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HIGHLIGHTS

Americas

US toluene prices fell slightly, while mixed xylenes (MX) prices rose slightly, amid steady supply/demand balances.

Europe

Toluene and MX prices eased on Thursday as declines in the gasoline market outweighed firmer premiums.

Asia Pacific

Toluene prices were rolled over amid a lack of discussions. MX gave up its earlier gains on the back of a weaker downstream. PX fell on pressure from lower downstream PTA. Lower PTA prices enticed strong buying interest.

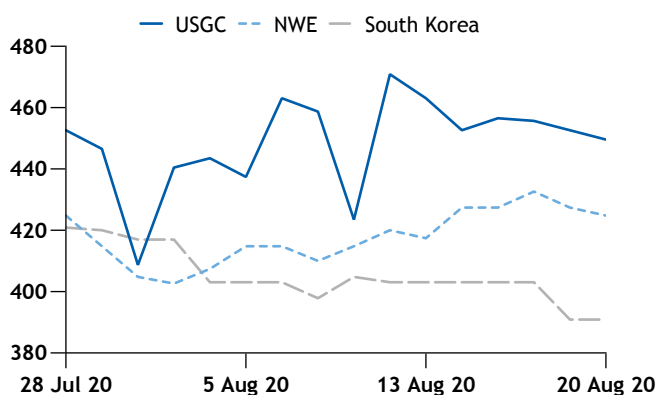
MARKET SNAPSHOT

Americas				\$/t
	Timing	Midpoint	±	MTD
Toluene fob HTC	Aug	449	-3	449.75
Toluene fob HTC	Sep	449	-3	
Mixed xylenes 5211 fob HTC	Aug	446	+3	428.59
Mixed xylenes 5211 fob HTC	Sep	437	+3	
Mixed xylenes 843 fob HTC	Aug	437	+3	420.64

Europe				\$/t
	Timing	Low-High	±	MTD
Toluene TDI-grade fob NWE	Aug	420.00-430.00	-2.50	416.97
Toluene nitration-grade cif ARA	Aug	415.00-420.00	-5.00	410.00
Mixed xylenes fob NWE	Aug	420.00-430.00	-2.50	416.97
Paraxylene fob NWE	Sep	465.00-475.00	0.00	470.00

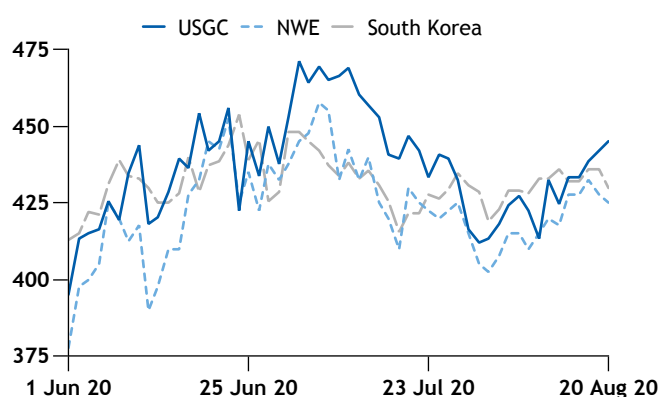
Asia-Pacific				\$/t
		Midpoint	±	MTD
Toluene fob S Korea marker		391.00	0.00	402.00
Toluene cfr China marker		420.50	0.00	427.50
Mixed xylenes fob S Korea marker		430.00	-6.00	430.46
Mixed xylenes cfr Taiwan marker		447.00	-6.00	447.46
Paraxylene fob S Korea marker		525.00	-6.00	526.92
Paraxylene cfr Taiwan marker		543.00	-6.00	544.92
Paraxylene cfr China marker		543.00	-6.00	544.92
PTA cfr China		425.00-450.00	0.00	

Global toluene



\$/t

Global mixed xylenes



\$/t

AMERICAS

Toluene

August toluene fell by 1¢/USG as demand is weak and buyers are looking to keep inventories limited ahead of August ad valorem taxes.

Gasoline blending demand is weak on narrow regrade and ample inventories of finished gasoline.

Chemical demand is weak due to the narrow benzene/toluene spread around 4-5¢/USG, and as benzene demand softens.

August toluene traded at 148¢/USG ddp, and September fob toluene traded at 148¢/USG.

Mixed xylenes

August mixed xylenes (MX) values rose by 1¢/USG, supported by gains in reformat.

Margins relative to reformat are thin, around 6-7¢/USG, which supports limited levels of extraction.

Spot MX is mostly going to gasoline blending, as paraxylene (PX) producers are running at reduced rates to preserve margins.

