LNG Market Tracker

LNG JOURNAL'S WEEKLY LNG MARKET TRENDS REPORT 13 JUNE 2022

Cumulative LNG Demand Growth Accelerates in Europe

Europe's cumulative LNG demand has grown much faster in the first 23 weeks of this year than during the equivalent time last year. Russian pipeline supply issues that had begun to manifest themselves even before Russia's invasion of Ukraine has left European gas inventories at their third lowest since 2018. As a result, Europe has ascended as a key LNG demand driver. However, whilst several EU member states have vowed to drastically reduce Russian energy imports, shipments by Yamal LNG have so far remained broadly unaffected.

Cumulative European LNG imports have risen much faster than their equivalents in 2021, leading to record levels of LNG imports during the first half of the year, our data a show. European buyers are keen to reduce their dependence on Russian pipeline gas whilst also replenishing gas storage ahead of next winter. France, Spain and the United Kingdom led European demand with imports averaging 0.49mmt, 0.42mmt and 0.41mmt per week since January, according to our data and calculations.

Low inventories

European LNG demand jumped as gas storage inventories were low at the beginning of the year until March, according to aggregated operational data of EU LNG terminals. Notably, a sizeable portion of imports into the United Kingdom are transported on to mainland Europe via interconnectors. LNG storage levels up until March were the third-lowest since 2018.

Pipeline supply issues

Russian pipeline gas flows had seen a protracted decrease even before the war in Ukraine, limiting offtakes in Europe. Since the outbreak of the war, disagreements over payments and economic sanctions in response to Russia's invasion of Ukraine have increased the risk to extensive pipeline supply disruptions.

Both Poland and Lithuania have boosted LNG imports since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Russia's gas conglomerate Gazprom said in April it had halted gas exports to Poland over the country's refusal to pay for supplies in roubles. Lithuania's Ministry of Energy said it had stopped the import of Russian energy supplies in May.

Portfolio diversification

Several other European member states have also begun in earnest to reduce their dependency on Russian gas, although a complete stop of imports would be difficult to achieve in the near-term. The European Union aims to diversify the trade block's energy portfolio. Germany, one of Europe's biggest gas importers, is pushing for the construction of two LNG terminals at Brunsbuttel and Wilhelmshaven.

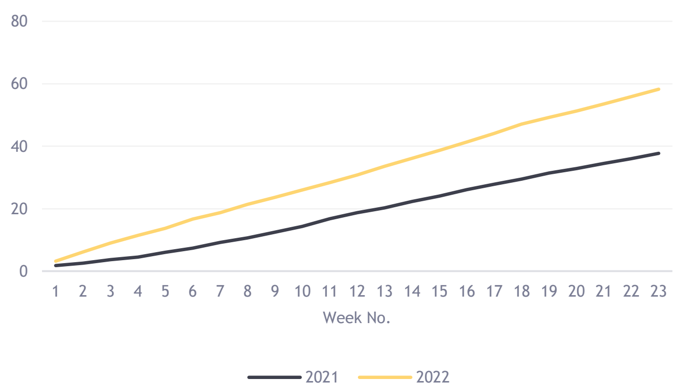
Yamal LNG unaffected

However, these drastic policy proposals have not yet had a sizeable effect on the ability of Russia's Yamal LNG to export gas to Europe. Yamal's LNG shipments to the continent were broadly steady last week compared to last year, our data show. Notably, European imports from Yamal LNG during the first 23 weeks of the year were more than 1 million tonnes higher than in 2021, with the Russian plant producing at above nameplate capacity, our data indicate.

Important demand driver

The acceleration in European demand growth has led the continent to become one of the key drivers of global LNG demand growth during 1H 2022. The recent outage at the Freeport LNG plant has had a more pronounced impact on gas prices in Europe than in Asia over fears of reduced cargo availability at other US LNG plants, Reuters reported ◆

Cumulative European LNG Imports (MMt)



CONTENTS

LNG EXPORTS (MMT)

Pacific Basin

Week-on-Week	0.22	-7pct
Six-month change	0.22	-7pct

Atlantic Basin

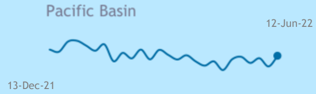
Week-on-Week	0.08	-3pct
Six-month change	0.45	17pct

Middle East

Week-on-Week	0.10	6pct
Six-month change	0.13	-7pct

LNG IMPORTS (MMT)

