NEW

LNG Market Tracker

LNG JOURNAL'S WEEKLY LNG MARKET TRENDS REPORT 03 AUGUST 2020

Petrobras Set to Permanently Loosen Grip on LNG in Brazil

Brazil is gearing up to accelerate a fundamental shift in its gas market, with federal competition regulator CADE overseeing the beginning of Petrobras' gradual withdrawal from its monopoly position in the country's energy economy. Whilst an attempt at opening the market in 2019 failed due to Petrobras' systemic importance, this year already saw Golar Power gain an independent, if small, foothold in Brazil's LNG market.

Brazil's state-run energy champion Petrobras has published the bidding rules for the lease of its LNG regasification terminal and associated infrastructure in Brazil's Bahia state. The terminal - named Terminal de Regaseificação de GNL da Bahia (or TR-BA) - is located in the Bay of All Saints in the Brazilian state of Bahia. The facility has the capacity to heat, regasify and inject between 14 and 20 million m^3/day into the 45km GASCAC Gas Pipeline. TR-BA consists of an island-type pier to moor an FSRU directly to the pier, ready to receive gas from LNGCs via ship-to-ship transfers.

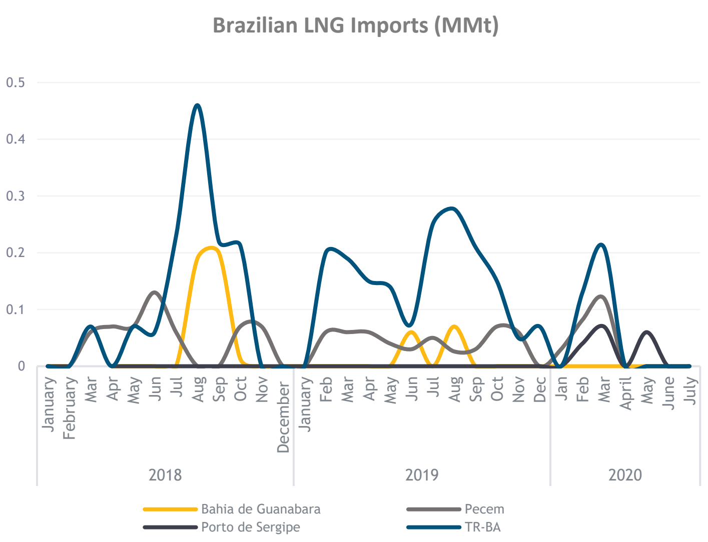
TR-BA – Terminal de Regaseificação de GNL da Bahia

The TR-BA facility was commissioned in 2014 but, like all of Brazil's LNG import capacity, has only been used seasonally. Brazil primarily relies on LNG to balance losses in hydropower during dry weather.

Monopoly & declining LNG imports

Until recently, Brazil's LNG market had been monopolised by Petrobras through a roster of three FSRU terminals at Guanabara Bay, Port Pecem and the TR-BA facility at Bahia de Todos os Santos. Although Brazilian law does not prohibit third-party imports, Petrobras' de facto monopoly control of the country's pipeline network has hampered gas imports by independent companies. This has weighed on competition within Brazil's energy market and confronted Petrobras with the unrealistic challenge of expanding and maintaining a comprehensive gas pipeline network across Brazil. It also left the company as the sole arbiter of Brazilian LNG imports, which have continued to decline since 2018.

TR-BA lease sign of LNG market liberalisation



Source: LNG Journal

Putting TR-BA up for lease is part of Petrobras' plan to withdraw from its dominant market position in Brazil's midstream and downstream sectors. Already since February this year, Golar Power has been independently importing LNG via the Porto de Sergipe FSRU terminal in northeast Brazil to supply its 1,500 MW combined-cycle power plant.

CADE keen to break monopoly

However, gas market liberalisation is not exactly championed by Petrobras but is pushed through by antitrust regulator CADE under the Novo Mercado de Gás (New Gas Market) policy launched in June 2019. An attempt at gas market liberalisation in August that year, however, was swiftly cancelled due to Petrobras' persistent dominant market position. The conglomerate's dominance stems from decades of being tasked by successive governments with exclusively building and running Brazil's energy sectors and associated infrastructure, a pact that ruptured amid Brazil's historic corruption scandal in 2014.