September 5211-quality MX sold at October Nymex RBOB +21¢/USG, or 143.5¢/USG. August 5211-quality was offered at September Nymex RBOB +19¢/USG, which equated to 148.5¢/USG, against no bids.

Americas prices				¢/USG
	Timing	Low-High	±	MTD
Toluene fob HTC	Aug	148.00-148.00	-1.00	148.09
Toluene fob HTC	Sep	148.00-148.00	-1.00	
Mixed xylenes 5211 fob HTC	Aug	144.50-148.50	+1.00	140.66
Mixed xylenes 5211 fob HTC	Sep	143.50-143.50	+1.00	
Mixed xylenes 843 fob HTC	Aug	141.50-145.50	+1.00	138.05
Toluene-conv gasoline blend		152.69	-0.95	
Toluene-Rbob gasoline blend		153.39	+0.27	
MX-conv gasoline blend		157.46	-1.27	
MX-Rbob gasoline blend		157.95	+0.27	

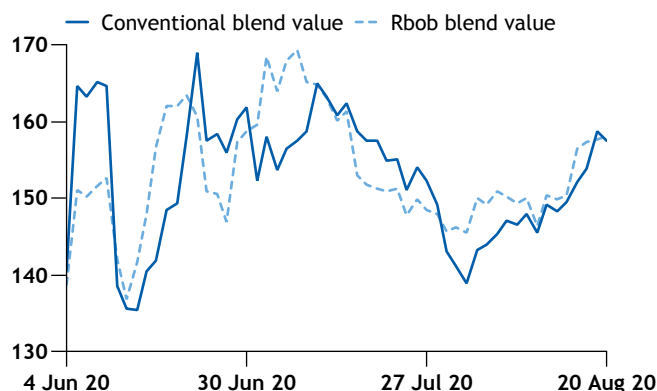
Contract prices				
	Timing		Price	±
Paraxylene ¢/lb	Jul		30.00	0.00

Related markets				
	Timing		Price	±
Nymex Rbob ¢/USG	Sep		129.65	+0.60
Nymex WTI \$/bl	Sep		42.58	-0.35

Americas deals					
Date	Product	Price	Unit	Size	Delivery
20 Aug	Toluene CC	148.00	¢/USG	20,000	Sep 20
20 Aug	Toluene CC	148.00	¢/USG	20,000	Aug 20

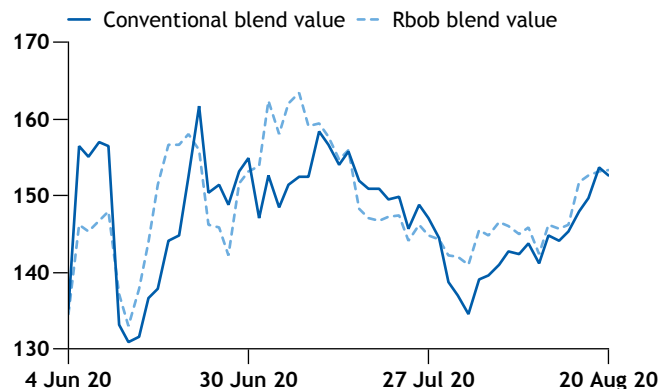
Mixed xylenes blend values

¢/USG



Toluene blend values

¢/USG



EUROPE

Toluene

Toluene prices edged lower on Thursday as declines in the gasoline market outweighed slightly firmer premiums.

Prices for TDI-grade material were discussed at a \$30/t premium to August gasoline, up from a \$25-30/t premium earlier in the week. Reduced extraction rates have limited the availability of prompt cargoes, but this has partially been offset by reduced demand from consumers.

Maintenance work at Shell's Wesseling refinery started and is expected to last until mid-October. This will impact production at the site's 150,000 t/yr toluene unit and further restrict toluene availability in the region.

Blending demand remains relatively subdued, with interest notionally indicated at a \$20-25/t premium to August gasoline.

Mixed xylenes

MX eased as gasoline prices fell. Prices were discussed at a \$30/t premium to Eurobob, slightly higher than the \$25-30/t premium the previous day.

Eurobob oxy-grade fell by \$2.75/t to \$396/t. September gasoline swaps were at a \$7.25/t premium to prompt Eurobob.

PX prices fell further on Thursday as the crude and gasoline markets weakened.