Pacific Basin



Week-on-Week	0.66	16pct
Six-month change	0.41	-8pct

Atlantic Basin

Week-on-Week	0.15	6pct
Six-month change	0.61	28pct

Middle East

Week-on-Week	0.08	26pct
Six-month change	0.25	179pct

Expected Deliveries this Week

Japan to push past China with 1.53mmt at current market visibility

Pacific Basin

LNG Imports in the Pacific Basin are likely to amount to 4.76mmt, according to our data at the time of writing, constituting an increase of 19pct compared to the previous week's total of 4.82mmt. The Pacific's imports this week are likely going to be led by Japan (1.53mmt), China (0.78mmt) and South Korea (0.71mmt) whilst seven cargoes totalling 0.47mmt 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 14 cargoes totalling 0.89mmt. Most of Australia's shipments to Japan have sailed from Wheatstone LNG (0.31mmt, 35pct) and Ichthys LNG (0.18mmt, 20pct), inter alia via the Flex Amber, the Woodside Rees Withers and the Bishu Maru. Our analysis indicates these deliveries to have been completed by Sunday. Concurrently, our market visibility highlights that the Futtsu and Niigata terminals will be Japan's busiest this week on imports of 0.15mmt (11pct) and 0.14mmt (10pct), respectively. In addition to Australia's shipments, we are also expecting Japan to receive ten cargoes totalling 0.64mmt from, inter alia, Russia, Malaysia and Papua New Guinea. Our data thus indicate Japan's expected cumulative LNG imports of 1.53mmt this week are likely to have increased by 0.24mmt (19pct) from 1.29mmt last week and increased by 0.30mmt (24pct) from 1.23mmt year-on-year.

China

The most significant origin of LNG destined to arrive in China by volume this week is also Australia via six cargoes totalling 0.39mmt. Most of Australia's shipments to China have sailed from NWS LNG (0.24mmt, 62pct) and Australia Pacific LNG (0.08mmt, 21pct), inter alia, via the Dapeng Sun, the LNG Dream and the CESI Qingdao. We are currently expecting these shipments to arrive by Sunday, with the Zhejiang LNG and Guangdong Dapeng LNG terminals set to be China's busiest this week on imports of 0.16mmt (25pct) and 0.12mmt (19pct), respectively. In addition to Australia's shipments, we are currently tracking five cargoes totalling 0.39mmt led by Qatar, the United States and Russia, which we expect to arrive in China by Sunday. We therefore think China's weekly LNG offtake is likely to have decreased by 0.60mmt (-43pct) from 1.38mmt last week and decreased by 0.84mmt (-52pct) from 1.62mmt year-on-year.

South Korea

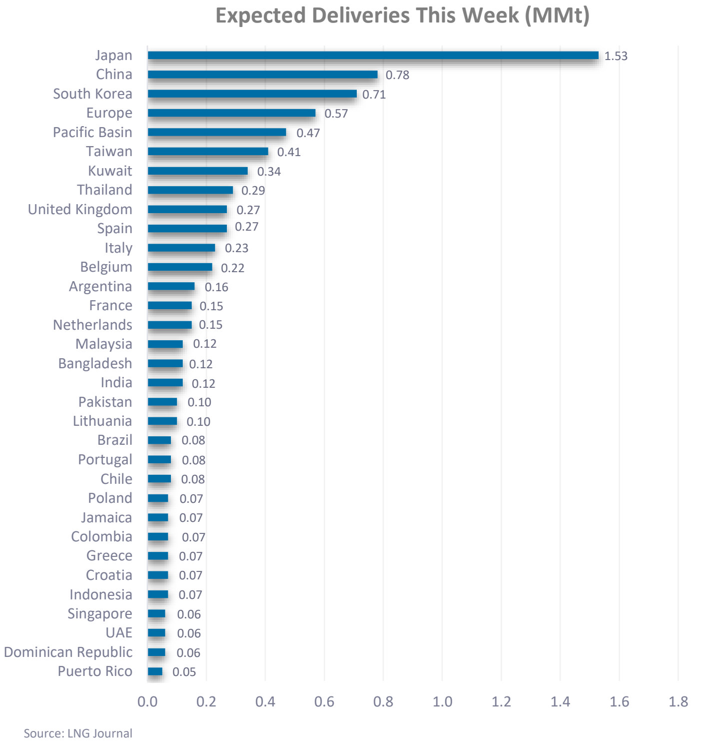
Meanwhile, the largest share of expected deliveries to South Korea is equally going to be coming from Australia via three cargoes totalling 0.23mmt this week. The bulk of Australia's volumes have sailed from Australia Pacific LNG and Prelude FLNG via the Global Star and the GasLog Greece, respectively. We expect these South Korea-bound shipments to arrive by Sunday. We are also expecting eight cargoes totalling 0.48mmt from, inter alia, Oman, Qatar and the United States to arrive in South Korea this week, with the Incheon and Tongyeong terminals set to be South Korea's busiest on imports of 0.22mmt (34pct) and 0.21mmt (33pct), respectively. Based on our market visibility, we expect the country's weekly imports to have remained broadly steady compared to last week but decreased by 0.19mmt (-21pct) from 0.90mmt year-on-year.

