

Crude Compass: Supply Disruptions Shift Downstream

Weekly Oil Market Dossier: Aug 27, 2026

Developments over the past week:

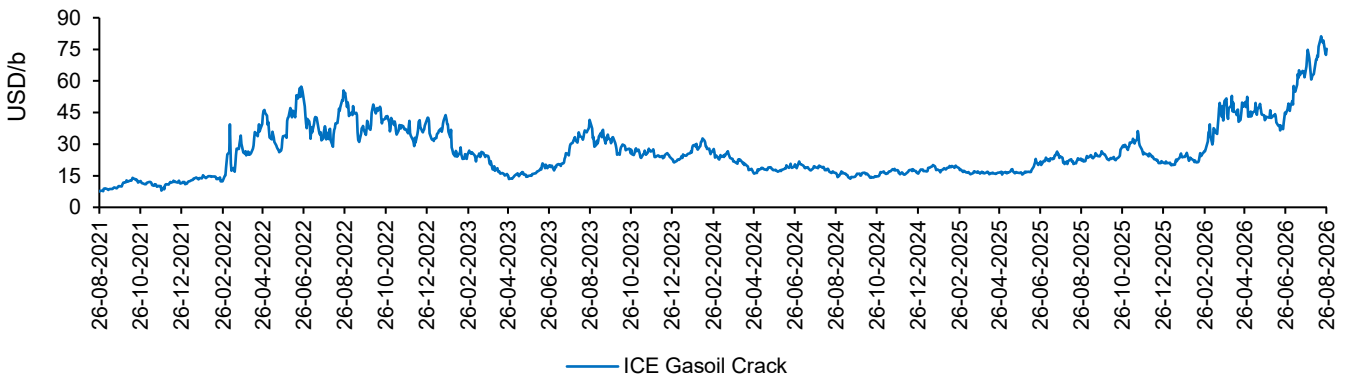
- Saudi Arabia is shifting loadings back toward Persian Gulf terminals amid Houthi threats to Red Sea exports. According to Bloomberg, Saudi Arabia's overall oil exports averaged 3.2mbd during the first 23 days of August, below the previous wartime low of 3.65mbd in May and pre-war levels. Meanwhile, exports via Egypt's Sidi Kerir surged to 2.1mbd in August from an average of 0.7mbd during Jan to June 2026, highlighting continued logistical rerouting.
- Russia's fourth-largest refinery and second-largest gasoline producer, NORSI, suspended crude processing following a Ukrainian drone attack. Meanwhile, Russia is reportedly considering intensified missile strikes on Kyiv and Ukrainian infrastructure as peace negotiations stall.
- The US Treasury address reinforced Washington's push to restrict Iran's access to global financial and trade channels. Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent detailed "Operation Economic Outcast," extending scrutiny across digital assets, technology, precious metals, aviation and maritime activities. Despite heightened sanctions pressure, the Treasury stopped short of sanctioning Chinese banks or refineries, contrary to market expectations. China's purchases of Iranian crude declined to 534kdb in August from 823kdb in July. Meanwhile, of the 83mn barrels of Iranian crude located outside the Gulf of Oman, ~40mn barrels are anchored near Singapore, with just ~4mn barrels yet to find buyers, pointing to strong absorption of available Iranian cargoes. China remains the key swing factor, accounting for ~90% of Iranian oil purchases.

In our opinion:

- Saudi Arabia's rerouting through the Persian Gulf and Sidi Kerir demonstrates that producers are finding workarounds, limiting the risk of an outright supply shock. However, lower Saudi exports alongside continued Houthi threats and Iran-related uncertainty, suggest that redundancy in regional export infrastructure is being stretched. We believe this keeps a **structural geopolitical and freight premium embedded in crude, even without a further escalation in physical disruptions**.
- The shutdown of Russia's NORSI refinery, alongside continued Ukrainian attacks on Russian downstream infrastructure, adds another layer of risk to an already constrained refined-product market. In our view, the greater near-term upside risk therefore lies in product cracks - particularly diesel - rather than crude itself, **reinforcing our preference for refining exposure over upstream or OMCs**.
- While higher crude prices remain a headwind for OMCs, CPCL and MRPL continue to benefit from strengthening diesel cracks, with diesel prices rising faster than crude, as detailed in our Refinery Thematic report. The **upcoming September–November refinery maintenance cycle should further tighten product availability and provide additional support to refining margins**. We have TP of INR 215/sh and INR 1,540/sh for MRPL and CPCL respectively, implying current upside of 23.8% and 12.0% respectively.