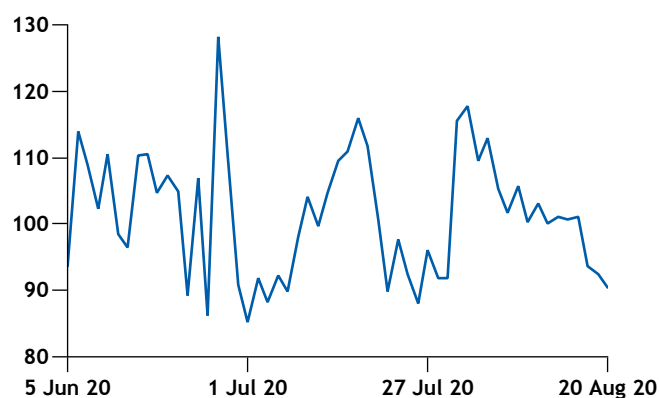
Europe prices				\$/t
	Timing	Low-High	±	30-day average
Toluene TDI-grade fob NWE	Aug	420.00-430.00	-2.50	417.73
Toluene nitration-grade cif ARA	Aug	415.00-420.00	-5.00	410.45
Mixed xylenes fob NWE	Aug	420.00-430.00	-2.50	417.73
Paraxylene fob NWE	Sep	465.00-475.00	0.00	472.61

Contract prices			
	Timing	Low-High	±
Toluene \$/t	Aug	408.00-408.00	0.00
Paraxylene €/t	Jul	520.00	0.00

Related markets			
	Timing	Price	±
Naphtha 65 para NWE fob barge \$/t		379.50	-3.00
Gasoline 95r 10ppm NWE cif \$/t		401.00	-2.75
Ice Brent \$/bl	Oct	44.90	-0.47

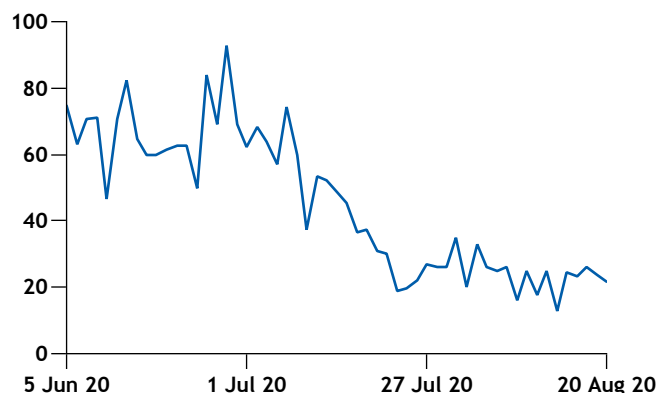
Paraxylene premium to naphtha

\$/t



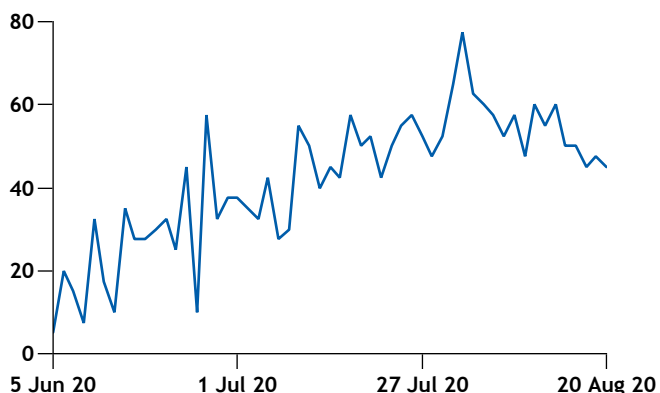
Toluene premium to Eurobob

\$/t



Europe paraxylene premium to mixed xylenes

\$/t



ASIA-PACIFIC

Toluene

Toluene prices were rolled over amid a lack of discussions. There were no firm bids or offers in the northeast Asian market.

Toluene prices were unchanged at \$390-392/t fob South Korea.

In China, workable prices were at \$414-427/t cfr east China. Local toluene inventories in east China fell by 10pc to around 86,300t on 20 August, but remained far above comfortable levels of 20,000-30,000t.

Local toluene prices in east China fell by 20 yuan/t to Yn3,320-3,330/t ex-tank, equivalent to about \$421/t on an import-parity basis.

Naphtha prices fell by \$8.50/t to \$397/t cfr Japan on 19 August, while South Korea toluene prices fell by \$12/t on the same day. The toluene-naphtha price spread fell to around negative \$6/t on 19 August in South Korea.

In India, toluene prices at the western ports of Kandla and Mumbai were stable at Rs35.5-36/kg ex-tank.

Mixed xylenes

Isomer-grade mixed xylene (MX) gave up its earlier gains on the back of weaker downstream PX and PTA sectors.