Atlantic Basin

Demand in the Atlantic Basin is likely to reach 2.74mmt this week, our data indicated at the time of writing, constituting a decrease of 1pct from the 2.77mmt of regional imports last week. At least 35pct are destined for Spain (0.27mmt), the United Kingdom (0.27mmt) and Italy (0.23mmt) whilst 0.57mmt remain without a confirmed destination but were broadly directed to within the Basin at the time of writing.

Spain

Our market visibility indicates the most prominent origin of LNG destined to arrive in Spain this week is Russia, based on one cargo of 0.08mmt. This shipment has sailed from Yamal LNG via the Fedor Litke. Our data peg its delivery horizon at 14 June. Apart from Russia's export, we are also expecting Spain to receive three additional cargoes totalling 0.19mmt from Nigeria, the United States and Trinidad & Tobago by the end of the week. Concurrently, our market visibility indicates the Mugardos and Bahia de Bizkaia LNG terminals will be Spain's busiest this week on imports of 0.08mmt (30pct) and 0.07mmt (26pct), respectively. Our data thus suggest Spain's cumulative LNG offtake this week is likely to have decreased by 0.23mmt (-46pct) week-on-week and by -0.21mmt (-44pct) year-on-year.



United Kingdom

Our current market visibility further indicates the most significant supply of LNG to the United Kingdom this week is coming from Qatar via two cargoes totalling 0.20mmt. Qatar's volumes have sailed aboard the Q-Max vessel Al Ghuwairiya and Q-Flex Al Shamal, which were headed for the South Hook terminal. We are also expecting a cargo from Peru's Pampa Melchorita LNG. These anticipated deliveries mean the United Kingdom is likely to see week-on-week offtakes decrease by 0.08mmt (-23pct) from 0.35mmt but a 0.01mmt (4pct) increase from 0.26mmt year-on-year.

France

Meanwhile, our data indicate the largest share of expected deliveries to Italy is equally going to be coming from the United States via two cargoes totalling 0.13mmt this week. The United States' shipments sailed from Cameron LNG via the Stena Clear Sky as well as from Freeport LNG via the British Listener. These cargoes are due to arrive at the Toscana Terminal by Friday. Moreover, the country is expecting a cargo from Algeria's Arzew LNG and a Ras Laffan shipment via the Q-Flex Al Kharaitiyat by Sunday. We are expecting the Toscana Terminal and Rovigo Adriatic LNG terminals to see imports of 0.13mmt (57pct) and 0.09mmt (39pct), respectively. As such, our data indicate Italy's LNG demand this week is going to decrease by 0.08mmt (-26pct) compared to last week and by 0.01mmt (-4pct) year-on-year, the country having imported 0.35mmt this time last year.

Middle East

Our data also indicate demand in the Middle East is likely to reach 0.50mmt this week via eight cargoes, constituting an increase of 28pct from the 0.39mmt of regional imports last week.

The roster of regional buyers includes Kuwait with expected imports of 0.34mmt via five cargoes aboard the Sabine Pass LNG-derived Energy Endeavour and LNG Abalamabie as well as the GasLog Saratoga, which is carrying an Australian NWS LNG cargo. Moreover, we expect a Dutch re-export onboard the Methane Mickie Harper and a Das Island export via the Mubaraz to arrive by Sunday. These anticipated deliveries indicate Kuwait is likely to see a weekly demand increase of 0.18mmt (113pct) from 0.16mmt last week and by 0.27mmt (386pct) year-on-year.

In addition, our data point to Pakistan's Port Qasim terminal receiving two shipments totalling 0.10mmt via the Ras Laffan-derived Milaha Ras Laffan and the Simaisma. Accordingly, Pakistan's LNG demand this week is likely to decrease by 0.08mmt (-44pct) both week-on-week and year-on-year.

Finally, our data point to Dubai's FSRU terminal receiving a shipment of 0.06mmt via the Ras Laffan-derived Maran Gas Asclepius this week. Accordingly, the UAE's LNG demand this week is likely to increase by 0.01mmt (20pct) week-on-week and by 0.06mmt year-on-year, Dubai not having imported LNG this time last year ◆

LNG in Transit

Currently, 17.12mmt of LNG have a delivery horizon of 15 August

Total LNG volumes currently in transit amount to 17.12mmt, representing a decrease of 0.87mmt (-5pct) week-on-week. Current market visibility pegs the delivery horizon at 15 August.