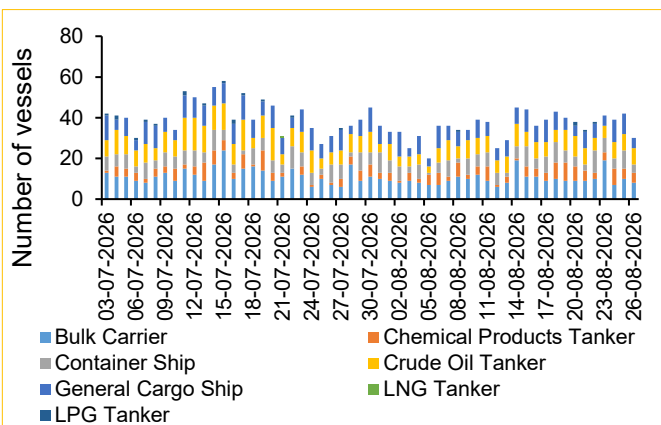
We expect Brent price to average at USD84/b for FY27 and USD86/b for the current quarter (July–Sept 2026).

Ex:1 ICE Gasoil Crack Continues to Stay Elevated



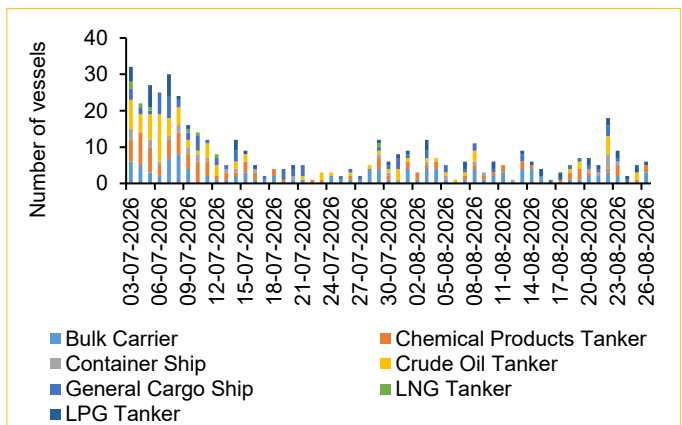
Source: Bloomberg, Choice Institutional Equities

