LNG Market Tracker

LNG JOURNAL'S WEEKLY LNG MARKET TRENDS REPORT 07 FEBRUARY 2022

Kaliningrad FSRU Arrives at Russian Enclave

Gazprom has reinstalled the 174,000m³ FSRU and LNG carrier Marshal Vasilevskiy at its Kaliningrad FSRU terminal, our data showed at the time of writing. With construction completed in January 2019, the facility has not seen commercial activity beyond its commissioning cargo, our data also indicate. Meanwhile, the 173,400m³ LNG carrier Energy Integrity carrying a cargo from Cameroon's FLNG facility offshore Kribi has arrived at the Gulf of Gdansk. At the time of writing, we were expecting the vessel to transfer its cargo onto the Marshal Vasilevskiy by around Thursday, 10 February. The arrival of the Marshal Vasilevskiy comes at a time when Gazprom is keen to expand its LNG position in the Baltic.

The 174,000m³ FSRU and LNG carrier Marshal Vasilevskiy arrived at its station offshore Kaliningrad on Sunday last week, our shipping data showed on Monday. In mid-January, the vessel had returned from a laden voyage from Yamal LNG to the Yung-an terminal in Taiwan, which was completed on 22 December. It subsequently took on a partial load at Zeebrugge, according to our calculations, and made its way to the Baltic.

Potential supply

The arrival of the Marshal Vasilevskiy coincides with the 173,400m³ LNG carrier Energy Integrity carrying a cargo from Cameroon's FLNG facility offshore Kribi. The vessel loaded its cargo on 18 December, when its AIS signal showed the next destination to be 'Kalingrad Russia'. The Energy Integrity has arrived at the Gulf of Gdansk on Friday last week. Based on its AIS data at the time of writing, we were expecting the LNGC to approach the Marshal Vasilevskiy FSRU by around Thursday, 10 February. However, we caution that there may still be some delay to the FSRU terminal's first commercial import via another vessel commensurate with potential teething problems.

First attempt in 2019

The Kaliningrad FSRU project is led by Russian energy conglomerate Gazprom and was commissioned in January 2019. At the time, the company installed the Marshal Vasilevskiy, but the vessel did not receive deliveries after arriving laden from Singapore. Notably, Gazprom had signed a gas transit contract with Lithuanian pipeline operator Amber Grid in 2015 to supply Kaliningrad with Russian gas until 2025.

Unfavourable economics

With Kaliningrad's gas supply thus secured, the FSRU's project economics were unlikely to be favourable at the time if LNG had to be procured internationally. Moreover, the capacity agreed with Amber Grid was reportedly sufficient to cover Kaliningrad's annual demand in 2019, warnings by the enclave's governor Anton Alikhanov of continued demand growth notwithstanding.

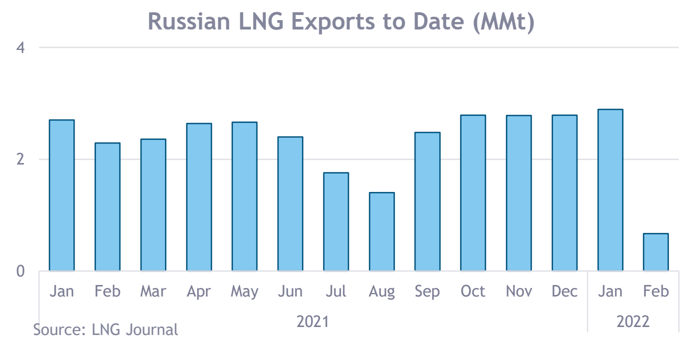
The Marshal Vasilevskiy FSRU was subsequently offered on the spot market and served on a time charter with Austrian oil and gas firm OMV. Our data suggest Gazprom retook control of the vessel in September 2021.

Supply project delays

Apart from the Kaliningrad FSRU's commissioning cargo, Gazprom planned to supply the Kaliningrad FSRU project with LNG from the 1.5mtpa Portovaya liquefaction project, located in Leningrad Oblast close to the Finnish border. However, Portovaya was delayed. It was still unclear whether the facility has been commissioned to start commercial operations at the time of writing. Whilst the 138,107m³ FSRU Portovyy arrived at the Portovaya project in late August last year, we have yet to detect any LNG exporting activity from the site

Trading position

Beyond securing Kaliningrad's gas supply, Gazprom has been keen to enhance its LNG trading position. Compared to its size, the gas giant has developed only limited LNG capacity to date. Only Yamal LNG - operated by Novatek - has an economical LNG reach from Russia into Europe. Accordingly, apart from installing FSRU facilities at Kaliningrad and Portovaya, Gazprom has commissioned small-scale LNG capacity at Vysotsk and is planning to commission a large-scale, two-train LNG production complex situated between Ust-Luga and St. Petersburg by 2024◆



