

16/04/2024

Prices movement (front month)	08-Apr	15-Apr	% Change (Settlement Prices)
Brent Crude	90.38	90.10	-0.31%
VLSFO (Singapore)	631.60	626.54	-0.80%

### Crude Oil Market :

Talk of the market after the weekend has very much been focussed on the Israel-Iran situation. Whilst some may have expected crude prices to rally after the missile and drone strikes, quite the opposite has been the reality, and prices have fallen to fairly flat on the week.

On the evening of Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> April, Iran fired some 300 weapons at Israel, of which the vast majority were intercepted. However, on Monday morning, Jun24 Brent crude futures were trading down almost 1% during the European market open as World powers rushed to diffuse the situation. On top of this, the risk premium seemed to be priced in from Friday as markets had already rallied in anticipation of an Iranian response to Israel's attack on a consulate in Damascus at the start of the month. Downward pressure has been added by the fact that Israel have not retaliated immediately, although plan to do so, amid pressure from allies to minimise potential escalation.

Front month Brent crude futures are lower on the day here, having settled last night at \$90.10/bbl, weighed on by a stronger US dollar index and increased Russian crude oil supplies in April, with their seaborne crude exports rising to an 11-month high last month, according to Bloomberg vessel tracking.

### Jun24 Brent Crude Futures From 09/04/24 to Date



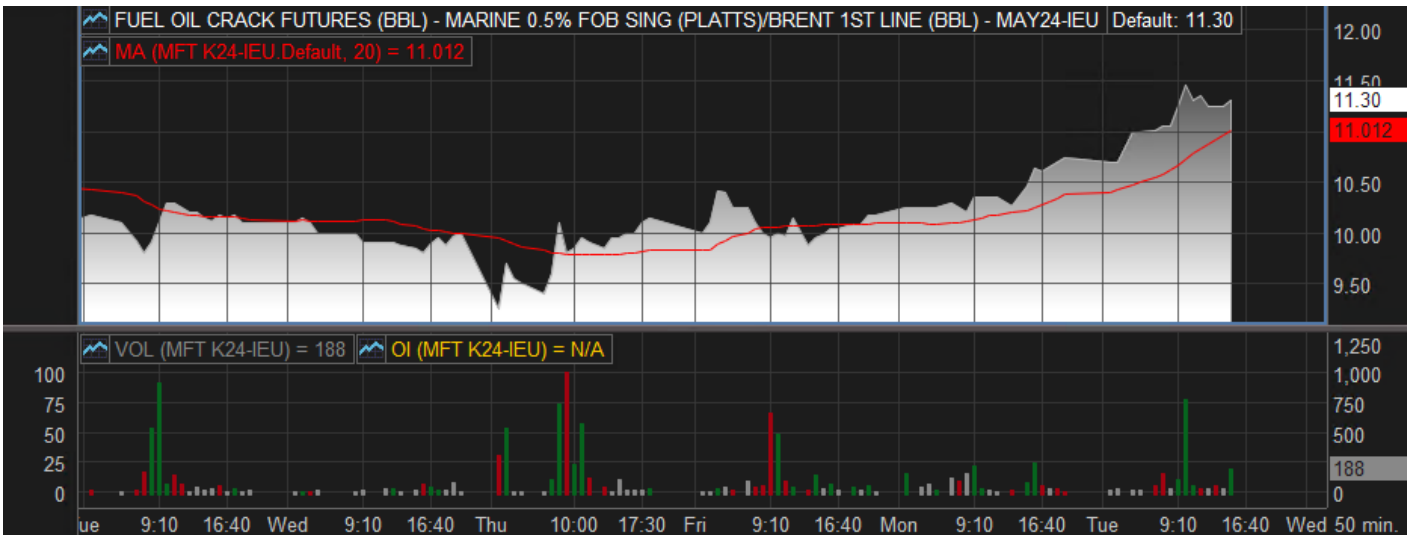
Source: FIS, Reuters, Oil Price, Bloomberg, BBC News, Morningstar

## Bunker Market:

VLSFO cracks have been on the up this week, with the front May24 Sing 0.5% crack higher by around a dollar on the week. Today alone, the contract is bid up 57 cents from yesterday's settlement, trading last at \$11.25/bbl. There was a surge in the window to monthly highs, spurred by aggressive physical buying. Further support to the cracks comes from news that the U.S. does not intend to renew the special license granting Venezuela eased energy sanctions unless progress is made towards free and fair elections. Venezuelan crude is notably heavy/sour, meaning it has a higher sulphur content and thus has a more prominent effect on the HSFO cracks, which have rallied about 70 cents each, today and are higher on the week.