Pacific Basin

Our current market visibility indicates 7.73mmt are destined for the Pacific Basin, whereby Thailand's Map Ta Phut LNG terminal is in the lead with 0.48mmt and a delivery horizon of 25 June currently set by the Global Energy (II). Of the 7.73mmt currently in transit, 2.91mmt (38pct) have yet to have a firm destination, which are broadly destined for the Pacific region by 14 July.

At the time of writing, Gorgon LNG topped the list of export plants in the Pacific with 0.75mmt currently in transit, followed by NWS LNG with 0.71mmt and Pampa Melchorita LNG with 0.58mmt via, inter alia, the Asia Integrity, the Dapeng Star and the Castillo de Santisteban, respectively. The delivery horizon for Pacific in-transit exports by the Basin's leading three plants was 17 July at the time of writing.

Atlantic Basin

The Atlantic Basin, meanwhile, is due to receive 4.30mmt by 27 June, our data indicates. Firmed-up Atlantic deliveries are led by 0.38mmt destined for Belgium Zeebrugge terminal with a delivery horizon of 27 June.

As with the Pacific Basin, there remain 2.25mmt of in-transit LNG cargoes that have yet to confirm their destinations. Around 1.96mmt are currently broadly destined for Europe by 5 July.

Among Atlantic exporters with LNG deliveries currently pending, Sabine Pass LNG was the lead with 1.71mmt, followed by Bonny Island with 0.92mmt and Freeport LNG with 0.88mmt. These cargoes are aboard, inter alia, the Amberjack LNG, the BW Pavilion Vanda and the British Listener. The delivery horizon for all in-transit exports by Atlantic Basin plants was 15 August at the time of writing.

Middle East

Meanwhile, our data indicate there is a total of nine cargoes – 0.56mmt – currently headed for Kuwait and Pakistan. 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 Oyo, with a delivery horizon of 22 June at the time of writing.

In terms of Middle Eastern cargoes underway to destinations outside the Basin, 3.8mmt have a delivery horizon of 10 July, including 3.03mmt that originated in Qatar, with a further 0.55mmt coming from Oman's Qalhat terminal and 0.17mmt from the UAE's Das Island facility. Egypt's Idku LNG plant, meanwhile, had no shipments at sea at the time of writing. Neighbouring Damietta LNG had one cargo of 0.05mmt underway via the British Mentor at the time of writing ◆

Expected Cargo Liftings

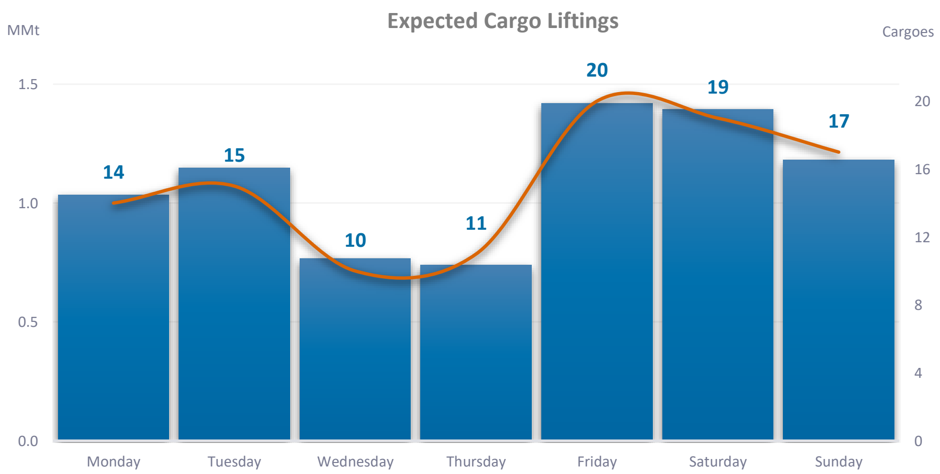
104 cargo liftings estimated this week

Based on our shipping data and nominal vessel capacities, we are currently expecting 104 cargo liftings amounting to 7.54mmt by the end of this week.

Pacific Basin

Our data indicate the Pacific Basin will account for 43 of this week's liftings, meaning that roughly 3.00mmt are exported throughout the Basin by Sunday.

In Australia, we are expecting NWS 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 (0.29mmt), followed by four cargoes (0.27mmt) from Wheatstone LNG. Meanwhile, Australia Pacific LNG, Prelude FLNG, Queensland Curtis LNG, Ichthys LNG and Gladstone LNG are expected to ship a total of 12 cargoes amounting to 0.86mmt by the end of the week.