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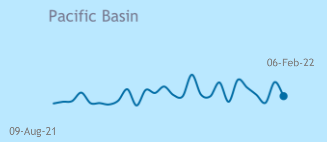
LNG EXPORTS (MMT)



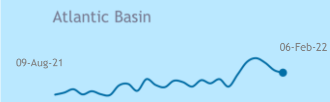
Week-on-Week	0.42	-13pct
Six-month change	0.21	8pct

Week-on-Week	0.45	-15pct
Six-month change	0.36	16pct

Week-on-Week	0.06	3pct
Six-month change	0.40	25pct

LNG IMPORTS (MMT)

Week-on-Week	1.02	-18pct
Six-month change	0.28	6pct

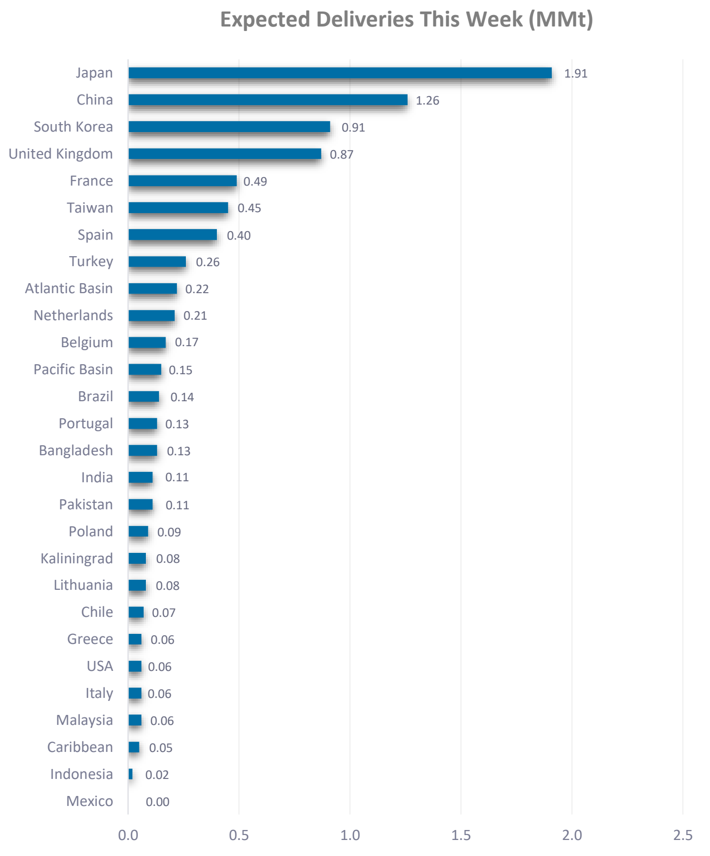


Week-on-Week	0.13	-5pct
Six-month change	1.08	78pct

Week-on-Week	0.22	440pct
Six-month change	0.20	-43pct

Expected Deliveries this Week

Japan leading imports with 1.91mmt at current market visibility



Source: LNG Journal

Pacific Basin

LNG Imports in the Pacific Basin are likely to amount to 5.07mmt, according to our data at the time of writing, constituting an increase of 16pct compared to the previous week's total of 4.56mmt. The Pacific's imports this week are likely going to be led by Japan (1.91mmt), China (1.26mmt) and South Korea (0.91mmt) whilst two cargoes totalling 0.15mmt had yet to confirm their destination but were broadly directed to within the Basin at the time of writing.

Japan

Current market visibility indicated the largest share of LNG destined to arrive in Japan by Sunday is derived from Australia via eight cargoes totalling 0.54mmt. Most of Australia's shipments to Japan have sailed from NWS LNG (0.20mmt, 37pct) and Pluto LNG (0.08mmt, 15pct), inter alia via the Energy Progress, the Maran Gas Hydra and the Energy Horizon. Our analysis indicates these deliveries to have been completed by Sunday. Concurrently, our market visibility highlights that the Senboku and Higashi-Ogishima terminals will be Japan's busiest this week on imports of 0.21mmt (12pct) and 0.20mmt (11pct), respectively. In addition to Australia's shipments, we are also expecting Japan to receive 22 cargoes totalling 1.37mmt from, inter alia, Malaysia, Russia and Qatar. Our data thus indicate Japan's expected cumulative LNG imports of 1.91mmt this week are likely to have increased by 0.27mmt (16pct) from 1.64mmt last week but decreased by 0.52mmt (-22pct) from 2.43mmt year-on-year.