Investor interest high

Brazilian law and Petrobras' own Bidding and Contracts Regulation (RLCP) restrict the roster of companies permitted to bid for the lease of the TR-BA facility. Notably, it does not include an FSRU, which presumably will have to be supplied by the winning bidder. Only pre-registered and qualified companies will be allowed to proceed to the

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WEEKLY TRADE

Global	15.3%
Pacific	8.1%
Atlantic	46.1%
Middle East	-0.9%

WEEKLY EXPORTS

Pacific	-10.6%
Atlantic	41%
Middle East	-1%

WEEKLY IMPORTS

Pacific	21%
Atlantic	53%
Middle East	1..7%

bidding phase. This has not precluded keen interest among a sizeable roster of international gas and FSRU players. In total, 11 companies have registered for the bidding process, including Brazilian subsidiaries of energy majors such as BP, Shell and Total, as well as FSRU specialists such as Golar and Excelerate ♦

Expected Deliveries this Week

China to retake top spot among importers on 1.57mmt

Pacific Basin

We are currently expecting 5.00mmt to be delivered within the Pacific Basin by the end of this week, constituting a decrease of 12% over our expectation at this point last week. At least 68% are destined for China (1.57mmt), Japan (1.24mmt) and South Korea (0.58mmt) whilst 0.56mmt are still without a confirmed destination within the Basin.

China

Current market visibility suggests the largest share of LNG scheduled to arrive in China within this week is coming from Australia (0.50mmt, 32%) under contracts with Gorgon LNG (0.15mmt, 9%), followed by Queensland Curtis LNG (0.14mmt, 9%). Among LNGCs currently under way, the Pan Europe and the CESI Tianjin are scheduled to dock at the Guangdong Dapeng and Beihai LNG terminals by Wednesday and Saturday, respectively. China's current import schedule suggests offtakes are likely to increase by 0.08mmt (5%) week-on-week and by 0.40mmt (34%) year-on-year.

Japan

The largest single source of LNG destined to arrive in Japan within this week is Australia's Wheatstone LNG (0.27mmt, 21%), followed by NWS LNG (0.14mmt, 12%). Of LNGCs currently en route, we expect the Pacific Arcadia to arrive at the Higashi-Ogishima terminal on Monday whilst the LNG Ebisu is due at Himeji on Thursday. We currently see Japan's imports decrease by 0.45mmt (-26%) week-on-week whilst also decreasing by 0.22mmt (-15%) year-on-year.

South Korea

Meanwhile, expected deliveries to South Korea are to be mainly coming from Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG complex, with the LNG powerhouse currently directing 0.24mmt (42%) to the peninsula via, inter alia, the Q-Max Aamira, which is expected at Incheon on Saturday. We also see South Korea receiving a total of five cargoes from the United States (0.08mmt), Papua New Guinea (0.08mmt), Indonesia (0.07mmt) as well as Oman (0.06mmt) and Australia (0.06mmt). However, South Korea's imports are likely to decrease substantially by 0.14mmt (-20%) week-on-week whilst also showing a significant decrease of 0.44mmt (-43%) year-on-year.

Atlantic Basin

The Atlantic Basin is currently expected to receive 1.61mmt by the end of this week, constituting a decrease of 11% week-on-week. Roughly 0.32mmt are still without a clear destination within the Basin, whilst 48% are destined for Spain (0.41mmt), the United Kingdom (0.21mmt) and Portugal (0.15mmt).