Source: LNG Journal

In Southeast Asia, our shipping data points to Malaysia LNG exporting up to six cargoes amounting to 0.39mmt. In neighbouring Indonesia, we think this week's exports will amount to five cargoes totalling 0.33mmt from its Tangguh, Bontang and Donggi-Senoro LNG plants. Additionally, based on our market visibility, we are expecting Brunei LNG to ship two cargoes totalling 0.13mmt via the Abadi and the Amali 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 six cargoes totalling 0.43mmt, according to our market visibility.

Atlantic Basin

Meanwhile, our analysis indicates the Atlantic Basin will see 33 cargo loadings, with around 2.34mmt exported throughout the Basin.

In the United States, we are expecting a total of 18 cargoes (1.37mmt) to be lifted. These exports are likely to be led by Cameron LNG with 0.46mmt, inter alia via the Aristarchos (0.08mmt), the Cadiz Knutsen (0.06mmt) and the Hoegh Esperanza (0.08mmt). Concurrently, Sabine Pass LNG is going to ship 0.37mmt via five cargo liftings, our data suggests, whilst we expect Corpus Christi LNG, Cove Point LNG, Elba Island LNG and Calcasieu Pass LNG to ship a total of 0.54mmt via seven cargo liftings.

In South America and the Caribbean, market visibility indicated two cargo liftings totalling 0.13mmt at Trinidad's Atlantic LNG via the Energy Atlantic and the Seapeak Hispania this week.

On the other side of the Atlantic, we think up to 13 cargoes (0.84mmt) will be lifted by Sunday. In West- and North Africa, we are expecting Nigeria's Bonny Island facility to export three cargoes amounting to 0.20mmt whilst our market visibility further suggests Algeria will ship up to three cargoes amounting to 0.13mmt from its Arzew and Skikda plants by Sunday. We are, however, not expecting Angola's Soyo plant to export a cargo whilst our data point to an export from Equatorial Guinea's EG LNG. We are, however, not expecting a shipment from Cameroon's FLNG facility offshore Kribi this week.

In the Arctic, we are currently anticipating Norway's Snøhvit LNG to ship two cargoes via the Arctic Discoverer (0.06mmt), and the Arctic Princess (0.07mmt) by the end of the week. Meanwhile, our shipping data suggests Novatek's Yamal LNG is going to load up to four cargoes amounting to 0.31mmt by Sunday.

Middle East

Finally, we are expecting a total of 28 Middle Eastern cargo liftings totalling 2.20mmt by the end of the week, most of which (1.80mmt) would take place at Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG complex, inter alia via the Al Aamriya and the Al Daayen. Market visibility currently also suggests to us Oman is looking to load up to four cargoes amounting to 0.26mmt via the Hanjin Sur, the Kmarin Diamond, the Salalah LNG and the Sohar LNG. We are, however, not expecting an export from ADNOC's Das Island plant in the UAE this week. Our shipping data also points to one Egyptian shipment from Damietta SEGAS LNG.

The current visible schedule therefore suggests peak loading activity of 20 cargoes on Friday, followed by 19 on Saturday, whilst Wednesday is looking to be least active with ten liftings ◆

Estimated Cargo Liftings (MMt)

Country	Plant	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Algeria	Arzew	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	-
	Skikda	-	-	-	0.03	0.03	-	-
Angola	Angola LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Australia	Australia Pacific LNG	-	0.08	-	-	-	0.14	-
	Darwin LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gladstone LNG	-	-	0.07	-	-	-	0.06
	Gorgon LNG	0.08	0.08	-	-	0.07	-	0.07
	Ichthys LNG	0.07	-	-	-	0.07	-	-
	NWS LNG	-	0.08	0.08	-	0.07	0.08	-
	Pluto LNG	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	-
	Queensland Curtis	-	-	-	0.15	-	-	-
	Wheatstone LNG	-	0.07	-	-	0.07	0.07	0.07
	Prelude FLNG	0.07	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Brunei	Brunei LNG	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	0.07
Cameroon	Cameroon FLNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	Tilbury LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	EG LNG	-	-	-	-	0.07	-	-
Egypt	Damietta SEGAS LNG	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	0.08
	Idku LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	Bontang	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	-
	Donggi-Senoro LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.06
	Tangguh	0.06	-	-	-	0.07	0.06	-
Malaysia	Malaysia LNG	0.06	0.13	-	-	-	0.13	-
	PFLNG Satu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	PFLNG Dua	-	0.07	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	Bonny Island	-	-	0.06	-	0.07	0.07	-
Norway	Snøhvit LNG	-	-	-	-	0.06	-	0.07
Oman	Oman LNG	0.07	0.07	-	-	0.06	0.06	-
Peru	Pampa Melchorita	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	PNG LNG	-	0.08	-	-	0.07	0.15	-
Qatar	Ras Laffan	0.28	0.28	0.25	0.28	0.19	0.25	0.27
Russia	Sakhalin-2 LNG	-	-	0.06	-	0.07	-	-
	Yamal LNG	0.08	-	0.08	-	0.08	0.08	-
Singapore	Singapore LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trin. & Tobago	Atlantic LNG	-	0.07	-	-	-	0.06	-
UAE	Das Island	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
United States	Elba Island LNG	-	-	-	-	0.08	-	-
	Cove Point LNG	-	-	-	-	-	0.08	-
	Cameron LNG	0.08	-	0.08	0.07	-	0.08	0.15
	Freeport LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sabine Pass LNG	0.06	0.08	0.08	0.08	-	0.08	-
	Corpus Christi LNG	0.08	0.08	-	-	0.08	-	0.08
	Calcasieu Pass LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.07
	Total	1.03	1.15	0.77	0.74	1.35	1.39	1.11