Sellers emerged to offer second-half September loading cargoes at \$436/t fob South Korea, which declined to \$430/t fob. The lowest offer was taken by a trader before the close of trade, settling a transaction.

China's domestic market fell by Yn25-35/t, with discussions at Yn3,570-3,580/t for August cargoes and at Yn3,640-3650/t for September cargoes. These are about \$439/t and \$448/t on an import parity basis.

Paraxylene

PX market extended losses in line with downstream PTA markets.

October cargoes were bid at \$540-547/t cfr Asia origin and at \$540-545/t cfr open origin during the afternoon session. Several sellers made offers for open-origin shipments at \$548-554/t. But all these bids and offers remained unanswered until the close of assessments.

A lone seller emerged to offer November cargoes at \$584/t

Related markets			
	Timing	Price	±
Naphtha Japan c+f		400.50	+3.75
Dubai	Oct	43.90	+0.03

Asia prices				\$/t
	Timing	Low-High	±	MTD
Toluene				
fob S Korea	1H Sep	390.00-392.00	0.00	
fob S Korea	2H Sep*	390.00-392.00	0.00	
fob S Korea	1H Oct*	390.00-392.00	0.00	
fob S Korea	2H Oct	390.00-392.00	0.00	
fob S Korea	1H Nov	390.00-392.00	0.00	
fob S Korea marker		391.00	0.00	402.00
cfr China	1H Sep	414.00-427.00	0.00	
cfr China	2H Sep*	414.00-427.00	0.00	
cfr China	1H Oct*	414.00-427.00	0.00	
cfr China	2H Oct	414.00-427.00	0.00	
cfr China marker		420.50	0.00	427.50
East China dom Yn/t		3,320.00-3,330.00	-20.00	
India dom ex INR/kg		35.50-36.00	0.00	
Mixed xylenes				
fob S Korea	1H Sep	429.00-431.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea	2H Sep*	429.00-431.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea	1H Oct*	429.00-431.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea	2H Oct	429.00-431.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea marker		430.00	-6.00	430.46
cfr Taiwan	1H Sep	446.00-448.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	2H Sep*	446.00-448.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	1H Oct*	446.00-448.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	2H Oct	446.00-448.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan marker		447.00	-6.00	447.46
Paraxylene				
fob S Korea	1H Sep	515.50-516.50	-6.00	
fob S Korea	2H Sep*	515.50-516.50	-6.00	
fob S Korea	1H Oct*	529.00-530.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea	2H Oct*	529.00-530.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea	1H Nov	541.00-542.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea	2H Nov	541.00-542.00	-6.00	
fob S Korea marker		525.00	-6.00	526.92
cfr Taiwan	1H Sep	533.50-534.50	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	2H Sep*	533.50-534.50	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	1H Oct*	547.00-548.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	2H Oct*	547.00-548.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	1H Nov	559.00-560.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan	2H Nov	559.00-560.00	-6.00	
cfr Taiwan marker		543.00	-6.00	544.92
cfr China	1H Sep	533.50-534.50	-6.00	
cfr China	2H Sep*	533.50-534.50	-6.00	
cfr China	1H Oct*	547.00-548.00	-6.00	
cfr China	2H Oct*	547.00-548.00	-6.00	
cfr China	1H Nov	559.00-560.00	-6.00	
cfr China	2H Nov	559.00-560.00	-6.00	
cfr China marker		543.00	-6.00	544.92
PTA				
China domestic Yn/t		3,550.00-3,570.00	-15.00	
cfr China		425.00-450.00	0.00	
Future China Yn/t	Jan	3,728.00	-18.00	

*denotes the timings used to calculate marker averages

cfr open origin, while buyers were muted.

The September-October and October-November intermonth spread maintained its contango from yesterday, at \$13.50/t and \$12/t respectively. Buyers placed bids to swap October cargoes to November at discounts of \$11-11.50/t but these failed to draw any response from sellers.

PTA

Chinese domestic PTA extended its downtrend today as futures market fell further. But the lower prices attracted consumers back to the market.

