, continuing its easing stance. The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) held rates unchanged at its February meeting following a 25 bp cut in December. The BCB kept rates unchanged at its February meeting, while the Central Bank of Russia (CBR) cut interest rates by 50 bp in February, extending its easing cycle.

Global trade continued to expand in both volume and value terms. Trade volume growth rose by 4.9%, y-o-y, in December, up from 4.8%, y-o-y, in November, and 3.1%, y-o-y, in October.

In value terms, global trade increased by 4.1%, y-o-y, in December, up from 3.7% in November and 2.7% in October.

Graph 3 - 1: Global trade



Sources: CPB Netherlands Bureau for Economic Policy Analysis and Haver Analytics.

Near-term global expectations

Although the global economy faced some volatile trade-related developments in 2025, the growth trend was very resilient, with global growth in 2025 estimated to have stood at 3.3%. Following this sound growth dynamic, the global economy is expected to be able to maintain this steady momentum and remain able to absorb temporary events like trade-related challenges or geopolitical dynamics. Fiscal and monetary policies, in combination with sufficient inventories of goods and commodities, remain an important vehicle for keeping growth at the current level above 3%. Ongoing government-led support measures are likely to provide a sound base for steady consumer spending, also supported by easing inflation. The key driver of global growth will be the services sector, albeit the manufacturing sector is forecast to continue improving across the world, supported by improving global trade, rising investments and increased infrastructure and defence spending.

While global trade tensions have largely de-escalated, risks of renewed frictions may persist following some uncertainty after the US Supreme Court decision in February. In addition, in the very near term, the US–Mexico–Canada Agreement (USMCA) will need to be reviewed by participating countries and extended in July.

Also, the US–China trade truce from October last year will need to be extended. The latter may be discussed at the upcoming meeting between the two countries' presidents in April in Beijing. Finally, geopolitical developments will also need close monitoring.

On regional basis, non-OECD economies and the US are expected to remain the primary drivers of global growth. In the US, the effects of the OBBBA fiscal package are expected to provide support to consumers and businesses in 2026, alongside sustained investment and more normalized trade patterns, with potential upside to exports. In the Eurozone, Germany, as the region's largest economy, is showing signs of a return to normalized growth in 2026, which is expected to generate positive spillovers across the region as fiscal spending across the Eurozone increases. India is expected to maintain solid growth momentum, supported by ongoing robust private consumption and continued government spending. China has announced its 2026 growth target of 4.5% to 5%, and policy signals continue to point to support for consumption and exports, consistent with the expectation of steady growth through 2027. Russia's economy is expected to continue normalizing after several years of above-potential growth. In Brazil, easing inflation and a more accommodative monetary policy are expected to support activity, although growth is also moving towards more normalized levels.

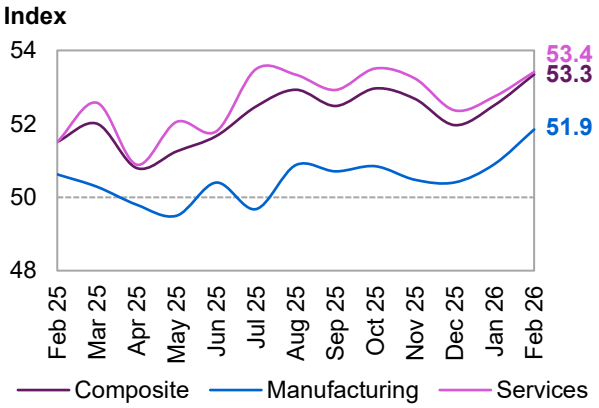
Inflation is expected to continue converging towards target levels across most economies. In the US, the Eurozone and Japan, headline inflation has already moved towards the central banks' 2% target level, although core inflation remains relatively more persistent. In Russia and Brazil, inflation has declined from the elevated levels seen in 2025 following sustained monetary tightening. In China, deflationary pressures remain, pointing to continued monetary and fiscal support. In India, base effects and temporary spikes have lifted inflation more recently, although it remains at reasonable levels.

Global PMIs remained in expansionary territory across both manufacturing and services.

The global Manufacturing PMI rose to 51.9 in February, following 50.9 in January and 50.4 in December.

The global Services PMI increased to 53.4 in February, compared with 52.7 in January and 52.4 in December, continuing to signal expansion.

Graph 3 - 2: Global PMI



Sources: JP Morgan, S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

Global economic growth is forecast to remain resilient in 2026. Continued momentum at the end of 2025, alongside further trade normalization and resilient consumer spending, is expected to sustain global economic growth at 3.1% in 2026, unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Although geopolitical developments are relevant, it is currently too early to determine the extent to which they may have an impact on the present economic forecasts.

Table 3 - 2: World economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	World
2026	**3.1**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**3.2**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

In 2027, easing inflation and relatively more accommodative monetary policies, along with fiscal support, are anticipated to support the global economic growth trend. This, in combination with new trade agreements and a continued recovery in manufacturing, is expected to lift global growth to 3.2%, also unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

OECD

US

Update on the latest developments

Following the government shutdown at the end of last year, the US economy registered lower growth in 4Q25, as reported by the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). The economy expanded by 1.4%, q-o-q, SAAR. Positively, private household expenditures grew by a sound 2.4%, q-o-q, SAAR, supporting the majority of this quarter's expansion, while government spending declined by 5.4%, q-o-q, SAAR, dampening GDP growth by around 1 percentage point. Net exports were almost neutral in their GDP impact in 4Q25.

In the meantime, the Supreme Court concluded its deliberations on tariffs and ruled that the reciprocal and country-specific tariffs imposed by the US Administration under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (IEEPA) are unlawful. In a 6-3 decision, the Court held that the IEEPA does not authorize the president to impose tariffs. The statute permits the executive to "regulate importation," but the majority concluded that tariffs – because they raise revenue – function as taxes and therefore require explicit congressional authorization. However, the Court did not question the constitutionality of tariffs *per se*. It did not strike down Section 232 of the Trade Expansion Act, used for auto and steel tariffs. In response, the Administration invoked Section 122 of the Trade Act of 1974, which allows a temporary blanket tariff of up to 15% for 150 days without congressional approval. These tariffs must be applied on a largely non-discriminatory basis across countries and cannot be imposed on products already subject to other tariffs. On February 24, a 10% blanket tariff under Section 122 was introduced, with the option to raise it to 15%, while existing sectoral tariffs, including those on autos and steel, remain in place. Other sections of the Trade Act that would allow lifting tariffs, albeit only after a certain procedure, remain in place as well. Estimates from the Yale Budget Lab suggest that this ruling and the 10% Section 122 tariff reduce the effective average tariff rate from 13.7% to around 10.9%. As much of the pass-through to consumer prices has already occurred, the macroeconomic impact on the US economy is likely to be limited for now.

At the same time, the trade deficit widened more than expected to $70.3 billion in December, from a downwardly revised $53.0 billion in November. This was driven by a sharp $10.2 billion increase in goods imports, partly reflecting higher technology imports from Taiwan and Korea, alongside a $5.5 billion decline in goods exports, mainly due to lower gold shipments. The services surplus narrowed by $1.6 billion. Excluding gold trade, which is not included in GDP calculations, the deficit stood at $73.7 billion in December, up from $66.9 billion in November and $47.8 billion in October.

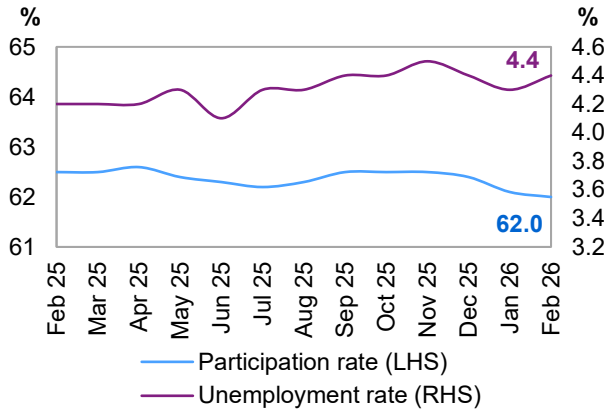
On the consumer side, retail sales held up well in January and towards the end of 2025, with year-on-year spending up by 3.2% in the first month of the year and rising by 2.4% in December. Consumer confidence remained weak over the turn of the year. The Conference Board Consumer Confidence Index rose to around 91.2, following a temporary dip to 89.1 in December, which marked its lowest level since April 2025, the height of the trade tensions. While sentiment reflected caution among households, particularly regarding income prospects and labour market conditions, the latest reading points to a gradual stabilization and some recovery in short-term expectations.

Inflation developments improved. Headline inflation retreated to 2.4%, y-o-y, in January, compared with 2.7% in December and November. Core inflation also fell slightly to 2.5% in January from 2.6% in December and November. PCE inflation, the Fed's preferred measure, firmed slightly to 2.9%, y-o-y, in December from 2.8% in November, broadly in line with September levels, suggesting that underlying price pressures have stabilized rather than re-accelerated. Overall, while inflation remains somewhat above target, the recent data indicate a period of consolidation rather than renewed upward momentum.

Nonfarm payrolls declined by 92,000 in February, following a rise of slightly downwardly revised 126,000 in January and after a decline of 17,000 in December, indicating a volatile pattern.

However, generally, the labour market remains robust. The unemployment rate was almost unchanged, standing at 4.4% in February, following a level of 4.3% in January and 4.4% in December. The labour force participation rate moved down slightly to stand at 62.0%, following a level of 62.1% in January, pointing to relatively steady labour supply conditions. Average hourly earnings rose by 3.8%, y-o-y, in February, maintaining a relatively stable trend, compared with 3.7% in January and December.

Graph 3 - 3: US monthly labour market



Sources: Bureau of Labor Statistics and Haver Analytics.

Near-term expectations

The US economy is forecast to continue maintaining sound momentum throughout 2026 and to rebound in 1Q26, following the low growth that was impacted by the government shutdown in 4Q25. This growth dynamic is anticipated to be primarily supported by the resilience of US consumer spending, as also indicated by the recovery in consumer sentiment. Moreover, investments are anticipated to firm throughout 2026, especially in the AI sphere, and exports are expected to perform well too. In the meantime, the Atlanta Fed GDPNow estimate for 1Q25 stands at 3%, q-o-q, SAAR, following the easing of momentum in 4Q25 due to the federal government shutdown that began in October.

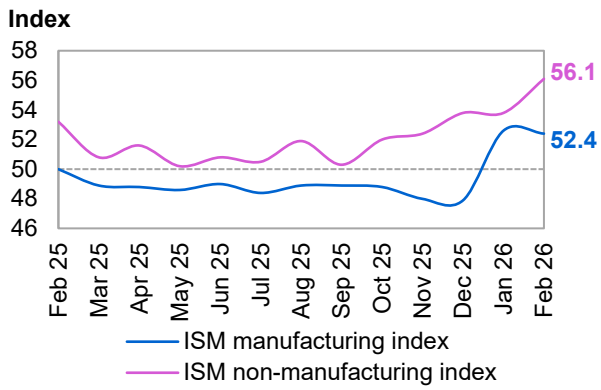
Following the most recent ruling of the Supreme Court on tariffs, upcoming trade negotiations may be impacted. This includes the trade agreement between the US and China that expires later in the year and may be discussed at the upcoming leaders' summit between the US and China at the beginning of April. Also, the mid-year review of the US-Mexico-Canada trade agreement will likely be impacted. Moreover, the current 10% global blanket tariff under Section 122 implies differentiated impacts across trading partners. Economies that negotiated lower bilateral arrangements (e.g., the EU, UK, Japan, Korea and Switzerland) may face higher effective rates, while countries previously subject to higher headline tariffs (e.g., China, India, Brazil, Canada and Mexico) could see reductions, potentially leading to short-term changes in export volumes to the US

As the labour market remains firm, monetary policy is widely expected to remain on hold through 1H26, before likely shifting towards gradual easing in 2H26, with one or two rate cuts seen as likely. Recent communications from the Federal Open Market Committee indicate increasing alignment among policymakers, with the latest meeting showing only two dissenting views compared with three in December. This points to a strengthening consensus around the near-term outlook, while maintaining a cautious, data-dependent stance. However, some uncertainty in monetary policymaking remains about the near-term trajectory of inflation, possibly also impacted by the latest geopolitical developments. The anticipated transition in the Fed chairmanship in May is not expected to materially change the policy trajectory, though it modestly reinforces expectations of a somewhat more accommodative bias later in the year.

According to the Institute for Supply Management (ISM), the Manufacturing PMI remained almost unchanged, standing at a solid level of 52.4 in February, following 52.6 in January and 47.9 in December. However, the prices paid component surged to 70.5, compared with an already high 59.0 in January. This is its strongest reading since June 2022 and may reinforce geopolitical inflation concerns and point to a potentially more challenging price environment in the near term.

In the services sector, the PMI rose considerably to stand at 56.3 in February, following 53.8 in January and 52.6 in November, clearly in expansionary territory.

Graph 3 - 4: US-ISM manufacturing and non-manufacturing indices



Sources: Institute for Supply Management and Haver Analytics.

With the solid momentum of annual growth in 2025, the expected rebound in 1Q26 and continued resilience in consumer demand throughout the year, the US economic growth forecast for 2026 stands at 2.2%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

For 2027, the growth trend is expected to normalize as stimulus measures and one-time effects, including trade distortions, are anticipated to stabilize. Consumer spending is forecast to moderate slightly, leaving the economic growth forecast at 2.0%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

Table 3 - 3: US economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	US
2026	**2.2**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**2.0**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

Eurozone

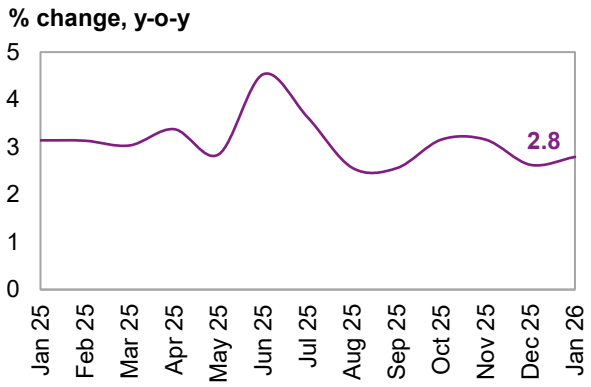
Update on the latest developments

Eurozone 4Q25 economic growth was reported at 0.8%, q-o-q, SAAR in the latest release from the EU's statistical office, Eurostat, compared with 1.2% in 3Q25 and 0.6% in 2Q25. At the country level, Spain maintained the highest momentum among the major Eurozone economies, expanding by 3.1%, q-o-q, SAAR, in 4Q25, up from 2.6% in 3Q25 and 3.0% in 2Q25, supported by broad-based strength in private spending and expansion in both manufacturing and services. Germany, the largest economy in the Eurozone, recorded growth of 1.2%, q-o-q, SAAR, in 4Q25, supported by an expansion in fiscal spending, following contractions of 0.1% in 3Q25 and 0.8% in 2Q25. France's growth retracted to stand at 0.9%, q-o-q, SAAR, in 4Q25, decelerating from 2.2% in 3Q25 and 1.4% in 2Q25. Italy saw an improvement, with growth rising to 1.3%, q-o-q, SAAR, in 4Q25, up from 0.7% in 3Q25, following a contraction of 0.1% in 2Q25.

In the latest EU summit that took place in February, EU leaders agreed to shift their policy focus from defence spending to boosting competitiveness by advancing the single market through a new "One Europe, One Market" Roadmap, to be presented by the European Commission before the March meeting of the European Council, while ruling out additional joint EU debt. The plan prioritizes structural reforms, such as cutting administrative burdens by 25% by 2029, harmonizing regulations via a new "28th regime", and enabling companies to operate EU-wide under a single rulebook, deepening capital markets through the Savings and Investments Union, and encouraging industrial consolidation with new merger guidelines and an Industrial Accelerator Act targeting strategic sectors like telecoms, defence, AI, and cleantech. Although these measures should strengthen medium- to long-term competitiveness, their near-term economic impact is expected to be limited. Another important area that was targeted was efforts to reduce energy costs – currently a major drag on European industry – by improving grid interconnections, reforming electricity market design, and potentially easing the European Union Emissions Trading System.

Consumer spending was steady in January, with retail sales in value terms expanding by 2.8%, y-o-y, after a rise of 2.6%, y-o-y, in December, and 3.2% in both November and October. Meanwhile, consumer confidence continued at a sound level, albeit retracting slightly. The Economic Sentiment Indicator stood at 98.3 in February, compared with 99.3 in January and 97.0 in December. Industrial activity showed some deceleration. Euro area industrial production grew by 1.1%, y-o-y, in December, down from 2.3% in November and 2.2% in October. Importantly, in Germany, industrial production declined, falling by 0.7%, y-o-y, in December, following a rise of 1.0% in November and 1.2% in October. In France, the second largest Eurozone economy, IP expanded by 1.7%, y-o-y, compared with 2.0% in November.

Graph 3 - 5: Eurozone retail sales



Sources: Statistical Office of the European Communities and Haver Analytics.

Inflation in the euro area rebounded slightly, moving up to 1.9%, y-o-y, in February, following an easing cycle with its lowest level in January, when headline inflation stood at 1.7%. Hence, inflation remains below the ECB's 2% target. Core inflation remained almost steady, standing at 2.3% in February, following 2.2% in January and 2.3% in December. However, services inflation in the euro area has been stickier than expected, standing at 3.2%, y-o-y, in January, slightly below December, when it stood at 3.4%. In consideration of these

generally moderate inflation levels, the European Central Bank kept policy rates unchanged at its latest meeting in February, reiterated its expectation that inflation will stabilize sustainably at 2% over the medium term and pointed to ongoing economic resilience.

Near-term expectations

The Eurozone continued its steady growth pattern in 4Q25, a dynamic that is forecast to carry over into 2026. While consumption is holding up well, the external trading environment remains more challenging. Although exports proved resilient in 2025, the Eurozone's global market share has continued to decline. Much of the resilience in 2025 reflected temporary factors, such as frontloading of orders ahead of higher tariffs and temporarily stronger intra-EU trade, both of which are likely to provide less support in 2026 and 2027. Moreover, following the recent introduction of the US global blanket import tariff of 10%, the Eurozone's average tariff rate has increased slightly. However, an expansion of trade arrangements beyond the US is likely to materialize in the near term, with the EU–India FTA negotiations recently concluding and the EU–Mercosur agreement now moving through the relevant signature and ratification processes. This will broaden market access for EU products and support the bloc's industrial competitiveness. Although full ratification is still pending, the European Commission has initiated the provisional application of the trade part of the agreement. This allows tariff reductions and expands market access to start before full EU ratification. Moreover, consumption expanded steadily and is anticipated to continue expanding the region's economy. Relatively solid labour markets and rising real incomes are likely supporting consumer spending, although continued uncertainties in the Eurozone's economy are expected to keep savings above average.

Elsewhere, fiscal expansion is also expected to gather pace, particularly in Germany, where the relaxation of the debt rule is expected to support activity in infrastructure, construction, and industry. German industrial orders are already showing a positive effect from the defence sector. Generally, higher defence spending is expected to provide additional support to industrial activity across the Eurozone. In this regard, Spain performed very well towards the end of last year and is forecast to maintain this momentum.

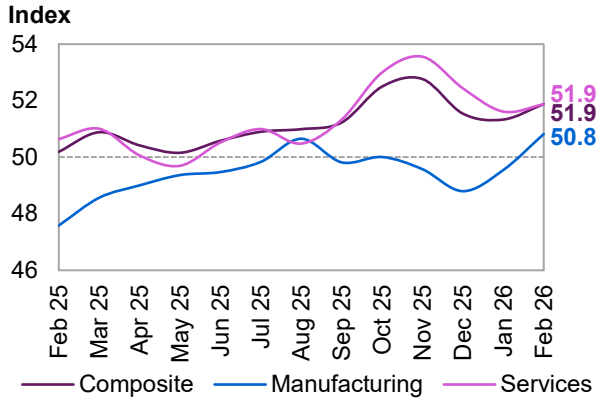
Regarding monetary policy, the ECB is expected to maintain a broadly neutral stance in 2026 as headline inflation falls below target while services inflation remains elevated. The Governing Council has signalled that policy remains well anchored to ensure medium-term inflation control, with inflation expected to stabilize at its 2% target over the medium term, while decisions remain data-dependent amid continued uncertainty. The latest market expectations also confirm prospects of no major policy change in 2026. However, this may change depending on near-term developments in inflation, which may be affected by the latest US tariff changes and the global geopolitical landscape.

Eurozone PMI indicators continue to point to an improvement in the manufacturing sector and also continued expansion in the services sector.

The Manufacturing PMI moved back into expansionary territory above 50, standing at 50.8 in February, compared with 49.5 in January and 48.8 in December.

The Services PMI rose to 51.9 in February, compared with 51.6 in January and 52.4 in December, indicating a steady pace of expansion, despite services inflation remaining elevated.

Graph 3 - 6: Eurozone PMIs



Sources: S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

With solid end-of-year growth in 2025 carrying over into 2026, supported by rising real wages, steady private household expenditure and easing inflation, economic growth in the Eurozone in 2026 is projected at 1.2%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Although geopolitical developments are relevant, it is currently too early to determine the extent to which they may have a measurable effect on the current growth forecast.

Table 3 - 4: Eurozone economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	Eurozone
2026	**1.2**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**1.2**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

In 2027, the implementation of EU trade deals and the continued effects of fiscal expansion are expected to sustain growth momentum at 1.2%, also unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

Japan

Update on latest developments

Japan's economy reportedly reached 1.1% growth in 2025. 4Q25 GDP growth was reported at 0.2%, q-o-q, SAAR, returning to positive growth after a decline of 2.6% in 3Q25. Growth in the last quarter of the year was impacted mainly by a large drag from private inventories, which impacted growth by 0.8 pp. Excluding inventories, growth was a more solid 1.0%, supported by steady domestic demand. Private consumption expanded for a seventh straight quarter, albeit at a slower pace of 0.4%, q-o-q, SAAR, with stronger services spending offsetting declines in goods. Business investment rebounded to 1.0%, q-o-q, SAAR, continuing its moderate upward trend driven by digitalization and efficiency gains, while housing investment surged by 20.4% after a sharp Q3 drop linked to tighter energy standards, adding significantly to GDP. Exports fell for a second consecutive quarter, though less sharply than in Q3, while imports also declined, resulting in a small positive contribution from net external demand. Government spending edged up moderately, but public investment contracted again, and overall public demand slightly weighed on growth.

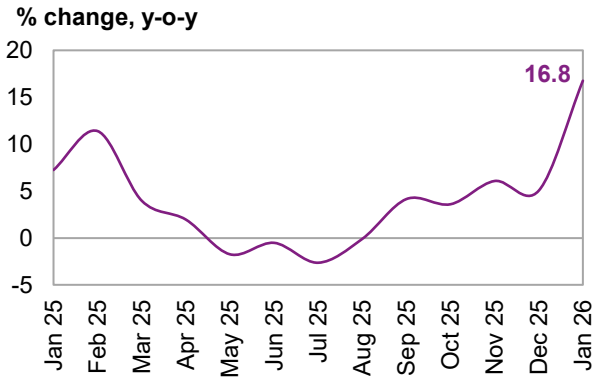
Following the LDP winning a super majority in the most recent election, the newly elected government has released a fiscal package of ¥21.3 trillion ($135 billion) to support households and stimulate growth. This includes targeted funding for strategic sectors such as semiconductors and advanced manufacturing.

IP rose sharply, showing growth of 4.1%, y-o-y, in January, compared with 0.7%, y-o-y, in December, up from 0.5% in November. Consumer confidence improved considerably as well, standing at 39.7 in February, following 37.6 in January and 36.8 in December, reflecting the announcement of new fiscal support measures and easing trade tensions. Consequently, retail sales rebounded sharply, rising by 1.8%, y-o-y, in January, following a contraction of 7.9%, y-o-y, in December and a decline of 6.1% in November.

On inflation, the national CPI rose modestly by 1.5%, y-o-y, in January, compared with 2.1%, y-o-y, in December, while the preliminary CPI for the Tokyo area also cooled, underscoring an easing in price pressures. Core inflation trends moderated as well, with core measures, excluding fresh food, at 2.0%, y-o-y, in January compared with 2.4%, y-o-y, in December. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate held almost steady at 2.7% in January, compared with 2.6% in December, indicating a stable labour market even as broader demand indicators softened.

On a monthly basis, exports rebounded sharply, growing by 16.1%, y-o-y, in January, following a rise of 5.1%, y-o-y, in December and 6.1% in November. This momentum was driven by double-digit gains to China and Europe and a modest recovery to the US. Imports decreased by 2.4%, y-o-y, resulting in a sharply narrower trade deficit of ¥1.15 trillion. This follows a rise of 5.2%, y-o-y, in December and 1.4% in November. However, part of the strength likely reflects Lunar New Year timing effects, suggesting the need to assess January–February data together to gauge the underlying trend. Exports of semiconductor production equipment to the US returned to growth, steel shipments strengthened, and passenger car export volumes to the US nearly stabilized, y-o-y, and rose on a m-o-m basis, recovering from recent lows.

Graph 3 - 7: Japan's exports



Sources: Ministry of Finance, Japan Tariff Association and Haver Analytics.

At its January meeting, the BOJ kept the policy rate unchanged at 0.75%, reaffirming a data-dependent approach while upgrading its economic growth outlook and signalling confidence in a continued moderate expansion supported by government measures. The BOJ stated that underlying inflation is expected to continue rising gradually and reach target levels over the medium term. This decision followed the December meeting, at which the BOJ resumed its tightening cycle with a 25-bp rate increase to 0.5%, after earlier pauses in September and October.

Near-term expectations

Following an annual growth of 1.1% in 2025, Japan's economy is forecast to maintain a well-supported, low-growth pattern in both 2026 and 2027. Improving trade conditions support this outlook, including an agreement with the US now in place, reducing external uncertainty. However, following the ruling of the US Supreme Court and the consequent introduction of 10% global blanket tariffs that are envisaged to be lifted to 15%, some uncertainties remain. The manufacturing outlook has improved modestly, supported by a continued positive trend in industrial production. This positive near-term momentum is also reflected in the latest

consumer confidence numbers and the PMI levels that have shifted into expansionary territory. Fiscal stimulus will play an important role in the near term as the new government's agenda is centred on higher fiscal spending. Campaign commitments include tax relief and an increase in fiscal spending. However, that has put pressure on debt dynamics and market sentiment, with a strong ruling majority now likely to facilitate the advancement of the fiscal package.

Private consumption is expected to begin to recover this year following contractionary retail sales in 2025. This positive momentum became visible in January with a strong rebound in retail sales. In connection with this trend, a fall in inflation is anticipated to free up some spending ability in Japanese households. However, with the additional fiscal expansion and spillovers from potentially continued uncertainties in the US trade-related rules system, as well as uncertainties in geopolitical developments, the near-term path of inflation will need close monitoring. Positively, continued rising wages and improving consumer confidence are expected to support a renewed strengthening in private consumption in the near term. In addition, fiscal measures aimed at supporting households, particularly through relief on food and energy costs, are expected to reinforce this trend.

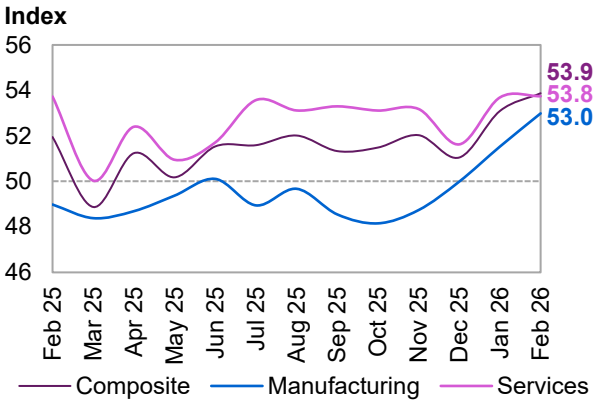
However, monetary policy is expected to remain relatively tight, as inflationary pressures have not been fully resolved. In its latest outlook, the BOJ indicated that tight labour market conditions and continued wage growth are expected to sustain upward pressure on prices, implying that a relatively tight policy stance may need to be maintained for longer. In addition, as some inflationary dynamics remain persistent, monetary policy is expected to remain at its current stance at least through 1H26.

Japan's latest PMI data point to an improving near-term outlook, with continued expansion in the services sector alongside a recovery in manufacturing.

The Services PMI remained almost steady, standing at 53.8 in February, following 53.7 in January, and 51.6 in December, supported by stronger business activity, improving demand conditions, and continued employment growth.

Manufacturing conditions also improved, with the PMI increasing to 53.0 in February from 51.5 in January and 50.0 in December, reflecting firmer output and new orders as demand conditions strengthened.

Graph 3 - 8: Japan's PMIs



Sources: S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

With fiscal support and easing inflation, in combination with an improving external trade dynamic, Japan's economic growth forecast for 2026 stands at 0.9%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Moreover, the stimulus measures are anticipated to keep private household consumption well supported, although near-term inflationary developments will need close monitoring. Geopolitical developments are relevant, but it is currently too early to determine whether they may have a measurable effect on the present forecast.

Table 3 - 5: Japan's economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	Japan
2026	**0.9**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**0.9**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

In 2027, growth is expected to remain steady at 0.9%, also unchanged from the previous month's assessment. The growth dynamic in the coming year is seen as being supported by a gradual recovery in manufacturing, normalizing monetary policy and continued fiscal support.

Non-OECD

China

Update on the latest developments

Following strong growth throughout 2025, the economy achieved its growth target of 5%. The domestically geared services sector was a dominant force in supporting the expansion, in addition to strong exports, all aided by targeted and accommodative monetary policy and fiscal support measures. External trade in 2025 continued to excel, and the annual trade surplus reached the highest level in history at USD1.19 trillion, exceedingly around 6% of China's nominal GDP in USD. Industrial production performed very well through

December last year, and sentiment readings, especially the PMI numbers, have picked up considerably. Some weakness in the housing sector remains, but the recent gradual deflation of the property sector's imbalances appears to have been relatively well absorbed by the broader economy. Although domestic consumption picked up nicely during the Lunar New Year festivities, modest growth in China's private household consumption, in combination with a high savings rate, remains a concern. This issue was also addressed in the so-called Two Sessions meeting at the beginning of March.

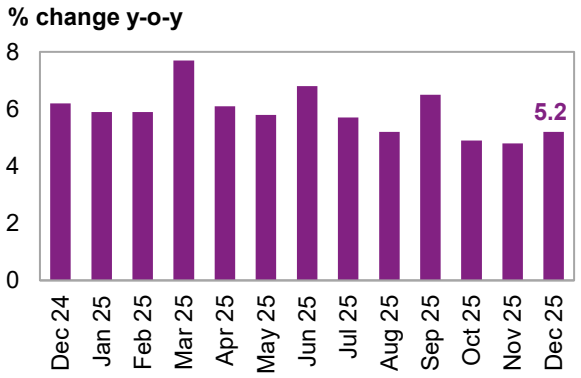
In its 4Q25 Monetary Policy Report (MPR), the PBOC maintained a moderately loose and measured easing bias, emphasizing careful calibration of policy strength, pace, and timing, while prioritizing targeted structural tools over broad-based credit easing, reinforcing the view that fiscal policy remains the main growth lever. Moreover, the central bank announced at the end of February that it will cut the reserve requirement ratio (RRR) on FX forward sales from 20% to 0%, effective 2 March, suggesting rising concern about the recent speed of yuan appreciation.

Inflation rebounded in February, rising by a robust 1.3%, y-o-y, following a slowdown in January, when consumer prices expanded by 0.2%, y-o-y, down from 0.8% in December. Headline CPI was lifted by strengthening food prices and tourism-related services prices growth, also reflecting base effects and the distorting factor of a later than last year's Lunar New Year holiday season. Core CPI, which excludes volatile food and energy items, firmed by 1.8%, y-o-y, compared with 0.8%, y-o-y, in January and following 1.2%, y-o-y, in December. Hence, overall inflation in China remains low and still broadly contained.

IP growth in China continued to expand at a healthy pace. Industrial output expanded by 5.2%, y-o-y, in December, following 4.8%, y-o-y, in November and 4.9%, y-o-y, in October, all supported by continued momentum in exports.

Retail sales in yuan slowed, growing by 0.9%, y-o-y, in December, after growth of 1.3%, y-o-y, in November, and 2.9%, y-o-y, in October. To support domestic demand in the near term, policymakers have addressed the issue of consumer support in the Two Sessions meeting. RMB250 billion will be allocated for the consumer goods trade-in program. A RMB100 billion special fund to support domestic demand (consumption and investment) will be created, and interest subsidies and financing guarantees to stimulate demand will continue to be offered.

Graph 3 - 9: China's industrial production



Sources: China National Bureau of Statistics and Haver Analytics.

According to the 70-city price index from Haver Analytics, housing prices continued to weaken, easing by 6.7%, y-o-y, in January, following a decline of 6.4%, y-o-y, in December and a decline of 5.8%, y-o-y, in November. This level clearly indicates that the housing market's gradual stabilization up to around mid-year 2025 has at least temporarily come to a halt. However, the property sector drag is diminishing as construction activity resets to structurally lower levels, reducing risks despite ongoing price declines and financial stress.