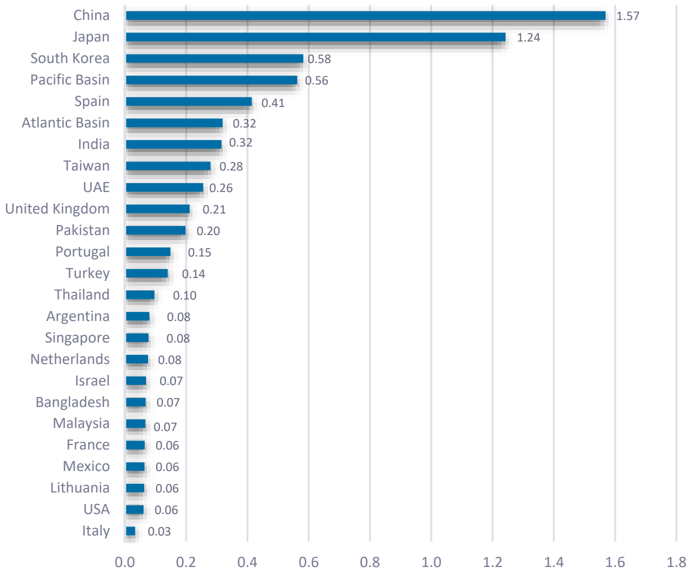
Spain

Spain's currently expected LNG deliveries within this week are mainly derived from two Yamal LNG cargoes aboard the Nikolay Urvantsev and the Yenisei River, totalling 0.15mmt (35%). The two vessels are scheduled for arrival at Bahia de Bizkaia LNG on Monday and at Mugardos on Saturday, respectively. Additionally, we see one shipment from the United States' Cameron LNG (0.07mmt) aboard the BW Pavilion Vanda, which is scheduled for arrival at Huelva on Wednesday.

Our data also indicate Spain is anticipating 0.07mmt to arrive at Bahia de Bizkaia LNG from Atlantic LNG on Trinidad via the British Sapphire (0.07mmt) on Tuesday. Meanwhile, Norway and Nigeria also each have one cargo scheduled to arrive at Huelva by Saturday aboard the Arctic Princess (0.07mmt) and the LNG Oyo 0.06mmt), respectively.

Consequently, Spain is likely to retain the lead in terms of European cargo destinations this week on a weekly demand increase of 0.06mmt (16%). Meanwhile, on a year-on-year basis, the country is likely to see offtakes remain essentially flat.

Predicted Deliveries This Week



Source: LNG Journal

United Kingdom

Concurrently, market visibility indicates the United Kingdom's imminent LNG imports of 0.21mmt consist of two Qatari shipments aboard the Q-Max Bu Samra (0.12mmt) and the Q-Flex Al Khattiya (0.09mmt. At the time of writing, the arrival horizon for these cargoes at the United Kingdom's South Hook terminals was between Monday and Sunday.

LNG volumes flowing into the United Kingdom are thus likely to increase robustly by 34% (0.05mmt) week-on-week whilst increasing even more substantially by 0.14mmt (180%) year-on-year.

Portugal

The Atlantic Basin's third largest importer this week - Portugal - is anticipating imminent LNG deliveries of 0.15mmt by Friday. They are to derive via two cargoes from Russia's Yamal LNG. Accordingly, our data indicate the Clean Ocean (0.07mmt) is scheduled to arrive at Sines on Tuesday whilst the Nikolay Yevgenov is due to arrive at Sines on Friday.

Based on the current delivery horizon, we anticipate Portugal to see weekly LNG imports grow by 0.08mmt (106%) this week whilst at the same time remaining broadly flat year-on-year.

Middle East

In the Middle East, we are anticipating eight cargo arrivals totalling 0.52mmt this week. Whilst our shipping data indicates Kuwait's Mina al Ahmadi LNG terminal is not expecting a cargo this week, the UAE's Dubai FSRU facility is expecting four deliveries. Whilst the Ghasha and the Al Khaznah are currently waiting in the Persian Gulf to discharge their Das Island cargoes on Tuesday and Saturday, respectively, the Nigerian LNG Adamawa and the Angola-derived Malanje are scheduled to arrive in Dubai on Wednesday and Sunday, respectively. These four deliveries set the UAE on track for a week-on-week offtake increase of 0.12mmt (92%) as well as a year-on-year increase of 0.26mmt. Notably, the FSRU at Dubai did not import LNG this week last year. However, we highlight that this schedule seems very tight and therefore expect some delay for at least two of those four cargoes

Meanwhile, Pakistan's Port Qasim LNG is expecting to Qatari cargoes amounting to 0.13mmt via the Stena Blue Sky and the Al Marrouna by Wednesday and Saturday, respectively. Nigeria also has a cargo en route via the LNG Borno, which is scheduled to deliver 0.07mmt on Tuesday. We therefore expect the country to increase its weekly offtakes by 0.13mmt (64%) whilst also decreasing imports by 0.07mmt (-25%) year-on-year.

Finally, the Hadera terminal in Israel is due to receive an Atlantic LNG cargo aboard the British Emerald (0.07mmt) on Monday, which would set the country on track for 0.07mmt (96%) offtake growth week-on-week and a 0.01mmt (5%) increase year-on-year ◆

LNG in Transit

Currently 15.18mmt of LNG have a delivery horizon of 8 September

Total LNG volumes currently in transit amount to 15.18mmt, representing an increase of 0.04mmt (0.3%) week-on-week. Current market visibility pegs the delivery horizon at 08 September.