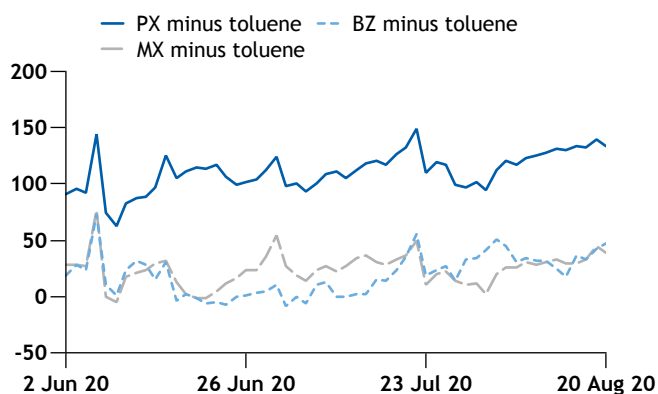
Offers to sell late-August shipments were at 185-190 yuan/t

discounts against the TA2101 futures contract, which were countered with bids at Yn195-200/t discounts. Around 20,000t of deals were concluded at Yn190-195/t discounts, equivalent to Yn3,550-3,570/t on a delivered basis.

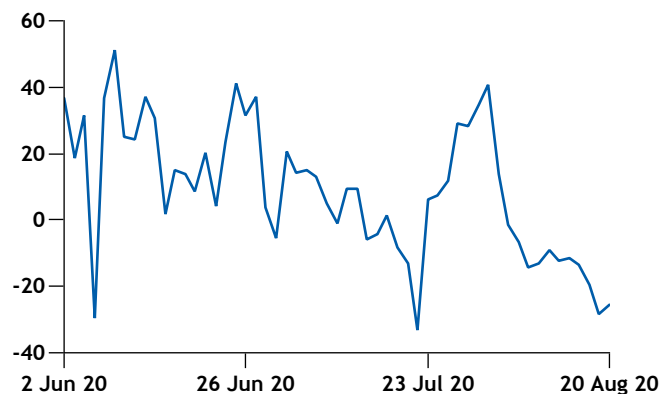
But the Chinese import PTA market remained muted. The sluggish PET bottle chip export market dampened demand for PTA imports.

Early-September shipment cargoes were offered at \$450-460/t cfr China. Buying indications could be found at \$420-425/t cfr China. Downstream PET fiber sales were slow today. The average sales to output ratio fell to 40pc. Deal prices of staple and filament POY softened by Yn20-30/t.

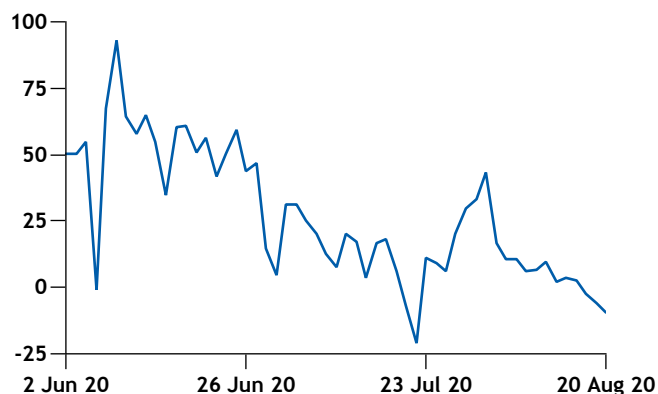
South Korea PX-toluene, BZ-toluene, MX-toluene spreads \$/t



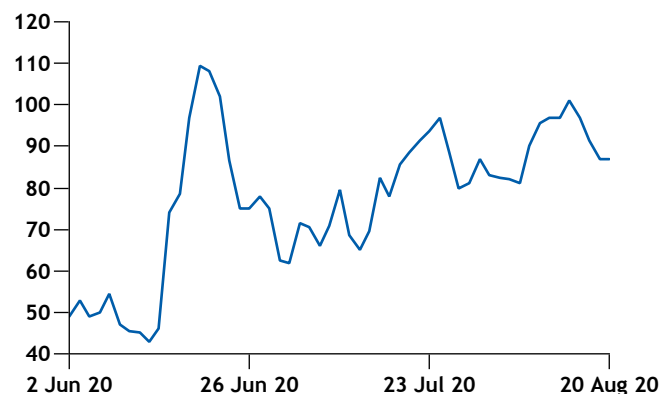
South Korea toluene-Singapore gasoline spread \$/t



Toluene premium to cfr Japan naphtha \$/t



cfr Taiwan paraxylene premium to MX \$/t



AROMATICS NEWS

US butane demand weak as blending season near

Transacted volumes of butane at Mont Belvieu, Texas, are 35pc lower so far this August compared with a year ago amid a slow start in preparing for the winter-gasoline blending season.