The urban unemployment rate was almost steady in January, standing at 5.2%, compared with 5.1% from October to December. Urban youth unemployment fell to 16.3% in January, down from 16.5% in December and 16.9% in November, indicating a positive trend.

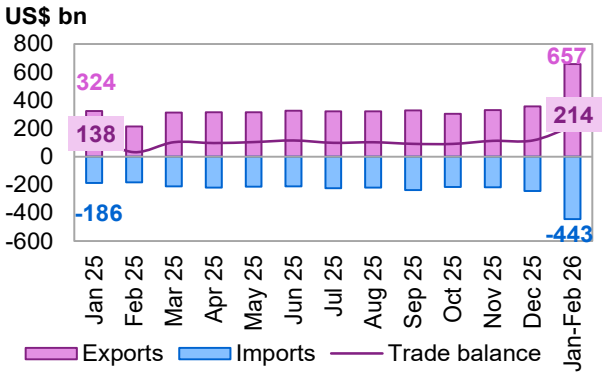
After China's trade figures for December complemented a very successful 2025 in external trade, the strong trade-related expansion has continued throughout the beginning of the year. China's trade growth was strong again in January-February.

The trade balance rose considerably in January–February, reaching a trade surplus of $213.6 billion. This latest release from China's customs office combines the first two months, but it compares with a similarly strong monthly trend in December, when the surplus stood at $114.1 billion.

Exports totalled $656.6 billion for January and February combined, compared with a monthly level of $357.7 billion in December and $330.2 billion in November.

Imports stood at $443.0 billion for January and February combined, compared with $243.6 billion in December, following $218.6 billion in November.

Graph 3 - 10: China's trade balance



Sources: General Administration of Customs of China and Haver Analytics.

Near-term expectations

Following robust growth of around 5% in 2025, China's economy is expected to remain on a solid near-term path, albeit with gradual normalization as the economy matures. Trade conditions should continue to improve following the US-China trade agreement from October last year – due to end after 12 months – but also as China deepens its shift towards non-US export markets. In the meantime, the global blanket tariff of 10% reduces the effective tariff for Chinese exporters even further and is even more supportive of China's export-oriented economy. Trade will also very likely be discussed at the summit of the presidents of China and the US in Beijing at the beginning of April, when the trade-related framework of the two largest economies in the world will become clearer. Moreover, following the adoption of the 15th Five-Year Plan (FYP 2026–30) at the 4th Plenum of the Chinese Communist Party, detailed targets were unveiled at the Two Sessions meeting at the beginning of March. At the gathering, an annual growth target of 4.5% to 5.0% was unveiled, in combination with a variety of measures aimed at improving domestic demand.

While the property sector is likely to stay in contraction through 2026, its drag on overall growth should diminish further. Exports, in contrast, are set to remain a key pillar, supported by diversified markets, strong manufacturing competitiveness, and a supportive exchange rate, helping to sustain resilient export volumes and a wider current account surplus amid relatively subdued domestic demand. Progress towards consumption- and services-led rebalancing is expected to continue, although near-term implementation challenges remain.

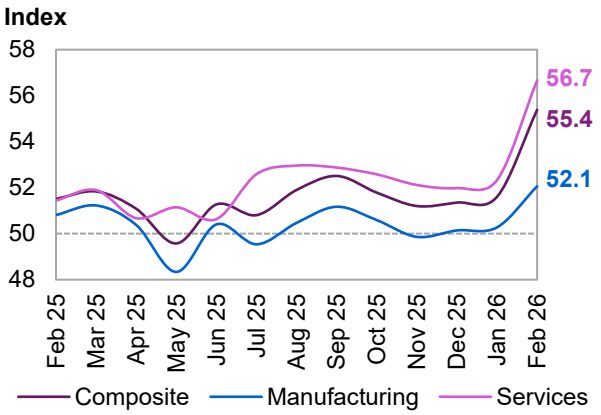
Inflation is likely to edge higher but remain subdued, implying a gradual reflation path. At the same time, the PBOC continued its support, reducing interest rates on various structural monetary policy tools and providing a broad expansion in both the size and coverage of relending programmes in January. With these measures, credit supply will be supported, though the extent of any acceleration in credit growth will likely depend on complementary demand-side policies. Officials also indicated some room for further RRR and policy rate cuts, signalling a shift towards broader monetary easing, in contrast to their previous reluctance to do so.

The latest PMI data for February indicates robust growth momentum in both the services and manufacturing sectors.

The Manufacturing PMI expanded in February, rising to 52.1, following 50.3 in January and 50.1 in December.

The Services PMI rose sharply as well, standing at 56.7 in February, compared with 52.3 in January and 52.1 in December, signalling continued sound sectoral expansion, though this may be positively impacted by Lunar New Year spending and may prove temporary.

Graph 3 - 11: China's PMI



Sources: Caixin, S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

Following a strong economic performance throughout 2025, China's expansion is forecast to remain healthy. Also, the latest sentiment indicators point to a steady dynamic in 1Q26. Economic growth in 2026 is expected to remain solid, with the forecast unchanged from last month's assessment at 4.5%. While the ongoing geopolitical developments require close monitoring, it is currently too early to determine the extent to which they may have an impact on the present economic forecast.

Table 3 - 6: China's economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	China
2026	**4.5**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**4.5**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

Looking ahead, ongoing export diversification in combination with an improving situation in domestic consumption will also define the economic growth dynamic in 2027. In addition, ongoing fiscal and monetary support is expected to underpin a steady growth path towards next year. As a result, China's economic expansion is projected to remain resilient in 2027, maintaining robust growth at 4.5%, unchanged from last month's assessment.

India

Update on the latest developments

India's economy reported strong growth in 2025. Economic growth stood at a very robust 7.8%, y-o-y, in 4Q25, following growth of an upwardly revised 8.4%, y-o-y, in 3Q25, 6.7%, y-o-y, in 2Q25 and 7.0% in 1Q25, clearly demonstrating an upward trajectory in 2H25, despite the challenges that the economy was facing in US trade relations. These growth levels are based on a new statistical base for the fiscal year 2023 (April 2022 to March 2023). The old base year was 2012. The new statistical base also shows a better performance of the manufacturing sector. This is a positive signal for the Indian economy, which relies mostly on the services and agricultural sectors, and to a lesser extent on industrial output and manufacturing. Manufacturing sector activity demonstrably being on the rise in this manner reflects efforts to diversify the economy. Under the new series, manufacturing's annual output expanded by an average of 9.7%, y-o-y, in 2025, compared with 6.6% under the previous series. The divergence is likely attributable to the broader incorporation of unincorporated manufacturing enterprises in the updated methodology. Growth in the sector picked up sharply to 13.3%, y-o-y, in 4Q25, up from roughly 4.9%, y-o-y, in 3Q25. On the demand side, consumption dynamics remain robust too. Private final consumption expenditure rose by 8.7%, y-o-y, in 4Q25 under the new series, marking a notable acceleration. The improvement appears to be driven in part by sustained strength in rural consumption. After the strong performance underpinned by resilient domestic demand seen in 2025, a gradual normalization of activity is anticipated for 1Q26, with household spending remaining supportive and private investment compensating for a deceleration in public spending amid the ongoing fiscal consolidation, targeting a healthy fiscal deficit of slightly more than 4% of GDP.

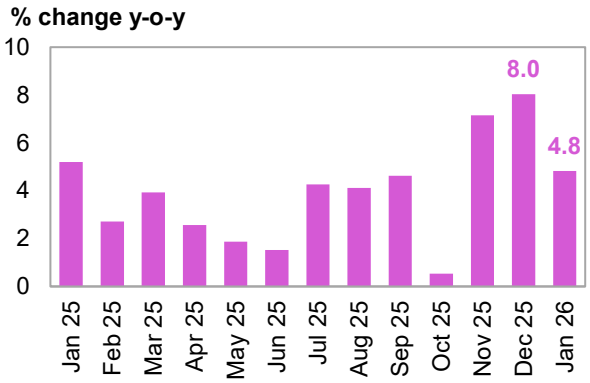
Generally, private consumption was a considerable driver in 2025, supported by sound and improving labour market conditions. Moreover, continued strong capital expenditures by the government bolstered investment, albeit this was partly offset by weaker government consumption. Another supportive factor was provided by the accommodative monetary policy of India's central bank, amid relatively low inflation in 2025. The central bank cut rates by a total of 125 bp since February 2025, the most aggressive easing cycle since 2019. In the meantime, India's central bank actively supported the Indian Rupee at the beginning of March, following some weakening of the currency due to current geopolitical uncertainties.

India's unemployment rate improved slightly in February, standing at 6.7%, compared with 6.9% in January. Urban unemployment fell to 7.3% in February from 8.3% in January. At the same time, the rural unemployment rate rose to 6.3% in February, following 6.0% in January.

IP growth remained at a remarkably sound level, rising by 4.8%, y-o-y, in January, following 8%, y-o-y, in December and 7.2%, y-o-y, in November.

Headline inflation saw a cyclical rebound, rising to 2.7%, y-o-y, in January, compared with 1.2%, y-o-y, in December, and following 0.5%, y-o-y, in November. The series was rebased with 2024 as the new base year, following the former base year of 2012. Importantly, the weight of food and beverages was lowered by 9pp, moving from 45.9% to 36.8%. Despite the significantly lower weight, the rise in headline inflation was very much driven by a pickup in food inflation. This category saw a price rise of 2.1%, y-o-y, compared with a very low 0.6%, y-o-y, in December and a decline of 0.2% in November.

Graph 3 - 12: India's industrial production

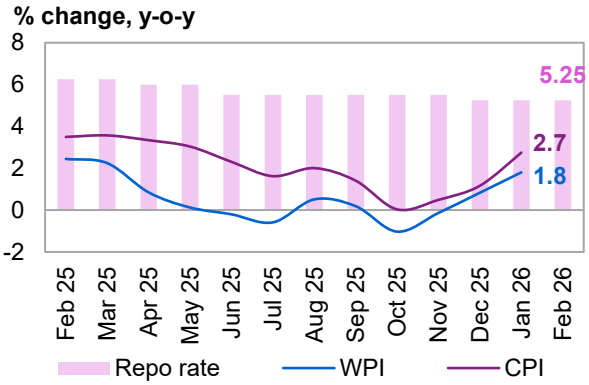


Sources: Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation of India and Haver Analytics.

Core inflation remained persistent, rising to 3.3% in January, compared with 1.6% in December. Core inflation continued to be driven by elevated prices for precious metals, particularly gold and silver, as well as continued strong services inflation.

At its February meeting, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) kept the policy repo rate at 5.25% and maintained a neutral policy stance. The meeting minutes show that members noted improved domestic growth and inflation outlooks, following the conclusion of trade deals with the European Union and the US, and continuing low inflation. Accordingly, members favoured keeping the policy repo rate unchanged and maintaining the "neutral" stance.

Graph 3 - 13: Repo rate and inflation in India



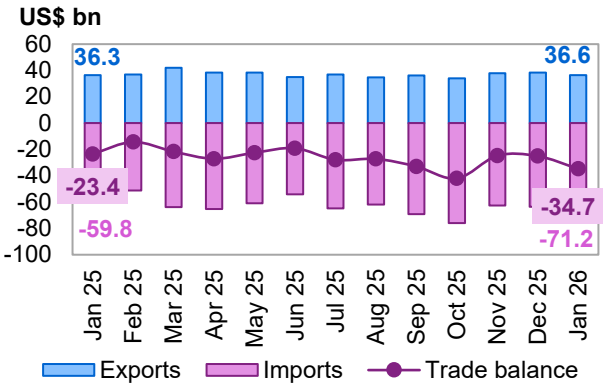
Sources: Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Reserve Bank of India and Haver Analytics.

On trade, India's trade deficit widened by almost $10.0 billion to $34.7 billion in January, following a trade deficit of $25.1 billion in December, again impacted by higher gold and silver imports and driven by both higher import volume and rising prices.

Imports increased to $71.2 billion, compared with $63.6 billion in December and $62.7 billion in November.

At the same time, exports declined to $36.6 billion from $38.5 billion in December, after a level of $37.9 billion in November.

Graph 3 - 14: India's trade balance



Sources: Ministry of Commerce and Industry and Haver Analytics.

Near-term expectations

India's growth outlook for the near term remains well supported, underpinned by resilient domestic demand, continued policy support and room for accommodative monetary conditions. Moreover, India's external trade outlook has improved following the trade agreement with the US, which reduces the baseline tariff rate from 50% to 18%, although implementation has been delayed following the levying of a 10% global blanket tariff after the ruling of the US Supreme Court. This could be of even greater support to Indian exporters. Even a potential shift to a 15% blanket tariff, as envisaged by the US administration, presents upside potential to India's export performance. By contrast, gains from a trade deal with the EU are likely to be more gradual, given the EU's already low average effective tariff rate of 3.3% and a ratification process that could delay entry into force until early 2027, though selected sectors may benefit earlier. Relative to the baseline assumption, the lower US tariff rate is estimated to potentially provide incremental support to the economic growth of up to 0.2 percentage points of GDP.

Although growth momentum is expected to improve through 2026, it will likely normalize from the exceptionally strong rates recorded in 2025, implying a transition from cyclical outperformance towards a more sustainable expansion path. Private consumption should remain the main driver, supported by contained inflation and cyclical strengthening of labour market conditions across both rural and urban segments, which should support real income growth. By contrast, public sector fiscal spending will likely continue but is set to moderate as budget consolidation progresses in the next fiscal year. Headline inflation is expected to remain well contained. This combination of mild fiscal stimulus and lower inflation should reinforce real purchasing power, thereby extending the consumption-led expansion into the medium term.

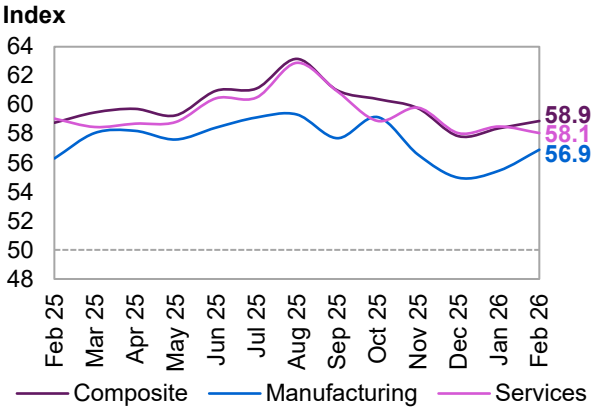
With the relatively benign inflationary dynamic and continued high real interest rates, the RBI retains room for monetary easing if needed. Inflation is expected to remain below the RBI's 4% target in the near term. However, base effects could push it higher later in 2026, potentially limiting further easing unless growth risks re-emerge. In general, the RBI has highlighted the data dependency of near-term rate decisions. In this respect, global trade dynamics, geopolitical developments, and their potential spillovers will need to be closely monitored.

PMI figures for February indicated a continued buoyant economy, with the manufacturing sector seeing a strong upward trajectory and the services sector continuing to expand at a high level.

The Manufacturing PMI rose to 56.9 in February, compared with 55.4 in January and 55 in December, indicating a sustained expansionary trend.

The Services sector PMI was almost steady in February, standing at 58.1, after 58.5 in January and 58.0 in December. These steady levels reflect the sector's strong expansionary momentum, with services accounting for more than two-thirds of the Indian economy.

Graph 3 - 15: India's PMIs



Sources: S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

Following strong growth rates in 2025, the Indian economy remains well supported by ongoing sound domestic demand and government-led support measures, in combination with an accommodative monetary policy, if needed. After the latest tariff adjustments, trade relations with the US are expected to improve, while those with other trading partners are expected to continue expanding. Considering these dynamics, economic growth for 2026 is forecast at 6.6%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment. Although geopolitical developments are relevant, it is currently too early to determine whether they may have a measurable effect on the present growth forecast.

With this momentum carrying over into 2027, the Indian economy is expected to maintain its robust expansion. This forecast is supported by prospects for continued structural reforms, an expansion of the manufacturing sector, and fiscal and monetary policy support. Inflation is forecast to remain moderate. As a result, economic growth for 2027 is projected to remain broadly stable, standing at 6.5%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

Table 3 - 7: India's economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	India
2026	**6.6**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**6.5**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

Brazil

Update on latest developments

Brazil's economic growth expanded by 1.8%, y-o-y, in 4Q25, unchanged from 3Q25 and pointing to stable but moderate growth at year-end. On the demand side, household consumption rose by 1.0%, y-o-y, up from 0.4% in the previous quarter, while government consumption firmed considerably, accelerating by 3.6%, y-o-y, from 1.8%. In contrast, gross fixed capital formation contracted by 3.1%, y-o-y, after growing by 2.3%, y-o-y in 3Q25. On the supply side, services activity increased by 2.0%, y-o-y, up from 1.3% in the previous quarter, while industrial output rose by 0.6%, with strong mining activity partly offsetting declines in manufacturing and construction. Agriculture and livestock continued to expand robustly, growing by 12.1%, y-o-y. For 2025 as a whole, economic growth moderated to 2.3% from 3.4% in 2024. On an annual basis, growth was supported primarily by household consumption, which increased by 1.3%, y-o-y, and government consumption, which rose by 2.1%, y-o-y, while investment growth slowed to 2.9%, y-o-y, from 6.9%, y-o-y, in 2024. As a result, final domestic demand growth decelerated to 1.7%, y-o-y, from 4.9%, y-o-y, in 2024. On the production side, the expansion was led by agriculture and livestock, which grew by 11.7%, alongside more moderate growth in services and industry.

Additionally, the more recent ruling of the US Supreme Court striking down reciprocal and country-specific tariffs, which was followed by the implementation of a 10% global blanket tariff, also turned out to be a supportive factor for the Brazilian economy. Although tensions escalated in August last year after the US imposed a 50% tariff on Brazilian goods, numerous exceptions have since reduced the effective rate to below 30% and the two sides have signalled a mutual desire to normalize trade relations.

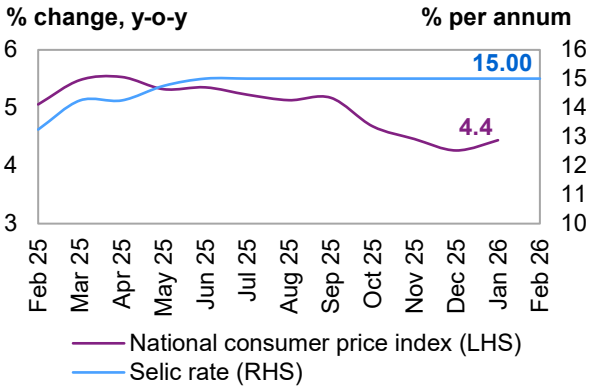
The Consumer Confidence Index indicated sound momentum but fell slightly in February, standing at 87, compared with 89.9 in January and 91.8 in December. The composite business confidence index improved further, standing at 92.1 in February after it rose strongly to a healthy 91.8 in January, compared with 89.0 in December.

While inflation has softened over the past months, it has been relatively persistent more recently. The BCB continued its tight monetary policy at its latest policy meetings, maintaining the benchmark interest rate, the SELIC rate, at 15.00%. The January meeting minutes signalled a pivot towards the initiation of a rate normalization cycle at the upcoming March meeting, while emphasizing that monetary policy will remain restrictive for a prolonged period, also via ongoing high real interest rates.

The central bank's assumption is supported by almost steady headline inflation, standing at 4.4%, y-o-y, in January, after 4.3%, y-o-y, in December and 4.5%, y-o-y, in November. Core inflation remained relatively more persistent, standing at 5.2%, y-o-y, in January, following 5.2%, y-o-y, in December and 5.2%, y-o-y, in November. Inflationary pressures in services remain intense, with price rises in core services standing at 5.6%, y-o-y.

The three-month moving average unemployment rate rose slightly to stand at 5.4% in January, after 5.1% in December and 5.2% in November. While this may signal a slight easing in what is a very tight labour market, the December level represented the lowest in ten years. Thus, it remains to be seen whether the continued tight labour market will keep service inflation at a high level.

Graph 3 - 16: Brazil's inflation vs. interest rate



Sources: Banco Central do Brasil, Instituto Brasileiro de Geografia e Estatística and Haver Analytics.

Near-term expectations

Following the steady growth momentum towards the end of 2025, the government's continued support – with low-income households benefitting from federal fiscal transfers – and the more recent developments in lowering US import tariffs, Brazil's economic activity is expected to remain supported by steady domestic activity. This resilience shows up in consumer and business confidence and spending patterns, as reflected in the continued strong activity in the domestically oriented services sector. The labour market remains in a healthy position, with steady wage increases supporting real incomes.

The supportive effects on domestic consumption from the recently approved income tax reform are forecast to continue. The reform introduced important changes to individual income taxation, with the aim of expanding the exemption range and reducing the tax burden on low- and middle-income taxpayers. At the same time, it introduces a minimum tax for higher incomes, especially on profits and dividends that are currently not taxed. Further fiscal expansion is unlikely in the near term, although it is possible that more government support may come later in 2026, ahead of the presidential election in October. That said, given that some fiscal measures are already at or above target, government spending, particularly in 2027, may be increasingly constrained.

External conditions have turned more favourable most recently. The latest lowering of US tariffs to a 10% global blanket tariff affected Brazilian exports positively, and exports are forecast to continue playing a supportive role for growth in 2026 and 2027, even if these tariffs will be adjusted slightly higher. Additionally, the recently ratified trade agreement between Mercosur economies and the EU may also enhance external trade potential in the near term.

Inflation remains relatively well contained and is expected to continue to soften. However, with the thus-far contributing factor of rising services inflation, driven by higher real wages, in combination with geopolitical developments impacting energy prices, this area will need close monitoring. In considering this situation, monetary policy is projected to remain cautious, but to potentially start a gradual easing cycle in the upcoming rate-setting meeting in March. The January meeting minutes also signalled a pivot towards the initiation of a rate normalization cycle at the upcoming March meeting, while emphasizing that monetary policy will remain restrictive for a prolonged period, also via ongoing high real interest rates. The pace and extent of easing will be strictly data dependent. The central bank's committee assessed that domestic activity is moderating broadly as expected, with heterogeneous dynamics across sectors, while the labour market remains tight, real income growth continues to outpace productivity, and services inflation remains relatively sticky. Inflation pressures – both headline and core – have shown improvement, and inflation expectations have edged closer to target, providing increased evidence of effective monetary transmission. While the balance of inflation risks is unchanged, near-term uncertainty has diminished, allowing the central bank to deepen discussions on policy calibration and signal the start of easing, albeit this is conditional on further confirmation that disinflation is continuing and expectations are durably anchored. Mixed signals on growth and price dynamics, alongside persistent labour market strength, reinforced the committee's view that restrictive real rates will be required for

an extended period, with future policy decisions guided by incoming data on inflation, services prices and labour market conditions.

The February PMI indices reflect a continued well-supported Brazilian economy, with especially robust support from the services sector, which accounts for almost two-thirds of the economy. While the services sector remains well supported in expansionary territory, the situation in manufacturing remains challenging.

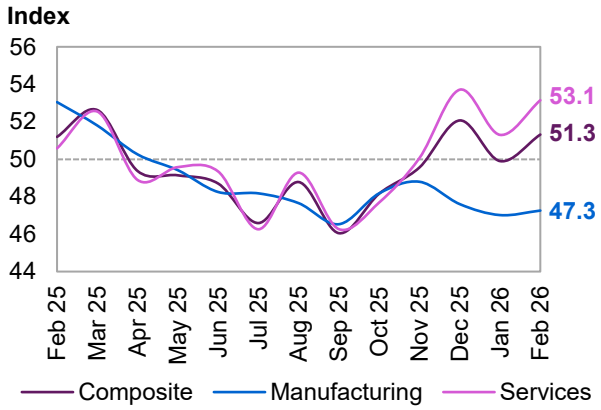
The Services PMI remains in a month-long upward trajectory, standing at 53.1 in February, compared with 51.3 in January. This comes after it had increased considerably already in December, rising by 3.6 index points from 50.1 in November.

However, the Manufacturing PMI remained in contraction, below the growth-indicating level of 50, standing at 47.3 in February, almost steady from 47.0 in January and compared with 48.8 in November.

Following steady growth in 4Q25 and a consequent carry-over of a solid economic pace since the beginning of the year, the economy is well supported. The growth dynamic is forecast to accelerate in 2H26. Taking this dynamic into consideration, the 2026 economic growth forecast remains unchanged at 2%.

Looking ahead to 2027, economic growth is expected to continue expanding, supported by monetary easing and continued robust domestic activity. That said, some uncertainties remain, especially with regard to the potentially lagged impact of tight monetary policies and possibly relatively tighter fiscal policies. Taking these uncertainties into account, while at the same time considering a continued expansionary dynamic in the economy, the 2027 economic growth forecast stands at 2.2%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

Graph 3 - 17: Brazil's PMIs



Sources: HSBC, S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

Table 3 - 8: Brazil's economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	Brazil
2026	**2.0**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**2.2**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

Russia

Update on the latest developments

Russia's economy is estimated to have expanded by 1% in 2025, according to the Federal State Statistics Service of Russia. Although this is far below the previous two years' growth level, it is better than most observers had expected and underpins the resilience of the economy, which has been challenged by high inflation levels and consequently an elevated key policy rate, a necessary tightening of fiscal spending, a shortage of labour resources and external pressure, which have constrained external trade. The annual number implies that 4Q25 growth stood at around 1%, following 1H25 growth of around 1.2%, y-o-y, and the reported 0.6%, y-o-y, in 3Q25. Although economic activity seems to have softened in various parts of the economy, domestic demand has remained at healthy levels, albeit also retracting slightly.

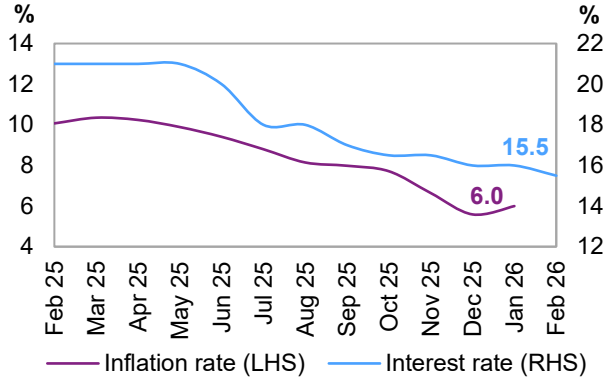
While the situation could possibly improve over the course of 2026, continued constraints in government expenditures seem to have limited the growth momentum since the start of the year, in addition to challenges in external trade. Inflation also increased slightly again in January, following a rise in VAT from 20% to 22%. Up to December, headline CPI had decelerated sharply. Despite this inflationary trend, the Russian central bank lowered the key policy rate again in February. With this latest move, the CBR has reduced its policy rate by a total of 450 bp since it started easing in 2025, helping to offset some of the slowdown. Going forward, the central bank has indicated a data-dependent stance and may therefore pause the pace of monetary easing. The labour market remains tight, while wage and earnings increases have continued at high levels, supporting domestic demand. At the same time, this has led to capacity constraints in the economy.

Headline inflation picked up in January, rising to 6%, y-o-y, after a level of 5.6% in December and 6.6% in November. Core inflation also remained steady in January at 5.4%, y-o-y, for a second consecutive month. This followed levels of 6.1%, y-o-y, in November and 6.9%, y-o-y, in October.

Despite the rise in inflation, the CBR lowered its key policy rate by 50 bp to 15.5%, surprising the market consensus that expected a pause. The central bank's view of the economy was largely unchanged as it still expects the labour market to gradually soften and inflation to converge towards its 4% target in 2H26.

Industrial production grew at a robust rate, expanding by 4.9%, y-o-y, in January, following 3.7%, y-o-y, in December, all on a non-seasonally adjusted basis. Retail sales fell sharply, standing at 0.7%, y-o-y, in January, compared with 3.9%, y-o-y, in December and 3.2%, y-o-y, in November.

Graph 3 - 18: Russia's inflation vs. interest rate



Sources: Federal State Statistics Service, Central Bank of Russian Federation and Haver Analytics.

The labour market remains tight, with the unemployment rate relatively steady in recent months, standing at 2.1% in January, 2.2% in December and 2.1% in November. Although the ongoing tight labour market continues to support accelerating wage growth and consumer spending, it is also keeping inflation at elevated levels. However, in recent months, wage growth has eased, as wages expanded by 8.6%, y-o-y, in December compared with 13.7%, y-o-y, in November and 15.2%, y-o-y, in October.

Near-term expectations

Following a moderate growth level of 1% in 2025, the growth dynamic is forecast to slightly accelerate throughout the year. The growth trend is forecast to be supported by continued monetary easing, as seen in February, and ongoing steady domestic demand. However, structural constraints – including persistent labour shortages, capacity limitations, and ongoing elevated borrowing costs – are expected to continue to weigh on the economic growth outlook. At the same time, relatively limited fiscal space is reducing the scope for sustained policy support. Considering these ongoing challenges, the government will likely need to revise its current and ambitious 2026 budget deficit target of 1.3% of GDP upwards. That said, the recent rise in global energy commodity prices could improve the country's fiscal situation, possibly leading to a rebound in hydrocarbon revenues.

The main demand-side driver of near-term economic growth in Russia will be household consumption and, to a lesser extent, government spending. Consumption should remain underpinned by gradual easing, steady nominal wage growth and easing inflation, supporting real incomes. By contrast, exports are likely to remain subdued amid external constraints and weaker global demand, although some signals point to the possibility of a modest improvement.

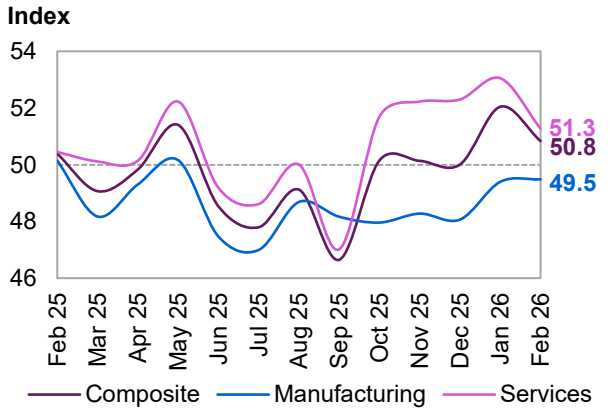
Consumer price inflation is expected to continue moderating. In addition, this year's gradual slowdown in domestic demand should weigh on price dynamics, with headline inflation projected to fall below 5% by 2H26. Against this backdrop of slowing inflation yet persistent macroeconomic challenges, the CBR proceeded with a further 50 bp policy rate cut in February, supported by easing inflation pressures and a relatively stable ruble amid a weakening growth outlook. After a pause, it is likely that the central bank will continue its easing of monetary policy towards the end of 1H26.

The latest PMI figures from February show a somewhat softening trend in both manufacturing and services.

The Manufacturing PMI remained almost steady, standing below the growth-indicating level of 50 with an index level of 49.5 in February, compared with 49.4 in January and 48.1 in December.

The Services sector PMI softened to stand at 51.3 in February, compared with 53.1 in January and 52.3 in December.

Graph 3 - 19: Russia's PMI



Sources: HSBC, S&P Global and Haver Analytics.

Expecting the normalizing Russian growth dynamic from 2025 to continue in 2026, while at the same time anticipating a gradually improving dynamic, the economic growth projection for 2026 remains at 1.3%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

In 2027, the Russian economy is projected to gain further traction and grow by 1.5%, unchanged from the previous month's assessment.

Table 3 - 9: Russia's economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	Russia
2026	**1.3**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**1.5**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

Africa

South Africa

Update on the latest developments

South Africa's economy is gradually recovering from the weak levels of activity recorded in 2025, supported by domestic improvements and an improving trade-related situation, following the US Supreme Court decision that led the US administration to implement a lower 10% global blanket tariff rate. Domestic demand has strengthened moderately, and while exports of precious metals have benefited from the recent increase in global prices, the change in US tariffs may turn out to be supportive as well. Economic activity began to accelerate in 3Q25, when growth reached 2.1%, y-o-y, up from 0.9%, y-o-y, in 2Q25. This marked the fastest pace of expansion since 3Q22. Growth in 4Q25 is estimated at around 2%, y-o-y. The recent pickup points to a gradual, broad-based recovery, following a prolonged period of subdued growth. The former is supported by improved performance across several key sectors of the economy. This improvement reflects strengthening underlying momentum, as easing supply-side constraints – particularly in energy and logistics – alongside firmer demand conditions begin to support higher levels of production. Despite the introduction of elevated US tariffs on South African exports to the US in 2025, the economy showed notable resilience over the past year.

In the meantime, South Africa's Ministry of Finance provided a budget proposal that was generally well received. It maintains the expected path of fiscal consolidation and projects a largely unchanged debt trajectory. Government debt is still expected to peak in the current fiscal year, while rising primary surpluses over the medium term are expected to place debt on a gradual declining path. Near-term deficits are slightly wider than previously anticipated, reflecting somewhat weaker revenue projections beyond the current year and somewhat higher non-interest expenditure, although the primary surplus estimate for the current fiscal year has been revised up to about 0.9% of GDP. Over the forecast horizon, the revenue ratio is projected to remain broadly stable at around 25.5% of GDP, while expenditure declines as a share of GDP. Policy measures in the budget are limited and mainly consist of inflation-linked adjustments to personal income tax brackets and excise taxes. The growth outlook has been revised modestly upward in the near term, with GDP growth now estimated at 1.4% in 2025 and 1.6% in 2026. The authorities also announced plans to introduce a principles-based fiscal anchor, to be detailed in a consultation paper and formalized in the 2026 Medium-Term Budget Policy Statement.