China

The most significant origin of LNG destined to arrive in China by volume this week is Qatar via five cargoes totalling 0.52mmt. Qatar's shipments to China have sailed, inter alia, via the Al Ghuwairiya, the Al Samriya and the Al Kharsaah. We are currently expecting these shipments to arrive by Saturday, with the Tianjin LNG and Jiangsu LNG terminals set to be China's busiest this week on imports of 0.23mmt (20pct) and 0.23mmt (20pct), respectively. In addition to Qatar's shipments, we are currently tracking 12 cargoes totalling 0.74mmt led by Australia, Malaysia and Peru, which we expect to arrive in China by Sunday. We therefore think China's weekly LNG offtake is likely to have increased by 0.59mmt (88pct) from 0.67mmt last week but decreased by 0.27mmt (-18pct) from 1.53mmt year-on-year.

South Korea

Meanwhile, the largest share of expected deliveries to South Korea is going to be coming from Australia via six cargoes totalling 0.40mmt this week. Most of Australia's volumes have sailed from Gladstone LNG via the Hyundai Greenpia and the Asia Integrity. We expect these South Korea-bound shipments to arrive by Saturday. We are also expecting nine cargoes totalling 0.51mmt from, inter alia, Malaysia, Qatar and the United States to arrive in South Korea this week, with the Pyeongtaek and Incheon terminals set to be South Korea's busiest on imports of 0.26mmt (29pct) and 0.25mmt (27pct), respectively. Based on our market visibility, we expect the country's weekly imports to have remained broadly steady compared to last week and decreased by 0.37mmt (-29pct) from 1.28mmt year-on-year.

Atlantic Basin

Demand in the Atlantic Basin is likely to reach 3.29mmt this week, our data indicated at the time of writing, constituting an increase of 33pct from the 2.47mmt of regional imports last week. At least 58pct are destined for the United Kingdom (0.87mmt), France (0.49mmt) and Spain (0.40mmt) whilst 0.27mmt remain without a confirmed destination but were broadly directed to within the Basin at the time of writing.

The United Kingdom

Our market visibility indicates the main origin of LNG destined to arrive in the United Kingdom this week are the United States, based on seven cargoes totalling 0.51mmt. The bulk of these shipments have sailed from Sabine Pass LNG (0.3mmt, 34pct) and Cameron LNG (0.08mmt, 9pct) via, inter alia, the GasLog Westminster and the Magdala. Our data peg their delivery horizon at 10 February. Apart from the United States' exports, we are also expecting the United Kingdom to receive four additional cargoes totalling 0.36mmt from Qatar and Peru by the end of the week. Concurrently, our market visibility indicates the South Hook LNG and Isle of Grain terminals will be the United Kingdom's busiest this week on imports of 0.50mmt (57pct) and 0.21mmt (24pct), respectively. Our data thus suggest the United Kingdom's cumulative LNG offtake this week is likely to have increased by 0.64mmt (278pct) week-on-week and by 0.56mmt (181pct) year-on-year.

France

Our current market visibility further indicates the most significant supply of LNG to France this week is coming from Russia via three cargoes totalling 0.19mmt. Russia's shipments have sailed aboard the Yamal LNG-derived Nikolay Yevgenov, Nikolay Zubov and Christophe De Margerie, which were headed for the Dunkerque Le Clipton and Montoir-de-Bretagne terminals, respectively. We are also expecting two cargoes totalling 0.13mmt from the United States aboard the Qogir and the Nohshu Maru, as well as one cargo each from Atlantic LNG via the Pan Americas and from Angola LNG via the Sonangol Etosha. These anticipated deliveries still mean France is likely to see a week-on-week offtake increase of 0.04mmt (9pct) from 0.45mmt as well as a 0.36mmt (285pct) increase from 0.13mmt year-on-year.

Spain

Meanwhile, our data indicate the largest share of expected deliveries to Spain is going to be coming from Nigeria via two cargoes totalling 0.13mmt this week. Nigeria's shipments sailed from Bonny Island via the LNG Ondo and the LNG Abalamabie. These shipments are due to arrive at Huelva and Barcelona by Friday, respectively. Moreover, the country is expecting a cargo each from Cameron LNG Atlantic LNG, EG LNG and Yamal LNG by Saturday. We are expecting the Bahia de Bizkaia LNG and Sagunto terminals to be Spain's busiest this week on imports of 0.14mmt (35pct) and 0.07mmt (18pct), respectively. Accordingly, Spain's LNG demand this week is likely to increase by 0.03mmt (8pct) compared to last week but decrease by 0.01mmt (-2pct) year-on-year, the country having imported 0.41mmt this time last year.

Middle East

Our data also indicate demand in the Middle East is likely to reach 0.11mmt this week via two cargoes, constituting a decrease of 59pct from the 0.27mmt of regional imports last week.