Source: LNG Journal

Trade Last Week

Global LNG trade stood at 7.88mmt last week

Last week's global LNG flows stood at 7.88mmt, having thus decreased by 0.20mmt (-2pct) from 8.08mmt the week prior.

Pacific Basin

The Pacific ended last week with 3.01mmt in exports, resulting in a 0.22mmt (-7pct) trade decrease from 3.23mmt recorded for the week before last. This, in turn, translated into capacity utilisation of 93pct, a decrease of 7pp. Meanwhile, week-on-week demand in the Pacific region - including domestic re-exports in Malaysia, Indonesia and China - grew by 0.66mmt (16pct) from 4.16mmt to 4.82mmt. As a result, last week's Pacific import capacity utilisation expanded by 8pp to 61pct.

Atlantic Basin

Concurrently, trade in the Atlantic Basin had amounted to 3.04mmt by midnight on Sunday, a 0.08mmt (-3pct) decrease compared to the 3.12mmt recorded for the prior week. This in turn translated into regional export capacity utilisation of 94pct for last week, a decrease of 2pp week-on-week. The Basin's imports, meanwhile, had increased by 0.15mmt (6pct) to 2.77mmt by Sunday. As a result, Atlantic import capacity utilisation stood at 58pct for the week, an increase of 3pp over the week prior.

Middle East

As for the Middle East, the region's exports had seen positive weekly trade growth of 0.10mmt to 1.83mmt by midnight on Sunday. This represented a 6pct increase from the 1.73mmt seen the week before last. As such, regional export capacity utilisation also grew to 83pct for the week, up 5pp over the week before. Meanwhile, Middle Eastern imports saw positive weekly growth, increasing by 0.08mmt (26pct) to 0.39mmt. The region's import capacity utilisation thus stood at 64pct for the week, constituting an increase of 13pp over the prior week.

Pacific Exports – Australia

The Pacific Basin's most significant exporter by volume - Australia - shipped 1.72mmt last week, decreasing exports by 0.14mmt (-8pct) from the 1.86mmt shipped the week prior. On a year-on-year basis, the country nevertheless grew LNG shipments robustly by 0.29mmt (20pct) from 1.43mmt.

Southeast Asia

Meanwhile, the Pacific's second-largest exporter by capacity - Malaysia - shipped 0.46mmt last week, and thereby decreased exports by 0.17mmt (-27pct) week-on-week, whilst its neighbour Indonesia saw a reduction of 0.07mmt (-28pct) to 0.18mmt over the same period. On a year-on-year basis, however, Malaysia's exports thus also remained broadly steady at 0.47mmt whilst Indonesia's year-on-year shipments decreased by 0.12mmt (-40pct) from 0.30mmt. Elsewhere in the region, in the north of Kalimantan, there were two LNG shipments totalling 0.14mmt from Brunei LNG. The plant thus increased exports by 0.14mmt week-on-week whilst on a year-on-year basis, it kept export levels unchanged.