Inflation remains broadly supportive of the recovery. Annual headline inflation edged down to 3.5%, y-o-y, in January, following 3.6%, y-o-y, in December and 3.5%, y-o-y, in November. Core inflation increased slightly, but remained contained, standing at 3.4%, y-o-y, in January, following 3.3%, y-o-y, in December and 3.2%, y-o-y, in November. As a result, financial conditions remain supportive, supporting domestic demand and reinforcing the ongoing economic recovery. The South African Central Bank (SARB) kept its policy rate unchanged at 6.75% in a split 4–2 decision at its latest January meeting, in line with expectations. The SARB's inflation forecast revisions were relatively dovish, although the statement noted some upside risks to its GDP projections.

Near-term expectations

South Africa's near-term growth outlook is expected to remain broadly stable, with domestic demand continuing to underpin economic activity, alongside additional support from external trade and an increasingly balanced budget. Rising household confidence is increasingly supporting the growth outlook in the near term as consumer sentiment strengthened towards the end of 2025, with improvements across several confidence indicators reflecting stronger household finances, a more supportive interest rate environment and improved affordability of durable goods in the context of a firmer exchange rate. Although confidence levels remain below historical averages, the recent upward trend suggests gradually strengthening consumption dynamics, reinforcing the role of domestic demand as an important stabilizing force for growth heading into 2026.

Additionally, mining provided a boost in 2H25 and 1Q26, supported by higher precious metal prices, which lifted revenues. In addition, manufacturing rebounded after it remained under pressure for most of 2025. Consequently, the headline PMI remained steady at 50 in February, after it had risen considerably, by 2.3 index points, in January. The level of 50 seen since the beginning of the year indicates a slightly expansionary economy and follows 47.7 in December.

Monetary conditions are set to remain broadly accommodative as well, supported by steady core inflation, a firmer rand and lower imported inflation. Inflation is projected to average below 4% in 2026, marginally above the SARB's newly established 3.0% target, with a one-percentage-point tolerance. This should continue to underpin household consumption and ease financing conditions for businesses. However, any further rate cuts are likely to be measured and data-dependent, reflecting the SARB's conservative approach amid persistent global uncertainty and unresolved domestic policy risks. As reflected in the latest budget, the fiscal space remains tight and constrained by elevated debt-servicing costs and limited borrowing capacity. Looking ahead to 2026, growth is likely to remain moderate, with domestic demand providing the primary buffer against weaker external conditions and muted fiscal support.

With a somewhat strengthening domestic environment, an improving global trade environment and rising mining income, South Africa's economic growth dynamic is well supported in 2026. With these assumptions and a slight acceleration in the growth momentum in 2H26, the 2026 economic growth forecast remains unchanged at 1.5%.

Similarly, the 2027 growth forecast remains unchanged at 1.6%.

Table 3 - 10: South Africa's economic growth rate and revision, 2026–2027*, %

	South Africa
2026	**1.5**
Change from previous month	0.0
2027	**1.6**
Change from previous month	0.0

*Note: * 2026–2027 = Forecast.*

Source: OPEC.

Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's economy strengthened in 2025, expanding by 4.9%, y-o-y, in 4Q25 and lifting full-year growth to 4.6%, the strongest performance since 2022. The expansion reflects a recovery in oil production, which has restored cyclical momentum, while non-oil activity has remained resilient. Inflation remained low, easing to 1.8%, y-o-y, in January, suggesting firm but contained domestic demand. At the same time, fiscal dynamics remain tight, as the fiscal deficit widened to 5.7% of GDP in 2025, highlighting continued sensitivity to revenues and public spending. The 2026 budget signals a continued commitment to expansionary spending, with expenditure expected to remain broadly stable at around SAR 1.3 trillion. Looking ahead, the strong end-2025 growth performance provides positive carryover into 2026, while easing global interest rates could support financial conditions and demand.

Nigeria

Nigeria's economy maintained steady momentum in 2025, with real GDP expanding 4.1% for the full year, supported by both oil and non-oil sectors. In 4Q25, GDP growth was 3.9%, y-o-y, with the non-oil economy rising 4.0%, y-o-y, up slightly from 3.9%, y-o-y, in 3Q25, driven largely by strong performances in agriculture and services. The oil sector grew 6.8%, y-o-y, in 4Q25, accelerating from 5.8%, y-o-y, in 3Q25, while the overall oil industry expanded 8.5% in 2025, compared with 5.5% in 2024, reflecting higher production and global demand. Inflation showed gradual disinflation, as headline CPI eased to 15.1%, y-o-y, in January 2026, down from 15.2% in December 2025, supported by a 2.9% month-on-month decline. Core inflation, which excludes farm produce and energy, slowed to 17.7%, y-o-y, compared with 18.6%, y-o-y, in December, while the food and non-alcoholic beverages sub-index rose 7.8%, y-o-y. Despite easing inflation, the Central Bank of Nigeria only reduced its monetary policy rate by 50 basis points to 26.5%. It also cautioned that increased fiscal spending ahead of the 2027 elections and volatile global economic conditions could threaten the inflation outlook, underscoring the need for a careful balance between supporting growth and maintaining price stability.

United Arab Emirates (UAE)

The UAE's economy remains robust and diversified, underpinned by strong fiscal positions, political stability, and long-term growth strategies. Non-oil sectors continue to expand, supported by policies promoting digital technology, fintech, creative industries, scientific innovation, new energy, and education, while Abu Dhabi's industrial strategy aims to grow manufacturing and energy investments. Tourism in Dubai is a key growth driver, with competitive projects, visa policies and the National Tourism Strategy 2031 positioning the country as a leading global destination. The real estate and financial sectors provide additional support, with residential property prices rebounding, moderate rent growth expected as new supply comes online, and capital markets

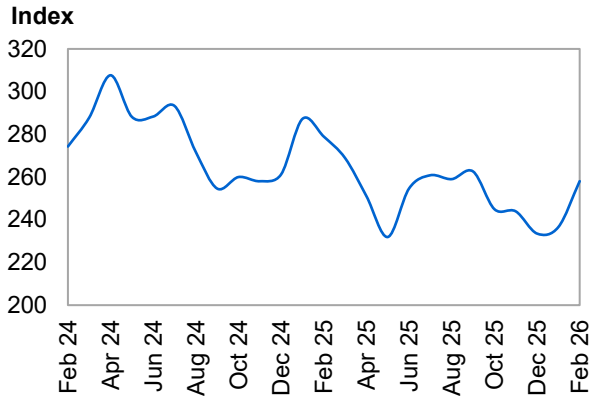
deepening through ongoing IPO activity. The UAE is increasingly focused on innovation and technology adoption, strengthening its position as a regional hub for entrepreneurship and investment. Initiatives to diversify the economy and attract international talent continue to reinforce business confidence and long-term sustainability. Overall, the UAE's continuity, strategic investments and commitment to innovation create a strong foundation for sustainable economic growth and resilience over the medium and long term. The resilience demonstrated by the non-oil private sector reinforces expectations that the economy will overcome current temporary challenges and deliver a stable performance in 2026, supporting an acceleration of non-oil activity and lifting overall GDP growth further, following an estimated 2025 expansion of more than 4%. The most recent geopolitical developments may pose challenges to the otherwise sound growth dynamic. Although it is currently too early to determine the extent to which these will have a measurable effect on the UAE's economic growth trend.

The impact of the USD and inflation on oil prices

The US dollar (USD) index dropped for a third consecutive month in February, falling by 0.9%, m-o-m. The currency continued to decline in the month despite improved expectations for US economic growth in 2026 and lower inflationary pressures. This divergence underscores that sentiment towards the USD was mainly driven by policy uncertainties rather than economic data. Compared with the same period last year, the index was down by 9.2%, y-o-y.

Across select developed market currencies, the USD declined against all major currencies in February. It fell against the euro, yen and pound by 0.7%, 0.9% and 0.4%, respectively, m-o-m. Compared with the same period last year, the USD was higher against the yen by 2.1%, y-o-y, but lower against the euro and pound by 12.0% and 7.8%, y-o-y, respectively.

Graph 3 - 20: The Modified Geneva I + US$ Basket (base June 2017 = 100)



Sources: IMF and OPEC.

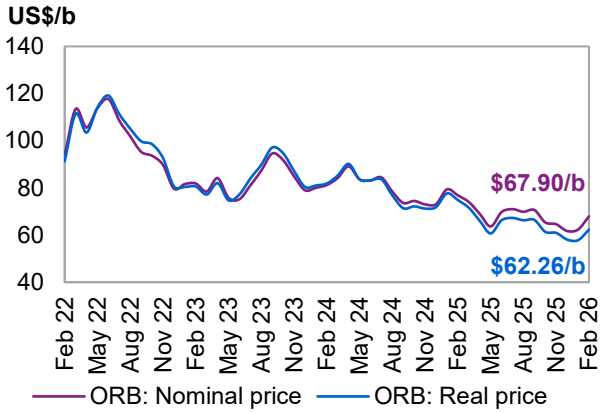
In terms of select emerging market currencies, the USD receded against all major currencies in February. It fell against the rupee, yuan, and real by 0.1%, 0.8% and 2.6%, respectively, m-o-m. Compared with the same period last year, the USD was higher against the rupee by 4.2%, y-o-y. However, it was lower against the yuan and real by 5.1% and 9.8%, y-o-y.

The differential between nominal and real ORB prices widened in February. Inflation (nominal price minus real price) was up by 24.2%, m-o-m.

In nominal terms, accounting for inflation, the ORB price rose by 9.0%, m-o-m, in February; however, it was down by 11.6%, y-o-y.

In real terms (excluding inflation), the ORB increased by 7.8%, m-o-m, in February, and was down by 16.8%, y-o-y.

Graph 3 - 21: Impact of inflation and currency fluctuations on the spot ORB price (base June 2017 = 100)



Source: OPEC.

World Oil Demand

The global oil demand growth forecast for 2026 remains at a healthy 1.4 mb/d, y-o-y, unchanged from the previous month's assessment. In the OECD, demand is forecast to grow by about 0.15 mb/d, y-o-y, mostly driven by requirements from the Americas, and supported by an uptick from OECD Europe. In the non-OECD, demand is forecast to grow by about 1.2 mb/d, also unchanged from last month's assessment. Oil demand in the non-OECD is forecast to be mostly driven by requirements from Other Asia, supported by India and China. Oil demand growth in 2026 is expected to be driven by transportation fuels, as well as healthy industrial, construction and agricultural activities in non-OECD countries.

Global oil demand growth in 2027 is forecast to rise by a healthy 1.3 mb/d, y-o-y, unchanged from the previous month's assessment. The OECD is expected to grow by 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, with OECD Americas anticipated to drive oil demand growth in the region. In the non-OECD, oil demand is forecast to grow by about 1.2 mb/d, led by Other Asia, followed by India and China.

Table 4 - 1: World oil demand in 2026*, mb/d

World oil demand	2025	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	2026	Change 2026/25
Americas	25.42	25.07	25.33	26.07	25.67	25.54	0.12
of which US	*20.75*	*20.45*	*20.74*	*21.31*	*20.94*	*20.86*	*0.11*
Europe	13.42	12.94	13.69	13.76	13.45	13.46	0.04
Asia Pacific	7.10	7.32	6.77	6.87	7.37	7.08	-0.01
Total OECD	**45.94**	**45.33**	**45.79**	**46.70**	**46.49**	**46.08**	**0.15**
China	16.88	17.00	16.73	17.30	17.29	17.08	0.20
India	5.65	5.89	5.92	5.60	6.10	5.88	0.22
Other Asia	9.81	10.03	10.36	9.98	9.96	10.08	0.27
Latin America	6.90	6.92	7.04	7.09	7.05	7.03	0.13
Middle East	8.95	8.98	8.93	9.32	9.21	9.11	0.16
Africa	4.87	5.06	4.78	4.96	5.31	5.03	0.16
Russia	4.01	4.07	3.86	4.06	4.21	4.05	0.04
Other Eurasia	1.31	1.47	1.33	1.20	1.37	1.34	0.03
Other Europe	0.83	0.83	0.82	0.82	0.92	0.85	0.02
Total Non-OECD	**59.21**	**60.26**	**59.78**	**60.32**	**61.41**	**60.44**	**1.23**
Total World	**105.15**	**105.59**	**105.57**	**107.02**	**107.90**	**106.53**	**1.38**

*Note: * 2026 = Forecast. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding. Source: OPEC.*

Table 4 - 2: World oil demand in 2027*, mb/d

World oil demand	2026	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027	Change 2027/26
Americas	25.54	25.14	25.40	26.18	25.76	25.62	0.09
of which US	*20.86*	*20.53*	*20.81*	*21.40*	*21.02*	*20.94*	*0.08*
Europe	13.46	12.97	13.74	13.80	13.48	13.50	0.04
Asia Pacific	7.08	7.30	6.75	6.85	7.36	7.06	-0.02
Total OECD	**46.08**	**45.41**	**45.89**	**46.83**	**46.60**	**46.19**	**0.11**
China	17.08	17.16	16.89	17.53	17.53	17.28	0.20
India	5.88	6.11	6.13	5.82	6.33	6.10	0.22
Other Asia	10.08	10.30	10.62	10.24	10.24	10.35	0.27
Latin America	7.03	7.06	7.19	7.21	7.18	7.16	0.14
Middle East	9.11	9.15	9.05	9.51	9.37	9.27	0.16
Africa	5.03	5.22	4.93	5.14	5.46	5.19	0.16
Russia	4.05	4.12	3.91	4.10	4.26	4.10	0.05
Other Eurasia	1.34	1.51	1.36	1.24	1.40	1.38	0.03
Other Europe	0.85	0.85	0.84	0.84	0.94	0.87	0.02
Total Non-OECD	**60.44**	**61.47**	**60.92**	**61.63**	**62.69**	**61.68**	**1.24**
Total World	**106.53**	**106.89**	**106.81**	**108.46**	**109.29**	**107.87**	**1.34**

*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding. Source: OPEC.*

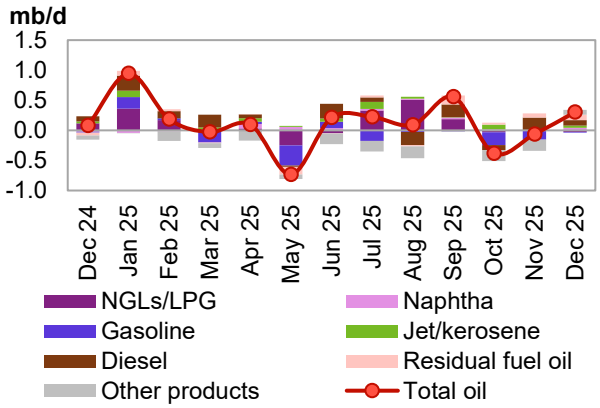
OECD

OECD Americas

Update on the latest developments

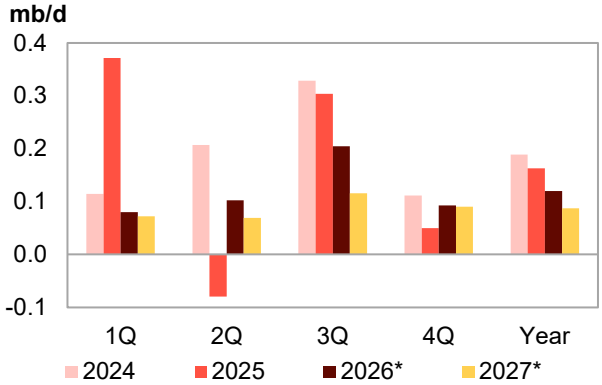
OECD Americas' oil demand in December increased by 300 tb/d, up from a contraction of 64 tb/d, y-o-y, in November. The US accounted for the largest share of the y-o-y rise. Overall increases in demand for diesel, residual fuel, and the 'other products' category more than offset observed y-o-y demand declines in LPG and gasoline in the region.

Graph 4 - 1: OECD Americas' oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: IEA, JODI, OPEC and national sources.

Graph 4 - 2: OECD Americas' oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

US

In December, US oil demand increased by 236 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of 140 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Y-o-y increases were observed for most products, with only LPG demand seeing a y-o-y contraction. The y-o-y increase in demand was partly due to harsh winter conditions, which supported demand for heating fuel.

Demand for heating fuel saw the largest y-o-y rise, which was partly offset by lower on-road diesel demand, leading to an overall increase of about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, for diesel, down from the growth of 120 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Residual fuel demand increased by about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, up from about 50 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month, and the 'other products' category also witnessed a rise of about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a contraction of 165 tb/d, y-o-y, seen a month earlier. Jet/kerosene increased by about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, up from 10 tb/d, y-o-y, the previous month. Gasoline showed a marginal increase of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, albeit an improvement from a contraction of about 150 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in November. Meanwhile, LPG demand declined by about 50 tb/d, y-o-y, down from a marginal increase of 5 tb/d, y-o-y, observed the previous month. Demand for naphtha increased by about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, up from flat, y-o-y, in November.

Table 4 - 3: US oil demand, mb/d

US oil demand By product	Dec 24	Dec 25	Change Dec 25/Dec 24
NGLs/LPG	4.39	4.34	-0.05
Naphtha	0.13	0.17	0.03
Gasoline	8.77	8.78	0.01
Jet/kerosene	1.72	1.75	0.03
Diesel	3.74	3.81	0.07
Fuel oil	0.31	0.38	0.07
Other products	1.85	1.91	0.07
Total	**20.91**	**21.14**	**0.24**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

Sources: EIA and OPEC.

Near-term expectations

The US economy continues to remain resilient, despite some trade-related policy uncertainties. In 2Q26, economic activities in the region are expected to remain stable, supported by robust consumer spending amid rising real wages. Meanwhile, gasoline demand in the US is expected to recover following severe winter weather that curtailed road travel in certain regions. Accordingly, oil demand in the US is forecast to grow by about 110 tb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26, while in the OECD Americas region, oil demand is projected to increase by about 100 tb/d, y-o-y.

For 2026, the US economy is expected to maintain steady growth, driven by resilient consumer spending, supported by potential tax adjustments that are expected to lead to higher consumer income, combined with potential monetary easing. The recent ruling of the US Supreme Court declaring reciprocal and country tariffs imposed by the US Administration unlawful has added new uncertainty to the country's foreign trade relations – these were quickly followed by a new blanket tariff of 10% for 150 days. To what extent US companies will file for reimbursement from the government for tariff duties already paid remains to be seen. In addition, midterm elections, culminating in November, may prompt the US government to support consumers through policies that could soften inflation and gasoline prices. Within the OECD Americas region, economic activities in Canada and Mexico are expected to slightly surpass that of 2025.

Meanwhile, the removal of government electric vehicle (EV) tax credits in October 2025 has already had a significant impact on the US EV market. January EV sales in the country were down by 33%, y-o-y, and lower by 27% compared with December, marking the country's lowest monthly EV sales since early 2022. Oil demand in the region is forecast to grow by about 120 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 25.5 mb/d, while oil demand in the US is forecast to grow by around 110 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 20.9 mb/d.

Regarding oil demand by product in OECD Americas, gasoline is expected to drive growth in 2026, supported by healthy driving mobility amid expected declining gasoline prices and slower EVs sales. Jet/kerosene demand is also expected to show a healthy y-o-y increase, driven by stable economic activities and steady business travel during the summer. However, diesel demand is projected to soften marginally, y-o-y. Regarding petrochemical feedstock demand, NGLs/LPG demand is expected to show healthy growth, y-o-y, and naphtha demand is projected to also increase, albeit moderately. Demand for residual fuels and the 'other products' category is expected to decline y-o-y.

In 2027, economic activities in the US are projected to remain healthy. With this, oil demand in the OECD Americas is expected to increase by about 90 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 25.6 mb/d. The US is forecast to drive regional oil demand growth with an increase of about 80 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 20.9 mb/d.

OECD Europe

Update on the latest developments

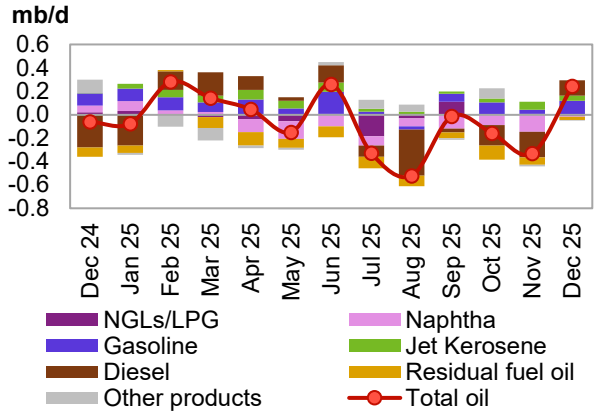
Oil demand in OECD Europe in December surged by about 240 tb/d, y-o-y, following a decline of about 330 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in December. The y-o-y increase in product demand is in line with a y-o-y total product stock decline. Increases were largely seen in France, the UK, Turkey and Spain.

Regarding oil product categories, transportation fuels led a y-o-y demand increase in December, with diesel showing the largest increase of about 130 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of about 220 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Demand for gasoline also increased by about 120 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a growth of about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in November. The y-o-y increase in gasoline demand came largely from France and Germany. Meanwhile, European gasoline exports to the US reportedly fell in December, y-o-y. Jet/kerosene demand increased by about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, albeit down from the growth of about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, seen a month earlier.

In terms of petrochemical feedstock demand in December, NGLs/LPG saw a decline of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, down from the growth of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Naphtha demand also saw a minor decline of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, though this was an improvement from a large decline of about 150 tb/d, y-o-y, in November. Naphtha demand in the region has been in decline since April 2025, due to weak manufacturing and petrochemical sector activities.

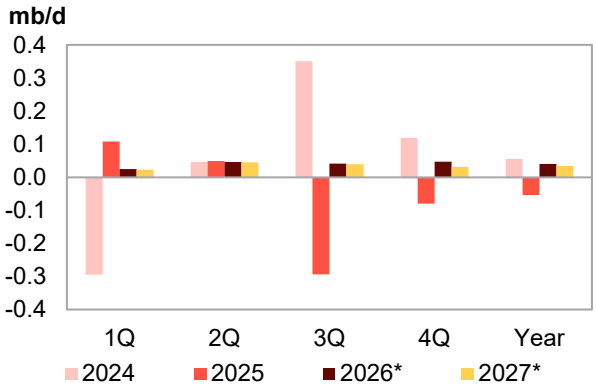
Meanwhile, residual fuel demand saw a decline of about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, in December, though this was an improvement from a decline of about 60 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Demand for the 'other products' category was minor at 5 tb/d, from a decline of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month.

Graph 4 - 3: OECD Europe's oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: IEA, JODI, OPEC and national sources.

Graph 4 - 4: OECD Europe's oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

Near-term expectations

In 2Q26, economic activities in the region are expected to remain resilient, supported by domestic demand and Germany's fiscal package. In addition, the impact of the new blanket tariff imposed by the US is only marginally higher than the previous tariff, with a number of exceptions. Moreover, the services sector in the region continues to show expansion, as seen in the services Purchasing Managers' Index (PMI). The manufacturing PMI rose modestly to 49.5 in January, reflecting a modest improvement in the sector's performance. Meanwhile, annual inflation in the Eurozone eased to 1.7% in January 2026, down from 1.9% seen in December 2025. Accordingly, these factors are expected to support oil demand growth in the region of around 50 tb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26.

For 2026, economic activities in the region are expected to continue to be moderate but steady, driven by strengthening domestic demand amid rising real wages and employment. Meanwhile, the recovery in consumer demand for goods and services continues, supported by improving real incomes amid resilient labour markets. Significant government spending on infrastructure and fiscal stimulus in Germany is projected to boost growth, which is expected to support the domestic economy. Currently, new orders are doing very well in Germany, supported by stimulus packages and government spending. However, trade and political uncertainties remain. Meanwhile, the free trade agreement between the EU and India is expected to see diesel and jet/kerosene trade benefiting the most among oil products, with the EU being the key market for Indian refiners. Overall, the region is projected to see oil demand growth of about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, to average 13.5 mb/d.

In terms of oil demand by product, air travel activities and road mobility are expected to support transportation fuel demand, with jet/kerosene having the strongest demand outlook of the key products. Gasoline demand is also expected to grow, particularly if EV penetration remains slow and the switch from diesel-powered vehicles continues in 2026. A preliminary report from the European Automobile Manufacturers' Association (ACEA) in January shows that the diesel car market continued to decline, with registrations down by 22%, y-o-y. In 2025, the share of diesel registrations was estimated at about 9%. Regarding petrochemical feedstock, demand for both naphtha and NGLs/LPG is projected to remain broadly flat, y-o-y. Demand for diesel, residual fuel oil and the 'other products' category is projected to decline slightly, y-o-y.

In 2027, healthy economic growth in the region is projected to continue, trade-related uncertainties are expected to subside, and exports are expected to rebound. Germany's fiscal package is expected to strengthen public investment and stimulate external demand. Furthermore, road mobility and air travel are expected to remain relatively healthy. Accordingly, these factors are anticipated to support oil demand in the region, which is forecast to grow about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, in 2027 to average 13.5 mb/d.

OECD Asia-Pacific

Update on the latest developments

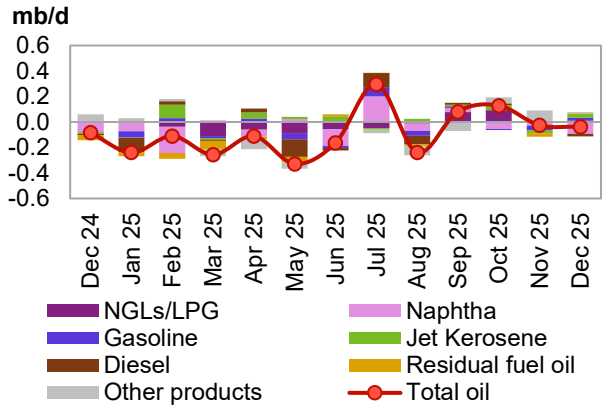
Oil demand in the OECD Asia-Pacific region eased by about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, in December, down from a decline of about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, in November. Within the region, South Korea showed the largest decline of about 80 tb/d, y-o-y, while Japan saw only a marginal decline of 5 tb/d, y-o-y. Oil demand in Australia increased by 50 tb/d, y-o-y.

Regarding specific oil product demand in the region in December, jet/kerosene demand saw the largest increase of 30 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, seen a month earlier. This increase aligned with the International Air Transport Association's (IATA's) Air Passenger Monthly Analysis in December 2025, which indicated that Asia Pacific carriers saw their total traffic rise by 6.3%, y-o-y. Moreover, growth came largely from Japan, where domestic Revenue Passenger Kilometres (RPKs) grew by 4.8%, y-o-y. Demand for gasoline saw an increase of about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, the previous month.

Meanwhile, demand for the 'other products' category saw a marginal uptick of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, though this was below an increase of about 90 tb/d, y-o-y, in November. Demand for residual fuels saw an uptick of 5 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, in November.

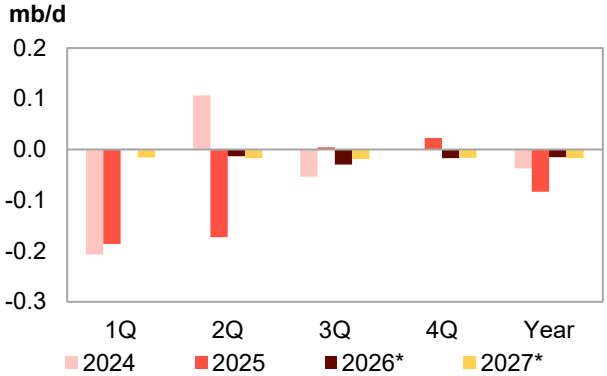
As for petrochemical feedstock, NGLs/LPG demand increased slightly by about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, up from flat y-o-y growth in November. Naphtha demand contracted by about 90 tb/d, y-o-y, down from a decline of about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Demand for diesel slipped by about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, down from broadly flat y-o-y in November.

Graph 4 - 5: OECD Asia Pacific oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: IEA, JODI, OPEC and national sources.

Graph 4 - 6: OECD Asia Pacific oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

Near-term expectations

In the near term, Japan's economy is expected to remain stable, driven by domestic demand, including solid capital expenditure and improved private consumption, supported by rising wages. Meanwhile, Japan's inflation slowed sharply to 2.1% in January, its lowest level since March 2022. Accordingly, oil demand in the region is anticipated to soften by about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26.

In 2026, economic activities in Japan – the region's largest economy – are projected to moderate below 2025 growth rates. The new government is expected to stimulate the economy through the issuance of sovereign debt. Both manufacturing and services PMIs were above a contractionary trajectory in January, supported by improving business activities and strengthening output. However, continued uncertainty in the export sector and moderate consumer demand could offset these gains. The South Korean economy is expected to rebound somewhat, supported by improved consumption and easing weakness in construction. Similarly, Australia's economy is expected to experience moderately higher growth than in 2025, driven by stronger domestic demand amid public spending. This improvement is the basis for a lesser oil demand decline in 2026 of about 15 tb/d, y-o-y, in the region, to average 7.1 mb/d. Specific products, including transportation fuels, petrochemical feedstock and the 'other products' category, are expected to increase marginally, while somewhat larger y-o-y declines in residual fuel and diesel are projected to more than offset those increases.

In 2027, oil demand in the region is forecast to decline slightly by about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 7.1 mb/d.

Non-OECD

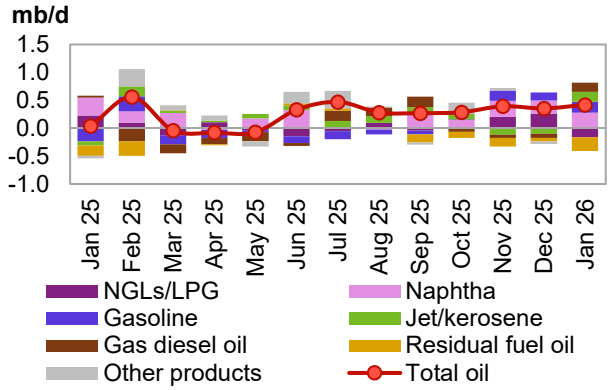
China

Update on the latest developments

China's oil demand in January increased further by about 420 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a growth of about 350 tb/d, y-o-y, observed in December. Strong y-o-y growth in naphtha and transportation fuel demand more than offset an observed decline in NGLs/ LPG and residual fuel oil requirements.

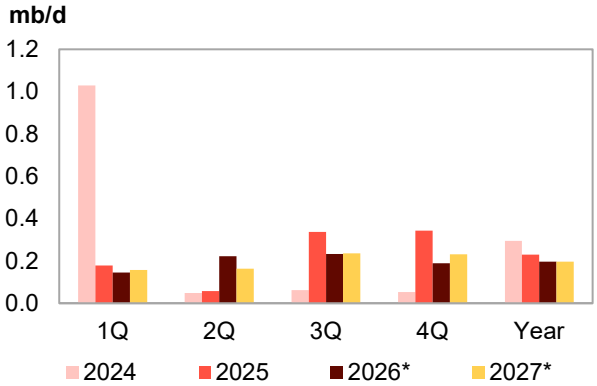
In terms of oil demand by product, naphtha requirements led the y-o-y increase in demand by 280 tb/d, up from an increase of about 240 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. In transportation fuels, gasoline saw the largest increase in demand by about 190 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a growth of about 140 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Demand for jet/kerosene increased by about 180 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of 100 tb/d, y-o-y, in December. Meanwhile, diesel demand grew by about 160 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a contraction of 75 tb/d, y-o-y, in December. Demand for the 'other products' category inched up by about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, though this was an improvement over a decline of 50 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in December.

Graph 4 - 7: China's oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: Argus Media, Chinese Customs, Chinese National Bureau of Statistics, JODI and OPEC.

Graph 4 - 8: China's oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

Demand for residual fuel oil saw the largest decline of about 250 tb/d, y-o-y, down from a lesser decline of about 60 tb/d, y-o-y, in December. LPG demand contracted by about 160 tb/d, y-o-y, down from an increase of 260 tb/d, y-o-y, in December.

Table 4 - 4: China's oil demand*, mb/d

China's oil demand By product	Jan 25	Jan 26	Change Jan 26/Jan 25
NGLs/LPG	3.08	2.91	-0.16
Naphtha	2.23	2.51	0.28
Gasoline	4.00	4.19	0.19
Jet/kerosene	1.14	1.32	0.18
Diesel	4.53	4.69	0.16
Fuel oil	0.78	0.54	-0.25
Other products	1.19	1.21	0.02
Total	**16.95**	**17.37**	**0.42**

*Note: * Apparent oil demand. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.*

Sources: Argus Media, Chinese Customs, Chinese National Bureau of Statistics, JODI and OPEC.