The roster of regional buyers comprises Pakistan with expected imports of 0.11mmt via two cargoes aboard the Ras Laffan LNG-derived Al Khor and the Bonny Island-derived LNG Lokoja, which we expect to arrive at the Port Qasim terminal by Sunday. This anticipated delivery indicates Pakistan is likely to see a demand decrease of 0.04mmt (-27pct) from 0.15mmt and a 0.08mmt (-42pct) decrease year-on-year ◆

LNG in Transit

Currently, 15.81mmt of LNG have a delivery horizon of 2 April

Total LNG volumes currently in transit amount to 15.81mmt, representing a decrease of 1.08mmt (-6pct) week-on-week. Current market visibility pegs the delivery horizon at 2 April.

Pacific Basin

Our current market visibility indicates 7.83mmt are destined for the Pacific Basin, whereby South Korea's Incheon terminal is in the lead with 0.55mmt and a delivery horizon of 28 February currently set by the Hyundai Peacepia. Of the 7.83mmt currently in transit, 2.18mmt (28pct) have yet to have a firm destination, which are broadly destined for the Pacific region by 2 April.

At the time of writing, Malaysia LNG topped the list of export plants in the Pacific with 0.58mmt currently in transit, followed by Gorgon LNG with 0.49mmt and NWS LNG with 0.45mmt via, inter alia, the Polar Spirit, the Asia Excellence and the Bahrain Spirit, respectively. The delivery horizon for Pacific in-transit exports by the Basin's leading three plants was 6 March at the time of writing.

Atlantic Basin

The Atlantic Basin, meanwhile, is due to receive 3.86mmt by 27 February, our data indicates. Firmed-up Atlantic deliveries are led by 0.58mmt destined for United Kingdom's South Hook LNG terminal with a delivery horizon of 27 February.

As with the Pacific Basin, there remain 1.71mmt of in-transit LNG cargoes that have yet to confirm their destinations. Around 1.34mmt are currently broadly destined for Europe by 26 February.

Among Atlantic exporters with LNG deliveries currently pending, Sabine Pass LNG was the lead with 1.54mmt, followed by Freeport LNG with 0.90mmt and Yamal LNG with 0.84mmt. These cargoes are aboard, inter alia, the Bonito LNG, the Adam LNG and the Boris Vilkitsky. The delivery horizon for all in-transit exports by Atlantic Basin plants was 2 April at the time of writing.

Middle East

Meanwhile, our data indicate there are three cargoes – 0.17mmt – currently headed for Pakistan and Kuwait. In addition to the cargoes scheduled for arrival this week as outlined above, Kuwait's Al Zour LNG terminal is expecting one cargo of 0.06mmt via the Bonny Island LNG-derived LNG Bayelsa. The delivery horizon for these cargoes was 5 March at the time of writing.

In terms of Middle Eastern cargoes underway to destinations outside the Basin, 4.15mmt have a delivery horizon of 1 March 2022, including 3.47mmt that originated in Qatar, with a further 0.48mmt coming from Oman's Qalhat terminal and 0.13mmt from the UAE's Das Island facility. Egypt's Idku LNG plant, meanwhile, had one cargo of 0.07mmt underway aboard the Maran Gas Apollonia at the time of writing. Neighbouring Damietta LNG had no shipment in transit ◆

Expected Cargo Liftings

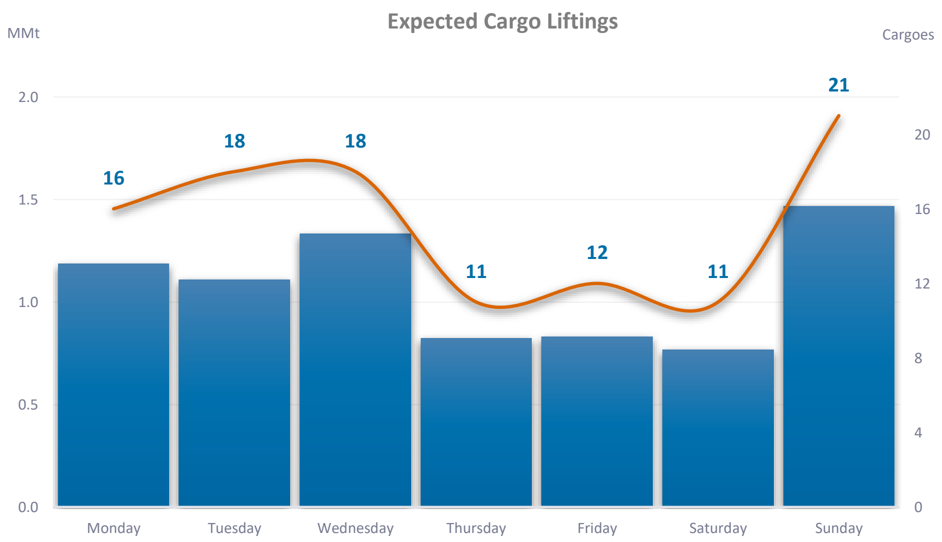
107 cargo liftings estimated this week

Based on our shipping data and nominal vessel capacities, we are currently expecting 107 cargo liftings amounting to 7.52mmt by the end of this week.