Ex:2 Total Tanker Movement through Bab el-Mandeb



Source: Bloomberg, Choice Institutional Equities

Ex:3 Total Tanker Movement through Strait of Hormuz



Source: Bloomberg, Choice Institutional Equities

Dhaval Popat

Email: dhaval.popat@choiceindia.com

Ph: +91 22 6707 9949

Institutional Research Team			
Utsav Verma, CFA	Head of Institutional Research, India Equity Strategy and SMIDs	utsav.verma@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9440
Purvi Mundhra	Economist	purvi.mundhra@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9241
Ambrish Shah	Analyst - Power	ambrish.shah@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9251
Ashutosh Murarka	Analyst – Building Materials	ashutosh.murarka@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9521
Bhavik Shah, CFA	Analyst – Metals & Mining	Bhavik.shah@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9521
Deepika Murarka	Analyst – Healthcare	deepika.murarka@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9513
Dhaval Popat	Analyst – Energy	dhaval.popat@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9949
Fenil Brahmhatt	Analyst – Realty & Building Materials	fenil.brahmbhatt@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9930
Ishank Gupta	Analyst – NBFCs	ishank.gupta@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9867
Karan Kamdar	Analyst – Consumer Discretionary, SMIDs	karan.kamdar@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9451
Kunal Bajaj	Analyst – Technology	kunal.bajaj@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9901
Maitri Sheth	Analyst – Pharmaceuticals	maitri.sheth@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9511
Putta Ravi Kumar	Analyst – Defence	ravi.putta@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9908
Preeyam Tolia	Analyst – FMCG & Retail	preeyam.tolia@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9987
Vijiya Rao	Analyst – AMC & Insurance	vijiya.rao@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9531
Aayush Saboo	Sr. Associate– Realty	aayush.saboo@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9930
Avi Jhaveri	Sr. Associate – Technology	avi.jhaveri@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9901
Bharat Kumar Kudikyala	Sr. Associate – Building Materials	bharat.kudikyala@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9930
Samarth Goel	Sr. Associate– Small and Midcaps	samarth.goel@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9451
Subhash Gate	Sr. Associate – Autos	subhash.gate@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9233
Heer Gogri	Associate – Small and Midcaps	heer.gogri@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9433
Heet Chheda	Associate – Autos	heet.chheda@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9233
Prakhar Tibrewala	Associate – SMIDs	prakhar.tibrewala@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9433
Rushil Katiyar	Associate – Technology	rushil.katiyar@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9901
Shreya Mehra	Associate – Technology	shreya.mehra@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9535
Stuti Bagadia	Associate – Pharmaceuticals	stuti.bagadia@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9511
Vinay Rawal	Associate – Small and Midcaps	vinay.rawal@choiceindia.com	+91 22 6707 9433

CHOICE RATING DISTRIBUTION & METHODOLOGY	
Large Cap*	
BUY	The security is expected to generate upside of 15% or more over the next 12 months
ADD	The security is expected to show upside returns from 5% to less than 15% over the next 12 months
REDUCE	The security is expected to show upside or downside returns by 5% to -5% over the next 12 months
SELL	The security is expected to show downside of 5% or more over the next 12 months
Mid & Small Cap*	
BUY	The security is expected to generate upside of 20% or more over the next 12 months
ADD	The security is expected to show upside returns from 5% to less than 20% over the next 12 months
REDUCE	The security is expected to show upside or downside returns by 5% to -10% over the next 12 months
SELL	The security is expected to show downside of 10% or more over the next 12 months
Other Ratings	
NOT RATED (NR)	The stock has no recommendation from the Analyst
UNDER REVIEW (UR)	The stock is under review by the Analyst and rating may change
Sector View	
POSITIVE (P)	Fundamentals of the sector look attractive over the next 12 months
NEUTRAL (N)	Fundamentals of the sector are expected to be in stasis over the next 12 months
CAUTIOUS (C)	Fundamentals of the sector are expected to be challenging over the next 12 months

*Large Cap: More Than INR 20,000 Cr Market Cap
*Mid & Small Cap: Less Than INR 20,000 Cr Market Cap

Disclaimer & Disclosure

Research Disclaimer and Disclosure inter-alia as required under Securities and Exchange Board of India (Research Analysts) Regulations, 2014

Choice Equity Broking Private Limited is a registered Research Analyst Entity (Reg. No. INH000000222) CIN. NO.: U65999MH2010PTC198714. Reg. Add.: Sunil Patodia Tower, J B Nagar, Andheri (East), Mumbai 400099. Tel. No. 022-6707 9999 . Compliance Officer-Prashant Salian. Tel. 022-6707 9999-Ext. 896. Email- Compliance@choiceindia.com. Grievance officer-Deepika Singhvi Tel.022-67079999- Ext-834.

Email- ig@choiceindia.com

The Company uses artificial intelligence tools as part of its research process, including data analysis and content generation. Notwithstanding the foregoing, all analysis, views, and recommendations are independently formulated and duly reviewed by qualified research analysts prior to issuance.