Near-term expectations

In the near term, China's economy is projected to continue its growth trajectory in 2Q26. Economic activities are expected to pick up after a winter slowdown. Road mobility and air travel are expected to support a gradual increase in gasoline and jet/kerosene demand. Accordingly, oil product demand is projected to grow by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26. However, domestic diesel demand is projected to remain weak.

In 2026, China's economy is expected to continue to show healthy growth, underpinned by resilient exports together with a strong manufacturing sector. The new US blanket tariff is expected to reduce the effective tariff rate on exports to the US. Furthermore, China has indicated that it will deploy more stimulus packages in 2026, particularly to encourage consumption and services. Meanwhile, China is expected to formally present its 15th Five-Year Plan (2026–2030) at the National People's Congress (NPC) in March 2026. The plan is expected to set growth targets and strategic direction for the economy, such as addressing property sector challenges and weak domestic consumption, along with adding new stimulus measures.

The expansion of petrochemical capacity coming online, including the BASF one million-metric-ton ethylene project, which is anticipated to start up in January 2026, is expected to provide additional support for feedstock demand, including ethane, LPG and naphtha. Meanwhile, in line with a subsidy reduction for EVs, preliminary data indicate that during the first half of January 2026, both EV sales volume and market penetration rates

declined compared with the same period in 2025 and the previous month. Accordingly, these factors are expected to support oil demand in the country.

As for oil demand by product, ongoing strong international and domestic air travel is expected to bolster demand for jet/kerosene and drive growth in oil demand. NGLs/LPG and naphtha demand are also expected to increase due to expected higher petrochemical feedstock requirements amid new capacity additions. Furthermore, demand for the 'other products' category is projected to increase, y-o-y. Regarding transportation fuel demand, both gasoline and diesel are expected to show slight growth. However, residual fuel demand is projected to decline, y-o-y. With this, oil demand in China is expected to increase by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, to average 17.1 mb/d.

In 2027, economic activities in China are expected to remain stable. Similarly, transportation activities are expected to remain healthy, while weakness in the construction sector is expected to subside. Combined with healthy petrochemical sector requirements, this is expected to support oil product demand growth of about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, to average about 17.3 mb/d.

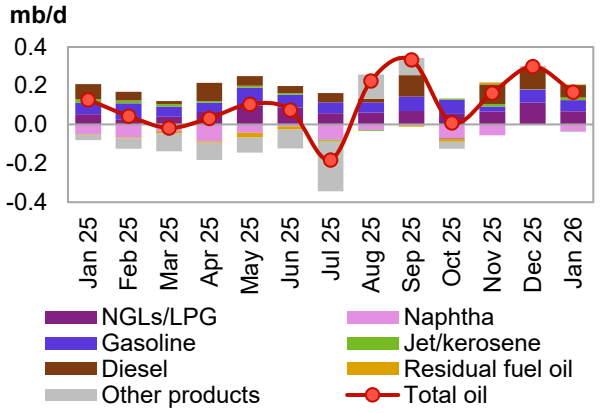
India

Update on the latest developments

In January, India's oil demand increased by about 170 tb/d, y-o-y, down from an increase of about 300 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. The increase was driven by NGLs/LPG and transportation fuels, which more than offset a y-o-y decline in naphtha demand.

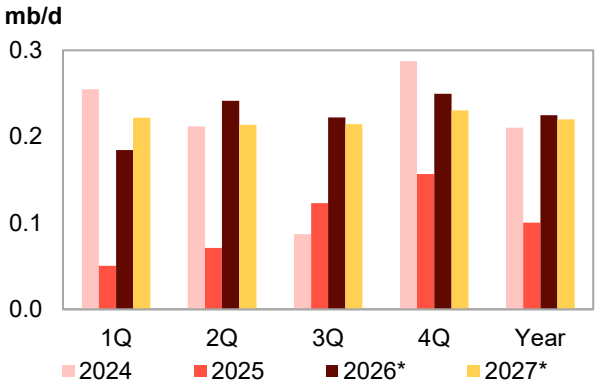
Regarding specific product demand, NGLs/LPG saw the largest increase of about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, in January, though this is below the growth of 110 tb/d seen in December. Demand for diesel increased by about 60 tb/d, y-o-y, down from an increase of about 100 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month.

Graph 4 – 9: India's oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: PPAC, JODI and OPEC.

Graph 4 – 10: India's oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

Regarding transportation fuels, gasoline demand in January increased by about 60 tb/d, y-o-y, albeit slightly below an increase of about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Gasoline demand growth was supported by a rise in vehicle sales. According to data from the Federation of Automobile Dealers Associations, Indian passenger vehicle sales rose by 12.6%, y-o-y, in January 2026. Jet/kerosene demand inched up by about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, up from flat y-o-y in December. Residual fuel oil demand inched up marginally by 4 tb/d, y-o-y, broadly the same figure as observed the previous month.

However, demand for naphtha saw the largest contraction of 35 tb/d, y-o-y, down from broadly unchanged in December. Demand for the 'other products' category slipped by a marginal 5 tb/d, y-o-y, following an increase of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month.

Table 4 - 5: India's oil demand, mb/d

India's oil demand By product	Jan 25	Jan 26	Change Jan 26/Jan 25
NGLs/LPG	1.07	1.14	0.07
Naphtha	0.33	0.29	-0.03
Gasoline	0.91	0.97	0.06
Jet/kerosene	0.21	0.22	0.01
Diesel	1.88	1.95	0.06
Fuel oil	0.12	0.12	0.00
Other products	1.11	1.10	0.00
Total	**5.62**	**5.78**	**0.17**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

Sources: JODI, Petroleum Planning and Analysis Cell of India and OPEC.

Near-term expectations

Looking ahead, the Indian government's 2026–2027 Union Budget was presented against the backdrop of robust economic indicators, including strong economic growth, low inflation, strong manufacturing and resilient external balances. These factors suggest strong near-term prospects for oil demand in India. Accordingly, the country's oil demand is projected to increase by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26.

In 2026, India's economic growth is expected to remain strong. Recent efforts by the Indian government to stimulate domestic demand through tax cuts and subsidies have paid off, despite trade-related uncertainties. Robust private consumption and additional monetary policy easing are expected to provide further support for the growth outlook in 2026. Current robust public consumption and public investment are expected to continue. The new Union Budget highlighted support for manufacturing, infrastructure and employment. Furthermore, business activities, including air travel and road mobility, are expected to remain steady going forward. Government initiatives, including 'Make in India', the GST tax reform, and the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana (PMUY) scheme for low-income households, are expected to continue supporting local consumption in 2026.

Demand in the 'other products' category, including bitumen and supported by ongoing strong infrastructure development, is expected to drive oil demand in 2026. Transportation fuels, such as gasoline, diesel and jet/kerosene, are expected to remain robust on the back of heightened road mobility amid robust vehicle sales, along with a surge in air travel and trucking. Moreover, diesel demand is anticipated to gain additional support from strong manufacturing and agricultural activities. Regarding the petrochemical sector, the ongoing aggressive expansion of petrochemical capacity, combined with the government's LPG support scheme for low-income households, is expected to boost demand for petrochemical feedstock. Overall, oil demand in India is projected to grow by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 5.9 mb/d in 2026.

In 2027, India's economic growth is expected to remain strong amid easing trade tensions, along with increasing manufacturing and mobility trends. India is also expected to benefit from the lower US blanket tariff rate of 10% for all countries. Meanwhile, the newly signed EU–India free trade agreement, which is expected to take effect from 1Q27, is expected to provide additional support for economic activities in the country. Furthermore, ongoing government support for households and expected new petrochemical capacity additions in 2026 are expected to support oil demand growth of about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 6.1 mb/d in 2027.

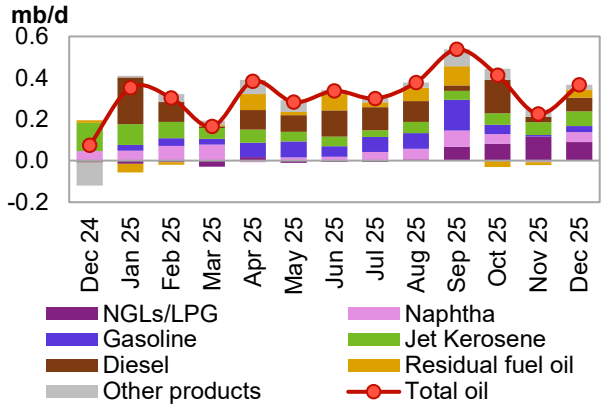
Other Asia

Update on the latest developments

Oil demand in Other Asia increased by about 370 tb/d, y-o-y, in December, up from an increase of 230 tb/d, y-o-y, observed the previous month. This was largely led by a rise of about 90 tb/d, y-o-y, in Indonesia and further supported by requirements in other major countries of the region. The increase in oil demand was driven by NGLs/LPG and supported by requirements for transportation fuels.

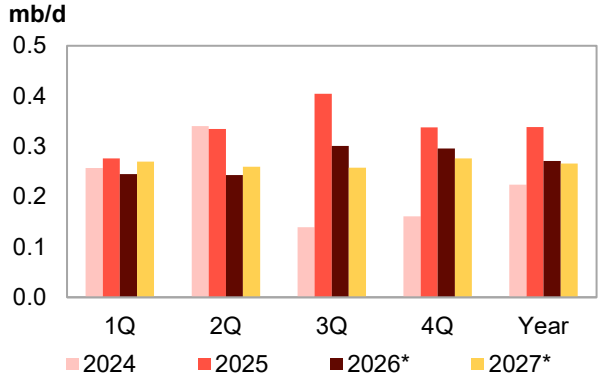
Regarding specific products, NGLs/LPG led demand growth in December by 90 tb/d, y-o-y, slightly below an increase of about 120 tb/d, y-o-y, observed the previous month. Jet/kerosene demand increased by about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, up from the growth of 60 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Diesel demand grew by 70 tb/d, y-o-y, up from an increase of about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in November. Gasoline demand grew by 30 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a marginal increase of 10 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month.

Graph 4 - 11: Other Asia's oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: JODI, National sources, and OPEC.

Graph 4 – 12: Other Asia's oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

Meanwhile, naphtha demand increased by about 50 tb/d, up from a decline of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Demand for residual fuel oil saw an increase of 40 tb/d, y-o-y, an improvement from the decline of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, observed the previous month. Demand for the 'other products' category grew by about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, down from an increase of about 40 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month.

Near-term expectations

In the near term, economic activities in major oil-consuming countries of the region are expected to be robust, underpinned by healthy domestic consumption, macroeconomic stability and an improving investment climate amid low inflation. These factors are expected to support a regional oil demand increase of about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26.

In 2026, economic activities in major oil-consuming countries are expected to remain strong, with GDP predicted to grow at uneven rates among the major economies of the region. In Indonesia, impressive economic performance in 2025 is expected to continue. Household consumption is expected to remain the key driver, supported by low inflation, helping to support consumer purchasing power. Furthermore, domestic and foreign investment and infrastructure development will generate additional multiplier effects. Malaysia is expected to continue its robust growth trajectory observed in 2025, supported by key economic activities, including strong domestic demand, resilient export and vibrant tourism. Other countries of the region, including Pakistan and Thailand, are projected to surpass 2025 growth rates. However, economic activities in Vietnam and Singapore are projected to grow slightly below 2025 growth rates. Steady driving and air travel activities are expected to continue amid strong manufacturing and agricultural output. These factors are anticipated to support oil product demand growth of about 0.3 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, to average 10.1 mb/d.

Regarding specific products, jet/kerosene is projected to drive growth in oil demand in 2026, supported by strong international and domestic air travel demand. Similarly, gasoline and diesel are expected to show healthy increases. Demand for the 'other products' category – including bitumen, petroleum coke and lube oil – is also projected to grow, y-o-y. Regarding petrochemical feedstock demand, both NGLs/LPG and naphtha requirements are expected to increase moderately, y-o-y. Meanwhile, residual fuel oil demand is anticipated to remain broadly flat, y-o-y.

In 2027, economic activities in major oil-consuming countries of the region are expected to improve further from 2026. Furthermore, consumer spending is anticipated to support economic activities. These factors are predicted to cause an oil demand boost in the region of about 0.3 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 10.4 mb/d.

Latin America

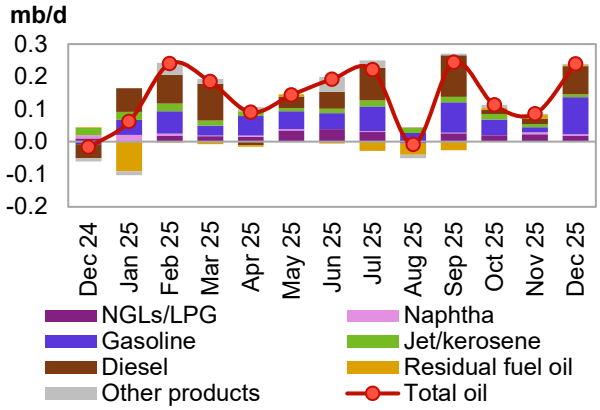
Update on the latest developments

Oil demand in Latin America surged by about 240 tb/d, y-o-y, in December, up from growth of 90 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Within the region, oil demand growth of 190 tb/d, y-o-y, in Brazil, combined with an increase of 30 tb/d, y-o-y, in Argentina, more than offset y-o-y declines in other countries of the region.

Regarding specific products, gasoline demand saw the largest increase of about 110 tb/d, y-o-y. Brazil accounted for almost all regional gasoline consumption in December, propelled by increased road travel during the holiday season amid a rise in ethanol prices, which gave gasoline a competitive advantage. Demand for

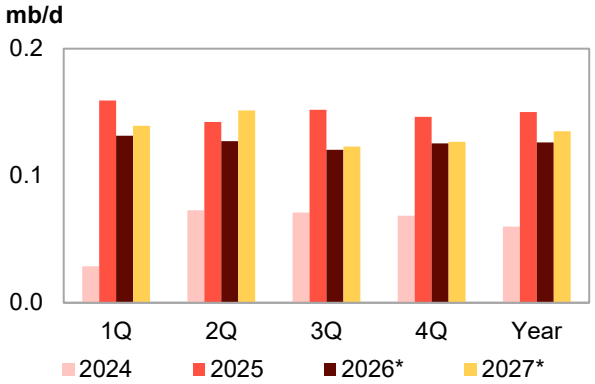
diesel in the region increased by about 90 tb/d, y-o-y, in December, up from a decline of about 20 tb/d, y-o-y. Jet/kerosene demand saw an uptick of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, in line with the increase seen the previous month.

Graph 4 - 13: Latin America's oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: JODI, OPEC and national sources.

Graph 4 - 14: Latin America's oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

In terms of petrochemical feedstock, NGLs/LPG demand inched up by around 20 tb/d, y-o-y, broadly in line with growth seen the previous month. Naphtha demand saw a marginal uptick of 4 tb/d, also broadly in line with the y-o-y increase seen the previous month.

Demand for the 'other products' category, including ethanol, inched up marginally by 4 tb/d, y-o-y, in line with growth seen the previous month, and residual fuel oil requirements were up by a marginal 3 tb/d, y-o-y, slightly down from an increase of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, in November.

Near-term expectations

In the near term, economic activities in Latin America are expected to remain healthy. Economic growth in the region is projected to remain broadly stable in 2Q26, as the services PMI in Brazil looks to be on an upward trend. Moreover, inflation rates in most Latin American countries remained within central bank target ranges. Expected monetary easing amid fiscal reforms is expected to support domestic consumption and investment to provide some additional support for growth in the region. Accordingly, oil demand is forecast to grow by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26.

In 2026, the economies of Latin America are expected to grow, though slightly below 2025 rates. Moreover, the expansion is expected to be uneven across the region. Brazil will be holding presidential elections in 4Q26, with the current government expected to support the economy through income reforms. Economic growth in the country is expected to remain steady in 2026, with consumer spending holding up relatively well, easing unemployment and an acceleration in real wages. Agricultural output continues to post solid gains, with merchandise exports also rising. Meanwhile, ethanol production in Brazil is projected to rise this year, due to price parity between ethanol and sugar in favour of ethanol, which could pressure gasoline consumption in the country. Argentina's economy is expected to see robust growth on the back of business-friendly deregulated economic reforms. Accordingly, oil demand in Latin America is forecast to grow by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2026, to average 7.0 mb/d.

Regarding specific oil products, transportation fuels are expected to drive demand growth in the region in 2026. Demand for residual fuel oil and the 'other product' category, including ethanol, is also expected to grow. Meanwhile, petrochemical feedstock, NGLs/LPG and naphtha are projected to increase only marginally.

In 2027, regional growth is expected to continue, as trade flows recover further and domestic demand improves. Brazil's economy is expected to maintain stable growth momentum, building on anticipated positive performance in 2026, while Argentina's economic activities are also expected to continue expanding. Together, these factors are forecast to support oil demand in the region, which is predicted to grow by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 7.2 mb/d.

Middle East

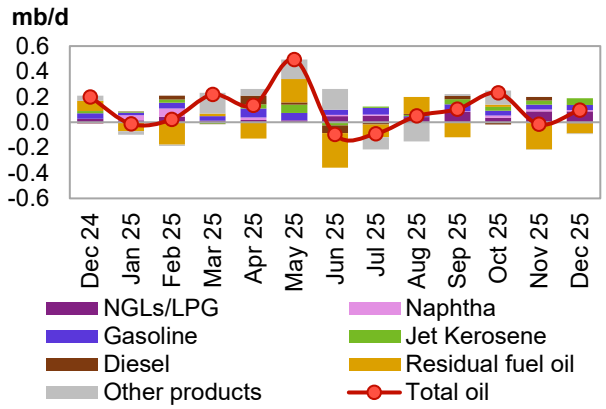
Update on the latest developments

Oil demand in the Middle East in December increased by about 100 tb/d, y-o-y, up from a decline of 15 tb/d, y-o-y, observed the previous month. An increase of about 70 tb/d, y-o-y, from the UAE, combined with growth of 35 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in Iraq and a rise of about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, from Kuwait, more than offset a decline of 130 tb/d, y-o-y, seen in Saudi Arabia.

Regarding specific product demand in December, NGLs/LPG demand led the increase by about 90 tb/d, y-o-y, the same increase as the previous month. Jet/kerosene increased by about 50 tb/d, y-o-y, down from a y-o-y increase of about 30 tb/d in the previous month. Meanwhile, gasoline demand saw an increase of 40 tb/d, y-o-y, broadly in line with the y-o-y increase seen the previous month. Demand for naphtha saw an uptick of about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, slightly below the increase of about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, observed in November.

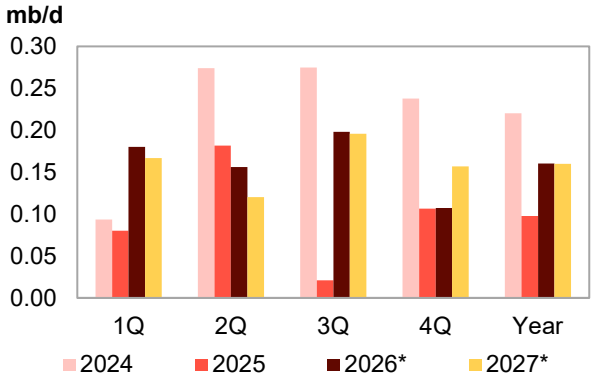
Demand for residual fuel oil contracted by 80 tb/d, y-o-y, though this was an improvement from a decline of about 210 tb/d, y-o-y, seen the previous month. Diesel demand eased by about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, down from an increase of about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, observed in November. Demand for the 'other products' category, including direct crude oil burning, eased by a marginal 4 tb/d, y-o-y, down from flat, y-o-y, the previous month.

Graph 4 - 15: Middle East's oil demand by main petroleum product category, y-o-y change



Sources: JODI, OPEC and national sources.

Graph 4 - 16: Middle East's oil demand, y-o-y change



*Note: * 2026-2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

Near-term expectations

Looking ahead, economic activities in the region's major consuming countries are expected to remain steady in 2Q26, with oil demand in the region forecast to grow by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, in 2Q26.

In 2026, the region is expected to be driven by non-oil sector growth, infrastructure projects, diversifying economic activities and private consumption, supported by low inflation and high employment. Overall, oil demand in the region is projected to increase by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 9.1 mb/d in 2026. The bulk of demand growth is expected to come from Saudi Arabia, Iraq and the UAE.

In terms of products, gasoline is projected to drive y-o-y growth in oil demand in 2026, on the back of strong driving mobility. Furthermore, jet/kerosene and diesel demand are expected to remain healthy, bolstered by air travel, trucking and construction activities. However, while residual fuel oil is projected to remain broadly flat, y-o-y, the 'other products' category is expected to decline, y-o-y, partly due to a gradual fall in direct crude burning for electricity generation.

In 2027, steady economic activities in the region are expected, supported by robust non-oil-related growth. Furthermore, infrastructure spending, strong international air traffic and driving mobility are forecast to support oil demand. Growth in the region's petrochemical industry is projected to continue through 2027. Overall, oil demand in the region is forecast to grow by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 9.3 mb/d.

World Oil Supply

Non-DoC liquids production (i.e. liquids production from countries not participating in the DoC) is forecast to grow by about 0.6 mb/d to average 54.8 mb/d in 2026. Growth is unchanged from last month's assessment. The main drivers of liquids production growth are expected to be Brazil, Canada, the US and Argentina.

In 2027, non-DoC liquids production is forecast to grow by about 0.6 mb/d to average 55.4 mb/d. The main drivers for liquids supply growth are expected to be Brazil, Canada, Qatar and Argentina.

DoC NGLs and non-conventional liquids are forecast to grow by about 0.1 mb/d in 2026 to average 8.8 mb/d. Further growth of about 0.1 mb/d is expected in 2027, to average 8.9 mb/d.

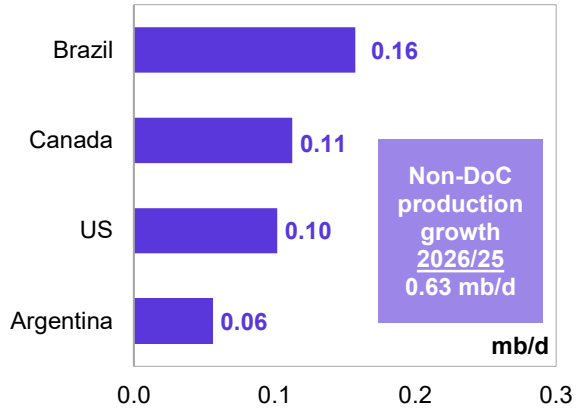
DoC crude oil production in February increased by 445 tb/d, m-o-m, averaging 42.72 mb/d, as reported by available secondary sources.

Key drivers of growth and decline

Non-DoC liquids production in 2026 is expected to grow by about 0.6 mb/d. This is unchanged from last month's assessment. The main growth drivers are expected to be Brazil, Canada, the US and Argentina.

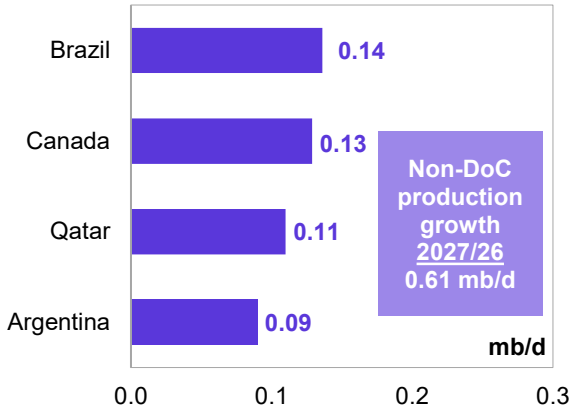
In 2027, liquids supply from non-DoC countries is forecast to expand by about 0.6 mb/d, with no revision from the previous assessment. The main growth drivers are set to be Brazil, Canada, Qatar and Argentina.

Graph 5 - 1: Annual liquids production changes, y-o-y, for selected countries in 2026*



*Note: * 2026 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.*

Graph 5 - 2: Annual liquids production changes, y-o-y, for selected countries in 2027*



*Note: * 2027 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.*

Non-DoC liquids production in 2026 and 2027

Table 5 - 1: Non-DoC liquids production in 2026*, mb/d

Non-DoC liquids production	2025	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	2026	Change 2026/25
Americas	28.29	27.95	28.41	28.72	28.94	28.51	0.21
of which US	*22.22*	*21.78*	*22.40*	*22.50*	*22.59*	*22.32*	*0.10*
Europe	3.63	3.63	3.54	3.52	3.63	3.58	-0.04
Asia Pacific	0.41	0.41	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	-0.01
Total OECD	**32.32**	**31.99**	**32.34**	**32.62**	**32.95**	**32.48**	**0.16**
China	4.62	4.67	4.67	4.57	4.57	4.62	0.00
India	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.82	0.83	0.82	0.00
Other Asia	1.64	1.64	1.62	1.60	1.61	1.62	-0.02
Latin America	7.55	7.90	7.92	7.98	8.11	7.98	0.43
Middle East	1.99	2.01	2.03	2.04	2.05	2.03	0.04
Africa	2.27	2.25	2.23	2.24	2.31	2.26	-0.01
Other Eurasia	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.00
Other Europe	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.00
Total Non-OECD	**19.34**	**19.76**	**19.73**	**19.71**	**19.92**	**19.78**	**0.44**
Total Non-DoC production	51.66	51.75	52.08	52.33	52.87	52.26	0.60
Processing gains	2.54	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	2.57	0.03
Total Non-DoC liquids production	**54.20**	**54.32**	**54.65**	**54.90**	**55.44**	**54.83**	**0.63**

*Note: * 2026 = Forecast. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.*

Source: OPEC.

Table 5 - 2: Non-DoC liquids production in 2027*, mb/d

Non-DoC liquids production	2026	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027	Change 2027/26
Americas	28.51	28.54	28.46	28.70	28.96	28.67	0.16
of which US	*22.32*	*22.21*	*22.34*	*22.38*	*22.47*	*22.35*	*0.03*
Europe	3.58	3.61	3.50	3.45	3.56	3.53	-0.05
Asia Pacific	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.39	0.39	0.38	-0.01
Total OECD	**32.48**	**32.53**	**32.33**	**32.54**	**32.91**	**32.58**	**0.10**
China	4.62	4.65	4.64	4.54	4.56	4.60	-0.02
India	0.82	0.81	0.80	0.80	0.81	0.81	-0.01
Other Asia	1.62	1.60	1.58	1.59	1.61	1.60	-0.02
Latin America	7.98	8.24	8.28	8.38	8.55	8.36	0.39
Middle East	2.03	2.08	2.12	2.16	2.24	2.15	0.12
Africa	2.26	2.30	2.29	2.28	2.29	2.29	0.03
Other Eurasia	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.00
Other Europe	0.09	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.10	0.00
Total Non-OECD	**19.78**	**20.15**	**20.17**	**20.23**	**20.52**	**20.27**	**0.49**
Total Non-DoC production	52.26	52.68	52.50	52.76	53.43	52.85	0.59
Processing gains	2.57	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	2.59	0.02
Total Non-DoC liquids production	**54.83**	**55.27**	**55.09**	**55.35**	**56.02**	**55.44**	**0.61**

*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.*

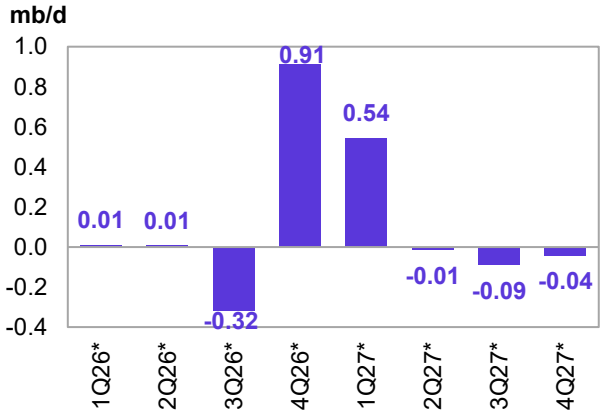
Source: OPEC.

OECD

In 2026, OECD liquids production (excluding the DoC participating country, Mexico) is forecast to increase by 0.2 mb/d to an average of 32.5 mb/d. OECD Americas is again forecast to be the primary growth driver, with an increase of 0.2 mb/d to average 28.5 mb/d. OECD Europe liquids production is set to drop by about 45 tb/d to average 3.6 mb/d, while OECD Asia Pacific is set to fall by about 14 tb/d to average 0.4 mb/d.

In 2027, OECD liquids production (excluding the DoC participating country, Mexico) is forecast to increase by 0.1 mb/d to an average of 32.6 mb/d. Growth is forecast to be led by the OECD Americas region, with an expected increase of 0.2 mb/d to average 28.7 mb/d. OECD Europe liquids production is expected to drop by about 50 tb/d to average 3.5 mb/d, while OECD Asia Pacific is expected to decline by about 10 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 0.4 mb/d.

Graph 5 - 3: OECD quarterly liquids production, y-o-y changes



*Note: * 1Q26-4Q27 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.*

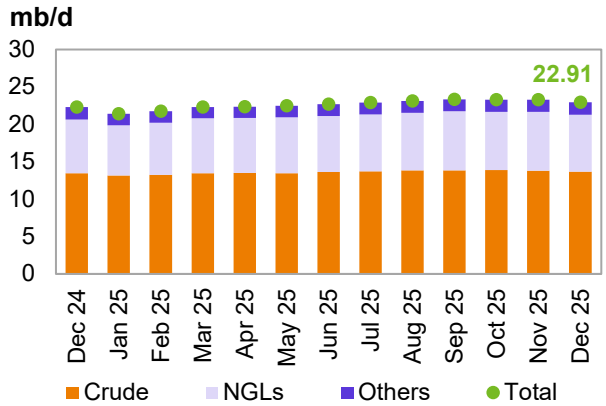
US

US liquids production in December 2025 dropped by 0.4 mb/d, m-o-m, to average 22.9 mb/d, according to the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). This was around 0.6 mb/d higher than in December 2024.

Crude oil and condensate production fell, m-o-m, by 133 tb/d to 13.7 mb/d. This is up by about 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y.

In terms of the crude and condensate production breakdown by region (PADDs), production dropped on the US Gulf Coast (USGC) (PADD 3) by 53 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 10.2 mb/d. Production on each of the East and West Coasts (PADD 1 and PADD 5) rose by about a minor 5 tb/d, while output in the Midwest (PADD 2) fell by 92 tb/d, m-o-m. Production in the Rocky Mountain (PADD 4) region remained largely unchanged, m-o-m.

Graph 5 - 4: US monthly liquids production by key component



Sources: EIA and OPEC.

The m-o-m decline in output in the main producing regions is primarily attributable to reduced production from wells in North Dakota, New Mexico and Texas. However, these losses were partially offset by gains in offshore platforms in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) and in Wyoming.

According to the US Department of Energy (DoE), NGLs production dropped by 249 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 7.6 mb/d in December. This was 0.4 mb/d higher, y-o-y. The production of non-conventional liquids (mainly ethanol) rose by a minor 5 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 1.7 mb/d. Preliminary estimates indicate that non-conventional liquids averaged about 1.7 mb/d in January 2026, lower by about 40 tb/d, m-o-m.

GoM production rose by 43 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 2.0 mb/d in December. This is higher by about 126 tb/d, y-o-y. The recent increase in project activity is projected to help maintain output levels in the near term. In the onshore Lower 48, crude and condensate production fell by 181 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 11.2 mb/d in December.

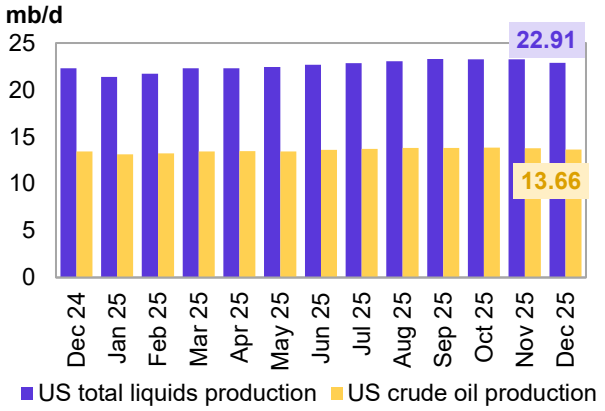
Table 5 - 3: US crude oil production by selected state and region, tb/d

State	Dec 24	Nov 25	Dec 25	Change m-o-m	Change y-o-y
Texas	5,685	5,830	5,805	*-25*	*120*
New Mexico	2,106	2,324	2,257	*-67*	*151*
Gulf of Mexico (GoM)	1,870	1,953	1,996	*43*	*126*
North Dakota	1,192	1,168	1,092	*-76*	*-100*
Colorado	503	470	457	*-13*	*-46*
Alaska	434	428	433	*5*	*-1*
Oklahoma	408	416	412	*-4*	*4*
Total	**13,437**	**13,788**	**13,655**	***-133***	***218***

Sources: EIA and OPEC.