Pacific Basin

Our data indicate the Pacific Basin will account for 44 of this week's liftings, meaning that roughly 2.89mmt are exported throughout the Basin by Sunday.

In Australia, we are expecting Queensland Curtis LNG to lead the continent's exports with four cargoes amounting to 0.30mmt, according to nominal vessel capacity. Concurrently, LNG Journal data points to Gorgon LNG shipping four cargoes (0.28mmt), followed by four cargoes (0.26mmt) from NWS LNG. Meanwhile, Australia Pacific LNG, Ichthys LNG, Wheatstone LNG, Gladstone LNG and Pluto LNG are expected to ship a total of 13 cargoes amounting to 0.92mmt by the end of the week.



Source: LNG Journal

In Southeast Asia, our shipping data points to Malaysia LNG exporting up to nine cargoes amounting to 0.43mmt. In neighbouring Indonesia, we think this week's exports will amount to three cargoes totalling 0.20mmt from its Tangguh and Bontang plants. Additionally, based on our market visibility, we are expecting Brunei to ship two cargoes totalling 0.13mmt via the Amadi and the Arkat this week.

The remaining LNG export plants within the Pacific, namely Russia's Sakhalin-2 LNG at Prigorodnoye on Sakhalin Island and PNG LNG in Papua New Guinea are going to export up to four cargoes totalling 0.27mmt, according to our market visibility.

Atlantic Basin

Meanwhile, our analysis indicates the Atlantic Basin will see 39 cargo liftings, with around 2.78mmt exported throughout the Basin.

In the United States, we are expecting a total of 19 cargoes (1.43mmt) to be lifted. These exports are likely to be led by Sabine Pass LNG with 0.45mmt, inter alia via the British Achiever (0.08mmt), the Cadiz Knutsen (0.06mmt) and the LNG Adventure (0.08mmt). Concurrently, Corpus Christi LNG is going to ship 0.24mmt via three cargo liftings, our data suggests, whilst we expect Cameron LNG and Freeport LNG to ship a total of 0.74mmt via ten cargo liftings. Finally, our data pointed to an export from Elba Island LNG within the week at the time of writing.

In South America and the Caribbean, market visibility indicated two cargo liftings totalling 0.12mmt at Trinidad's Atlantic LNG via the BW Boston and the HongKong Energy this week.

On the other side of the Atlantic, we think up to 18 cargoes (1.23mmt) will be lifted by Sunday. In West- and North Africa, we are expecting Nigeria's Bonny Island facility to export up to five cargoes amounting to 0.34mmt whilst our market visibility further suggests Algeria will ship up to four cargoes amounting to 0.21mmt from its Arzew and Skikda plants by Sunday. We are also expecting Angola's Soyo plant to export two cargoes whilst our data equally pointed to an export from Equatorial Guinea's EG LNG at the time of writing. Moreover, we are currently expecting a shipment from Cameroon's FLNG facility offshore Kribi via the Velikiy Novgorod (0.08mmt) this week.

In the Arctic, we are currently not anticipating Norway's Snøhvit LNG to ship a cargo due to ongoing maintenance. Meanwhile, our shipping data suggests Novatek's Yamal LNG is going to load up to five cargoes amounting to 0.39mmt by Sunday.

Middle East

Finally, we are expecting a total of 24 Middle Eastern cargo liftings totalling 1.85mmt by the end of the week, most of which (1.39mmt) would take place at Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG complex, inter alia via the Al Bahiya and the Al Huwaila. Market visibility currently also suggests to us Oman is looking to load up to four cargoes amounting to 0.27mmt via the British Mentor, the K. Acacia, the Salalah LNG and the SK Splendor. In addition, we are seeing ADNOC LNG's Das Island plant in the UAE shipping two cargoes totalling 0.12mmt via the Ish and the Mubaraz. Finally, our shipping data pointed to an Egyptian shipment from Damietta SEGAS LNG this week.