Hi5s held steady this week due to the crack movements between the high and low sulphur being fairly synergised. May24 Hi5s are around \$110/mt and \$136/mt in the Euro and Sing, respectively – only deviating as much as three dollars from those figures over the past week.

### May24 Sing 0.5% Crack From 09/04/24 to Date



### May24 Rotterdam 3.5% Crack From 09/04/24 to Date



Text pricing data: FIS Chart data: FIS

Source: FIS, Reuters, Oil Price, Bloomberg, S&P Global

## Tanker Weekly Report 8thApr24 – 15thApr24

### Dirty Petroleum Products

The Baltic Dirty Tanker Index began the week at 1114 - a low for the year, but has had a strong week climbing to 1194. In the VLCC market rates traded sideways mostly with TD3C hovering around the ws63 mark with ws63.65 being the last close. The paper market firmed slowly over the course of the week with added pressure building on Friday and into the weekend as news of an imminent attack from Iran loomed, as such Balmo climbed to ws70 on Friday up from ws66.5 earlier in the week and May was trading at ws70.5 up from ws67. Q3 traded in almost 350kt at ws64 as well on Friday, 2 points higher than earlier in the week. Things look to be trending lower this coming week however.

On the Suezmax market rates for the TD20 Nigeria/Rotterdam voyage jumped from ws106.94 to ws129 by Thursday after a surge in activity. It seemed to have found its top though and has softened since with the route now marked at ws123.44 last. Paper was active on TD20 this week with good volume trading across the curve but especially on the June contract with over a million tonnes trading Mon-Fri in the ws105.5-106 range.

For the Stateside Aframax market, rates on the trans-Atlantic USGC/UKC route followed suit and also rallied from ws192.22 up to ws229.44 by mid-week only to give up some of its gains and settle at ws219.17 last. USGC/UKC paper followed the spot with Balmo and May both reaching highs of ws225 and ws205 respectively into mid-week, now seen trading at ws200 and ws192 last.

### Clean Petroleum Products

The BCTI Index has dropped slightly this week from 940 to 912 but up from the weekly low of 871. MRs on the UK continent initially saw rates drop with TC2 plunging from ws197.22 down to ws180.28 but thankfully for owners this was the limit and rates stabilised around ws183 for the remainder of the week. A recovery could be on the cards but will depend on the level of fresh enquiry this coming week. In America MR rates for TC14 have steadily declined over the course of the week losing 17.5 points to close at ws184.29 last. TC14 paper trading has been relatively thin but saw May drop from ws204 to ws193. Lastly MR's in the MEG felt the pressure from the larger vessel markets in the region and dropped from ws306.07 to ws285.36.

In the Middle East Gulf LR1s on the 55kt MEG/Japan run (TC5) were on a downward trajectory for much of the week with much of the Middle East market on holiday. It dropped from ws209.38 to ws188.75 by Thursday, but has bounced back since to close at ws200.31 last with Iran's attack fuelling speculation of an ever increasing conflict. TC5 paper has been volatile this week with some big moves across the curve. The May FFA firmed across the week and climbed almost 40 points to a high of ws247 yesterday morning, only to drop sharply today falling to ws229 at the time of writing with no sign of slowing down. Q3 also surged from ws206 to as high as ws219 between Thursday and Friday but is today trading off at ws212.

Lastly, Mediterranean Handymaxes have had a difficult start to the week with rates on TC6 tumbling from ws234.44 to ws190 where it seemed to bottom out. Off the back of some fresh activity it has since recovered to the ws209.44 mark and looks to continue climbing further.

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