Economic uncertainty surrounding gasoline demand is limiting the typically robust butane pre-buying ahead of the RVP switch to winter-grade gasoline in mid-September. Only 1.3mn bl of EPC butane transacted so far this August, compared with a little over 2mn bl during the same time in August last year.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported finished motor gasoline stocks at 24.2mn bl for the week ended 14 August, up from 21.8mn bl during the same time last year. Implied gasoline demand was reported at 8.6mn b/d, down by 10pc from the same week last year.

Weakness in demand has flattened the forward curve for butane, which typically moves into contango into the fourth quarter. A contango is when the outer months are at a premium to the current month.

Mont Belvieu, Texas, EPC butane was assessed at 57.375¢/USG yesterday with September at a slight 0.125¢/USG contango. October stood at an unusual 0.25¢/USG backwardation to September.

The Energy Information Administration's (EIA) latest Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO) also shows limited demand this fall, with butane consumption expected to average 200,000 b/d in the third quarter, down from the 300,000 b/d consumed in the third quarter last year.

By Kelly Strickland

India's July crude imports fall to decade low

India's crude imports hit a decade low in July, falling by a record 36pc or 1.67mn b/d on the year because of a nationwide Covid-19 lockdown and sliding refining throughput.

Last month's imports of 2.92mn b/d, the lowest since records began in April 2011, dropped from 4.59mn b/d a year earlier and 3.34mn b/d in June, according to preliminary oil ministry data.

Indian state-run refiners, which control around 65pc of the country's 5mn b/d refining capacity, were forced to slash runs to as low as 75pc during July-August from over 90pc in early July as localised lockdowns reduced economic activity and disrupted supply chains. The July-September monsoon period also eroded demand for diesel.

India's overall refining runs rose in June to 4.28mn b/d from 3.86mn b/d in May. The country's five-month lockdown that is supposed to end on 31 August may be extended further

following a surge in Covid-19 cases, which are now nearing 3mn. India is the third most-infected nation after the US and Brazil despite very low levels of testing, according to Oxford University's *Our World in Data*.

Crude purchases may continue to stay below year-earlier levels in August because state-run refiners are adjusting runs in line with demand. IOC, India's biggest state-controlled refiner, plans to keep throughput below 75pc until demand rises.

Data from Vortexa show 3.26mn b/d of crude arriving in India in July, compared to 3.43mn b/d in June and 3.68mn b/d so far in August.

Diesel consumption fell by 19pc during the first two weeks of August from a month earlier and was down by 23pc from the same period in 2019, state-controlled refiners said, without giving actual demand figures. Gasoline demand edged up by 2pc in the first half of August from a month earlier but fell by 6pc from a year earlier. Jet fuel sales declined by 2pc and by 66pc from a month and year earlier, respectively.

Diesel demand reached 1.33mn b/d in July, while gasoline demand averaged 617,000 b/d, according to oil ministry figures, which include sales by private-sector firms.

By S Dinakar

July US truck freight index down 5.1pc: ATA

US trucking freight volumes in July fell as the number of trucks on the nations' roads declined from a year earlier, according to the American Trucking Association (ATA).

ATA's seasonally adjusted for-hire truck tonnage index fell by 5.1pc to 109.6 in July from 115.5 in June. The index was down by 8.3pc from the previous July, ATA said.

Tonnage was down in July because many fleets did not have the capacity to take advantage of stronger retail freight volumes, with additional data indicating that fleets operated fewer trucks over the summer than in the previous year, ATA chief economist Bob Costello said.

July's index was 3.3pc higher than the recent low in May caused by the Covid-19 outbreak.

ATA's index is based on surveys of its members on tonnage hauled by fleets, and awards 100 points for every 2,015t hauled.

By Jason Metko

Colonial Pipeline completes NC leak repair

Colonial Pipeline yesterday completed repairs on a segment of its major gasoline trunk line in North Carolina, following a leak earlier this month.

Colonial completed the work around 6pm ET on a segment of Line 1 between Spartanburg, South Carolina, and its

Greensboro, North Carolina, terminal.

The leak occurred near Huntersville, North Carolina on 14 August. Colonial estimates the equipment failure resulted in nearly 63,000 bl of gasoline leaking from the line. The majority of the product was recovered as it was being released.

Nearby drinking water supplies have not been contaminated, according to the city.

Line 1 volumes were crossed over into Line 2 downstream of the Atlanta Junction during the repairs, and flows along that segment ran at reduced rates, according to the company.

Line 1 moves up to 1.4mn b/d of gasoline from origins near Houston, Louisiana and Mississippi to Greensboro. The Colonial system moves refined products on to the New York Harbor market and terminals at Linden, New Jersey.