The current schedule therefore suggests peak loading activity of 21 cargoes on Sunday, followed by 18 on Tuesday, whilst Thursday is looking to be least active with 11 liftings ◆

Estimated Cargo Liftings (MMt)

Country	Plant	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Algeria	Arzew	-	0.03	-	-	-	0.14	-
	Skikda	-	0.03	-	-	-	-	-
Angola	Angola LNG	-	-	0.07	-	-	-	0.07
Australia	Australia Pacific LNG	0.08	-	0.07	-	-	0.08	-
	Darwin LNG	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-
	Gladstone LNG	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	0.07
	Gorgon LNG	0.07	0.08	-	0.07	-	0.07	-
	Ichthys LNG	-	-	0.07	-	-	0.07	0.08
	NWS LNG	-	0.06	0.07	0.06	-	-	0.07
	Pluto LNG	-	-	-	-	0.07	-	-
	Queensland Curtis	0.08	-	0.15	-	-	-	0.08
	Wheatstone LNG	-	-	0.08	0.06	-	0.08	-
	Prelude FLNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei	Brunei LNG	-	-	-	0.07	-	0.07	-
Cameroon	Cameroon FLNG	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	Tilbury LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	EG LNG	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-
Egypt	Damietta SEGAS LNG	0.08	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Idku LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	Bontang	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	0.06
	Donggi-Senoro LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Tangguh	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-
Malaysia	Malaysia LNG	-	0.19	-	0.06	0.01	0.04	0.13
	PFLNG Satu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PFLNG Dua	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	Bonny Island	-	0.07	-	-	0.06	0.08	0.13
Norway	Snøhvit LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Oman	Oman LNG	0.06	-	0.07	-	0.06	-	0.08
Peru	Pampa Melchorita	-	-	-	0.08	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	PNG LNG	-	-	0.08	-	0.07	-	-
Qatar	Ras Laffan	0.22	0.23	0.26	0.19	0.18	-	0.31
Russia	Sakhalin-2 LNG	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	0.06
	Yamal LNG	0.08	0.08	-	0.08	-	0.08	0.08
Singapore	Singapore LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trin. & Tobago	Atlantic LNG	-	-	0.06	-	-	-	0.06
UAE	Das Island	-	-	0.06	-	-	-	0.06
United States	Elba Island LNG	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-
	Cove Point LNG	0.07	-	-	0.07	0.08	-	-
	Cameron LNG	-	0.08	0.08	-	-	0.08	-
	Freeport LNG	-	-	0.07	-	0.08	-	0.08
	Sabine Pass LNG	0.08	0.08	0.15	-	0.08	-	0.06
	Corpus Christi LNG	0.16	-	-	0.08	-	-	-
	Total	**1.19**	**1.11**	**1.33**	**0.82**	**0.83**	**0.77**	**1.47**

Source: LNG Journal

Trade Last Week

Global LNG trade stood at 7.50mmt last week

Last week's global LNG flows stood at 7.50mmt, having thus decreased by 0.81mmt (-10pct) from 8.31mmt the week prior.

Pacific Basin

The Pacific ended last week with 2.82mmt in exports, resulting in a 0.42mmt (-13pct) trade decrease from 3.24mmt recorded for the week before last. This, in turn, translated into capacity utilisation of 87pct, a decrease of 13pp. Meanwhile, week-on-week demand in the Pacific region - including domestic re-exports in Malaysia, Indonesia and China - decreased by 1.02mmt (-18pct) from 5.58mmt to 4.56mmt. As a result, last week's Pacific import capacity utilisation contracted by 13pp to 58pct.

Atlantic Basin

Concurrently, trade in the Atlantic Basin had amounted to 2.65mmt by midnight on Sunday, a 0.45mmt (-15pct) decrease compared to the 3.10mmt recorded for the prior week. This in turn translated into regional export capacity utilisation of 82pct for last week, a decrease of 14pp week-on-week. The Basin's imports, meanwhile, had decreased by 0.13mmt (-5pct) to 2.47mmt by Sunday. As a result, Atlantic import capacity utilisation stood at 52pct for the week, a decrease of 3pp over the week prior.

Middle East

As for the Middle East, the region's exports had seen positive weekly trade growth of 0.06mmt to 2.03mmt by midnight on Sunday. This represented a 3pct increase from the 1.97mmt seen the week before last. As such, regional export capacity utilisation also grew to 92pct for the week, up 3pp over the week before. Meanwhile, Middle Eastern imports saw positive weekly growth, increasing by 0.22mmt (440pct) to 0.27mmt. The region's import capacity utilisation thus stood at 44pct for the week, constituting an increase of 36pp over the prior week.

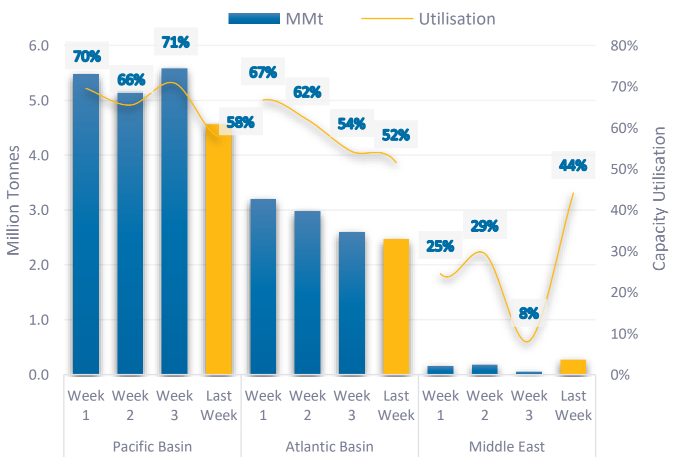
Pacific Exports – Australia

The Pacific Basin's most significant exporter by volume - Australia - shipped 1.38mmt last week, decreasing exports by 0.38mmt (-22pct) from the 1.76mmt shipped the week prior. On a year-on-year basis, the country thus also reduced LNG shipments slightly by 0.17mmt (-11pct) from 1.55mmt.