General Disclaimer:

Investment in securities market are subject to market risks. Read all the related documents carefully before investing. Registration granted by SEBI, and certification from NISM in no way guarantee performance of the intermediary or provide any assurance of returns to investors

This report ("Report") is prepared by Choice Equity Broking Private Limited as a Research Entity (hereinafter referred as "CEBPL") in its capacity as a SEBI-registered Research Analyst and is intended solely for informational and educational purposes. This Report is meant exclusively for the recipient and shall not be circulated, reproduced, or distributed, in whole or in part.

This Report does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation, risk profile, or particular needs of any individual or class of investors and does not constitute a personal recommendation or investment advice. Any views, opinions, or recommendations expressed herein are based on publicly available information and internal analysis and are subject to change without notice.

Nothing contained in this Report shall be construed as an offer, solicitation, or inducement to buy, sell, or subscribe to any securities, derivatives, or other financial instruments, nor shall it be considered as investment, legal, accounting, or tax advice. Recipients are advised to conduct their own independent analysis and are encouraged to seek independent professional advice before making any investment or trading decisions.

The information contained in this Report has been compiled from sources believed to be reliable; however, CEBPL does not represent or warrant the accuracy, completeness, or reliability of such information. CEBPL, its directors, employees, or associates shall not be liable for any losses, damages, or expenses arising directly or indirectly from the use of or reliance upon this Report.

Investments in securities are subject to market risks. The price and value of investments and the income from them may fluctuate, and investors may incur losses. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Opinions expressed herein are as of the date of this Report and may differ from views expressed in other research reports due to differences in methodology, assumptions, or time horizons.

Disclaimers in respect of Jurisdiction:

This Report is not intended for distribution to, or use by, any person or entity who is a citizen or resident of, or located in, any jurisdiction where such distribution, publication, or use would be contrary to applicable laws or regulations, or would subject CEBPL to any registration or licensing requirements in such jurisdiction.

No action has been taken or will be taken by CEBPL in any jurisdiction outside India where such action would be required for distribution of this Report. Accordingly, this Report shall not be directly or indirectly distributed, published, or circulated in any such jurisdiction except in compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

Recipients of this Report are required to inform themselves of, and comply with, all applicable legal and regulatory restrictions at their own expense and without any liability to CEBPL. Any dispute arising out of or in connection with this Report shall be subject to the exclusive jurisdiction of the competent courts in Mumbai, India.

Disclosure on Ownership and Material Conflicts of Interest:

- "CEBPL", its Research Analyst(s), their associates and relatives may have any financial interest in the subject company covered in this Research Report.
- "CEBPL", its Research Analyst(s), their associates and relatives may have actual or beneficial ownership of one percent (1%) or more of the securities of the subject company, as on the last day of the month immediately preceding the date of publication of this Research Report.
- "CEBPL", its Research Analyst(s), their associates and relatives may have any other material conflict of interest at the time of publication of this Research Report.

Disclosure on Receipt of Compensation:

- "CEBPL" or its associates may have received compensation from the subject company during the past twelve months.
- "CEBPL" or its associates may have managed or co-managed public offerings of securities for the subject company during the past twelve months.
- "CEBPL" or its associates may have received compensation from the subject company during the past twelve months for investment banking, merchant banking or brokerage services.
- "CEBPL" or its associates may have received compensation from the subject company during the past twelve months for products or services other than investment banking, merchant banking or brokerage services.
- "CEBPL" or its associates have not received any compensation or other benefits from the subject company or any third party in connection with the preparation or publication of this Research Report.
- Research Analyst may have served as an officer, director or employee of the subject company covered in this Research Report.
- "CEBPL" and Research analyst may engage in market-making activity in the securities of the subject company.

Details of Associates of CEBPL and Brief History of Disciplinary action by regulatory authorities are available on our website i.e. [www. https://choiceindia.com/research-listing](https://choiceindia.com/research-listing)

Copyright:

This research report is confidential and intended solely for the recipient. Unauthorized reproduction, distribution, or disclosure of this report, in whole or in part, in any form or by any means, without the prior written permission of the Company is strictly prohibited.