By Jason Metko

Singapore's weekly heavy residual stocks rise

Singapore's residual fuel oil inventories rose to a five-week high in the week ending 19 August, while light and middles distillates stocks fell.

Total oil product inventories rose to 54.507mn bl in the latest week from 54.162mn bl the previous week, according to data from government agency Enterprise Singapore, led by an increase in residual fuel oil stocks.

Singapore's residual fuel oil stocks rose to a five-week high of 25.485mn bl, up by 1.668mn bl from the previous week. The rise in onshore inventories could have been led by the rise in imports of residual fuel oil into onshore tanks and an overall fall in net exports of the same product. This week Singapore imported over 1mn t of residual fuel oil, a 48pc increase from the previous week. Singapore received about 100,000t of fuel oil from the UAE, after skipping imports from this source the previous week. Exports of residual fuel oil from Singapore also fell to 182,931t, a fall by 58.9pc from the previous week.

Singapore light distillates stocks fell by more than 1mn bl from the previous week to 14.83mn bl, which was a two-week low, on firmer demand from Indonesia, Asia-Pacific's largest gasoline buyer. Indonesia imported 131,839t (1.11mn bl) of gasoline from the city-state for the week ending 19 August, according to IE Singapore. Singapore exported just 143,650 bl to Indonesia the previous week. Indonesia's gasoline imports in August are expected to increase to 226,000-258,000 b/d, higher than initial forecasts of 161,000-194,000 b/d after state-owned Pertamina emerged to buy spot cargoes.

Middle distillates stocks fell by 313,000 bl from the previous week to 14.192mn bl on lower jet fuel imports into Singapore onshore tanks. Singapore imported just 9t of jet fuel in the latest week, after importing 92,172t and 162,741t

respectively in the previous two weeks, which could also have contributed to the fall in middle distillate stocks. Diesel fuel imports into Singapore recorded a 9.9pc increase during the week to 226,000t, while exports edged down by 1.5pc to 504,000t.

By Jaslyn Ying

US crude exports stabilize after 2Q free fall

The downward curve in US crude exports as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic appears to be flattening out as production starts to recover from steep declines in the second quarter.

The US exported around 2.79mn b/d of crude in July and 2.64mn b/d so far in August, according to preliminary weekly estimates published by the US Energy Information Administration (EIA). This reflects outbound crude flows have stabilized near the 2.75mn b/d mark in June reported by the US Census Bureau in its latest available monthly statistics.

Outbound flows have fallen nearly 1mn b/d since the record high of 3.71mn b/d set in February to reflect a roughly 13pc drop year-on-year and the lowest US crude export volume since August 2019.

Exports had climbed throughout the fourth quarter of 2019 and early 2020 on the back of infrastructure projects at the US Gulf coast, primarily aimed at adding more than 2.5mn b/d

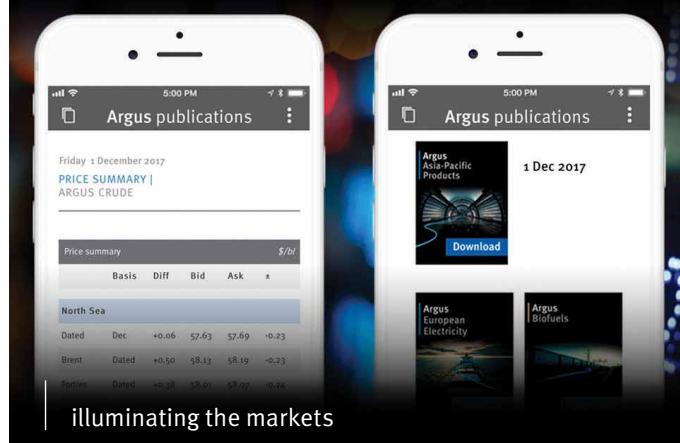
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illuminating the markets

of crude pipeline flows from the Permian basin to the growing Corpus Christi port district.

But the waterborne crude market has since contracted amid reduced buying from India and other key outlets in Asia-Pacific, while US production has fallen by more than 18pc from the record 13.1mn b/d set in February to a two-year low of just 10.7mn b/d so far in August. The EIA expects production to average 11.26mn b/d this year, reflecting a roughly 1mn b/d decline from the 2019 average.

By Amanda Hilow

July French road fuel demand at 1-year high

A sharp rise in gasoline demand boosted French road fuel consumption to a one-year high last month.

Overall demand reached 3.71mn t, or 921,000 b/d, in July, according to figures provided by industry association Ufip. This was 13pc higher than in June and just 4pc lower than in July last year.