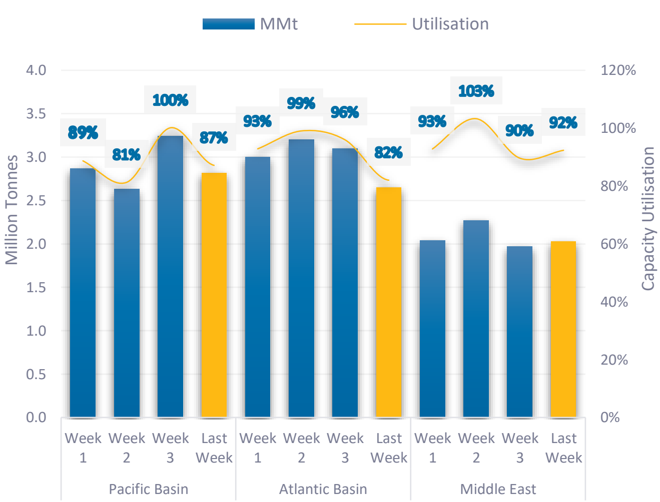
Southeast Asia

Meanwhile, the Pacific's second-largest exporter by capacity - Malaysia - shipped 0.65mmt last week, and thereby grew exports by 0.17mmt (35pct) week-on-week, whilst its neighbour Indonesia saw a reduction of 0.02mmt (-9pct) to 0.21mmt over the same period. On a year-on-year basis, however, Malaysia's exports still decreased by 0.02mmt (-3pct) from 0.67mmt whilst Indonesia's year-on-year shipments decreased by 0.02mmt (-9pct) from 0.23mmt. Additionally, in the north of Kalimantan, there were two LNG shipments from Brunei LNG amounting to 0.12mmt, the country having shipped only 0.07mmt in the week prior. On a year-on-year basis, Brunei LNG nevertheless reduced exports by 0.08mmt (-38pct) from 0.21mmt.

Imports & Capacity Utilisation Last Week



Exports & Capacity Utilisation Last Week



Other Pacific Exporters

Meanwhile, the remaining Pacific LNG exports had amounted to 0.46mmt by the end of last week compared to 0.62mmt the week prior, resulting in a 0.16mmt (26pct) decrease in weekly exports. This was due to Papua New Guinea's PNG LNG, Russia's Sakhalin-2 LNG project and Singapore LNG overall shipping three LNG cargoes less last week. This was only partially compensated by Peru's Pampa Melchorita LNG increasing exports by 0.05mmt (71pct) to 0.12mm.

Far Eastern Demand

In line with lower weekly Pacific exports, Pacific demand decreased by 1.02mmt (-18pct) last week, which was led by a 0.17mmt (-9pct) offtake decrease from 1.81mmt to 1.64mmt in Japan. Consequently, the country's demand was also down by 0.79mmt (-33pct) year-on-year. Japan's busiest LNG terminal last week was the Futtsu facility with 0.26mmt, followed by the Sodegaura terminal with 0.21mmt. Concurrently, LNG demand in South Korea decreased by 0.22mmt (-19pct) from 1.16mmt to 0.94mmt last week, which also meant that on an annual basis the country's offtake was down by 0.34mmt (-27pct). South Korea's offtakes were led by the Pyeongtaek terminal with 0.26mmt, followed by the Incheon facility with 0.21mmt. Moreover, Taiwan saw a week-on-week demand decline of 0pct, up by 0.00mmt to 0.26mmt from 0.26mmt the week prior. On a year-on-year basis, the country's imports were nonetheless down by 0.17mmt (-40pct) from 0.43mmt. In China, weekly imports remained steady at 1.67mmt whilst the country's imports had also decreased by 0.86mmt (-56pct) year-on-year. Meanwhile, we recorded a significant demand increase in India last week, where offtakes went up by 0.24mmt (71pct) to 0.58mmt from 0.34mmt the week prior. Accordingly, India's imports had also increased by 0.12mmt (26pct) year-on-year from 0.46mmt.