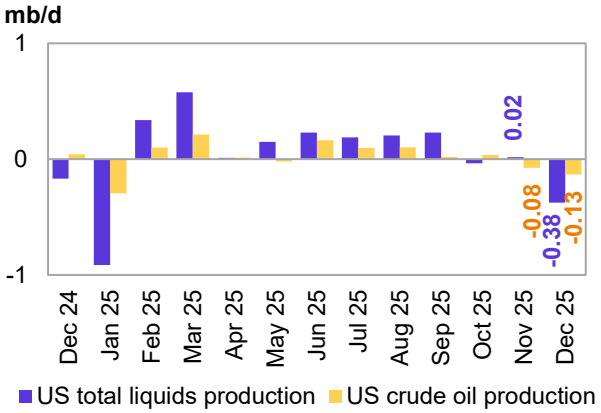
From the perspective of individual states, New Mexico's oil production decreased by 67 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 2.3 mb/d. This is 151 tb/d higher than a year ago. Texas production dropped by 25 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 5.8 mb/d. This is 120 tb/d higher than a year ago. In the Midwest, North Dakota's production fell by 76 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 1.1 mb/d. This was lower by 100 tb/d, y-o-y. Production in Oklahoma dropped by a minor 4 tb/d, m-o-m, to an average of 0.4 mb/d. Production in Colorado fell by 13 tb/d, while output in Alaska rose by 5 tb/d, m-o-m.

Graph 5 - 5: US monthly crude oil and total liquids production



Sources: EIA and OPEC.

Graph 5 - 6: US monthly crude oil and total liquids production, m-o-m changes



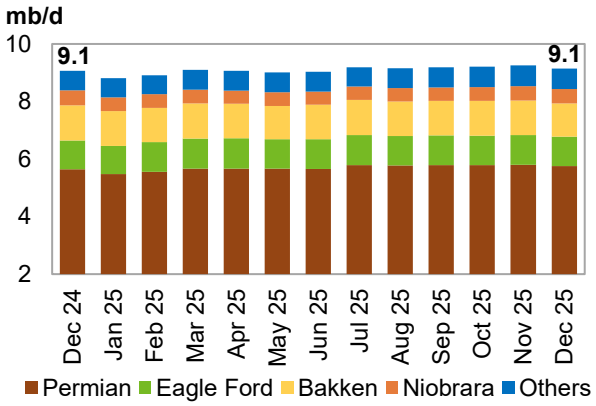
Sources: EIA and OPEC.

US tight crude production in December 2025 is estimated to have dropped by 0.1 mb/d, m-o-m, to average 9.1 mb/d, drawing on data provided by the latest EIA estimates. This was 74 tb/d higher than in the same month of 2024.

M-o-m production from shale and tight formations using horizontal wells in the Permian in Texas and New Mexico is estimated to have dropped by 38 tb/d to an average of 5.8 mb/d. Y-o-y, this was up by 116 tb/d.

In the Williston Basin, Bakken shale oil production is estimated to have fallen by 59 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 1.2 mb/d. This was due to a cold snap in December. Y-o-y, however, this was down by 73 tb/d. Tight crude production from the Eagle Ford in Texas dropped by 10 tb/d to average 1.0 mb/d. This was up by 19 tb/d, y-o-y. Production at Niobrara-Codell in Colorado and Wyoming rose by a minor 2 tb/d, m-o-m, to about 501 tb/d.

Graph 5 - 7: US tight crude production breakdown

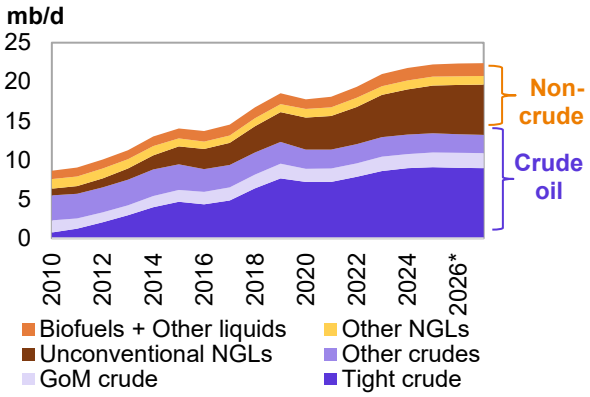


Sources: EIA and OPEC.

In 2025, US liquids production, excluding processing gains, is estimated to have expanded by about 0.5 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 22.2 mb/d.

Crude oil and condensate production is set to have increased by 0.2 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 13.4 mb/d. At the same time, NGLs production is estimated to have risen by 0.3 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 7.2 mb/d. Non-conventional liquids, in particular ethanol, are estimated to have dropped by a marginal 30 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 1.6 mb/d. Tight crude production in 2025 is set to have averaged 9.1 mb/d, up by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y.

Graph 5 - 8: US liquids production developments by component



*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast.*
Source: OPEC.

In 2026, US liquids production, excluding processing gains, is expected to increase by around 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 22.3 mb/d. Crude oil and condensate production is set to drop by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 13.3 mb/d. Conversely, NGLs production is forecast to increase by 0.2 mb/d to average 7.4 mb/d, and non-conventional liquids are set to increase by about 50 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 1.6 mb/d. Average tight crude production in 2026 is set to drop by about 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 9.0 mb/d. The 2026 forecast indicates sustained caution in capital allocation, a moderation in drilling activity, incremental efficiency gains in drilling and completion, and strengthening associated gas output in key shale-producing regions.

In 2027, US liquids production, excluding processing gains, is forecast to expand by just 30 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 22.4 mb/d. Crude oil and condensate output is expected to drop by 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 13.2 mb/d. Conversely, NGLs production is projected to increase by 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 7.5 mb/d, while non-conventional liquids output is forecast to remain largely unchanged at 1.6 mb/d. Average tight crude output in 2027 is expected to drop by about 30 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 9.0 mb/d. The 2027 forecast assumes ongoing capital discipline, moderate efficiency gains and continued growth in associated gas from major shale oil plays.

Table 5 - 4: US liquids production breakdown, mb/d

US liquids	2025	Change 2025/24	2026*	Change 2026/25	2027*	Change 2027/26
Tight crude	9.09	0.13	8.99	-0.10	8.96	-0.03
GoM crude	1.88	0.09	1.93	0.05	1.91	-0.02
Conventional crude oil	2.45	-0.04	2.39	-0.06	2.33	-0.06
Total crude	**13.42**	**0.18**	**13.31**	**-0.11**	**13.20**	**-0.11**
Unconventional NGLs	6.08	0.31	6.26	0.18	6.42	0.16
Conventional NGLs	1.15	0.00	1.13	-0.02	1.11	-0.02
Total NGLs	**7.24**	**0.30**	**7.39**	**0.16**	**7.53**	**0.14**
Biofuels + Other liquids	1.57	-0.03	1.62	0.05	1.62	0.00
US total production	**22.22**	**0.46**	**22.32**	**0.10**	**22.35**	**0.03**

*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast.*

Sources: EIA and OPEC.

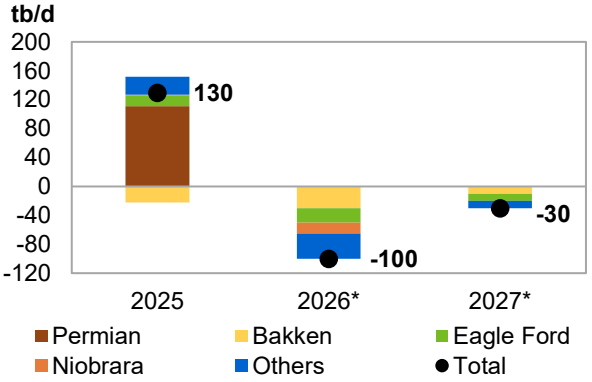
US tight crude production in the Permian Basin during 2025 is estimated to have increased by 0.1 mb/d, y-o-y, to average 5.7 mb/d. In 2026 and 2027, it is expected to remain largely unchanged.

In North Dakota, Bakken shale production is estimated to have declined by 22 tb/d, leaving it at about 1.2 mb/d in 2025. This remains below its pre-pandemic average of 1.4 mb/d. With anticipated declines of around 29 tb/d in 2026 and 10 tb/d in 2027, the basin appears to be approaching a more mature phase.

Production in the Eagle Ford Basin in Texas is estimated to have grown by 15 tb/d in 2025 to average 1.0 mb/d. Production is forecast to decline by 20 tb/d and 10 tb/d in 2026 and 2027, y-o-y, respectively.

In the Niobrara region, production in 2025 is estimated to have remained largely unchanged, y-o-y, at an average of 474 tb/d. With an expected drop of 15 tb/d in 2026 and a stable output in 2027, production is projected to stand at around 460 tb/d in the near term. In other tight oil plays, output is estimated to have risen, y-o-y, by 25 tb/d in 2025 to average 690 tb/d. Production is expected to drop by 35 tb/d in 2026, due to an estimated slowdown in drilling and completion operations. An additional drop of about 10 tb/d is forecast for 2027, y-o-y.

Graph 5 - 9: US tight crude production by shale play, y-o-y changes



*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast.*
Sources: EIA and OPEC.

Table 5 - 5: US tight oil production growth, mb/d

US tight oil	2025	Change 2025/24	2026*	Change 2026/25	2027*	Change 2027/26
Permian tight	5.70	0.11	5.70	0.00	5.70	0.00
Bakken shale	1.20	-0.02	1.17	-0.03	1.16	-0.01
Eagle Ford shale	1.03	0.02	1.01	-0.02	1.00	-0.01
Niobrara shale	0.47	0.00	0.46	-0.02	0.46	0.00
Other tight plays	0.69	0.03	0.65	-0.04	0.64	-0.01
Total	**9.09**	**0.13**	**8.99**	**-0.10**	**8.96**	**-0.03**

*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast.*

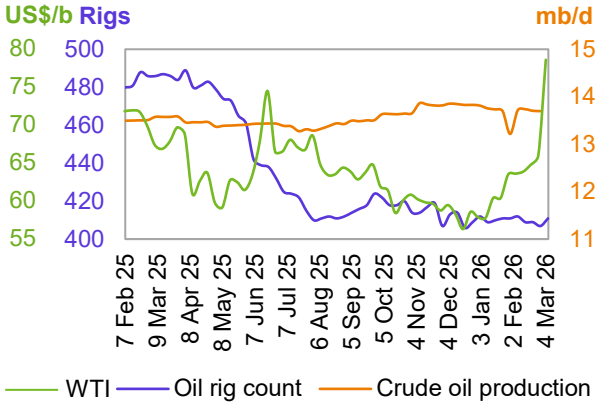
Sources: EIA and OPEC.

US rig count, spudded, completed, DUC wells and fracking activity

According to Baker Hughes, the total number of active US oil and gas drilling rigs in the week ending 6 March 2026 rose by one, w-o-w, to 551. This is 41 fewer rigs than a year ago. The number of active offshore rigs increased by one, w-o-w, to 18. This is four more than in the same month of 2025. The number of onshore oil and gas rigs rose by one, w-o-w, to 532, with one rig in inland waters. This is down by 44 rigs, y-o-y.

The US horizontal rig count rose by two, w-o-w, to 485. This compares with 531 horizontal rigs a year ago. The number of drilling rigs for oil rose by four, w-o-w, to 411, while the number of gas drilling rigs dropped by two, w-o-w, to 132.

Graph 5 - 10: US weekly rig count vs. US crude oil production and WTI price



Sources: Baker Hughes, EIA and OPEC.

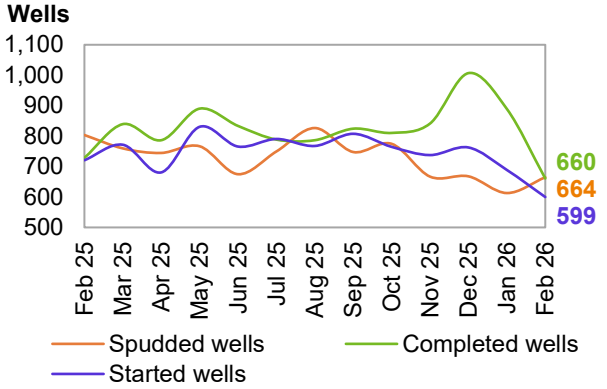
The Permian's rig count rose by one, w-o-w, to 241. The rig count in the Cana Woodford and DJ-Niobara Basins remained unchanged, w-o-w, at 22 and nine, respectively. Rig count in the Eagle Ford Basin rose by three, w-o-w, to 43, while it dropped by one, w-o-w, to 27 in the Williston Basin.

Based on preliminary data, drilling and completion activities for oil-producing wells across all US shale plays included 612 horizontal wells spudded in January. This is down by 55, m-o-m, and 28% lower than the same month a year earlier.

Preliminary January 2026 data indicate a lower number of completed wells, m-o-m, at 889. However, this is up by about 20%, y-o-y. The number of started wells is estimated at 688, which is approximately 10% lower than the same period in 2025.

Preliminary data for February show 664 spudded, 660 completed, and 599 started wells, according to Rystad Energy.

Graph 5 - 11: Spudded, completed and started wells in US shale plays

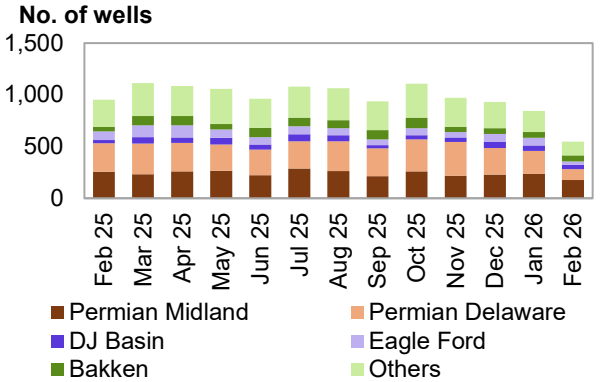


Note: Jan 26-Feb 26 = Preliminary data.
Sources: Rystad Energy and OPEC.

Regarding identifying US oil and gas fracking operations, it was reported that 930 wells began fracking in December 2025. In January and February 2026, it was reported that 843 and 547 wells began fracking, respectively, according to preliminary numbers based on an analysis of high-frequency satellite data.

In regional terms, preliminary January data for the Permian Midland and Permian Delaware regions indicate that 234 and 223 wells, respectively, began fracking. This constitutes a gain of six wells in the Midland and a loss of 33 wells in the Delaware, m-o-m. Preliminary data also indicates that during January, 51 wells began fracking in the DJ Basin, 76 in the Eagle Ford and 56 in the Bakken.

Graph 5 - 12: Started fracs per month by region



Note: Jan 26-Feb 26 = Preliminary data.
Sources: Rystad Energy and OPEC.

Canada

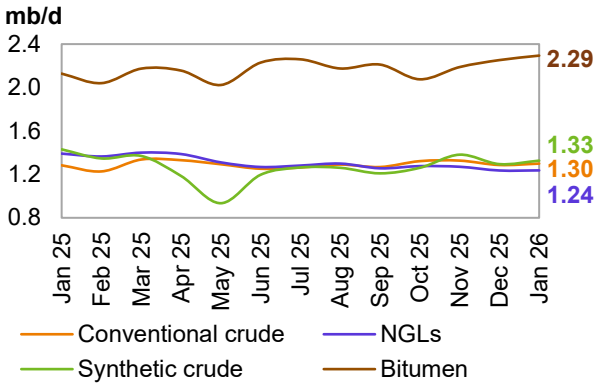
Canada's January 2026 liquids production is estimated to have increased by about 87 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 6.2 mb/d.

Conventional crude production rose by 13 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 1.3 mb/d. NGLs production remained largely unchanged, m-o-m, at an average of 1.2 mb/d.

Crude bitumen production in January rose by 41 tb/d, m-o-m, while synthetic crude production increased by around 32 tb/d. Taken together, crude bitumen and synthetic crude production averaged 3.6 mb/d across the month.

Liquids production in 1Q26 is expected to be robust, ahead of the planned maintenance scheduled for the second quarter.

Graph 5 - 13: Canada's monthly liquids production development by type



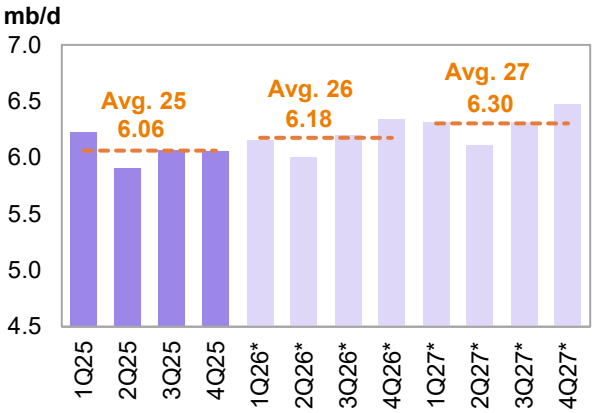
Sources: Statistics Canada, Alberta Energy Regulator and OPEC.

In 2026, Canada's liquids production is forecast to expand by another 0.1 mb/d to average 6.2 mb/d. Oil sands production is expected to be primarily driven by brownfield developments, asset expansion, debottlenecking initiatives and the broader adoption of advanced drilling technologies.

Incremental production sources are expected from the Montney play, Athabasca, Syncrude Mildred Lake, Kearl, Horizon, Christina Lake, Suncor, Foster Creek, Firebag, Fort Hills, Duvernay and Cold Lake projects. The main start-ups in 2026 are expected to be Foster Creek, Leismer, Charlie Lake, Blackrod, Reford SAGD and Meota SAGD projects. The White Rose Extension project is also expected to begin offshore production.

In 2027, Canada's liquids production is forecast to expand again by about 0.1 mb/d to average 6.3 mb/d. The main sources of production are expected to come from the Montney play, Athabasca oil sands, Syncrude Mildred Lake/Aurora, Kearl, Duvernay, Foster Creek, Horizon oil sands, Suncor oil sands, Clearwater heavy oil, and Christina Lake. The principal start-ups in 2027 are the Kirby-Pike, Aspen, and Horizon oil sands projects.

Graph 5 - 14: Canada's quarterly liquids production and forecast



*Note: * 1Q26-4Q27 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.*

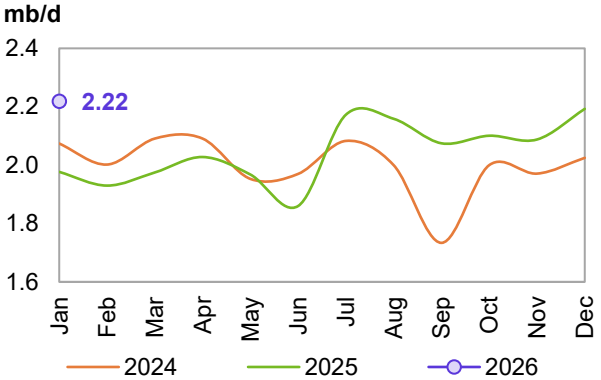
Norway

Norwegian liquids production in January rose by 25 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 2.2 mb/d. Norway's crude production increased by 35 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 2.0 mb/d. This was higher by around 236 tb/d, y-o-y.

NGLs and condensate production dropped, m-o-m, by 10 tb/d in January to average about 0.2 mb/d, according to Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD) data.

Norwegian liquids production is forecast to drop by about 40 tb/d to average 2.0 mb/d in 2026. Several projects are scheduled to ramp up through the year, including Balder/Ringhorne, Heidrun, Gina Krog, Maria, and Snohvit.

Graph 5 - 15: Norway's monthly liquids production development



Sources: The Norwegian Offshore Directorate (NOD) and OPEC.

Simultaneously, a number of start-ups are expected to have limited assets, such as the Norne and Aasgard floating, production, storage, and offloading (FPSO) platforms, the Syrma and Edvard Grieg oil fields and the Irpa (Asterix) and Dvalin gas condensate projects.

In 2027**,** Norwegian liquids production is forecast to fall by around 30 tb/d to average 2.0 mb/d. Multiple projects are expected to ramp up over the course of the year, including Valhall, Snorre and Edvard Grieg. At the same time, a number of start-ups are expected to have limited assets, incorporating the Yggdrasil project through the North of Alvheim, Krafla/Askja and Lille Frigg assets, as well as the Symra and Bestla projects.

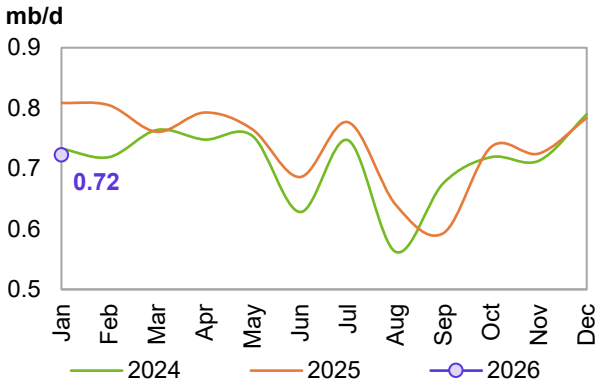
UK

In January, UK liquids production is estimated to have dropped by 61 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 0.7 mb/d. Crude oil production fell by 46 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 0.6 mb/d. The January crude level was lower by about 85 tb/d, y-o-y, based on preliminary national data. NGLs production decreased by 15 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 73 tb/d.

In 2026, UK liquids production is forecast to drop by approximately 13 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 0.7 mb/d. Production ramp-ups are forecast at the Clair, Triton, the Murlach (Skua redevelopment) asset and a Captain EOR phase. Anasuria and Triton are also expected to add volumes through their start-up assets. Nevertheless, declines across older oil projects are projected to offset production increases.

UK liquids production is forecast to drop by about 30 tb/d to average 0.7 mb/d in 2027. Minor production ramp-ups are forecast at the Clair, Buzzard, Penguins, J-Area and Anasuria projects. The main asset start-up is expected at the Rosebank project. However, renewed declines from ageing fields are again likely to offset the additional volumes.

Graph 5 - 16: UK monthly liquids production development



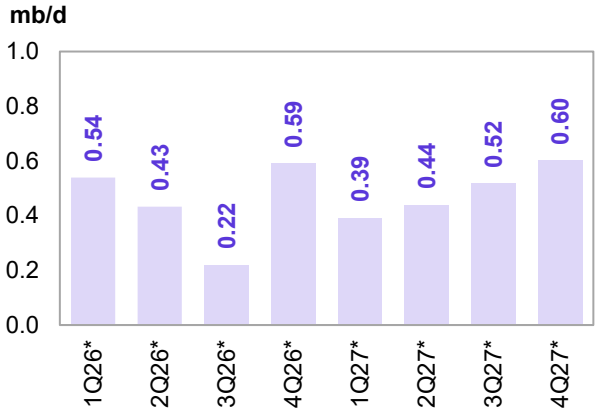
Sources: UK Department for Energy Security and Net Zero and OPEC.

Non-OECD

In 2026, non-OECD liquids production (excluding the countries participating in DoC) is forecast to increase by 0.4 mb/d to an average of 19.8 mb/d.

In 2027, non-OECD liquids production (excluding the countries participating in DoC) is forecast to rise by 0.5 mb/d to an average of 20.3 mb/d.

Graph 5 - 17: Non-OECD quarterly liquids production, y-o-y changes



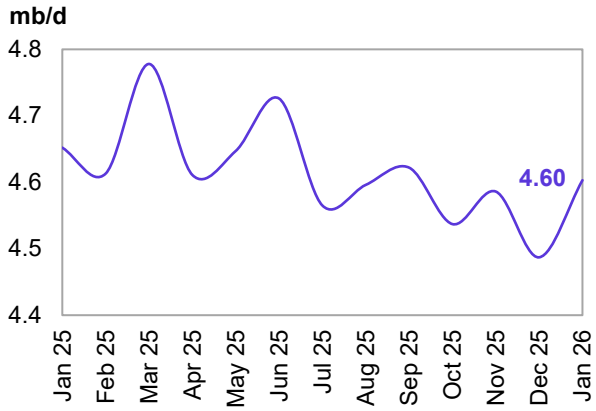
*Note: * 1Q26-4Q27 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.*

China

China's liquids production rose by 116 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 4.6 mb/d in January 2026. According to official data, this is down by 49 tb/d, y-o-y. January crude oil production averaged 4.3 mb/d. This was higher by about 115 tb/d from the previous month, albeit down by 48 tb/d, y-o-y.

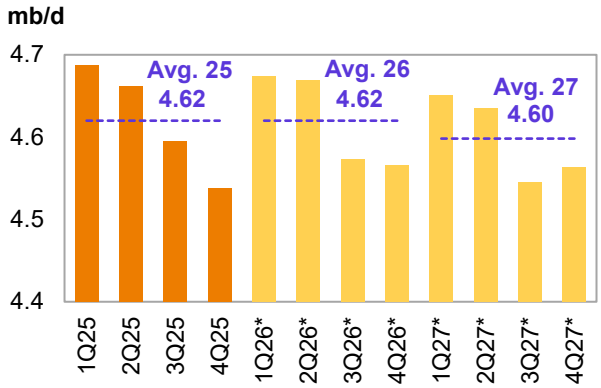
NGLs production remained largely unchanged, m-o-m, at an average of about 25 tb/d. This was largely consistent with the same month last year.

Graph 5 - 18: China's monthly liquids production development



Sources: National Bureau of Statistics of China and OPEC.

Graph 5 - 19: China's quarterly liquids production and forecast



*Note: * 1Q26-4Q27 = Forecast.*
Sources: National Bureau of Statistics of China and OPEC.

In 2026, Chinese liquids production is expected to remain unchanged, y-o-y, to average 4.6 mb/d, in line with the previous assessment. In the short term, additional infill drilling and EOR projects are expected to markedly slow the decline rates in legacy wells. Offshore developments, particularly in Bohai Bay in northern China and the South China Sea, are expected to continue driving most of the production growth, bolstered by the latest increases in companies' E&P investment.

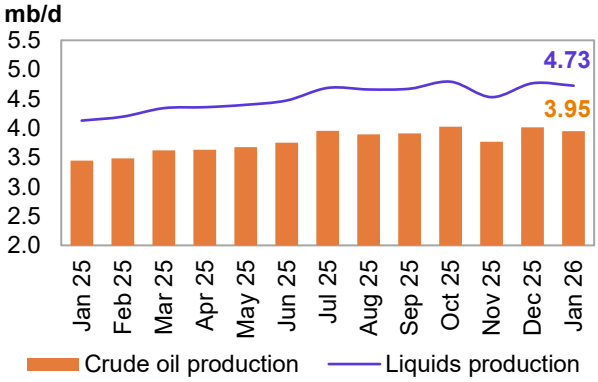
Several oil and gas condensate projects are set to come online, namely Weizhou 11-4, Peng Lai 19-3, Kenli 9-1 and Weizhou 10-3W. Most of the upcoming projects are operated by CNOOC, Sinopec and PetroChina. At the same time, key ramp-ups are expected from the Peng Lai 19-3/19-9, Wushi 17-2, Xijiang 30-2, Kenli 10-2 and Huizhou 26-6 projects.

In 2027, Chinese liquids production is expected to drop by about 20 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 4.6 mb/d. The year is set to see the launch of several new oil and gas condensate projects, namely Bozhong 25-1, Bozhong 34-1W, Bozhong 19-6, Bozhong 34-9, Xijiang 24-1, Panyu 10-4, Shengli and Jinzhou 25-3 projects. Concurrently, notable ramp-ups are expected at the Kenli 9-1, Yanchang, Baikouquan tight oil (Xinjiang), Bozhong 25-1 and East China Sea projects.

Brazil

Brazil's crude production in January 2026 dropped by 65 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 4.0 mb/d. NGLs production remained largely unchanged at an average of around 97 tb/d, with this expected to have remained around the same level in February. Biofuel production (mainly ethanol) is estimated to have risen by 15 tb/d, m-o-m, to an average of 0.7 mb/d, with preliminary February data indicating a stable trend. The country's total liquids production fell by about 42 tb/d in January, m-o-m, to an average of 4.7 mb/d. This is higher by 0.6 mb/d, y-o-y.

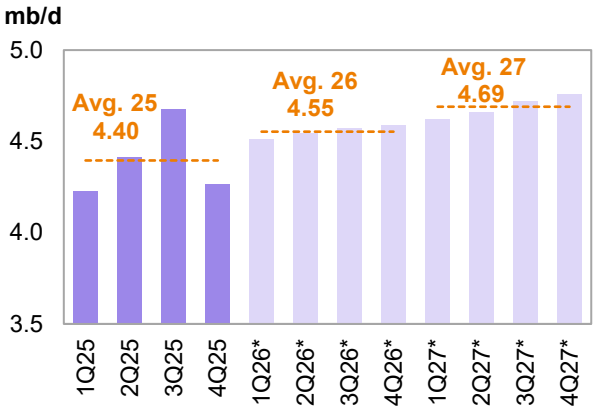
Graph 5 - 20: Brazil's monthly liquids production development by type



Sources: Brazilian National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels (ANP) and OPEC.

In 2026, Brazil's liquids production, including biofuels, is forecast to rise by about 160 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 4.6 mb/d. Upstream liquids production is set to increase through production ramp-ups at the Buzios (Franco), Mero (Libra NW), Marlim and Bacalhau (x-Carcara) projects. Oil project start-ups are expected at the Buzios and Wahoo fields, as well as from the Albacora Leste Cluster. However, operational challenges and unexpected disruptions on certain platforms may still affect the anticipated production timelines.

Graph 5 - 21: Brazil's quarterly liquids production



*Note: * 1Q26-4Q27 = Forecast. Sources: ANP and OPEC.*

In 2027, Brazil's liquids supply, including biofuels, is forecast to increase by about 140 tb/d, y-o-y, to average 4.7 mb/d. Upstream liquids output is expected to increase as production ramps up at the Buzios (Franco), Bacalhau, Marlim, and Wahoo projects. Oil project start-ups are expected at the Buzios field and the Pampo-Enchova Cluster asset.

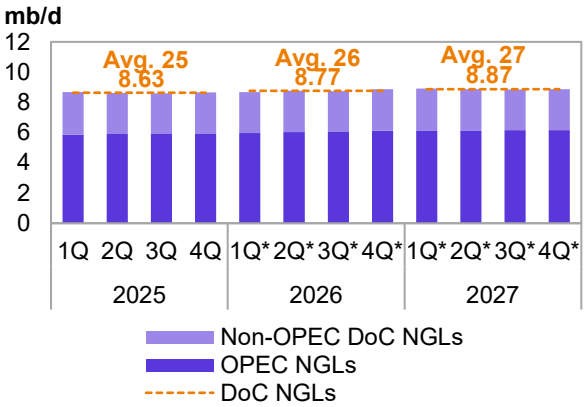
It is worth noting that rising development costs, combined with ongoing inflationary pressures, are increasingly weighing on offshore project economics. These challenges could push final investment decisions further into the future and could potentially slow the pace of new offshore capacity additions.

DoC NGLs and non-conventional liquids

Preliminary data show that NGLs and non-conventional liquids production in 1Q26 averaged 8.7 mb/d. According to preliminary January 2026 data, OPEC Member Countries and non-OPEC DoC countries are estimated to have produced 6.0 mb/d and 2.7 mb/d of NGLs and non-conventional liquids, respectively.

The 2026 forecast indicates a combined increase of approximately 130 tb/d, with an average of 8.8 mb/d. For OPEC Member Countries, NGLs and non-conventional liquids production is projected to expand by about 150 tb/d to average 6.0 mb/d. However, a drop of about 20 tb/d is forecast for non-OPEC DoC countries to average 2.7 mb/d.

Graph 5 - 22: DoC NGLs and non-conventional liquids quarterly production and forecast



*Note: * 1Q26-4Q27 = Forecast. Source: OPEC.*

In 2027, the forecast shows collective growth of 110 tb/d, with an average of 8.9 mb/d. NGLs and non-conventional liquids for OPEC Member Countries are forecast to expand by about 100 tb/d to average 6.1 mb/d. Non-OPEC DoC countries are expected to witness growth of about 10 tb/d.

Table 5 - 6: DoC NGLs + non-conventional liquids production, mb/d

DoC NGLs and non-conventional liquids	2025	Change 25/24	2026	Change 26/25	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027	Change 27/26
OPEC	**5.90**	*0.13*	**6.05**	*0.15*	6.13	6.14	6.15	6.16	**6.15**	*0.10*
Non-OPEC DoC	**2.74**	*-0.03*	**2.72**	*-0.02*	2.77	2.73	2.71	2.70	**2.73**	*0.01*
Total	**8.63**	***0.10***	**8.77**	***0.13***	**8.90**	**8.87**	**8.86**	**8.87**	**8.87**	***0.11***

Note: 2026 and 2027 = Forecast.
Source: OPEC.

DoC crude oil production

Total DoC crude oil production averaged 42.72 mb/d in February 2026, which is 445 tb/d higher, m-o-m.