France began easing Covid-19 lockdown measures in May, and restrictions were loosened further in June.

Last month's gasoline consumption was the highest monthly level since 2009, rising by 21pc on the month and by 3pc on the year to 234,000 b/d. It is the first year-on-year increase in gasoline demand since February.

Gasoline's share of overall road fuel consumption reached 25.2pc last month, its highest since August last year. With public transport demand subdued because of the Covid-19 pandemic and some restrictions on international travel still in place, private vehicle use is likely to have increased relative to industrial road fuel demand. Diesel consumption reached a 10-month high of 687,000 b/d in July, up by 11pc on the month but 6pc lower on the year.

France's total oil product demand was 4.56mn t last month, up from 4.04mn t in June but down by 16pc compared with a year earlier.

By George King Cassell

ARA oil product stocks largely flat

Oil products held in independent storage in the Amsterdam-Rotterdam-Antwerp (ARA) trading hub fell by 0.7pc to 6.77mn t this week, as light distillates draws were outweighed by builds in gasoil and fuel oil.

Gasoline stocks fell back by 4.6pc from last week's record high to 1.4mn t in the week to yesterday, according to consultancy Insights Global. The total is still up by 36pc from the same time a year ago, but has edged down on the period because of slightly firmer export demand.

Gasoline tankers arrived from France, Italy, Spain and the

UK, and departed for Canada, the Mediterranean, the US and west Africa, as well as the North Sea for orders. European gasoline producers and blenders could be in the unusual position of having to [roll summer-grade stocks](#) over to next year, unable to drain tanks before the transition to winter grades at the end of next month.

A rise in blending demand and lower imports saw naphtha inventories fall by 9.3pc to 468,000t, but remain around twice the level of a year ago. Naphtha cargoes arrived in the ARA region from Russia and the UK, while nothing left the region during the period.

Jet stocks declined by 4pc on the week to 991,000t as a rare [westbound arbitrage](#) appears to have opened, probably a result of low northwest European jet prices. Cargoes left the ARA region for the UK as well as the US, and arrived from the Mideast Gulf.

Gasoil stocks were 3pc higher at 2.56mn t, as lacklustre demand was offset by lower imports. Diesel demand up the Rhine has been capped because of full tanks, while heating oil consumption remains subdued by warm weather. Gasoil arrived in the ARA region from Canada, Russia, the UAE and US, and departed for Argentina, the Mediterranean and UK.

Fuel oil recorded by far the biggest build on the week, up

Weekly benzene report

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by 10pc to 1.35mn t. A shortage of high-sulphur fuel oil production has drawn in cargoes from outside the region, including an Aframax-sized vessel from Russia. Additional cargoes arrived from the Caribbean, Finland, Norway and Poland. Fuel oil left the region for the Mediterranean and west Africa.

Trading and refining firm Gunvor has kept *off line* its 115,000 b/d Antwerp and 80,000 b/d Europoort plants, which are normally among the largest suppliers of high-sulphur residual products in northwest Europe.

By George King Cassell

Romgaz to advance plan for methanol plant

Romanian state-owned gas producer Romgaz is planning to launch a public procurement procedure "in the next few weeks" for a feasibility study on a *new methanol plant*. The company expects to finish the study and identify a location for the planned methanol facility in the second half of next year. Construction would probably take two years to complete, it said. No details were disclosed about the capacity of the proposed plant.

Romgaz approved its new 2020-25 development and investment strategy in June. It aims to spend 1.175bn lei (\$290mn) on diversifying into petrochemicals over the next five years. The methanol plant is the only petrochemical project highlighted in the plan. Petrochemical investment will be

Lei350mn in 2022 and Lei400mn/yr in 2023-24.

The methanol project is included in the Romanian government's national investment and economic recovery plan, published in July. Romgaz is not only looking at entering the domestic petrochemicals market but also the regional market, the document says, without giving details.

By Béla Fincziczki

Ineos Chocolate Bayou cracker restarts again

Ineos' 935,000 t/yr No. 2 flexicracker in Chocolate Bayou, Texas, is restarting again this morning after its initial restart was halted last weekend.

The cracker went down on 2 August for 10 days of maintenance on a compressor, but its initial restart process was stopped on 15 August when maintenance teams discovered a leak on two process lines.

The leaks were repaired and the unit began its startup process this morning.

An estimated 70,000 lbs of gaseous ethylene and 23,000 lbs of propylene are expected to escape flaring to the atmosphere during the restart process, the company said in a filing with the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality.

The restart began this morning at 9am ET and is expected to last three days.

By Michael Camarda



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