Other Pacific Exporters

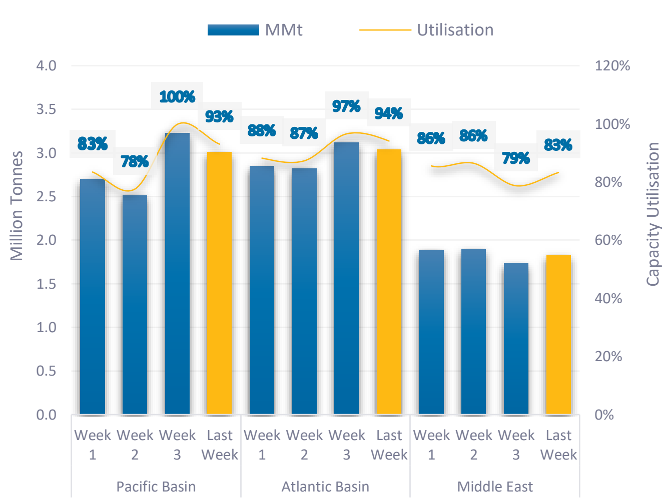
The remaining Pacific LNG exports had amounted to 0.51mmt by the end of last week compared to 0.49mmt the week prior, resulting in a 0.02mmt (4pct) increase in weekly exports. This was mainly due to Russia's Sakhalin-2 LNG plant increasing exports by 0.11mmt (58pct) from 0.19mmt the week prior. Peru's Pampa Melchorita LNG plant, meanwhile, also increased exports. They were up by 0.05mmt (62pct) from 0.08mmt the week prior. Meanwhile, Papua New Guinea's PNG LNG tempered overall growth as it curtailed shipments by 0.14mmt (-64pct) to 0.08mmt. Singapore LNG, however, did not ship LNG last week, having also shipped no LNG the week prior.

Far Eastern Demand

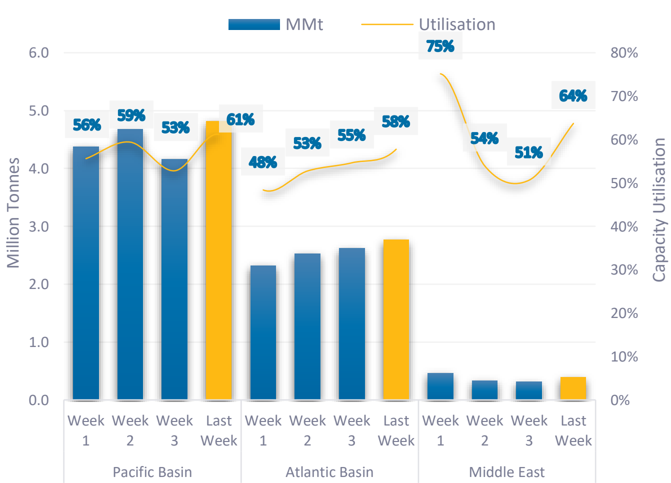
In contrast to lower weekly Pacific exports, Pacific demand increased by 0.66mmt (16pct) last week, which was led by a 0.10mmt (8pct) offtake increase from 1.19mmt to 1.29mmt in Japan. Consequently, the country's demand was also up by 0.06mmt (5pct) year-on-year. Japan's busiest LNG terminal last week was the Sodegaura facility with 0.14mmt, followed by the Higashi-Ogishima terminal with 0.13mmt. Concurrently, LNG demand in South Korea decreased by 0.19mmt (-21pct) from 0.89mmt to 0.70mmt last week, which also meant that on an annual basis the country's offtake was down by 0.20mmt (-22pct). South Korea's offtakes were led by the Incheon terminal with 0.36mmt, followed by the Pyeongtaek facility with 0.22mmt. Moreover, Taiwan saw week-on-week demand decline of 22pct, down by 0.07mmt to 0.25mmt from 0.32mmt the week prior. On a year-on-year basis, the country's imports were thus also down by 0.08mmt (-24pct) from 0.33mmt. In China, weekly imports remained steady at 0.79mmt whilst the country's imports had decreased by 0.24mmt (-15pct) year-on-year. Meanwhile, we recorded a demand increase in India last week, where offtakes went up by 0.04mmt (8pct) to 0.52mmt from 0.48mmt the week prior. Accordingly, India's imports had also increased by 0.04mmt (8pct) year-on-year from 0.48mmt.

Adding to Pacific demand growth, the roster of smaller Pacific Basin buyers typically consisting of Chile, Singapore, Mexico, Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Myanmar and Bangladesh increased their collective weekly imports by 0.04mmt (8pct) to 0.53mmt. A significant overall weekly offtake decrease of 0.18mmt (-44pct) to 0.23mmt in Bangladesh, Chile and Thailand negated tempered rapid growth totalling 0.22mmt (733pct) in Singapore, Indonesia and Mexico. Myanmar and Malaysia were not seen in the market.

Exports & Capacity Utilisation Last Week



Imports & Capacity Utilisation Last Week



Atlantic Exports – West Africa

In the Atlantic Basin, West African exporters decreased their overall shipped volumes by 0.04mmt (-6pct) net last week. Although Cameroon returned to the market with a shipment of 0.08mmt and Nigeria increased exports by 0.07mmt (29pct) to 0.31mmt, this growth was negated by reductions elsewhere. Angola was not seen in the market, having exported 0.07mmt the week prior. Moreover, Algeria reduced its shipped LNG volumes by 0.05mmt (-21pct) to 0.19mmt, whilst Equatorial Guinea exported 0.08mmt compared to 0.15mmt the week prior.