Table 5 - 7: DoC crude oil production based on *secondary sources*, tb/d

Secondary sources	2024	2025	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb/Jan
Algeria	905	934	920	941	963	970	967	973	*6*
Congo	253	260	257	262	262	263	262	270	*9*
Equatorial Guinea	57	53	55	51	48	51	52	53	*1*
Gabon	222	227	232	225	222	226	217	216	*-1*
IR Iran	3,257	3,263	3,289	3,239	3,208	3,210	3,142	3,176	*34*
Iraq	4,163	4,011	3,957	3,995	4,094	4,119	4,157	4,188	*31*
Kuwait	2,429	2,475	2,431	2,488	2,564	2,576	2,581	2,582	*1*
Libya	1,092	1,296	1,290	1,310	1,294	1,311	1,304	1,281	*-23*
Nigeria	1,429	1,510	1,529	1,512	1,482	1,477	1,488	1,460	*-28*
Saudi Arabia	8,978	9,471	9,179	9,705	10,041	10,073	10,086	10,110	*24*
UAE	2,950	3,142	2,994	3,259	3,371	3,376	3,389	3,419	*30*
Venezuela	867	937	925	946	943	917	823	903	*80*
Total OPEC	**26,604**	**27,579**	**27,057**	**27,934**	**28,492**	**28,567**	**28,466**	**28,630**	***164***
Azerbaijan	481	461	461	459	458	458	457	458	*0*
Bahrain	176	180	183	184	165	131	123	139	*16*
Brunei	79	86	83	85	90	90	89	89	*0*
Kazakhstan	1,539	1,778	1,824	1,855	1,674	1,583	1,195	1,489	*293*
Malaysia	347	344	345	340	339	344	336	345	*9*
Mexico	1,578	1,458	1,460	1,467	1,452	1,453	1,434	1,436	*1*
Oman	766	777	763	785	803	805	806	809	*2*
Russia	9,197	9,129	8,995	9,201	9,346	9,304	9,240	9,184	*-56*
Sudan	29	23	24	24	21	18	17	22	*5*
South Sudan	72	113	108	141	130	115	112	122	*10*
Total Non-OPEC DoC	**14,263**	**14,348**	**14,247**	**14,541**	**14,478**	**14,301**	**13,810**	**14,092**	***282***
Total DoC	**40,867**	**41,927**	**41,303**	**42,476**	**42,970**	**42,868**	**42,276**	**42,722**	***445***

Notes: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding, given available secondary sources to date.

Source: OPEC.

OPEC crude oil production

OPEC crude oil production for February, as reported by OPEC Member Countries, is shown in ***Table 5 - 8*** below.

Table 5 - 8: OPEC crude oil production based on *direct communication*, tb/d

Direct communication	2024	2025	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb/Jan
Algeria	907	936	920	948	968	972	971	973	*2*
Congo	260	269	267	273	275	281	275	291	*15*
Equatorial Guinea	57	46	46	39	43	46	54	..	..
Gabon	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
IR Iran	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Iraq	3,862	3,775	3,632	3,751	4,047	4,081	4,097	4,140	*43*
Kuwait	2,411	2,470	2,418	2,483	2,569	2,580	2,580	2,580	*0*
Libya	1,136	1,372	1,367	1,374	1,363	1,371	1,378	1,287	*-90*
Nigeria	1,345	1,453	1,481	1,444	1,420	1,422	1,459	1,314	*-146*
Saudi Arabia	8,955	9,480	9,183	9,735	10,045	10,084	10,100	10,111*	*11*
UAE	2,916	3,119	2,958	3,241	3,364	3,373	3,383	3,390	*7*
Venezuela	921	1,081	1,062	1,095	1,131	1,120	924	1,021	*97*
Total OPEC	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..

Notes: .. Not available. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

** Saudi Arabia's supply to the market in February was 10,111 tb/d, and production was 10,882 tb/d.*

Source: OPEC.

Product Markets and Refinery Operations

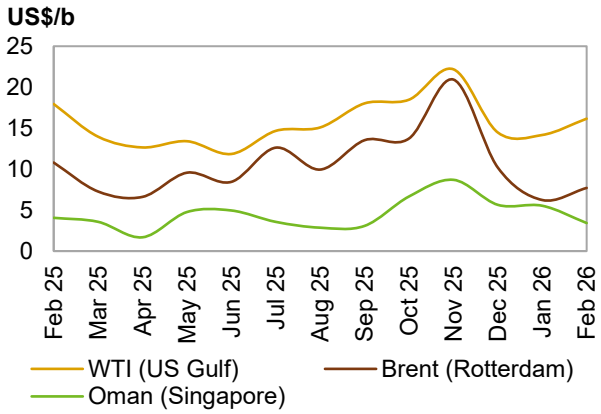
In February, refining margins in the Atlantic Basin increased amid a seasonal rise in refinery downtime for maintenance, reflecting a reduction in product output. Moreover, geopolitical tensions and concerns over supply disruptions further contributed to upside pressure on refining economics. On the US Gulf Coast (USGC), margins were supported by gasoline and middle distillate strength, while in Rotterdam, gains were seen across the barrel, except for LSFO.

However, in Singapore, refining margins declined amid high regional gasoline inventories, higher jet/kerosene availability in Southeast Asia, and stronger feedstock prices, weighing on regional refining profitability.

Refinery margins

USGC refining margins against WTI rose to a three-month high in February but remained below the level registered at the same time a year earlier. The gains were primarily driven by gasoline, and additional upside came from the middle of the barrel. EIA data up to 20 February shows a significant three-week consecutive decline in total motor gasoline stocks in the USGC. Gasoil stocks in the USGC declined slightly as the cold snap in the northern hemisphere boosted heating oil requirements. However, despite the gasoil stock draw registered in February, gasoil stock levels in the USGC remained elevated amid the impact of robust gasoil stock builds in previous months.

Graph 6 - 1: Refining margins



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

The severe winter weather witnessed in late January prompted several refineries in the Midwest and Gulf Coast to transition to planned maintenance shutdowns in early February.

This contributed to a notable decline in refinery processing rates and product output, exerting upward pressure on USGC refining economics. According to preliminary data, refinery intake in the USGC decreased by 650 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 16.16 mb/d in February. USGC margins against WTI averaged $16.14/b, up $1.99, m-o-m, but down $1.79, y-o-y.

Rotterdam refinery margins against Brent increased, reaching a double-digit level and an eleven-week high at the end of February. This upside reflected the geopolitical situation and disruptions to product flows. Furthermore, the seasonal decline in refinery processing rates during the heavy turnaround season further strengthened European product markets. Refinery outages in Europe rose by 750 tb/d, m-o-m, to nearly 1.8 mb/d in February, with significant offline volumes in Germany, France, Italy, Spain and Greece. This led to upside pressure on all key product crack spreads, except LSFO. According to S&P Global, Indian product delivery remained subdued through January and February, reflecting typical seasonal weakness. Meanwhile, total product inventory in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp storage hub declined 3.5%, m-o-m, and 3.6%, y-o-y, according to S&P Global data published on 26 February.

According to preliminary data, February refinery runs in EU-14, Norway and the UK decreased by 380 tb/d to an average of 9.30 mb/d. Refinery margins against Brent in Europe averaged $7.70/b in February, which was $1.47 higher, m-o-m, but $3.09 lower, y-o-y.

Singapore's refining margins against Oman declined for the third consecutive month to a five-month low and remained at the lowest level among its Western counterparts. Elevated regional gasoline cargo availability amid firm exports from the West, along with sluggish demand from Indonesia, exerted pressure. Furthermore, higher gasoline exports from South Korea, Japan, India, and the Middle East further exacerbated the weakness in Southeast Asian product markets. Moreover, lengthening jet/kerosene balances in the region amid geopolitical East-to-West volume-flow risks weighed on Singapore's product exports. Additionally, crude prices rose significantly in February, further pressuring refining margins.

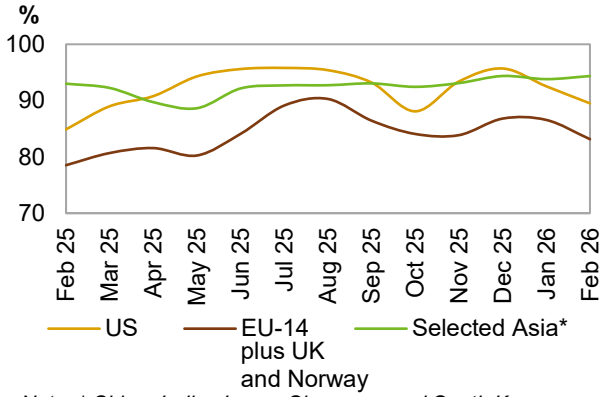
According to preliminary data, the combined February refinery intake for Japan, China, India, Singapore and South Korea increased by 160 tb/d, m-o-m, to average 27.90 mb/d. Refinery margins against Oman averaged $3.40/b, which was $2.11 lower, m-o-m, and was $0.63/b lower, y-o-y.

Refinery operations

US refinery utilization rates showed a 3.5% drop to an average of 89.08% in February. This corresponds to a throughput of 16.16 mb/d, a decrease of 650 tb/d relative to the January level. Compared to the previous year, the February refinery utilization rate was 4.6 pp higher, with throughput showing a 124 tb/d decline.

EU-14 plus the UK and Norway refinery utilization averaged 83.14% in February, corresponding to a throughput of 9.30 mb/d. This represents a 3.4 pp, or 380 tb/d decline, m-o-m. On a yearly basis, the utilization rate was up by 4.6 pp, with throughput 138 tb/d higher.

Graph 6 - 2: Refinery utilization rates



*Note: * China, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea.*
Sources: Argus, EIA, PAJ and OPEC.

In Selected Asia – Japan, China, India, Singapore and South Korea – refinery utilization rates increased to an average of 94.35% in February, corresponding to a throughput of 27.90 mb/d. Compared with the previous month, utilization rates were up 0.5 pp, while throughput was higher by 160 tb/d. Relative to last year, utilization rates were 1.4 pp higher, while throughput was 678 tb/d higher.

Table 6 - 1: Refinery operations in selected OECD countries

	Refinery throughput, mb/d				*Refinery utilization, %*			
	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb/Jan	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb/Jan
US	**17.25**	**16.81**	**16.16**	**-0.65**	**95.70**	**92.54**	**89.52**	**3.0 pp**
Euro-14, plus UK and Norway	**9.71**	**9.68**	**9.30**	**-0.38**	**86.78**	**86.55**	**83.14**	**-3.4 pp**
France	1.04	1.03	0.99	-0.04	90.71	89.89	86.45	-3.4 pp
Germany	1.60	1.71	1.65	-0.06	93.34	99.85	96.43	-3.4 pp
Italy	1.21	1.28	1.21	-0.07	66.80	70.58	66.80	-3.8 pp
UK	0.89	0.81	0.84	0.03	86.77	78.84	81.77	2.9 pp
Selected Asia	**27.74**	**27.74**	**27.90**	**0.16**	**94.37**	**93.81**	**94.35**	**0.5 pp**
China	14.77	14.91	15.24	0.33	87.37	88.22	90.19	2.0 pp
India	5.60	5.61	5.65	0.04	108.12	104.67	105.40	0.7 pp
Japan	2.78	2.72	2.58	-0.13	89.35	87.39	83.08	-4.3 pp
South Korea	3.00	2.91	2.83	-0.08	99.40	96.41	93.73	-2.7 pp

Sources: Argus Media, EIA, NBS, PAJ and OPEC.

Table 6 - 2: Refinery crude throughput, mb/d

Refinery crude throughput	2023	2024	2025	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	1Q26
OECD Americas	**18.71**	**18.96**	**19.02**	**18.24**	**19.27**	**19.68**	**18.87**	**18.52**
of which US	*16.50*	*16.62*	*16.71*	*15.93*	*16.97*	*17.21*	*16.69*	*16.47*
OECD Europe	**11.38**	**11.28**	**11.29**	**11.07**	**11.10**	**11.71**	**11.30**	**11.17**
of which:								
France	*0.93*	*0.92*	*0.96*	*0.93*	*0.83*	*1.04*	*1.04*	*1.01*
Germany	*1.62*	*1.76*	*1.68*	*1.64*	*1.65*	*1.74*	*1.68*	*1.67*
Italy	*1.30*	*1.21*	*1.22*	*1.16*	*1.28*	*1.32*	*1.11*	*1.22*
UK	*0.97*	*0.98*	*0.93*	*0.92*	*1.00*	*0.91*	*0.89*	*0.83*
OECD Asia Pacific	**5.86**	**5.71**	**5.72**	**5.63**	**5.68**	**5.69**	**5.88**	**5.74**
of which Japan	*2.56*	*2.37*	*2.39*	*2.43*	*2.27*	*2.31*	*2.53*	*2.57*
Total OECD	**35.95**	**35.96**	**36.03**	**34.93**	**36.05**	**37.07**	**36.05**	**35.43**
Latin America	**3.54**	**3.69**	**3.66**	**3.65**	**3.63**	**3.70**	**3.65**	**3.67**
Middle East	**7.53**	**7.96**	**8.15**	**8.03**	**8.03**	**8.30**	**8.23**	**8.70**
Africa	**1.75**	**1.93**	**2.11**	**2.12**	**2.07**	**2.14**	**2.12**	**2.28**
India	**5.18**	**5.30**	**5.44**	**5.62**	**5.41**	**5.29**	**5.44**	**5.56**
China	**14.77**	**14.25**	**14.80**	**14.80**	**14.46**	**15.08**	**14.88**	**15.08**
Other Asia	**5.00**	**5.05**	**5.13**	**5.14**	**5.06**	**5.16**	**5.16**	**5.33**
Russia	**5.50**	**5.35**	**5.21**	**5.28**	**5.31**	**5.08**	**5.16**	**5.25**
Other Eurasia	**1.03**	**1.04**	**1.07**	**1.09**	**1.04**	**1.09**	**1.05**	**1.03**
Other Europe	**0.48**	**0.51**	**0.54**	**0.50**	**0.48**	**0.57**	**0.60**	**0.51**
Total Non-OECD	**44.78**	**45.08**	**46.11**	**46.24**	**45.49**	**46.41**	**46.29**	**47.42**
Total world	**80.73**	**81.04**	**82.14**	**81.17**	**81.54**	**83.48**	**82.35**	**82.84**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

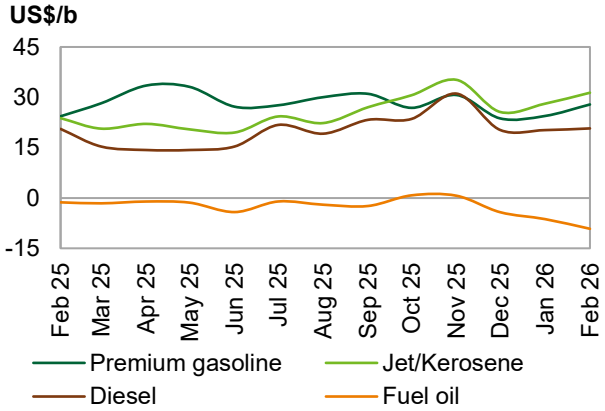
Sources: AFREC, APEC, EIA, IEA, PAJ, Ministry data, including Ministry of Energy of the Russian Federation, Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas of India, OPEC and JODI.

Product markets

US market

The USGC gasoline crack spread against WTI extended its upward trend. EIA data up to 20 February show a significant three-consecutive-week decline in total USGC motor gasoline stocks. This is attributed to suppressed gasoline imports in January and February, which helped offset seasonal weakness on the demand side and the decline in exports. The weather-related operational disruptions witnessed in late January likely contributed to the pressure on inventories. In the near term, the ongoing peak refinery maintenance season will likely continue to pressure gasoline balances, providing some support. The USGC gasoline crack spread increased $3.45/b, m-o-m, to reach an average of $27.87/b in February, and was $3.54/b higher, y-o-y.

Graph 6 - 3: US Gulf crack spread vs. WTI



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

The USGC jet/kerosene crack spread against WTI maintained its upward momentum and remained the top positive-margin contributor in absolute terms. This resulted from downward risks to jet/kerosene supplies amid a backdrop of geopolitical developments that raised concerns about jet/kerosene imports. Asia, more specifically South Korea, is a major jet/kerosene supplier to the US, and roughly 20% of the global seaborne jet/kerosene trade transit is exposed to the geopolitical tensions. The USGC jet/kerosene crack spread rose by $3.28/b, m-o-m, to average $31.38/b in February, and was $7.59/b higher, y-o-y.

The USGC gasoil crack spread against WTI increased slightly to recover the previous month's loss; however, it remained highly stable relative to other products. The recent uptick in diesel availability amid elevated gasoil exports from Russia occurred in February but was offset by lower overall refinery output due to

heavy turnarounds. Additionally, the cold snap in the Northern Hemisphere temporarily boosted heating oil demand, underpinning gasoil markets in the Atlantic Basin. The US gasoil crack spread against WTI averaged $20.74/b, which was $0.51/b higher, m-o-m, and $0.16/b higher, y-o-y.

The USGC fuel oil 3.5% crack spread against WTI continued to fall, moving deeper into negative territory. Rising Venezuelan crude imports into the US point to upside potential for HSFO availability, exerting pressure on the product's crack spread. Moreover, the onset of coker turnarounds in the USGC further contributed to suppressed HSFO requirements, resulting in the poor market performance registered in February. In February, the US fuel oil crack spread against WTI decreased by $2.87/b, m-o-m, to average negative $9.14/b, and was $7.85/b lower, y-o-y.

European market

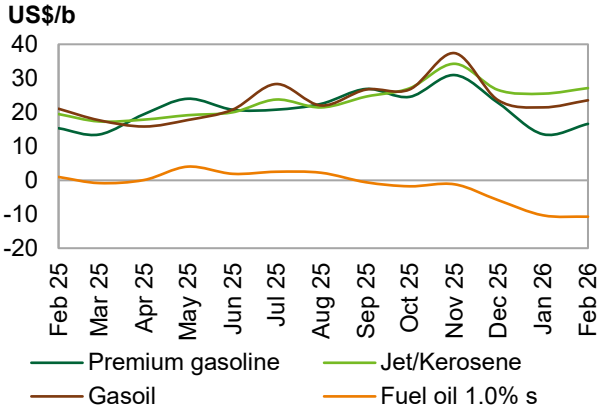
The gasoline crack spread in Rotterdam against Brent showed the highest m-o-m rise across the barrel and partially recovered from the dip recorded in the previous month. Supply-side support, amid reduced refinery gasoline output, outweighed seasonal demand-side pressures, limiting gasoline inventory builds at ARA to a 0.9% m-o-m rise. In the near term, gasoline balances are expected to remain under pressure, which could offer further upside in the coming month. The gasoline crack spread against Brent averaged $16.57/b, which was $3.07/b higher, m-o-m, and $1.30/b higher, y-o-y.

In February, the jet/kerosene crack spread in Rotterdam against Brent rose, and, similarly to what was seen in the US, remained the top margin contributor. The geopolitical situation raised concerns over jet/kerosene supply, leading to upward pressure on jet/kerosene prices and crack spreads. In February, ARA jet fuel inventories declined 11.3 %, m-o-m, suggesting a tighter market. The Rotterdam jet/kerosene crack spread against Brent averaged $27.12/b, up $1.64/b, m-o-m, and up $7.63/b, y-o-y.

The gasoil crack spread in Rotterdam against Brent widened, making it the second-best m-o-m performer across the barrel in February, behind jet/kerosene. Despite a significant m-o-m rise in ARA gasoil inventories, recent geopolitical developments have increased risk premiums on product prices and crack spreads. The gasoil crack spread against Brent averaged $23.53/b, up $2.09/b, m-o-m, and up $2.50/b, y-o-y.

At the bottom of the barrel, fuel oil 1.0% crack spreads in Rotterdam against Brent declined amid weaker fundamentals, as low-sulphur supplies outweighed demand in February. The fuel oil 1.0% crack spread averaged negative $10.77/b in February, representing a $0.40/b decrease, m-o-m, and a $11.70/b decline, y-o-y.

Graph 6 - 4: Rotterdam crack spreads vs. Brent



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Asian market

The Southeast Asia gasoline 92 crack spread against Dubai fell, as the region remains well supplied amid elevated regional supply, particularly from India, and strong refinery runs. Going forward, gasoline fundamentals in the region are expected to firm up amid the heavy turnaround season in the Atlantic Basin; however, geopolitical trade transit constraints could limit this upside. The margin averaged $7.03/b in February, down $2.32/b, m-o-m, and marginally down $0.01/b, y-o-y.

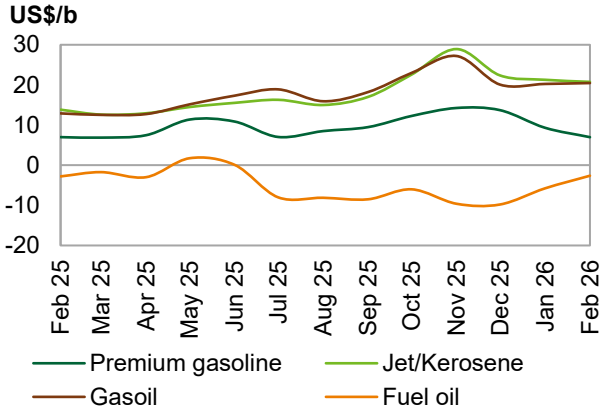
The Asian naphtha crack spread increased slightly, supported by changes in Chinese tax regimes on domestic petrochemical feedstocks. The tax amendment was announced in December and boosted interest in naphtha buying ahead of its implementation. However, once implemented, the tax increase could raise costs for suppliers and traders, reducing demand and pressuring petrochemical producers' margins. The Singapore naphtha crack spread against Dubai averaged negative $2.19/b, which was $0.29/b higher, m-o-m, and $3.11/b higher, y-o-y.

In the middle of the barrel, the jet/kerosene crack spread declined as Singapore oil product stocks increased by 4.5%, m-o-m. Heating demand for jet/kerosene from Japan was supportive, although limited flows from India to Europe kept the region well supplied. The Singapore jet/kerosene crack spread against Dubai averaged $20.77/b, down $0.52/b, m-o-m, but up $6.90/b, y-o-y.

The Singapore gasoil crack spread widened, supported by declining gasoil arrivals from the Middle East and India. However, in the near term, gasoil markets in Asia could come under pressure as expectations of higher exports from China in the coming month could expand gasoil balances in the region. The Singapore gasoil crack spread against Dubai averaged $20.47/b, up $0.22/b, m-o-m, and up $7.55/b, y-o-y.

The Singapore fuel oil 3.5% crack spread strengthened, reflecting the impact of geopolitical risks amid fears surrounding disruptions to fuel oil flows into Asia. Singapore's HSFO crack spread against Dubai averaged negative $2.61/b, up $3.14/b, m-o-m, and up $0.17/b, y-o-y.

Graph 6 - 5: Singapore crack spreads vs. Dubai



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Table 6 - 3: Short-term prospects for product markets and refinery operations

Event	Time frame	Observations	Asia	Europe	US
Seasonality	Mar 26	Transport fuel markets, particularly gasoline, are expected to remain under demand-side pressure in line with seasonal trends.	↓ Pressure on transport fuel markets	↓ Pressure on transport fuel markets	↓ Pressure on transport fuel markets
Ongoing heavy refinery maintenance season	Mar 26–Jun 26	Product balances are expected to contract, supporting product prices, crack spreads, and refining margins.	↑ Upward pressure on product crack spreads	↑ Upward pressure on product crack spreads	↑ Upward pressure on product crack spreads
Impact of the 2025/2026 refinery closures	2026	Around 1.1 mb/d of 2025 refining capacity loss and a 138 tb/d US refinery closure in 2026 contribute to a contraction in product balances, particularly during the maintenance season through 3Q26.	↑ Support product markets	↑ Support product markets	↑ Support product markets
Impact of the 2025/2026 refinery capacity expansions	2026–2027	New product volumes entering international markets amid refinery capacity additions (995 tb/d in 2025 and 740 tb/d in 2026) are expected to boost product balances, particularly in 4Q26 and 2027.	↓ Pressure on product markets	↓ Pressure on product markets	↓ Pressure on product markets
Petrochemical feedstock tax rise in China	From 1Q26 onwards	A higher tax on domestically sourced petrochemical feedstocks could weigh on steam cracker margins and exert pressure on the naphtha market in China.	↓ Pressure on naphtha markets in China	-	-

Source: OPEC.

Table 6 - 4: Refined product prices, US$/b

		Jan 26	Feb 26	Change Feb/Jan	Annual avg. 2025	Year-to-date 2026
US Gulf (Cargoes FOB)						
Naphtha*		61.98	65.59	3.61	63.91	63.79
Premium gasoline	(unleaded 93)	84.67	92.29	7.62	93.01	88.48
Regular gasoline	(unleaded 87)	76.08	82.80	6.72	84.97	79.44
Jet/Kerosene		88.35	95.80	7.45	89.46	92.08
Gasoil	(0.2% S)	80.48	85.16	4.68	84.74	82.82
Fuel oil	(3.0% S)	51.42	55.65	4.23	62.27	53.54
Rotterdam (Barges FOB)						
Naphtha		57.62	62.18	4.56	62.64	59.90
Premium gasoline	(unleaded 98)	80.23	87.66	7.43	90.08	83.95
Jet/Kerosene		92.21	98.21	6.00	91.34	95.21
Gasoil/Diesel	(10 ppm)	88.17	94.62	6.45	91.98	91.40
Fuel oil	(1.0% S)	56.36	60.32	3.96	68.85	58.34
Fuel oil	(3.5% S)	56.83	62.88	6.05	65.13	59.86
Mediterranean (Cargoes FOB)						
Naphtha		54.69	59.44	4.75	60.81	57.07
Premium gasoline**		76.63	81.97	5.34	84.16	79.30
Jet/Kerosene		88.24	94.84	6.60	88.32	91.54
Diesel		87.14	93.82	6.68	90.87	90.48
Fuel oil	(1.0% S)	61.01	65.51	4.50	72.66	63.26
Fuel oil	(3.5% S)	51.52	57.51	5.99	61.75	54.52
Singapore (Cargoes FOB)						
Naphtha		59.59	66.07	6.48	64.73	62.83
Premium gasoline	(unleaded 95)	72.95	77.34	4.39	80.73	75.15
Regular gasoline	(unleaded 92)	71.42	75.29	3.87	78.83	73.36
Jet/Kerosene		83.36	89.03	5.67	86.48	86.20
Gasoil/Diesel	(50 ppm)	82.38	89.46	7.08	87.38	85.92
Fuel oil	(180 cst)	82.01	88.16	6.15	86.03	85.09
Fuel oil	(380 cst 3.5% S)	56.32	65.65	9.33	64.21	60.99

*Note: * Barges. ** Cost, insurance and freight (CIF).*

Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Tanker Market

VLCC spot freight rates showed a strong performance in February, as fleet consolidation and rising tanker demand on long-haul routes tightened availability. On the Middle East-to-East route, spot freight rates rose 65%, m-o-m.

Suezmax spot freight rate edged higher, lifted in part by spill-over support from the exceptionally strong VLCC market. Spot freight rates on the US Gulf Coast (USGC)-to-Europe route rose 7%, m-o-m, in February.

Aframax rates strengthened, particularly in the East of Suez. Rates on the Indonesia-to-East route were up 21%, while Cross-Med rates increased 14%.

Clean spot freight rates weakened East of Suez and edged slightly higher West of Suez. Rates on the Middle East-to-East route decline $5, m-o-m, while rates from Northwest Europe to the US East Coast increased 15% over the same month last year.

Dirty tanker freight rates

Very large crude carriers (VLCC)

Fleet consolidation and rising tanker demand supported VLCC spot freight rates in February ahead of trade disruptions in early March. On average, VLCC spot freight rates in February increased by 57%, m-o-m, and were up 140% compared with the same month last year.

On the Middle East-to-East route, rates averaged WS160 in February. This still constitutes a m-o-m increase of 65% and a gain of 158% compared to the same month last year.

Spot freight rates on the Middle East-to-West route rose 51%, m-o-m, to average WS80. Rates were 122% higher than the same month in 2025.

On the West Africa-to-East route, spot freight rates rose 52% to average WS143. Compared with the same month in 2025, rates were up 127%.

Table 7 - 1: Dirty VLCC spot tanker freight rates, Worldscale (WS)

VLCC	Size *1,000 DWT*	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb 26/Jan 26
Middle East/East	230-280	108	97	160	63
Middle East/West	270-285	65	53	80	27
West Africa/East	260	101	94	143	49

Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Suezmax

Tightness in the VLCC market boosted Suezmax spot freight rates in February. On average, Suezmax rates increased 10%, m-o-m, and were up 89% compared to the same month in 2025.

Table 7 - 2: Dirty Suezmax spot tanker freight rates, WS

Suezmax	Size *1,000 DWT*	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb 26/Jan 26
West Africa/US Gulf Coast	130-135	133	141	159	18
US Gulf Coast/Europe	150	117	131	140	9

Sources: Argus and OPEC.

On the West Africa-to-USGC route, spot freight rates in February averaged WS159, up 13%, m-o-m. Compared with the same month in 2025, spot rates on the route were up by 92%. Rates on the USGC-to-Europe route were up 7%, m-o-m, to average WS140. Y-o-y, rates were 84% higher.

Aframax

Aframax spot freight rates also registered a robust performance in February. Aframax rates on average rose by 14%, m-o-m. Compared with the same month in 2025, rates for the vessel class were 102% higher.

Spot freight rates on the Indonesia-to-East route rose by 21%, m-o-m, to average WS207. Y-o-y, rates on the route were up by 70%.

Table 7 - 3: Dirty Aframax spot tanker freight rates, WS

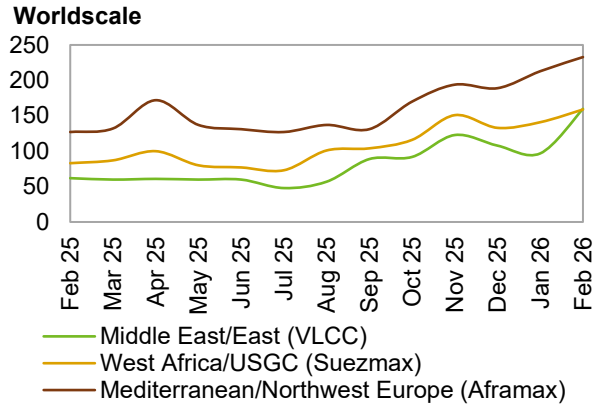
Aframax	Size *1,000 DWT*	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb 26/Jan 26
Indonesia/East	80-85	159	171	207	36
Caribbean/US East Coast	80-85	211	286	331	45
Mediterranean/Mediterranean	80-85	193	214	244	30
Mediterranean/Northwest Europe	80-85	189	213	233	20

Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Spot freight rates on the Caribbean-to-US East Coast (USEC) route gained 16%, m-o-m, to average WS331. Compared with the same month last year, rates increased 171%.

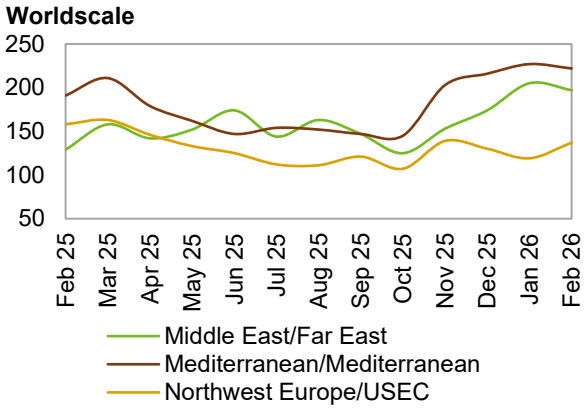
Spot freight rates around the Mediterranean continued to strengthen. Cross-Med rates were up 14%, m-o-m, to average WS244. Compared to the same month of 2025, spot rates on the route gained 85%. Rates on the Med-to-Northwest Europe (NWE) route rose 9%, m-o-m, to average WS233. Compared with the same month in 2025, rates were 83% higher.

Graph 7 - 1: Crude oil spot tanker freight rates, monthly average



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Graph 7 - 2: Products spot tanker freight rates, monthly average



Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Clean tanker freight rates

Clean spot freight rates registered a muted performance in February, with most routes lower than the previous month but higher than the same month last year. East of Suez rates dropped 3%, m-o-m, on average, while West of Suez rates edged up 1%, m-o-m. Compared to the previous year, East of Suez rates were up 28%, while West of Suez rates gained 8%.

Rates on the Middle East-to-East route declined 4% to average WS197. Compared with February 2025, rates were 53% higher. Clean spot freight rates on the Singapore-to-East route fell by 9%, m-o-m, to average WS185. Y-o-y, rates on the route were up 9%.

In contrast to the other monitored routes, clean rates for NWE-to-USEC exhibited gains over the previous month, rising 15%, to average WS137, although dropping 13%, y-o-y. Meanwhile, cross-Med rates slipped 2%, m-o-m, to average WS222. Rates on the Med-to-NWE route fell 3% to average WS232. Y-o-y, spot freight rates on Med routes were about 15% higher.

Table 7 - 4: Clean spot tanker freight rates, WS

East of Suez	Size *1,000 DWT*	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb 26/Jan 26
Middle East/East	30-35	174	205	197	-8
Singapore/East	30-35	200	204	185	-19
West of Suez					
Northwest Europe/US East Coast	33-37	130	119	137	18
Mediterranean/Mediterranean	30-35	216	227	222	-5
Mediterranean/Northwest Europe	30-35	226	240	232	-8

Sources: Argus and OPEC.

Crude and Refined Products Trade

US crude imports rose by 5%, m-o-m, in February. Crude exports from the US averaged 4.2 mb/d, up by 87 tb/d, m-o-m. Product exports slipped to 6.7 mb/d.

In January, crude imports into OECD Europe are estimated to have been below the 5-year range, as refinery closures reduced import requirements. Product imports into OECD Europe fell compared to the previous month, with declines across all major categories.

Japan's crude imports fell back in January from a multiyear high the month before to average 2.5 mb/d. Product exports from Japan jumped, supported by higher outflows of gasoline and gasoil amid healthy margins in the region.