Pacific Basin

There are currently 8.92mmt destined for the Pacific Basin, whereby China's Caofeidian LNG terminal is in the lead with 0.62mmt and a delivery horizon of 30 August, inter alia via the Sonangol Benguela sailing from Angola's Angola LNG plant.

Notably, of the 8.92mmt currently in transit, 1.99mmt have yet to have a firm destination, which are broadly destined for the Pacific region by 01 September.

At the time of writing, NWS LNG tops the list of export plants in the Pacific with 0.62mmt currently in transit, followed by Gorgon LNG with 0.58mmt and Malaysia LNG with 0.45mmt via, inter alia, the Castillo de Caldelas (0.08mmt), the Pan Europe (0.08mmt) and the British Listener (0.08mmt). The delivery horizon for Pacific in-transit exports by the Basin's top 3 plants above is currently 15 August.

Atlantic Basin

The Atlantic Basin, meanwhile, can expect to receive 3.52mmt by 27 August. Confirmed Atlantic deliveries are led by 0.23mmt worth of orders destined for Netherlands's Maasvlakte Gate Terminal with a delivery horizon of 14 August.

As with the Pacific Basin, there are still roughly 1.44mmt of in-transit LNG that have yet to confirm their destination. Around 1.22mmt are currently broadly destined for Europe by 22 August.

Among Atlantic exporters with LNG deliveries currently pending, Bonny Island is in the lead with 1.55mmt, followed by Yamal LNG with 0.75mmt and Cameron LNG with 0.67mmt. These cargoes are onboard, inter alia, the Nohshu Maru (0.08mmt), the Marvel Kite (0.08mmt) and the Marvel Crane (0.08mmt). The delivery horizon for Atlantic in-transit exports was 08 September at the time of writing.

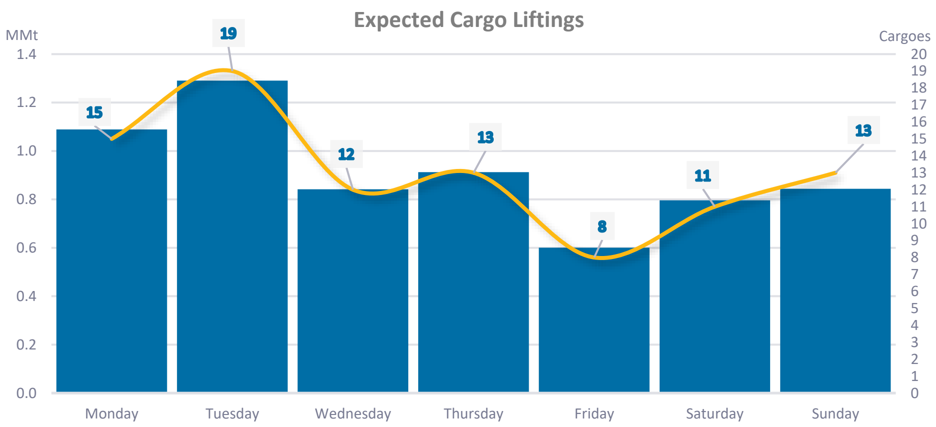
Middle East

Meanwhile, our data indicate there are 11 cargoes – 0.73mmt – currently headed for Pakistan, the UAE, Israel and Kuwait. In addition to the cargoes scheduled for arrival this week as noted above, Nigeria's Bonny Island plant and Algeria's Arzew facility currently each have a cargo en route to Mina al Ahmadi LNG in Kuwait. The two cargoes are aboard the LNG Port Harcourt II and the Seri Balqis, respectively. Moreover, Israel's Hadera terminal is expecting a Corpus Christi LNG cargo via the British Diamond (0.07mmt) in mid-August. The delivery horizon for the Middle East at the time of writing was 30 August.

In terms of Middle Eastern cargoes under way to destinations outside the Basin, 4.09mmt have a delivery horizon of 24 August, including 3.34mmt that originated in Qatar, with a further 0.32mmt coming from Oman's Qalhat terminal and 0.37mmt from the UAE's Das Island facility via, inter alia, the Aamira (0.12mmt), the K. Freesia (0.06mmt) and the Mubaraz (0.06mmt). Notably, our shipping data also indicate Egypt's Idku LNG still had a cargo aboard the Neptune (0.06mmt) at sea at the time of writing. The shipment is due at Taichung in Taiwan in roughly two weeks ◆

Expected Cargo Liftings

91 cargo liftings expected this week



Source: LNG Journal

Based on our shipping data, we see 91 cargo liftings amounting to 6.37mmt by the end of this week, representing a 0.12mmt decrease week-on-week. However, we highlight considerable uncertainty surrounding several vessels stationary at the Ras Laffan and Bintulu anchorages in Qatar and Malaysia.