United States

In the United States, export plants saw the total of shipped LNG volumes contract by 0.20mmt (-11pct) from 1.64mmt to 1.44mmt last week. US LNG export performance was mainly due to a slashing of shipments by 0.15mmt (-47pct) to 0.17mmt at Freeport LNG. The plant had shipped 0.32mmt the week prior but later suffered from feedgas supply interruptions due to a pipeline incident. This was followed by a decrease in exports of 0.07mmt (-47pct) to 0.08mmt at Cove Point LNG, the plant not having shipped LNG the week prior. Concurrently, Sabine Pass LNG reduced exports by 0.03mmt (-6pct) to 0.51mmt whilst Cameron LNG and Elba Island LNG kept exports broadly steady at 0.29mmt sand 0.07mmt. respectively. As such, export growth of 0.05mmt (18pct) at Corpus Christi LNG could only cushion negative US LNG export growth last week. Nevertheless, shipments still outperformed their year-on-year equivalent of 1.26mmt, showing a net improvement of 0.34mmt (27pct).

Other Atlantic Exporters

Further south, Atlantic LNG on Trinidad saw three exports totalling 0.19mmt. Concurrently, in the Arctic, Novatek's fleet lifted 0.39mmt via five shipments from Yamal LNG. Russian LNG exports in the Atlantic Basin thereby decreased by 0.09mmt (-19pct) from 0.48mmt week-on-week. Notably, Snøhvit LNG in Norway resumed exports and shipped two cargoes amounting to 0.13mmt last week.

European Demand

European buyers increased imports by 0.06mmt (2pct) to 2.37mmt last week. Notably, Italy, the United Kingdom and Spain saw a combined weekly demand increase of 0.28mmt (32pct) to 1.16mmt. Spain, Belgium and the Netherlands also saw strong LNG demand growth last week, with Spain growing imports by 0.08mmt to 0.50mmt whilst Belgium showed demand of 0.32mmt last week, up 0.04mmt (14pct) from 0.28mmt the week prior. The Netherlands also continued to increase offtakes, although at 0.02mmt (12pct) that week-on-week increase was more moderate. Among Europe's smaller buyers in volume terms, Portugal, Lithuania and Greece collectively increased offtakes by 0.04mmt (21pct) to 0.23mmt. Meanwhile, Malta was not seen in the market. Nevertheless, the overall offtake growth was tempered by demand decreases totalling 0.32mmt (-40pct) to 0.48mmt in France, Turkey, Poland and Croatia, our data showed. Among European terminals, imports in northern Europe were led by South Hook LNG in the United Kingdom with 0.28mmt whilst in southern Europe, Spain's Cartagena LNG terminal was in the lead with 0.22mmt.

Other Atlantic Buyers

Meanwhile, Atlantic buyers in North- and South America, as well as the Caribbean, decreased imports by 0.05mmt (-16pct) from 0.31mmt to 0.26mmt. This overall week-on-week demand picture evolved as demand in the Dominican Republic collapsed from 0.08mmt the week prior. Argentina also saw reduced demand by 0.05mmt (-38pct) with imports of 0.08mmt. The resulting week-on-week decrease was only cushioned by Brazilian demand growth of 0.03mmt (37pct) to 0.11mmt. We did not record LNG offtakes by the remaining importers of the Americas last week.

Middle Eastern Exports

In the Middle East, Qatar shipped 1.40mmt last week and thereby saw due to a slight increase in weekly exports by 0.01mmt (1pct) from the 1.39mmt seen the week prior. The country , however, still decreased exports by 0.08mmt (-5pct) from the 1.48mmt shipped this time last year. In contrast, Oman increased weekly exports by 0.10mmt (62pct) to 0.26mmt whilst the UAE increased weekly exports more moderately by 0.01mmt (9pct) to 0.12mmt. On a year-on-year basis, Oman thus also increased exports by 0.07mmt (37pct) whilst the UAE's volumes remained steady. Egypt, meanwhile, curtailed exports by 0.02mmt (-29pct) to 0.05mmt last week, having shipped 0.07mmt the week prior. The country also slashed shipped volumes by 0.16mmt (-76pct) year-on-year, following exports of 0.21mmt this time last year.

Middle Eastern Demand

Completing the Middle East's LNG trade picture last week were Kuwait, Pakistan and Jordan, which together imported 0.39mmt via six cargoes. As such, the region's week-on-week demand had increased by 0.08mmt (26pct) from 0.31mmt the week prior. Regional weekly demand thus also came in 0.14mmt (56pct) above its year-on-year equivalent of 0.25mmt ◆