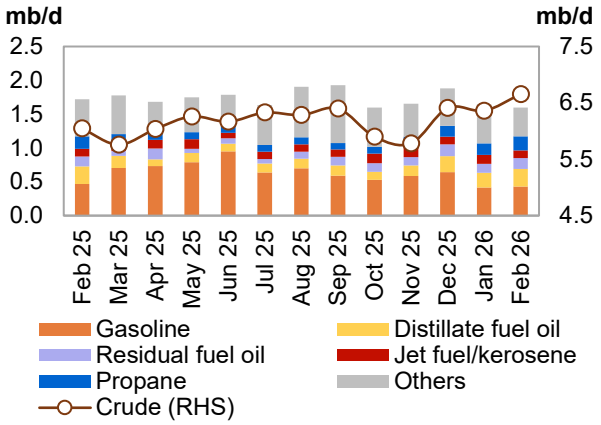
Crude imports into China are estimated to have begun the year above the five-year average, at 12.0 mb/d, although supply sources shifted from the previous month. Product imports into China remained above the five-year range, despite a seasonal decline, m-o-m.

India's crude imports averaged just below 5 mb/d in January. Product imports showed a strong performance of 1.3 mb/d, while exports matched the five-year average.

US

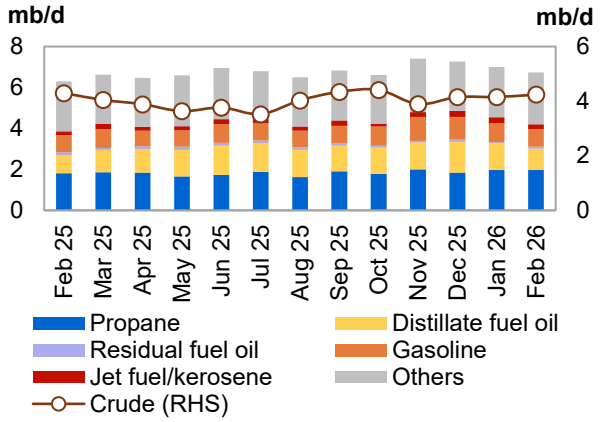
In February, US crude imports moved higher toward the upper end of the five-year range, averaging 6.7 mb/d. This represented a gain of 296 tb/d, or almost 5%, m-o-m, led by higher inflows from Saudi Arabia and Canada. On a y-o-y basis, crude imports were up 611 tb/d, or about 10%.

Graph 8 - 1: US imports of crude and products



Sources: EIA and OPEC.

Graph 8 - 2: US exports of crude and products



Sources: EIA and OPEC.

US crude exports increased by 87 t/bd or about 2%, m-o-m, in February, with gains driven by higher exports to Asia and Colombia. Crude exports averaged just over 4.2 mb/d, representing a drop of 56 tb/d, or about 1% compared with the same month last year.

In February, US net crude imports averaged 2.4 mb/d, compared with 2.2 mb/d in the previous month and 1.8 mb/d in February 2025.

In the oil products trade, US imports averaged just under 1.6 mb/d, representing a drop of 50 tb/d, or about 3%, m-o-m. The February decline was driven by the 'other products' category and jet fuel, offsetting higher distillate and residual fuel oil. Compared with the same month a year earlier, product inflows were down by 123 tb/d, or about 7%.

Product exports declined further, m-o-m, in February, averaging 6.7 mb/d. Despite a m-o-m decline of 258 tb/d, or about 4%, outflows remained strong, supported by distillate and residual fuel oil. Compared with the same month last year, product exports were up by 437 tb/d, or about 7%.

As a result, net product exports averaged 5.1 mb/d in February, down from about 5.4 mb/d in the previous month. A year earlier, net product exports averaged around 4.6 mb/d. Combined net crude and product exports averaged 2.7 mb/d in February, compared with 3.1 mb/d a month earlier and 2.8 mb/d in the same month last year.

Table 8 - 1: US crude and product net imports, mb/d

US	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Change Feb 26/Jan 26
Crude oil	2.26	2.21	2.42	0.21
Total products	-5.40	-5.35	-5.14	0.21
Total crude and products	**-3.13**	**-3.14**	**-2.72**	**0.42**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.
Sources: EIA and OPEC.

OECD Europe

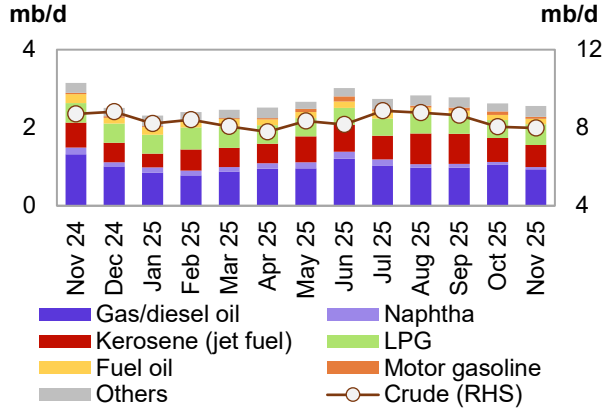
The latest official regional data for OECD Europe shows that crude imports into the region in November were broadly stable, averaging just under 8 mb/d. This represented a dip of 70 tb/d, or less than 1%, m-o-m, but a sharper decline of 725 tb/d, or 8%, y-o-y.

The US was the top crude supplier from outside the region at 1.6 mb/d, compared with 1.4 mb/d in the previous month. Kazakhstan contributed 1.31 mb/d to hold the second-highest share, followed by Iraq with 0.8 mb/d.

Crude exports from OECD Europe averaged 106 tb/d in November, up from 92 tb/d in the month before. Canada was the main destination outside the region, receiving 43 tb/d during the month.

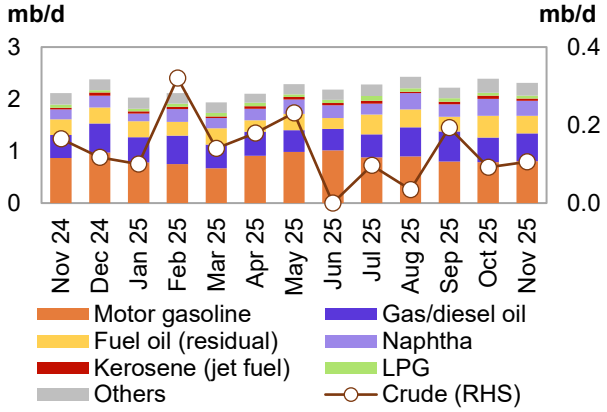
Net crude imports averaged 7.9 mb/d in November, compared with almost 8 mb/d a month earlier and 8.6 mb/d in the same month in 2024.

Graph 8 - 3: OECD Europe's imports of crude and products



Sources: IEA and OPEC.

Graph 8 - 4: OECD Europe's exports of crude and products



Sources: IEA and OPEC.

Product imports averaged 2.6 mb/d in November, a drop of 65 tb/d, or about 3%, m-o-m. The decline was driven primarily by gasoil and motor gasoline, which outweighed an increase in LPG. Y-o-y, product inflows were down by 585 tb/d, or about 19%, with declines led by gasoil and naphtha.

Product exports declined in November, falling 81 tb/d, or 3%, m-o-m, to average 2.3 mb/d. Losses were seen across most major products, but were most pronounced in fuel oil and naphtha. However, compared with November 2024, product exports were 195 tb/d, or about 9%, higher, largely due to higher outflows of naphtha, gasoil and fuel oil.

Preliminary estimates for January show OECD crude imports starting the year below the five-year range, as refinery closures reduced crude import requirements. The decline came from US and Kazakhstan inflows, with the latter impacted by unplanned disruptions at a key export terminal and oil field. Crude exports were limited as North Sea crude remained in the region. Product imports into OECD Europe fell below the five-year range, with declines across major products, particularly gasoil. OECD product exports from OECD Europe also fell, amid lower outflows of clean products, including gasoil.

Net product imports averaged 252 tb/d in November, compared with 236 tb/d the month before and 1.0 mb/d in November 2024. Combined net crude and product imports averaged 8.1 mb/d in November, down from 8.2 mb/d in the previous month and 9.6 mb/d in the same month of 2024.

Table 8 - 2: OECD Europe's crude and product net imports, mb/d

OECD Europe	Sep 25	Oct 25	Nov 25	Change Nov 25/Oct 25
Crude oil	8.45	7.97	7.89	-0.08
Total products	0.56	0.24	0.25	0.02
Total crude and products	**9.01**	**8.21**	**8.14**	**-0.07**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

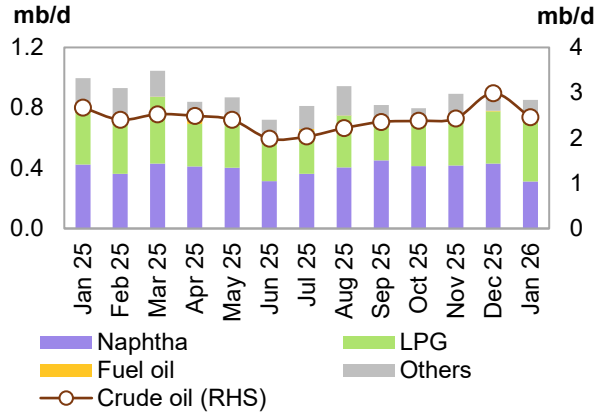
Sources: IEA and OPEC.

Japan

Japan's crude imports fell back in January, after reaching a three-year high the month before. Inflows averaged 2.5 mb/d, representing a drop of 527 tb/d or about 18%, m-o-m. Compared with the same month a year earlier, crude imports were down 211 tb/d, or around 8%.

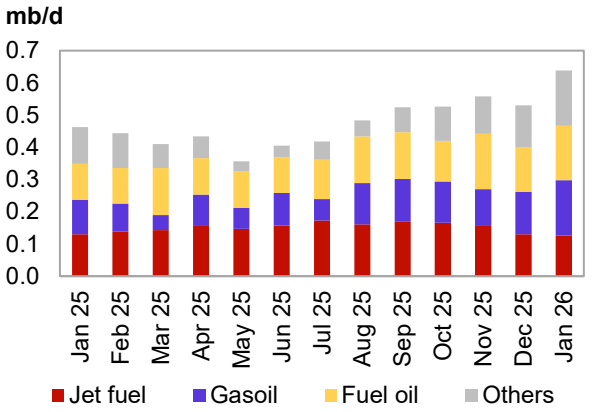
In terms of imports, Saudi Arabia held the largest share in January with 54%, followed by the UAE with 34% and Kuwait with about 4%.

Graph 8 - 5: Japan's imports of crude and products



Sources: METI and OPEC.

Graph 8 - 6: Japan's exports of products



Sources: METI and OPEC.

Product imports, including LPG, averaged 851 tb/d in January, falling well below the five-year range, with a decline of 70 tb/d, or about 8%, m-o-m. Y-o-y, imports were down by 145 tb/d, or about 15%. Losses were seen across most major products, except LPG, with naphtha leading losses.

Product exports, including LPG, jumped in January, supported by elevated run rates, to average 638 tb/d. This was a gain of 108 tb/d, or about 20%, compared with the previous month. Gasoline and gasoil exports, which reached multiyear highs, led gains. Compared with January 2024, product outflows were up by 176 tb/d, or 38%.

As a result, Japan's net product imports, including LPG, averaged 213 tb/d in January compared with 390 tb/d in the previous month and 533 tb/d a year earlier.

Table 8 - 3: Japan's crude and product net imports, mb/d

Japan	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Change Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	2.43	2.99	2.46	-0.53
Total products	0.33	0.39	0.21	-0.18
Total crude and products	**2.76**	**3.38**	**2.67**	**-0.70**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

Sources: METI and OPEC.

China

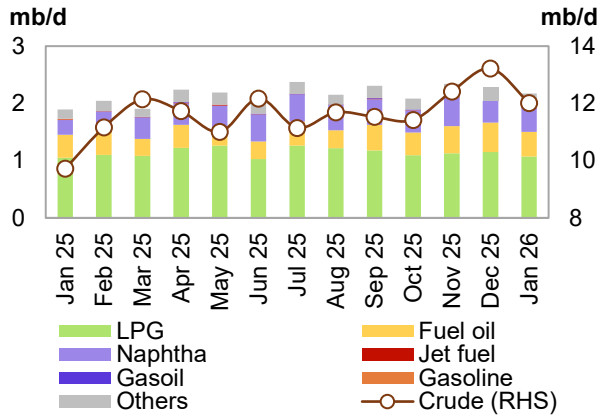
China's crude oil imports fell back from last month's record high to average 12.0 mb/d in January. Inflows remained above the five-year range, although the sources of imports varied compared with the previous month. M-o-m, imports declined by 1.2 mb/d, or about 9%. Compared with the same month in 2024, China's crude imports were still up by a considerable 2.3 mb/d, or almost 24%.

Iraq was the top crude supplier in January, with 21%, up from 17% the month before, followed by Russia with 15% and Brazil with 10%. Imports from Russia were the lowest since December 2022.

Product imports, including LPG, averaged 2.2 mb/d in January, well above the five-year range, despite a decline of 99 tb/d, or over 4%, m-o-m. Most major products declined, except naphtha, which recovered amid higher inflows from the UAE. Compared with the same month a year earlier, product imports were 281 tb/d, or almost 15%, higher. The jump over the last year was largely driven by naphtha, although inflows of fuel oil and LPG were also higher.

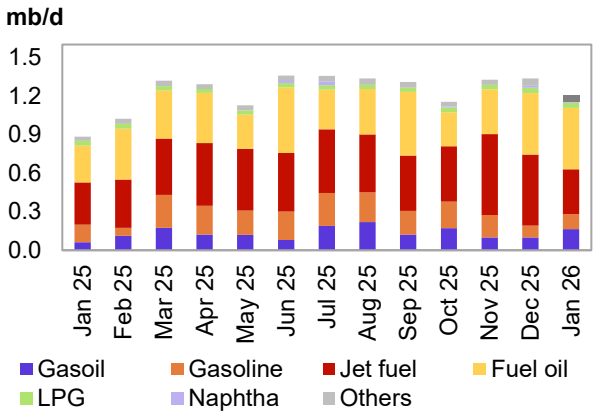
China's product exports, including LPG, averaged 1.2 mb/d in January, down by 126 tb/d or over 9%, m-o-m. A continued decline in gasoline exports for the third month in a row outpaced a drop in gasoil outflows. Product outflows were well above the same month last year, up by about 328 tb/d, or about 37%. The higher outflows were due primarily to diesel and fuel oil.

Graph 8 - 7: China's imports of crude and total products



Sources: GACC and OPEC.

Graph 8 - 8: China's exports of total products



Sources: GACC and OPEC.

Net product imports averaged 964 tb/d in January, compared with 936 tb/d in the previous month and 1.0 mb/d a year earlier.

Table 8 - 4: China's crude and product net imports, mb/d

China	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Change Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	12.40	13.20	11.93	-1.26
Total products	1.01	0.94	0.96	0.03
Total crude and products	**13.41**	**14.13**	**12.90**	**-1.24**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

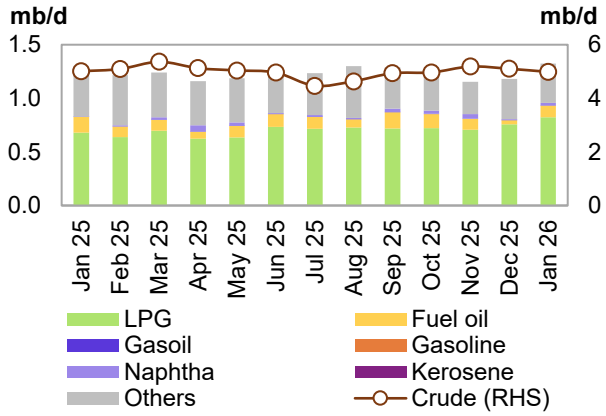
Sources: GACC and OPEC.

India

India's crude imports remained at elevated levels in January, averaging just under 5 mb/d. Compared with the previous month, crude imports declined by 117 tb/d or about 2%, m-o-m. Y-o-y, imports slipped by 25 tb/d, or less than 1%.

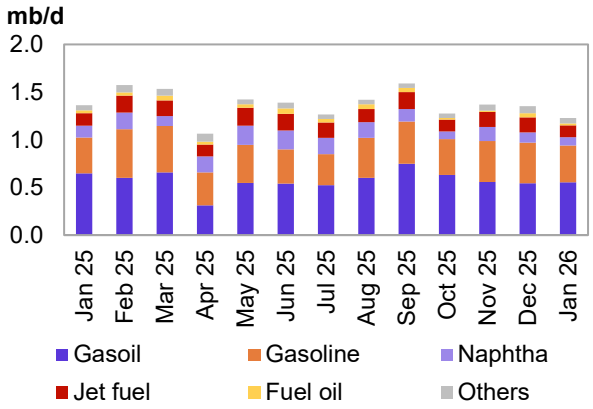
According to Kpler data, Russia remained the top supplier to India in January at 1.2 mb/d, down by about 100 tb/d from the previous month and by 412 tb/d compared to the same month last year. Iraq was second with 1.0 mb/d, followed by Saudi Arabia with 789 tb/d.

Graph 8 - 9: India's imports of crude and products



Sources: PPAC and OPEC.

Graph 8 - 10: India's exports of products



Sources: PPAC and OPEC.

India's product imports started the year strongly, averaging 1.3 mb/d, or higher than the five-year range. Compared to the previous month, product imports were up 144 tb/d, or 12%. Y-o-y, product imports rose by 72 tb/d, or 6%, with gains driven by naphtha and kerosene, partly balanced by a decline in fuel oil.

Product exports remained in line with the five-year average at 1.2 mb/d. This represented a decline of 125 tb/d, or 9%, m-o-m, primarily due to diesel oil and naphtha, which was partly offset by higher gasoline outflows. Y-o-y, product exports were 136 tb/d, or almost 10%, lower.

Consequently, India was a net product importer for the first time in nine months in January at 95 tb/d. This compares with net exports of 175 tb/d in the previous month and 113 tb/d in the same month of 2024.

Table 8 - 5: India's crude and product net imports, mb/d

India	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	*Change* Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	5.18	5.10	4.98	-0.12
Total products	-0.22	-0.17	0.09	0.27
Total crude and products	**4.96**	**4.92**	**5.08**	**0.15**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

India data table does not include information for crude import and product export by Reliance Industries.

Sources: PPAC and OPEC.

Eurasia

Total crude oil exports from Russia and Central Asia fell sharply in January, averaging 5.8 mb/d, a drop of 588 tb/d, or about 9%, m-o-m. Losses were contributed mainly from Black Sea ports, although with contributions from most major outlets. On a y-o-y basis, exports were down 421 tb/d, or almost 8%.

In the Transneft system, crude exports averaged 3.7 mb/d in January, down by 535 tb/d, or about 13%, m-o-m. Declines were seen at the Novorossiysk terminal, as well as at terminals in the Black Sea and Pacific, although flows through the Druzhba pipeline remained broadly steady. Compared with the same month in 2024, crude outflows via the Transneft system were still 89 tb/d, or 2%, higher. Declines were led by exports via Novorossiysk on the Black Sea, which more than erased the previous month's gains, falling 406 tb/d, or about 45%, m-o-m, to average 505 tb/d. Baltic Sea shipments also fell, although less drastically, declining 57 tb/d, or about 4%, m-o-m, to average 1.5 mb/d. The Baltic ports of Primorsk and Ust-Luga both contributed to the decrease. Exports via Primorsk fell by 24 tb/d, or about 2%, m-o-m, while those via Ust-Luga were down by 33 tb/d, or about 6%, m-o-m. Y-o-y, Baltic Sea flows from the two ports were up by 166 tb/d, or over 12%.

As mentioned, shipments via the Druzhba pipeline edged up, m-o-m, to average 218 tb/d in January. This represented an increase of 5 tb/d compared with the previous month, but was a drop of 105 tb/d, or 33%, y-o-y.

Exports to inland China via the ESPO pipeline edged up by 7 tb/d or about 1%, m-o-m, to average 613 tb/d. Flows on the pipeline were down by 18 tb/d, or close to 3%. Exports from the Pacific port of Kozmino declined, falling by 84 tb/d, or close to 9%, m-o-m, to average 876 tb/d. Compared with the same period in 2024, flows to the Kozmino port were up by 41 tb/d, or about 5%.

In the Lukoil system, exports via the Varandey offshore platform in the Barents Sea averaged 160 tb/d, a jump of 90 tb/d, or more than double, m-o-m, and were about the same volume higher, y-o-y, an increase of 61%.

Elsewhere in January, exports from Russia's Far East port of De Kastri increased by 22 tb/d, or about 12%, m-o-m, while flows from Anvia Bay rose by 67 tb/d, or close to 27%, over the same period. Combined, the two ports exported an average of 319 tb/d in the first month of the year.

Central Asian exports averaged 243 tb/d in January, broadly unchanged, m-o-m, and were up by about 4%, y-o-y.

Black Sea exports from the CPC terminal fell further in January, down by 174 tb/d, or by around 17%, m-o-m, to average 843 tb/d. Compared to the same month in 2024, CPC exports were down by 530 tb/d, or almost 40%.

Exports via the BTC pipeline declined by 39 tb/d, or about 7%, to 523 tb/d. Compared to the same month in 2024, crude exports on the BTC pipeline were down 86 tb/d, or 14%, lower, y-o-y.

Total product exports from Russia and Central Asia increased by 201 tb/d, or more than 8%, m-o-m, to average almost 2.6 mb/d. The gains reflected a m-o-m rise in most major products, except naphtha. Y-o-y, total product exports were down by 61 tb/d, or about 2%, due to reduced exports of naphtha, and despite an uptick in fuel oil.

Commercial Stock Movements

According to preliminary January 2026 data, OECD commercial oil inventories fell by 19.9 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 2,824 mb. At this level, OECD commercial stocks were 70.5 mb higher, y-o-y, and 9.8 mb above the latest five-year average, but 103.1 mb below the 2015–2019 average. Within the components, crude and products stocks fell by 3.0 mb and 16.9 mb, m-o-m, respectively.

OECD commercial crude oil stocks stood at 1,313 mb. This was 24.6 mb higher, y-o-y, but 26.9 mb below the latest five-year average, and 118.1 mb lower than the 2015–2019 average.

OECD total product stocks stood at 1,511 mb in January. This was 45.9 mb higher, y-o-y, 36.6 mb above the latest five-year average, and 15.0 mb above the 2015–2019 average.

In terms of days of forward cover, OECD commercial stocks fell by 0.8 days, m-o-m, in January, to stand at 62.0 days. This was 1.3 days higher than in January 2025, but 0.8 days lower than the latest five-year average and in line with the 2015–2019 average.

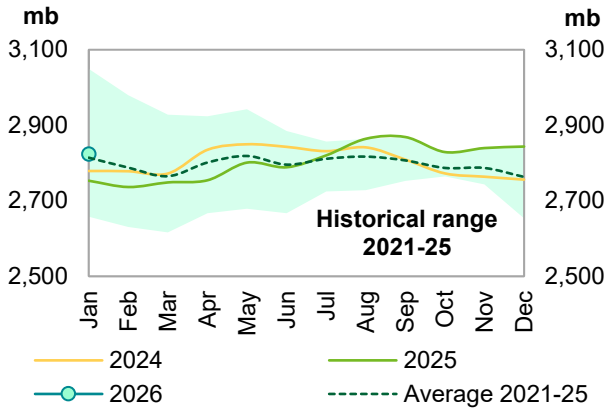
OECD

Preliminary January 2026 data show that OECD commercial inventories fell by 19.9 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 2,824 mb. At this level, OECD commercial stocks were 70.5 mb higher than at the same time during the previous year and 9.8 mb above the latest five-year average, but 103.1 mb below the 2015–2019 average.

Within the components, crude and products stocks fell by 3.0 mb and 16.9 mb, m-o-m, respectively.

Across OECD regions, OECD Europe experienced a stock build in January, whereas OECD America and OECD Asia Pacific saw a stock draw, m-o-m.

Graph 9 - 1: OECD commercial oil stocks



Sources: EIA, IEA, METI, OilX and OPEC.

OECD commercial crude stocks dropped by 3.0 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 1,313 mb. This was 24.6 mb higher than a year earlier, but 26.9 mb below the latest five-year average and 118.1 mb lower than the 2015–2019 average.

Within the OECD regions, crude stocks in OECD America rose by 9.1 mb, while OECD Europe and OECD Asia Pacific crude stocks decreased by 3.2 mb and 8.9 mb, m-o-m, respectively.

OECD total product stocks also fell by 16.9 mb, m-o-m, in January to 1,511 mb. This was 45.9 mb above the same time a year ago, 36.6 mb higher than the latest five-year average, and 15.0 mb above the 2015–2019 average.

Within the OECD regions, product stocks in OECD America and OECD Asia Pacific experienced 18.4 mb and 2.9 mb, m-o-m, draws, respectively, while OECD Europe product stocks saw a 4.4 mb build, m-o-m.

Table 9 - 1: OECD commercial stocks, mb

OECD stocks	Jan 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	*Change* Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	1,289	1,340	1,316	1,313	*-3.0*
Products	1,465	1,500	1,527	1,511	*-16.9*
Total	**2,753**	**2,840**	**2,844**	**2,824**	***-19.9***
Days of forward cover	**60.6**	**62.1**	**62.7**	**62.0**	***-0.8***

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

Sources: EIA, IEA, METI, OilX and OPEC.

In terms of days of forward cover, OECD commercial stocks fell by 0.8 days, m-o-m, in January, to stand at 62.0 days. This is 1.3 days higher than the level registered in January 2025 but 0.8 days below the latest five-year average. Meanwhile, they are in line with the average for the 2015–2019 period.

Within the OECD regions, OECD Americas stood at 0.4 days above the latest five-year average, at 62.5 days. OECD Europe was 3.7 days less than the five-year average, at 68.8 days. OECD Asia Pacific was 0.4 days below the latest five-year average, at 47.5 days.

OECD Americas

OECD Americas' total commercial stocks fell by 9.4 mb, m-o-m, in January, to settle at 1,562 mb. This is 93.7 mb higher than the same month in 2025 and 51.6 mb above the latest five-year average.

Commercial crude oil stocks in the OECD Americas increased by 9.1 mb, m-o-m, in January to 749 mb, which is 21.1 mb higher than in January 2025 but 9.0 mb below the latest five-year average.

By contrast, total product stocks in the OECD Americas fell by 18.4 mb, m-o-m, in January to 813 mb. This is 72.6 mb above the same month in 2025 and 60.6 mb higher than the latest five-year average. Higher consumption in the region contributed to the drawdown in product stock.

OECD Europe

OECD Europe's total commercial stocks rose in January by 1.2 mb, m-o-m, to settle at 918 mb. This is 17.3 mb lower than the same month in 2025, and 32.1 mb below the latest five-year average.

OECD Europe's commercial crude stocks fell by 3.2 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 392 mb. This is 0.8 mb lower than one year ago and 10.9 mb below the latest five-year average.

By contrast, total product stocks increased by 4.4 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 526 mb. This is 16.5 mb below the same time a year ago and 21.2 mb lower than the latest five-year average.

OECD Asia Pacific

OECD Asia Pacific's total commercial oil stocks fell in January by 11.8 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 343 mb. This is 5.9 mb lower than the same time a year ago and 9.7 mb below the latest five-year average.

OECD Asia Pacific's crude stocks fell by 8.9 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 172 mb. This is 4.3 mb above the level from the same month one year ago, but 7.0 mb below the latest five-year average.

OECD Asia Pacific's product stocks also fell by 2.9 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 171 mb. This is 10.1 mb lower than one year ago and 2.7 mb below the latest five-year average.

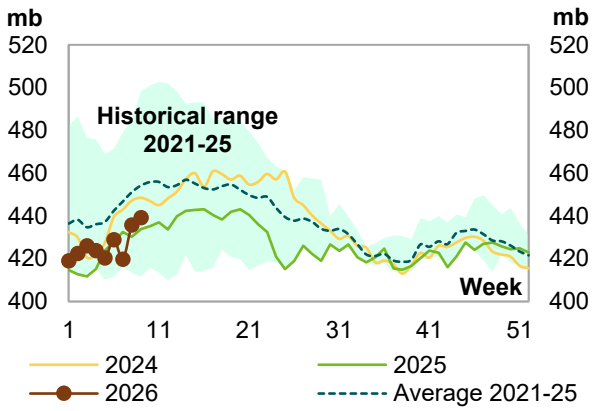
US

Preliminary data for February 2026 shows that total US commercial oil stocks fell by 6.7 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 1,269 mb. This is 67.6 mb, or 5.6%, higher than the same month in 2025 and 37.1 mb, or 3.0%, above the latest five-year average. Crude stocks went up by 19.0 mb, m-o-m, while product stocks declined by 25.7 mb, m-o-m.

US commercial crude stocks in February stood at 439.3 mb. This is 9.5 mb, or 2.2%, higher than the same month in 2025 but 11.3 mb, or 2.5%, below the latest five-year average. The monthly build in crude oil stocks came on the back of lower crude runs, which declined by 650 tb/d to average 16.2 mb/d.

Total product stocks decreased by 25.7 mb in February, m-o-m, to 829.6 mb. This is 58.1 mb, or 7.5%, higher than last year at the same time and 48.4 mb, or 6.2%, above the latest five-year average.

Graph 9 - 2: US weekly commercial crude oil inventories



Sources: EIA and OPEC.

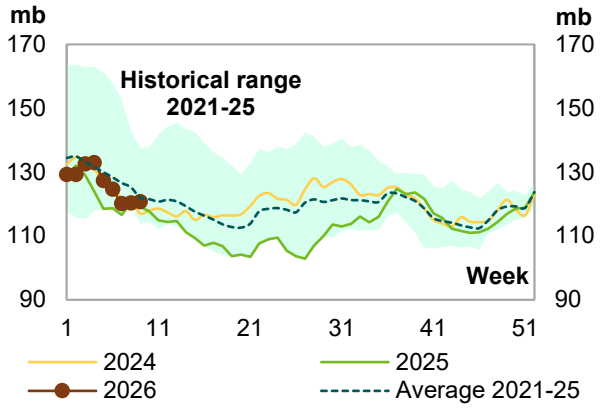
Gasoline stocks fell in February by 4.8 mb, m-o-m, to settle at 253.1 mb. This is 9.4 mb, or 3.9%, higher than the same month in 2025 and 9.4 mb, or 3.9%, above the latest five-year average.

Distillate stocks in February also declined by 6.6 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 120.8 mb. This is 1.4 mb, or 1.2%, higher than the same month a year earlier but 4.5 mb, or 3.6%, below the latest five-year average.

Jet fuel stocks also fell by 0.3 mb, m-o-m, ending February at 42.1 mb. This is 2.1 mb, or 4.7%, lower than the same month in 2025 but 1.9 mb, or 4.7%, above the latest five-year average.

By contrast, residual fuel oil stocks in February increased by 1.0 mb, m-o-m. At 24.7 mb, they were 0.1 mb, or 0.4%, above last year's level but 4.1 mb, or 14.3%, less than the latest five-year average.

Graph 9 - 3: US weekly distillate inventories



Sources: EIA and OPEC.

Table 9 - 2: US commercial petroleum stocks, mb

US stocks	Feb 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Feb 26	*Change* Feb 26/Jan 26
Crude oil	**429.8**	**411.2**	**420.3**	**439.3**	***19.0***
Gasoline	243.7	243.8	257.9	253.1	*-4.8*
Distillate fuel	119.4	128.2	127.4	120.8	*-6.6*
Residual fuel oil	24.6	22.1	23.7	24.7	*1.0*
Jet fuel	44.2	44.4	42.4	42.1	*-0.3*
Total products	**771.5**	**874.9**	**855.3**	**829.6**	***-25.7***
Total	**1,201.3**	**1,286.1**	**1,275.6**	**1,268.9**	***-6.7***
SPR	**395.3**	**413.5**	**415.2**	**415.4**	***0.2***

Sources: EIA and OPEC.

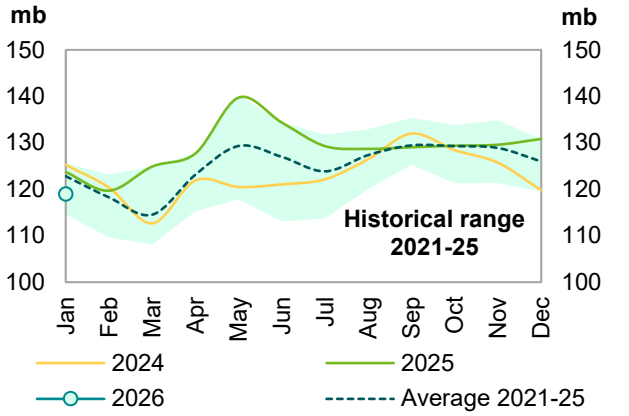
Japan

In Japan, total commercial oil stocks in January 2026 fell by 11.8 mb, m-o-m, to settle at 119.0 mb. This is 4.7 mb, or 3.8%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 3.8 mb, or 3.1%, below the latest five-year average. Crude and products stocks fell by 8.9 mb and 2.9 mb, m-o-m, respectively.