Pacific Basin

Our market visibility indicates the Pacific Basin will account for 41 of this week's liftings, meaning that roughly 2.68mmt are exported throughout the Basin by Sunday.

In Australia, we expect NWS LNG to lead the continent's exports with five cargoes (c. 0.31mmt) likely to be lifted, followed by Gorgon LNG (four cargoes, 0.28mmt) and Ichthys LNG (three cargoes, 0.21mmt). Meanwhile, Queensland Curtis LNG, Wheatstone LNG, Pluto LNG, Australia Pacific LNG and Gladstone LNG are expected to ship a total of five cargoes amounting to 0.65mmt by Sunday.

In Southeast Asia, our shipping data points to Malaysia LNG exporting up to seven cargoes amounting to 0.35mmt whilst we currently do not see a cargo lifting at Petronas' FLNG barge PFLNG Satu until later in August. Across the border, we think Indonesia will export four cargoes amounting to 0.26mmt from its Tangguh and Bontang facilities.

Other LNG export plants within the Basin, namely Russia's Sakhalin-2 LNG at Prigorodnoye on Sakhalin Island and PNG LNG in Papua New

Guinea are going to export up to seven cargoes, totalling 0.51mmt, according to our market visibility.

Atlantic Basin

Meanwhile, our analysis indicates the Atlantic Basin will see 26 cargo liftings, with up to 1.82mmt exported throughout the Basin by Sunday night.

In the United States we see Cameron LNG, Sabine Pass LNG and Cove Point LNG preparing for a total of six cargoes (0.44mmt) to be lifted, inter alia, aboard the GasLog Houston (Sabine Pass LNG), the Marvel Crane (Cameron LNG) as well as the LNG Sakura (Cove Point).

In South America and the Caribbean, we currently expect three cargo liftings (0.21mmt) at Trinidad's Atlantic LNG via the Madrid Spirit, the Golar Seal and the Adam LNG by Sunday.

On the other side of the Atlantic, we expect up to 17 cargoes (1.17mmt) to be lifted during this week. We see Nigeria's Bonny Island facility exporting up to five cargoes, amounting to 0.34mmt, whilst our data indicate Algeria will load up to four cargoes amounting to 0.24mmt at Arzew and Skikda. Market visibility further suggests to us Angola's Soyo will export two cargoes amounting to 0.14mmt. Concurrently, our data indicate one cargo loading at Equatorial Guinea's EG LNG before Sunday. Meanwhile, we do not expect Cameroon's FLNG facility off Kribi to export a cargo this week.

In the Arctic, we currently anticipate Norway's Snøhvit LNG to ship one cargo via the Arctic Lady by the end of the week. Meanwhile, our shipping data suggests Novatek's Yamal LNG is going to load four cargoes amounting to 0.30mmt this week.

Middle East

Middle Eastern cargo liftings could number 24 (1.87mmt) by Sunday, most of which (1.56mmt) would take place at Qatar's Ras Laffan LNG complex, inter alia via the Al Aamriya and the Bilbao Knutsen. Market visibility currently also suggests to us Oman is looking to load up to four cargoes (0.25mmt) via, inter alia, the Nizwa LNG and the LNG Jamal. Meanwhile, we expect ADNOC LNG's Das Island plant in the UAE to ship one cargo via the Shahamah this week. Finally, the recent export via the Neptune notwithstanding, we currently do not expect another export from Egypt's Idku LNG this week.