The roster of smaller Pacific Basin buyers typically consisting of Chile, Singapore, Mexico, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh had boosted their collective weekly imports by 0.13mmt (38pct) to 0.47mmt. A significant weekly demand increase totalling 0.20mmt in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore was only tempered by a relatively small, combined decrease of 0.07mmt in Chile and Indonesia. Bangladesh, meanwhile, maintained weekly imports at 0.06mmt whilst Myanmar and Mexico were not seen in the market.

Atlantic Exports – West Africa

In the Atlantic Basin, West African exporters curtailed their overall shipped volumes by 0.16mmt (-23pct) net last week. Angola did not export LNG, having shipped 0.14mmt the week prior, whilst Algeria decreased exports by 0.07mmt (-37pct) to 0.12mmt. Equatorial Guinea, meanwhile, reduced exports more moderately by 0.01mmt (-14pct) to 0.06mmt from 0.07mmt the week prior. Accordingly, even a notable increase in exports by 0.06mmt (19pct) to 0.37mmt by Nigeria's Bonny Island plant could not compensate.

United States

In the United States, export plants saw the total of shipped LNG volumes contract by 0.42mmt (-23pct) from 1.81mmt to 1.39mmt last week. US LNG export performance was mainly due to a slashing of shipments by 0.21mmt (-32pct) to 0.45mmt at Sabine Pass LNG. The plant had shipped 0.66mmt the week prior. This was followed by a decrease in exports of 0.19mmt (-58pct) to 0.14mmt at Freeport LNG, the plant having shipped 0.33mmt the week prior. Meanwhile, Corpus Christi LNG and Cove Point LNG reduced exports by 0.09mmt (-60pct) and 0.01mmt (-3pct) to 0.06mmt and 0.29mmt, respectively. As such, even relatively significant export growth of 0.02mmt (33pct) at Elba Island LNG to 0.08mmt and 0.06mmt (19pct) to 0.37mmt at Cameron LNG could only partially compensate. Accordingly, shipments did not outperform their year-on-year equivalent of 1.4mmt, leaving a small gap of 0.01mmt (-1pct).

Other Atlantic Exporters

Further south, Atlantic LNG on Trinidad saw two exports totalling 0.20mmt. Concurrently, in the Arctic, Novatek's fleet lifted 0.20mmt via seven shipments from Yamal LNG. Russian LNG exports in the Atlantic Basin thereby increased by 0.07mmt (54pct) from 0.45mmt week-on-week.

European Demand

European buyers curtailed imports by 0.13mmt (-6pct) to 2.29mmt last week. Notably, the United Kingdom, Italy and France saw a significant combined weekly demand decrease of 0.45mmt (-14pct) to 0.74mmt. The Netherlands and Turkey also imported 0.03mmt and 0.02mmt less, respectively, having seen total demand of 0.70mmt the week prior. Poland, Malta and Lithuania were not seen in the market. As such, even robust demand increases totalling 0.37mmt (70pct) to 0.90mmt in Spain, Croatia, Greece, Portugal and Belgium could not tip the balance, our data showed. Among European terminals, imports in northern Europe were led by the United Kingdom's South Hook LNG terminal with 0.16mmt whilst in southern Europe, Spain's Huelva LNG terminal was in the lead with 0.15mmt.

Other Atlantic Buyers

Meanwhile, Atlantic buyers in North- and South America, as well as the Caribbean kept imports steady at 0.18mmt. This stable overall week-on-week demand picture evolved due to higher demand by 0.10mmt in the Dominican Republic and Puerto Rico, which together compensated for decreases totalling 0.10mmt in Brazil and the United States last week. Other buyers in the Americas were not seen in the market last week.

Middle Eastern Exports

In the Middle East, Qatar shipped 1.49mmt last week and thereby decreased its weekly exports noticeably by 0.16mmt (-10pct) from the 1.65mmt seen the week prior. The country thus also decreased exports considerably by 0.25mmt (-17pct) from the 1.74mmt shipped this time last year. Oman saw weekly shipments remain broadly steady at 0.20mmt whilst the UAE's weekly exports doubled to 0.12mmt. On a year-on-year basis, Oman nevertheless increased exports by 0.07mmt (54pct) to 0.20mmt from 0.13mmt whilst the UAE's volumes increased by 0.06mmt (33pct) from 0.12mmt. Egypt, meanwhile, exported 0.11mmt (220pct) last week, having exported only 0.05mmt the week prior. Egypt's LNG shipments nevertheless were down 0.05mmt (-31pct) from 0.21mmt year-on-year.

Middle Eastern Demand

Completing the Middle East's LNG trade picture last week were Pakistan and Kuwait, which imported 0.27mmt via five cargoes. As such, the region's week-on-week demand had increased by 0.22mmt (440pct) from 0.05mmt the week prior. Regional weekly demand thus also came in 0.08mmt (42pct) above its year-on-year equivalent of 0.19mmt ♦