Japanese commercial crude oil stocks fell by 8.9 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 62.1 mb. This is 2.3 mb, or 3.6%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 1.1 mb, or 1.8%, below the latest five-year average. The decline in crude stocks could be attributed to lower crude imports, which fell by about 527 tb/d, or 17.6%, m-o-m, to 2.46 mb/d.

Gasoline stocks increased in January by 0.9 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 10.7 mb. This is 0.8 mb, or 7.1%, below the level recorded a year earlier and 1.1 mb, or 9.1%, below the latest five-year average. The build in gasoline stocks was driven by a slowdown in domestic sales, which fell by 11.7%, m-o-m.

Graph 9 - 4: Japan's commercial oil stocks



Sources: METI and OPEC.

By contrast, middle distillate stocks dropped by 2.0 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 25.4 mb. This is 0.5 mb, or 1.8%, below the same month in 2025 and 1.5 mb, or 5.4%, below the latest five-year average. Among distillate components, jet fuel oil, kerosene, and gasoil stocks declined by 7.7%, 11.0%, and 2.1%, m-o-m, respectively.

Total residual fuel oil stocks also fell by 0.2 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 12.1 mb. At this level, they are 0.3 mb, or 2.4%, lower than the same month a year ago but 0.1 mb, or 1.2%, above the latest five-year average. Within the components, fuel oil A stocks went down by 6.1%, m-o-m, while fuel B.C stocks increased by 0.9%, m-o-m.

Table 9 - 3: Japan's commercial oil stocks*, mb

Japan's stocks	Jan 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Change Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	**64.5**	**67.7**	**71.0**	**62.1**	***-8.9***
Gasoline	11.5	10.7	9.8	10.7	*0.9*
Naphtha	9.5	9.6	10.2	8.7	*-1.5*
Middle distillates	25.8	29.3	27.4	25.4	*-2.0*
Residual fuel oil	12.4	12.3	12.4	12.1	*-0.2*
Total products	**59.2**	**61.9**	**59.8**	**56.9**	***-2.9***
Total**	**123.7**	**129.6**	**130.8**	**119.0**	***-11.8***

*Note: * At the end of the month. ** Includes crude oil and main products only.*
Sources: METI and OPEC.

EU-14 plus the UK and Norway

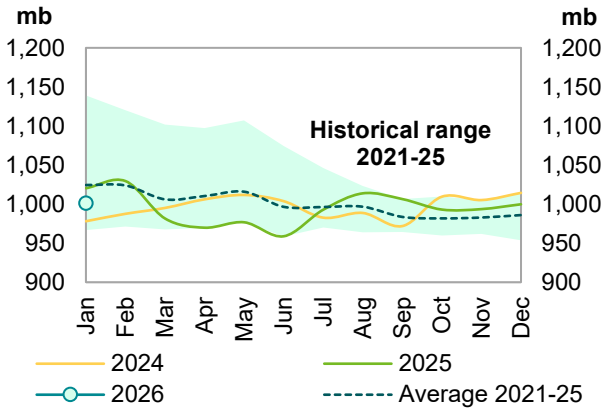
Preliminary data for January 2026 showed that total European oil stocks increased by 1.2 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 1,001 mb. At this level, they were 19.3 mb, or 1.9%, lower than the same month in 2025, and 23.4 mb, or 2.3%, below the latest five-year average. Crude stocks dropped by 3.2 mb, while products stocks went up by 4.4 mb, m-o-m.

European crude stocks stood at 425 mb in January. This is 10.0 mb, or 2.4%, higher than the same month in 2025 and 22.4 mb, or 5.6%, above the latest five-year average. The drop in crude oil stocks was in line with lower refinery throughput in the EU-14 plus the UK and Norway, which decreased by about 30 tb/d, m-o-m, to 9.68 mb/d.

By contrast, total European product stocks rose by 4.4 mb, m-o-m, to end January at 576 mb. This is 29.3 mb, or 4.8%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 45.9 mb or 7.4%, below the latest five-year average. The product stocks built may be attributable to lower regional demand.

Gasoline stocks increased in January by 2.0 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 107 mb, but is 3.9 mb, or 3.5%, lower than the same time in 2025 and 8.2 mb, or 7.1%, less than the latest five-year average.

Graph 9 – 5: EU-14 plus the UK and Norway total oil stocks



Sources: OilX and OPEC.

Table 9 - 4: EU-14 plus UK and Norway's total oil stocks, mb

EU stocks	Jan 25	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Change Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	**415.2**	**433.2**	**428.4**	**425.2**	***-3.2***
Gasoline	110.9	103.5	105.1	107.0	*2.0*
Naphtha	34.2	27.8	27.4	26.4	*-0.9*
Middle distillates	399.7	368.7	378.0	381.7	*3.6*
Fuel oils	60.3	60.4	61.0	60.7	*-0.3*
Total products	**605.1**	**560.4**	**571.4**	**575.8**	***4.4***
Total	**1,020.3**	**993.6**	**999.8**	**1,001.0**	***1.2***

Sources: OilX and OPEC.

Residual fuel stocks decreased in January by 0.3 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 60.7 mb. This is 0.4 mb, or 0.7%, higher than the same month in 2025 and 1.1 mb, or 1.7%, below the latest five-year average.

In contrast, middle distillate stocks rose by 3.6 mb, m-o-m, in January to 381.7 mb. This is 18.1 mb, or 4.5%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 32.5 mb or 7.8%, below the latest five-year average.

Meanwhile, naphtha stocks decreased by 0.9 mb, m-o-m, in January, ending the month at 26.4 mb. This is 7.8 mb, or 22.8%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 4.1 mb, or 13.5%, lower than the latest five-year average.

Singapore, Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) and Fujairah

Singapore

In January, total product stocks in Singapore fell by 2.9 mb, m-o-m, to 47.7 mb. This is 4.1 mb, or 9.4%, higher than the same month in 2025 and 1.9 mb, or 4.1%, above the latest five-year average.

Light distillate stocks increased by 1.6 mb, m-o-m, in January to 17.2 mb. This is 1.6 mb, or 10.0%, higher than the same month a year earlier and 1.8 mb, or 12.0%, above the latest five-year average.

Middle distillate stocks also increased by 0.5 mb, m-o-m, in January to 8.7 mb. This is 0.8 mb, or 8.1%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 0.8 mb, or 8.7%, below the latest five-year average.

By contrast, residual fuel oil stocks fell by 5.0 mb, m-o-m, ending January at 21.8 mb. This is 3.3 mb, or 17.9%, higher than a year ago at the same time and 0.8 mb, or 4.1%, above the latest five-year average.

ARA

Total product stocks in ARA in January rose by 2.4 mb, m-o-m. At 47.1 mb, they were 4.6 mb, or 8.8%, below the same month in 2025, but 2.4 mb, or 5.4%, higher than the latest five-year average.

Gasoline stocks increased by 1.1 mb, m-o-m, ending January at 11.2 mb. This is 2.8 mb, or 20.0%, lower than in January 2025, but 0.3 mb, or 2.6%, above the latest five-year average.

Fuel oil stocks also went up by 0.2 mb, m-o-m, in January to 7.2 mb. This is 1.7 mb, or 19.2%, less than the January 2025 level and 1.3 mb, or 15.4%, lower than the latest five-year average.

Gasoil stocks in January also increased by 1.0 mb, m-o-m, to 15.7 mb. This is 2.6 mb, or 14.0%, lower than the same month in 2025 and 0.1 mb, or 0.9%, less than the latest five-year average.

By contrast, jet oil stocks decreased by 0.6 mb, m-o-m, to stand at 7.4 mb in January. This is 1.3 mb, or 20.4%, higher than the level seen in January 2025 and 1.0 mb, or 15.5%, above the latest five-year average.

Fujairah

During the week ending 2 March, total oil product stocks in Fujairah increased by 0.26 mb, w-o-w, to stand at 20.79 mb, according to data from FEDCom and S&P Global Commodity Insights. At this level, total oil stocks were 1.91 mb higher than at the same time in 2025.

Light distillate stocks increased by 0.14 mb, w-o-w, to stand at 9.87 mb, 3.57 mb higher, y-o-y. Middle distillate stocks fell by 0.23 mb, w-o-w, to 2.69 mb, up 0.51 mb, y-o-y, while heavy distillate stocks increased by 0.35 mb, w-o-w, to stand at 8.22 mb, 2.17 mb below year-earlier levels.

Balance of Supply and Demand

The demand for DoC crude (i.e., crude from countries participating in the DoC) in 2026 is unchanged from the previous month's assessment of 42.9 mb/d, which is about 0.6 mb/d higher than that of 2025.

The demand for DoC crude in 2027 remains unchanged from the previous month's assessment, to stand at 43.6 mb/d, which is about 0.6 mb/d higher than the 2026 forecast.

Balance of supply and demand in 2026

Demand for DoC crude

The demand for DoC crude (i.e., crude from countries participating in the DoC) in 2026 is unchanged from the previous month's assessment of 42.9 mb/d, which is about 0.6 mb/d higher than that of 2025.

Table 10 - 1: DoC production/demand balance for 2026*, mb/d

	2025	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	2026	Change 2026/25
(a) World oil demand	**105.1**	**105.6**	**105.6**	**107.0**	**107.9**	**106.5**	***1.4***
Non-DoC liquids production	54.2	54.3	54.6	54.9	55.4	54.8	*0.6*
DoC NGL and non-conventionals	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.9	8.8	*0.1*
(b) Total non-DoC liquids production and DoC NGLs	**62.8**	**63.0**	**63.4**	**63.6**	**64.3**	**63.6**	***0.8***
Difference (a-b)	**42.3**	**42.6**	**42.2**	**43.4**	**43.6**	**42.9**	***0.6***
DoC crude oil production	**41.9**						
Balance	**-0.4**						

*Note: * 2026 = Forecast. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.*

Source: OPEC.

Balance of supply and demand in 2027

Demand for DoC crude

The demand for DoC crude in 2027 remains unchanged from the previous month's assessment, to stand at 43.6 mb/d, which is about 0.6 mb/d higher than the 2026 forecast.

Table 10 - 2: DoC production/demand balance for 2027*, mb/d

	2026	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027	Change 2027/26
(a) World oil demand	**106.5**	**106.9**	**106.8**	**108.5**	**109.3**	**107.9**	***1.3***
Non-DoC liquids production	54.8	55.3	55.1	55.4	56.0	55.4	*0.6*
DoC NGL and non-conventionals	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	*0.1*
(b) Total non-DoC liquids production and DoC NGLs	**63.6**	**64.2**	**64.0**	**64.2**	**64.9**	**64.3**	***0.7***
Difference (a-b)	**42.9**	**42.7**	**42.9**	**44.2**	**44.4**	**43.6**	***0.6***

*Note: * 2026 and 2027 = Forecast. Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.*

Source: OPEC.

Appendix

Table 11 - 1: World oil demand and production balance, mb/d

World oil demand and production balance	2023	2024	2025	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	2026	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027
World demand													
Americas	25.1	25.3	25.4	25.1	25.3	26.1	25.7	25.5	25.1	25.4	26.2	25.8	25.6
of which US	*20.4*	*20.6*	*20.8*	*20.5*	*20.7*	*21.3*	*20.9*	*20.9*	*20.5*	*20.8*	*21.4*	*21.0*	*20.9*
Europe	13.4	13.5	13.4	12.9	13.7	13.8	13.5	13.5	13.0	13.7	13.8	13.5	13.5
Asia Pacific	7.2	7.2	7.1	7.3	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.1	7.3	6.8	6.9	7.4	7.1
Total OECD	**45.7**	**45.9**	**45.9**	**45.3**	**45.8**	**46.7**	**46.5**	**46.1**	**45.4**	**45.9**	**46.8**	**46.6**	**46.2**
China	16.4	16.7	16.9	17.0	16.7	17.3	17.3	17.1	17.2	16.9	17.5	17.5	17.3
India	5.3	5.6	5.7	5.9	5.9	5.6	6.1	5.9	6.1	6.1	5.8	6.3	6.1
Other Asia	9.2	9.5	9.8	10.0	10.4	10.0	10.0	10.1	10.3	10.6	10.2	10.2	10.3
Latin America	6.7	6.7	6.9	6.9	7.0	7.1	7.1	7.0	7.1	7.2	7.2	7.2	7.2
Middle East	8.6	8.9	9.0	9.0	8.9	9.3	9.2	9.1	9.1	9.1	9.5	9.4	9.3
Africa	4.6	4.6	4.9	5.1	4.8	5.0	5.3	5.0	5.2	4.9	5.1	5.5	5.2
Russia	3.8	3.9	4.0	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1	4.1	3.9	4.1	4.3	4.1
Other Eurasia	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.5	1.3	1.2	1.4	1.3	1.5	1.4	1.2	1.4	1.4
Other Europe	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
Total Non-OECD	**56.7**	**57.9**	**59.2**	**60.3**	**59.8**	**60.3**	**61.4**	**60.4**	**61.5**	**60.9**	**61.6**	**62.7**	**61.7**
(a) Total world demand	**102.4**	**103.8**	**105.1**	**105.6**	**105.6**	**107.0**	**107.9**	**106.5**	**106.9**	**106.8**	**108.5**	**109.3**	**107.9**
Y-o-y change	***2.5***	***1.5***	***1.3***	***1.3***	***1.4***	***1.6***	***1.3***	***1.4***	***1.3***	***1.2***	***1.4***	***1.4***	***1.3***
Non-DoC liquids production													
Americas	26.7	27.7	28.3	27.9	28.4	28.7	28.9	28.5	28.5	28.5	28.7	29.0	28.7
of which US	*21.0*	*21.8*	*22.2*	*21.8*	*22.4*	*22.5*	*22.6*	*22.3*	*22.2*	*22.3*	*22.4*	*22.5*	*22.4*
Europe	3.6	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.5	3.6	3.6	3.6	3.5	3.4	3.6	3.5
Asia Pacific	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Total OECD	**30.7**	**31.7**	**32.3**	**32.0**	**32.3**	**32.6**	**33.0**	**32.5**	**32.5**	**32.3**	**32.5**	**32.9**	**32.6**
China	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.6	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.6	4.6
India	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8
Other Asia	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6	1.6
Latin America	7.0	7.2	7.5	7.9	7.9	8.0	8.1	8.0	8.2	8.3	8.4	8.6	8.4
Middle East	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.1	2.2	2.2	2.2
Africa	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3	2.3
Other Eurasia	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4
Other Europe	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Total Non-OECD	**18.6**	**19.0**	**19.3**	**19.8**	**19.7**	**19.7**	**19.9**	**19.8**	**20.2**	**20.2**	**20.2**	**20.5**	**20.3**
Total Non-DoC production	49.4	50.7	51.7	51.7	52.1	52.3	52.9	52.3	52.7	52.5	52.8	53.4	52.8
Processing gains	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6
Total Non-DoC liquids production	**51.9**	**53.2**	**54.2**	**54.3**	**54.6**	**54.9**	**55.4**	**54.8**	**55.3**	**55.1**	**55.4**	**56.0**	**55.4**
DoC NGLs	8.4	8.5	8.6	8.7	8.8	8.7	8.9	8.8	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9	8.9
(b) Total Non-DoC liquids production and DoC NGLs	**60.2**	**61.7**	**62.8**	**63.0**	**63.4**	**63.6**	**64.3**	**63.6**	**64.2**	**64.0**	**64.2**	**64.9**	**64.3**
Y-o-y change	***2.8***	***1.5***	***1.1***	***0.6***	***0.6***	***0.1***	***1.8***	***0.8***	***1.2***	***0.5***	***0.6***	***0.6***	***0.7***
OPEC crude oil production (secondary sources)	27.1	26.6	27.6										
Non-OPEC DoC crude production	15.0	14.3	14.3										
DoC crude oil production	**42.1**	**40.9**	**41.9**										
Total liquids production	**102.3**	**102.6**	**104.8**										
Balance (stock change and miscellaneous)	*-0.1*	*-1.2*	*-0.4*										
OECD closing stock levels, *mb*													
Commercial	2,780	2,756	2,844										
SPR	1,207	1,245	1,247										
Total	**3,987**	**4,001**	**4,090**										
Oil-on-water	1,391	1,310	1,546										
Days of forward consumption in OECD, *days*													
Commercial onland stocks	61	60	62										
SPR	26	27	27										
Total	**87**	**87**	**89**										
Memo items													
(a) - (b)	**42.1**	**42.1**	**42.3**	**42.6**	**42.2**	**43.4**	**43.6**	**42.9**	**42.7**	**42.9**	**44.2**	**44.4**	**43.6**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.

Source: OPEC.

Table 11 - 2: World oil demand and production balance: changes from last month's table*, mb/d

World oil demand and production balance	2023	2024	2025	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	2026	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027
World demand													
Americas	-	0.1	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-
of which US	-	-	*-0.1*	-	-	*-0.1*	*-0.2*	*-0.1*	-	-	*-0.1*	*-0.2*	*-0.1*
Europe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asia Pacific	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total OECD	**-**	**0.1**	**-**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**-**	**-0.1**	**-**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**-**	**-0.1**	**-**
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Asia	-	-	-	-	-0.1	-	-	-	-	-0.1	-	-	-
Latin America	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Russia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Eurasia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Europe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-OECD	**-**	**-0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-0.1**	**-**	**0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-0.1**	**-**	**0.1**	**-**
(a) Total world demand	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Y-o-y change	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***
Non-DoC liquids production													
Americas	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
of which US	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Europe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Asia Pacific	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total OECD	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
China	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Asia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Latin America	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Middle East	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Africa	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Eurasia	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other Europe	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-OECD	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Total Non-DoC production	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Processing gains	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total Non-DoC liquids production	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
DoC NGLs	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
(b) Total Non-DoC liquids production and DoC NGLs	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**
Y-o-y change	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***0.1***	***0.1***	***-0.1***	***-***	***0.1***	***-***	***-***	***-***	***-***
OPEC crude oil production (secondary sources)	-	-	-										
Non-OPEC DoC crude production	-	-	-										
DoC crude oil production	**-**	**-**	**-**										
Total liquids production	**-**	**-**	**-**										
Balance (stock change and miscellaneous)	-	-	-										
OECD closing stock levels, *mb*													
Commercial	3	1	-1										
SPR	-	-	1										
Total	**3**	**1**	**-**										
Oil-on-water	-48	-45	-51										
Days of forward consumption in OECD, *days*													
Commercial onland stocks	-	-	-										
SPR	-	-	-										
Total	**-**	**-**	**-**										
Memo items													
(a) - (b)	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-0.1**	**-0.1**	**-0.1**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**	**-**

*Note: * This compares Table 11 - 1 in this issue of the MOMR with Table 11 - 1 in the February 2026 issue.*
This table shows only where changes have occurred.
Source: OPEC.

Table 11 - 3: OECD oil stocks and oil on the water at the end of the period

OECD oil stocks and oil on water	2023	2024	2025	1Q24	2Q24	3Q24	4Q24	1Q25	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25
Closing stock levels, mb											
OECD onland commercial	**2,780**	**2,756**	**2,844**	**2,772**	**2,843**	**2,809**	**2,756**	**2,749**	**2,789**	**2,869**	**2,844**
Americas	1,520	1,497	1,571	1,501	1,548	1,531	1,497	1,460	1,504	1,561	1,571
Europe	907	925	917	936	950	921	925	940	920	950	917
Asia Pacific	353	334	355	335	345	357	334	349	365	358	355
OECD SPR	**1,207**	**1,245**	**1,247**	**1,219**	**1,226**	**1,235**	**1,245**	**1,244**	**1,241**	**1,238**	**1,247**
Americas	357	395	415	366	374	384	395	398	404	408	415
Europe	466	466	454	470	468	467	466	461	457	453	454
Asia Pacific	384	384	378	383	384	383	384	386	380	377	378
OECD total	**3,987**	**4,001**	**4,090**	**3,991**	**4,068**	**4,044**	**4,001**	**3,993**	**4,029**	**4,106**	**4,090**
Oil-on-water	**1,391**	**1,310**	**1,546**	**1,393**	**1,330**	**1,309**	**1,310**	**1,364**	**1,383**	**1,461**	**1,546**
Days of forward consumption in OECD, days											
OECD onland commercial	**61**	**60**	**62**	**60**	**61**	**61**	**61**	**60**	**60**	**62**	**63**
Americas	60	59	62	59	61	60	60	58	58	61	63
Europe	67	69	68	69	68	68	72	69	67	71	71
Asia Pacific	49	47	50	48	50	48	46	51	53	48	49
OECD SPR	**26**	**27**	**27**	**27**	**26**	**27**	**28**	**27**	**27**	**27**	**28**
Americas	14	16	16	14	15	15	16	16	16	16	17
Europe	35	35	34	35	33	35	36	34	33	34	35
Asia Pacific	53	54	53	55	56	52	53	57	55	51	52
OECD total	**87**	**87**	**89**	**87**	**88**	**87**	**88**	**87**	**87**	**89**	**90**

Sources: Argus, EIA, IEA, JODI, METI, OilX and OPEC.

Table 11 - 4: Non-DoC liquids production and DoC natural gas liquids, mb/d*

Non-DoC liquids production and DoC NGLs	2025	Change 25/24	1Q26	2Q26	3Q26	4Q26	2026	Change 26/25	1Q27	2Q27	3Q27	4Q27	2027	Change 27/26
US	22.2	0.5	21.8	22.4	22.5	22.6	22.3	0.1	22.2	22.3	22.4	22.5	22.4	0.0
Canada	6.1	0.1	6.2	6.0	6.2	6.3	6.2	0.1	6.3	6.1	6.3	6.5	6.3	0.1
Chile	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
OECD Americas	**28.3**	**0.6**	**27.9**	**28.4**	**28.7**	**28.9**	**28.5**	**0.2**	**28.5**	**28.5**	**28.7**	**29.0**	**28.7**	**0.2**
Norway	2.0	0.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	2.0	0.0	2.0	1.9	1.9	2.0	2.0	0.0
UK	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.7	0.7	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.0
Denmark	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Other OECD Europe	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0
OECD Europe	**3.6**	**0.1**	**3.6**	**3.5**	**3.5**	**3.6**	**3.6**	**0.0**	**3.6**	**3.5**	**3.4**	**3.6**	**3.5**	**0.0**
Australia	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.0
Other OECD Asia Pacific	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
OECD Asia Pacific	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.0**
Total OECD	**32.3**	**0.6**	**32.0**	**32.3**	**32.6**	**33.0**	**32.5**	**0.2**	**32.5**	**32.3**	**32.5**	**32.9**	**32.6**	**0.1**
China	**4.6**	**0.1**	**4.7**	**4.7**	**4.6**	**4.6**	**4.6**	**0.0**	**4.7**	**4.6**	**4.5**	**4.6**	**4.6**	**0.0**
India	**0.8**	**0.0**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.0**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.8**	**0.0**
Indonesia	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9	0.0	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0
Thailand	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0
Vietnam	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Asia others	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.0
Other Asia	**1.6**	**0.0**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**0.0**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**1.6**	**0.0**
Argentina	1.0	0.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.1	1.0	0.1	1.1	1.1	1.1	1.2	1.1	0.1
Brazil	4.4	0.2	4.5	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.6	0.2	4.6	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.7	0.1
Colombia	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.7	0.8	0.0
Ecuador	0.4	-0.1	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.4	0.0
Latin America others	1.0	0.1	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.2	0.2	1.4	1.4	1.4	1.5	1.4	0.2
Latin America	**7.5**	**0.3**	**7.9**	**7.9**	**8.0**	**8.1**	**8.0**	**0.4**	**8.2**	**8.3**	**8.4**	**8.6**	**8.4**	**0.4**
Qatar	1.9	0.0	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	1.9	0.0	1.9	2.0	2.0	2.1	2.0	0.1
Middle East others	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Middle East	**2.0**	**0.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**2.0**	**0.0**	**2.1**	**2.1**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**0.1**
Angola	1.1	-0.1	1.1	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	1.0	0.0
Chad	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Egypt	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.0
Ghana	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
South Africa	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.0
Africa others	0.3	0.1	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.5	0.4	0.0	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.1
Africa	**2.3**	**-0.1**	**2.3**	**2.2**	**2.2**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**0.0**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**2.3**	**0.0**
Other Eurasia	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.0**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.4**	**0.0**
Other Europe	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.1**	**0.0**
Total Non-OECD	**19.3**	**0.3**	**19.8**	**19.7**	**19.7**	**19.9**	**19.8**	**0.4**	**20.2**	**20.2**	**20.2**	**20.5**	**20.3**	**0.5**
Non-DoC production	51.7	1.0	51.7	52.1	52.3	52.9	52.3	0.6	52.7	52.5	52.8	53.4	52.8	0.6
Processing gains	2.5	0.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	2.6	0.0
Non-DoC liquids production	**54.2**	**1.0**	**54.3**	**54.6**	**54.9**	**55.4**	**54.8**	**0.6**	**55.3**	**55.1**	**55.4**	**56.0**	**55.4**	**0.6**
DoC NGLs	**8.6**	**0.1**	**8.7**	**8.8**	**8.7**	**8.9**	**8.8**	**0.1**	**8.9**	**8.9**	**8.9**	**8.9**	**8.9**	**0.1**
Non-DoC liquids production and DoC NGLs	**62.8**	**1.1**	**63.0**	**63.4**	**63.6**	**64.3**	**63.6**	**0.8**	**64.2**	**64.0**	**64.2**	**64.9**	**64.3**	**0.7**

Note: Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.
Source: OPEC.

Table 11 - 5: World rig count, units

World rig count	2023	2024	2025	Change 2025/24	2Q25	3Q25	4Q25	Jan 26	Feb 26	Change Feb/Jan
US	688	599	562	-37	571	540	548	545	551	6
Canada	177	188	177	-11	129	177	185	197	222	25
Mexico	55	50	25	-25	24	29	27	30	31	1
OECD Americas	**921**	**839**	**765**	**-74**	**725**	**748**	**761**	**774**	**805**	**31**
Norway	17	13	16	3	15	18	15	15	18	3
UK	12	8	8	0	9	7	6	4	6	2
OECD Europe	**66**	**64**	**66**	**2**	**68**	**69**	**64**	**62**	**69**	**7**
OECD Asia Pacific	**25**	**25**	**18**	**-7**	**15**	**19**	**18**	**17**	**18**	**1**
Total OECD	**1,012**	**927**	**849**	**-78**	**808**	**835**	**842**	**853**	**892**	**39**
Other Asia*	204	212	201	-11	200	206	199	201	202	1
Latin America	120	104	107	3	109	110	101	102	104	2
Middle East	61	62	62	0	61	62	61	62	63	1
Africa	67	52	44	-8	44	44	43	43	41	-2
Other Europe	11	9	11	2	12	11	11	11	11	0
Total Non-OECD	**463**	**439**	**425**	**-14**	**427**	**433**	**415**	**419**	**421**	**2**
Non-OPEC rig count	**1,475**	**1,367**	**1,274**	**-93**	**1,235**	**1,268**	**1,257**	**1,272**	**1,313**	**41**
Algeria	36	42	43	1	44	41	42	40	41	1
Congo	1	1	1	0	1	1	1	1	3	2
Equatorial Guinea**	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Gabon	3	4	3	-1	3	3	4	4	5	1
Iran**	117	117	117	0	117	117	117	117	117	0
Iraq	61	62	62	0	62	62	63	62	65	3
Kuwait	24	31	34	3	30	34	40	42	44	2
Libya	14	18	18	0	18	18	18	18	18	0
Nigeria	14	15	13	-2	10	15	16	15	15	0
Saudi Arabia***	83	295	248	-47	254	233	232	242	255	13
UAE	57	66	74	8	71	76	77	77	78	1
Venezuela	2	2	1	-1	2	0	1	2	2	0
OPEC rig count	**412**	**653**	**615**	**-38**	**613**	**600**	**612**	**620**	**643**	**23**
World rig count****	**1,887**	**2,019**	**1,890**	**-129**	**1,848**	**1,868**	**1,869**	**1,892**	**1,956**	**64**
of which:										
Oil	1,498	1,559	1,425	-134	1,400	1,399	1,395	1,408	1,453	45
Gas	357	413	409	-4	398	410	414	423	441	18
Others	32	47	56	9	51	60	60	61	62	1

*Note: * Other Asia includes India and offshore rigs for China.*
*** Estimated data when Baker Hughes Incorporated did not reported the data.*
**** Since January 2024, Baker Hughes counts all operating rigs in Saudi Arabia; other countries reflect only active rigs.*
***** Data excludes onshore China, as well as Russia and other Eurasian countries.*
Totals may not add up due to independent rounding.
Sources: Baker Hughes Incorporated and OPEC.

Glossary of Terms

Abbreviations

b	barrels
b/d	barrels per day
bp	basis points
bb	billion barrels
bcf	billion cubic feet
cu m	cubic metres
mb	million barrels
mb/d	million barrels per day
mmbtu	million British thermal units
mn	million
m-o-m	month-on-month
mt	metric tonnes
q-o-q	quarter-on-quarter
pp	percentage points
tb/d	thousand barrels per day
tcf	trillion cubic feet
y-o-y	year-on-year
y-t-d	year-to-date

Acronyms

ARA	Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp
BoE	Bank of England
BoJ	Bank of Japan
BOP	Balance of payments
BRIC	Brazil, Russia, India and China
CAPEX	capital expenditures
CCI	Consumer Confidence Index
CFTC	Commodity Futures Trading Commission
CIF	cost, insurance and freight
CPI	consumer price index
DoC	Declaration of Cooperation
DCs	developing countries
DUC	drilled, but uncompleted (oil well)
ECB	European Central Bank
EIA	US Energy Information Administration
Emirates NBD	Emirates National Bank of Dubai
EMs	emerging markets
EV	electric vehicle

FAI	fixed asset investment
FCC	fluid catalytic cracking
FDI	foreign direct investment
Fed	US Federal Reserve
FID	final investment decision
FOB	free on board
FPSO	floating production storage and offloading
FSU	Former Soviet Union
FX	Foreign Exchange
FY	fiscal year
GDP	gross domestic product
GFCF	gross fixed capital formation
GoM	Gulf of Mexico
GTLs	gas-to-liquids
HH	Henry Hub
HSFO	high-sulphur fuel oil
ICE	Intercontinental Exchange
IEA	International Energy Agency
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IOCs	international oil companies
IP	industrial production
ISM	Institute of Supply Management
JODI	Joint Organisations Data Initiative
LIBOR	London inter-bank offered rate
LLS	Light Louisiana Sweet
LNG	liquefied natural gas
LPG	liquefied petroleum gas
LR	long-range (vessel)
LSFO	low-sulphur fuel oil
MCs	(OPEC) Member Countries
MED	Mediterranean
MENA	Middle East/North Africa
MOMR	(OPEC) Monthly Oil Market Report
MPV	multi-purpose vehicle
MR	medium-range or mid-range (vessel)
NBS	National Bureau of Statistics
NGLs	natural gas liquids
NPC	National People's Congress (China)
NWE	Northwest Europe
NYMEX	New York Mercantile Exchange
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OPEX	operational expenditures
OIV	total open interest volume
ORB	OPEC Reference Basket
OSP	Official Selling Price
PADD	Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts
PBoC	People's Bank of China
PMI	purchasing managers' index
PPI	producer price index
PPP	purchasing power parity

RBI	Reserve Bank of India
REER	real effective exchange rate
ROI	return on investment
SAAR	seasonally-adjusted annualised rate
SIAM	Society of Indian Automobile Manufacturers
SRFO	straight-run fuel oil
SUV	sports utility vehicle
ULCC	ultra-large crude carrier
ULSD	ultra-low sulphur diesel
USEC	US East Coast
USGC	US Gulf Coast
USWC	US West Coast
VGO	vacuum gasoil
VLCC	very large crude carriers
WPI	wholesale price index
WS	Worldscale
WTI	West Texas Intermediate
WTS	West Texas Sour

OPEC Basket average price

US$/b

Up 5.59 in February

February 2026	67.90
January 2026	62.31
Year-to-date	**65.04**

February OPEC crude production

mb/d, according to secondary sources

Up 0.16 in February

February 2026	28.63
January 2026	28.47

February Non-OPEC DoC crude production

mb/d, according to secondary sources

Up 0.28 in February

February 2026	14.09
January 2026	13.81

Economic growth rate

per cent

	World	US	Eurozone	Japan	China	India	Brazil	Russia
2026	3.1	2.2	1.2	0.9	4.5	6.6	2.0	1.3
2027	3.2	2.0	1.2	0.9	4.5	6.5	2.2	1.5

Supply and demand

mb/d

2026		**26/25**	**2027**		**27/26**
World demand	106.5	1.4	World demand	107.9	1.3
Non-DoC liquids production	54.8	0.6	Non-DoC liquids production	55.4	0.6
DoC NGLs	8.8	0.1	DoC NGLs	8.9	0.1
Difference	**42.9**	**0.6**	**Difference**	**43.6**	**0.6**

OECD commercial stocks

mb

	Nov 25	Dec 25	Jan 26	Jan 26/Dec 25
Crude oil	1,340	1,316	1,313	-3.0
Products	1,500	1,527	1,511	-16.9
Total	**2,840**	**2,844**	**2,824**	**-19.9**
Days of forward cover	62.1	62.7	62.0	-0.8

Next report to be issued on 13 April 2026.