The current schedule therefore suggests peak loading activity of 19 cargoes on Tuesday, followed by 15 on Monday, whilst Friday is looking to be least active with 8 liftings ◆

Expected Cargo Liftings (MMt)

Country	Plant	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Algeria	Arzew	-	0.13	0.08	-	-	-	-
	Skikda	-	-	0.03	-	-	-	-
Argentina	Tango FLNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angola	Angola LNG	-	-	-	-	0.07	-	0.07
Australia	Australia Pacific LNG	-	0.07	-	0.07	-	-	-
	Darwin LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Gladstone LNG	-	-	-	0.07	0.06	-	-
	Gorgon LNG	-	0.06	-	0.08	0.07	0.07	-
	Ichthys LNG	0.07	-	0.06	-	-	-	0.08
	NWS LNG	0.06	-	0.07	0.06	0.06	-	0.07
	Pluto LNG	-	-	-	-	-	0.08	-
	Queensland Curtis	-	-	0.08	-	-	0.08	-
	Wheatstone LNG	0.08	-	-	-	-	0.07	-
	Prelude FLNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Brunei	Brunei LNG	0.06	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cameroon	Cameroon FLNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Canada	Tilbury LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Equatorial Guinea	EG LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	0.08
Egypt	Damietta SEGAS LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Idku LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Indonesia	Bontang	-	0.06	-	-	-	-	-
	Donggi-Senoro LNG	-	-	-	-	-	0.06	-
	Tangguh	-	0.07	0.06	-	-	0.07	-
Malaysia	Malaysia LNG	0.07	0.08	-	-	-	0.12	0.07
	PFLNG Satu	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Nigeria	Bonny Island	0.08	0.07	0.06	0.06	-	0.07	-
Norway	Snøhvit LNG	-	-	-	0.07	-	-	-
Oman	Oman LNG	0.06	0.07	0.06	-	-	-	0.07
Peru	Pampa Melchorita	-	-	-	0.08	-	-	-
Papua New Guinea	PNG LNG	0.08	-	0.08	-	-	-	0.08
Qatar	Ras Laffan	0.26	0.39	0.26	0.16	0.26	0.12	0.13
Russia	Sakhalin-2 LNG	0.07	0.07	-	-	-	-	0.06
	Yamal LNG	0.08	0.15	-	-	0.07	-	-
Singapore	Singapore LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trinidad & Tobago	Atlantic LNG	0.06	-	-	-	-	0.07	0.07
UAE	Das Island	-	-	-	0.06	-	-	-
United States	Elba Island LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Cove Point LNG	-	0.08	-	0.06	-	-	-
	Cameron LNG	0.08	-	-	0.08	-	-	-
	Freeport LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Sabine Pass LNG	-	-	-	0.08	-	-	0.07
	Corpus Christi LNG	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Total	1.09	1.29	0.84	0.91	0.60	0.80	0.84

Source: LNG Journal

Trade Last Week

Global LNG trade stood at 14.55mmt last week

Last week's global LNG trade stood at 14.55mmt, having thus increased by 1.93mmt (15.3%) week-on-week. Notably, around 7.28mmt had been shipped in previous weeks but were only delivered last week.

Overall regional trade in the Pacific stood at 7.91mmt last week, resulting in a 0.59mmt (8%) trade increase week-on-week. Last week's trade in the Atlantic Basin increased by 1.36mmt (46.1%) whilst the Middle East saw negative trade growth of 0.02mmt (-1%) over the same period.

The Pacific ended last week with 0.32mmt (-11%) less in exports, down from 2.98mmt the week prior. This in turn translated into capacity utilisation of 82% for last week, a decrease of 10pp over the week prior.

Meanwhile, the Basin's demand – including domestic re-exports in Indonesia and China – grew by 0.91mmt (21.0%) to 5.24mmt. As a result, Pacific import capacity utilisation increased by 11.5pp to 67%.

Atlantic Basin exports had amounted to 2.48mmt by midnight on Sunday, a 41.0% increase compared to the week prior. This in turn translated into regional export capacity utilisation of 77% for the week, an increase of 22pp week-on-week.

Over the same one-week period, the Basin's imports increased by 0.64mmt (53%) to 1.84mmt. As a result, Atlantic import capacity utilisation stood at 38% for the week, an increase of 13.4pp over the week prior.

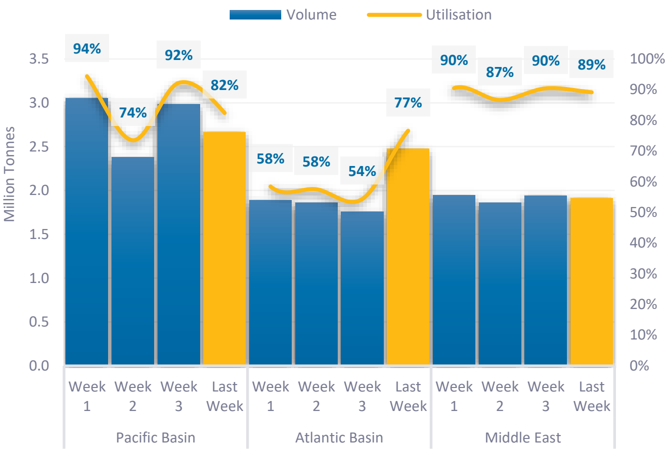
As for the Middle East, the region's exports had fallen by 0.03mmt by midnight on Sunday, a 1% reduction compared to the week prior. As such, regional export capacity utilisation stood at 89% for the week, a decrease of 1pp over the week prior.

Meanwhile, the region's imports saw positive weekly growth, increasing by 0.007mmt (1.7%) to 0.41mmt. The region's import capacity utilisation thus stood at 68% for the week, constituting an increase of 1.1pp over the week prior.

Pacific Basin

The Pacific Basin's most significant exporter – Australia – shipped 1.43mmt last week, thus reducing exports considerably by 0.24mmt (-14%) from the 1.68mmt shipped the week prior. On a year-on-year basis the country also decreased LNG shipments by 0.24mmt (-14%). Meanwhile, the Pacific's second largest exporter by capacity – Malaysia – shipped 0.18mmt last week, and thereby reduced exports by 0.31mmt (-64%) week-on-week to 0.18mmt, whilst its neighbour Indonesia saw broadly steady imports of 0.26mmt (-1%) over the same period. On a year-on-year basis, however, Malaysia saw an export decrease of 0.44mmt (-71%) whilst Indonesia's exports decreased much slower by 0.07mmt (-22%) for the same period.

Exports & Capacity Utilisation Last Week



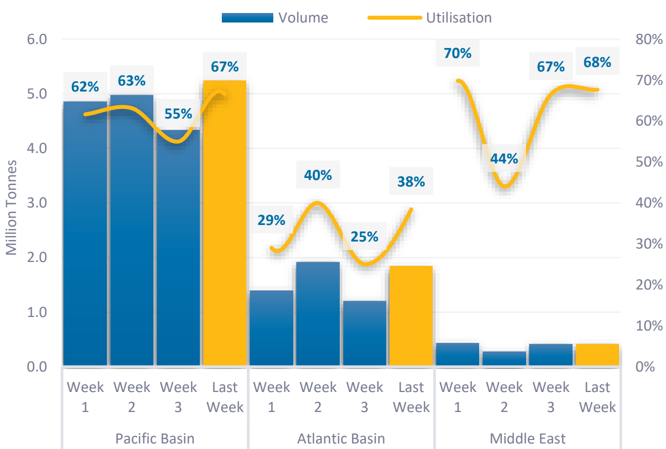
Source: LNG Journal

The remaining Pacific LNG producers saw combined exports of 0.54mmt by the end of last week compared to 0.56mmt the week prior, leading to a marginal 0.02mmt (-3%) week-on-week decrease. Whilst Russia's Sakhalin-2 LNG managed to increase shipments by 0.01mmt (7%), Papua New Guinea's PNG LNG curtailed weekly exports by 0.01mmt (-9%). Brunei LNG more than halved its shipments to 0.07mmt (-51%). Peru's Pampa Melchorita also decreased weekly shipments by 0.01mmt to 0.06mmt (-17%). However, these reductions were cushioned by Singapore's appearance in the market with a 0.06mmt re-export via the Galicia Spirit.

In contrast to lower exports, weekly Pacific demand grew significantly by 0.91mmt (21%) last week, which was led by a 0.41mmt (32%) offtake increase in Japan. Accordingly, the country's week-on-week demand growth had propelled imports to 1.69mmt for the week, up 0.23mmt (16%) year-on-year. Shadowing Japan's demand increase, South Korea also boosted offtakes by 0.40mmt (122%) to 0.72mmt, thereby cementing the Pacific's overall import growth last week. However, South Korea's demand level remained significantly below its year-on-year equivalent of 1.02mmt by 0.29mmt (-29%). Meanwhile, the week-on-week increase in Pacific offtakes was compounded by Chinese demand growth. The country grew offtakes robustly by 0.27mmt (23%) to 1.49mmt last week. This performance also left the country 0.32mmt (27%) up in imports year-on-year. India, however, continued to see lower LNG demand last week, reducing offtakes considerably by 0.13mmt (-23%) to 0.42mmt. This resulted in a 0.14mmt (-25%) demand reduction year-on-year. A similar development transpired in Taiwan, where imports decreased by 0.07mmt (-17%) week-on-week. Accordingly, the island's year-on-year demand also decreased slightly by 0.01mmt (-2%).

Elsewhere in the Pacific, demand growth also recurred last week. The roster of smaller Pacific Basin buyers – Thailand, Bangladesh, Chile, Mexico and Singapore – saw overall week-on-week demand grow by 0.11mmt (28%) to 0.51mmt. Chile and Mexico kept offtakes broadly steady at 0.08mmt and 0.07mmt, respectively. Meanwhile, Singapore's took in 0.19mmt following an absence the week prior. This compensated for Thailand halving its imports to 0.08mmt. Concurrently, Bangladesh increased its weekly offtakes by 0.03mmt to 0.10mmt last week. As such, on the back of higher week-on-week imports, the

Imports & Capacity Utilisation Last Week



Source: LNG Journal

countries collectively saw offtakes increase robustly by 0.06mmt (13%) year-on-year.

Atlantic Basin

In the Atlantic Basin, African exporters increased their overall shipped volumes by 0.26mmt (35%) to 1.00mmt last week even as Nigeria – the continent's largest exporter – decreased weekly shipments by 0.06mmt (-14%) to 0.36mmt. A notable export increase by 0.03mmt (11%) at Arzew in Algeria, meanwhile, partially compensated for that reduction. Angola, meanwhile, more than doubled weekly shipments from its plant at Soyo to 0.15mmt. Similarly, Equatorial Guinea saw shipments jump to 0.14mmt, having exported no LNG the week prior. Cameroon with its FLNG facility off Kribi also shipped a cargo of 0.07mmt.

In the United States, export plants kept shipments broadly steady at 0.44mmt last week and thus did not return to the tumble seen over previous weeks. However, this still left US LNG considerably below the 0.73mmt seen a year ago. Whilst Cove Point LNG finished last week by almost halving shipped LNG volumes to just one cargo of 0.08mmt, Sabine Pass LNG doubled its weekly exports to 0.14mmt. Meanwhile, Corpus Christi LNG maintained weekly shipments with one cargo of 0.08mmt. Although Freeport LNG and Elba Island LNG were not seen in the market, this was compensated by Cameron LNG almost doubling shipments by 0.06mmt (85%) to 0.14mmt.

Further south, Atlantic LNG on Trinidad kept shipments steady at 0.21mmt whilst to the very North of the Basin, Novatek's fleet lifted 0.30mmt via four shipments at Yamal LNG, thus also maintaining steady exports week-on-week. Snøhvit LNG in Norway exported two cargoes amounting to 0.13mmt, thus almost doubling shipments from the 0.07mmt seen the week prior.

European buyers, meanwhile, grew imports by 0.51mmt (51%) to 1.50mmt last week. Among the larger buyers, Spain alongside the United Kingdom, France and Italy increased offtakes by 0.32mmt overall. Turkey also grew imports by 0.06mmt (77%). The Netherlands, Greece and Portugal, meanwhile, kept offtakes broadly stable at 0.07mmt, respectively. The weekly European demand decrease was also supported by a 0.07mmt import in Lithuania, a 0.09mmt shipment arriving in Poland and a 0.06mmt shipment to Malta. European import growth was only tempered by absent demand in Belgium last week. As such, leading the buying roster in Northern Europe was the South Hook terminal in the United Kingdom with 0.10mmt. In southern Europe, Spain's Barcelona terminal was in the lead with 0.17mmt.

Meanwhile, smaller Atlantic buyers in North- and South America as well as the Caribbean more than doubled LNG offtakes by 0.19mmt (135%) to 0.34mmt after having imported just 0.14mmt the week prior.

Middle East

In the Middle East, Qatar shipped 1.54mmt, reducing its weekly exports marginally by 0.01mmt (-2%). Its fellow regional exporters, the UAE and Oman, meanwhile, saw combined exports of 0.19mmt, thus slashing their weekly output by 0.14mmt (-43%) over that of the week prior. Idku LNG, meanwhile, did not export a cargo, and thus apparently re-entered a protracted hiatus.

Completing the Middle East's LNG trade picture last week were Jordan, Pakistan, Kuwait and the UAE, which collectively saw regional imports of 0.41mmt via six cargo deliveries. The region's week-on-week demand thereby remained unchanged compared to the week prior due to additional demand of 0.08mmt in Jordan ♦