

## MNI Gas Weekly: Warmer Weather Pressures Pricing

By Lawrence Toye, Daniel Dawson, Zach Simon (18/02/2026)

### Executive Summary:

- **European Gas Benchmarks** have unwound recent gains as forecasts shifted warmer.
- Asia's **LNG market** edged lower ahead of the Lunar New Year holiday
- In the **Middle East & Africa**, Iran is looking at importing Russian gas
- **Henry Hub** has slid since EIA data showed a smaller-than-expected storage withdrawal
- In **the Americas**, Eni, YPF and XRG have signed a deal to advance the Argentina LNG project

### European Natural Gas

TTF front month has fallen to its lowest since mid-January as a warm temperature forecast and strong LNG supplies help to ease pressure on low European gas storage levels. A declining geopolitical risk premium weighed on pricing after more positive sentiment following US-Iran negotiations.

- Front month TTF prices traded between €29.375/MWh and €33.425/MWh this week, compared to €31.35/MWh and €36.36/MWh over the previous week.
- Temperatures in NW Europe are forecast slightly below normal this week before a rise above normal from Feb. 20 but drifting back closer to normal by early March. The ECMWF two-week forecast on Feb. 18 shows HDDs reach a high of 14.28 on Feb 18 and a low of 7.32 on Feb 24.
- CWE wind generation is anticipated to be on a general downward trend from Feb. 22, reaching as low on Feb. 24.
- NW European LNG sendout remains strong at 314.2mcm/d yesterday compared to an average of 293.4mcm/d over the previous week, Bloomberg shows.
- European gas storage is down to 33.02% full on Feb. 16, according to GIE data compared to the previous five-year seasonal average of 49.3% with net withdrawals rising back above normal on the day.
- Norwegian pipeline supplies to Europe are at 327.1mcm/d today. Gassco shows total capacity reductions of 22.7mcm/d today including an unplanned 11.8mcm reduction at Ormen Lange until Feb. 21 due to compressor failure.
- Algeria gas flow to Italy at Mazara are estimated at 58.0mcm/d today, Snam data shows, compared to an average of 58.5mcm/d so far this month.

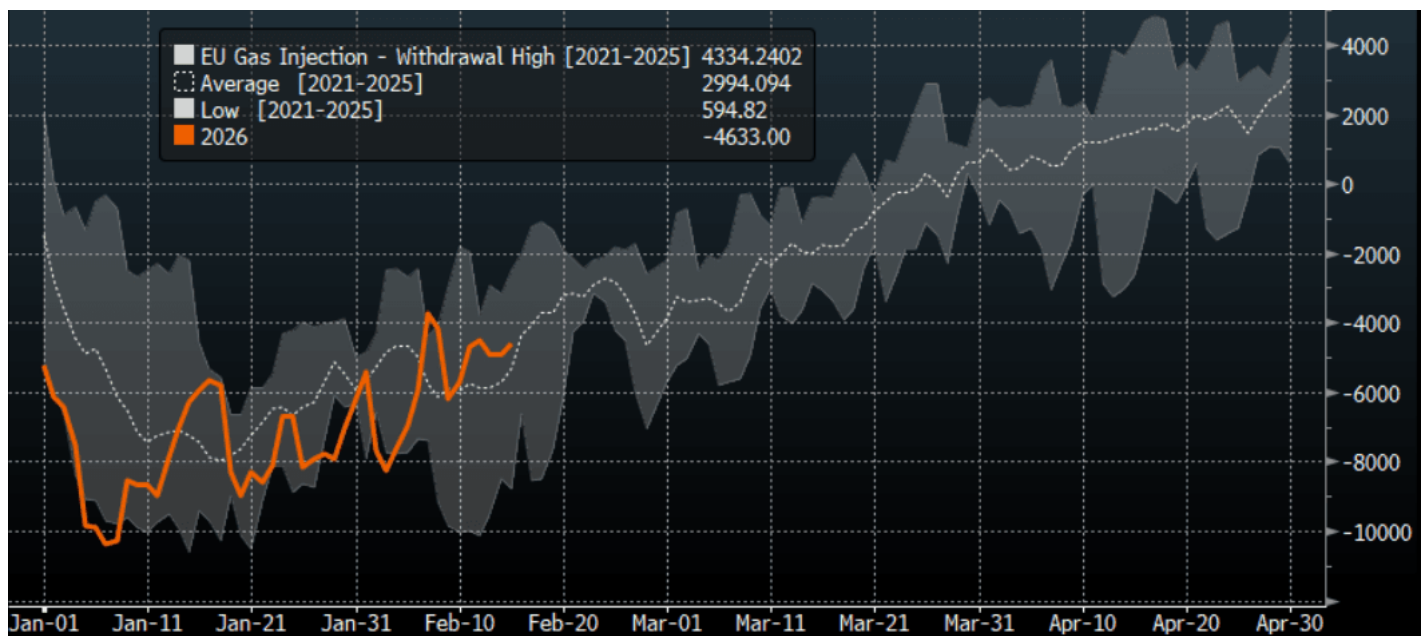
### Pressure on European Storage Withdrawals Eases

European gas storage withdrawals have reduced so far in Feb after high rates in Jan, and a mild forecast for late this month could help to ease pressure further.

- European gas storage is down to 33.54% full on Feb. 15, according to GIE data compared to the previous five-year seasonal average of 49.7% with net withdrawals holding just below normal.
- Based on the withdrawal rates from the last ten years from now until the end of March, the EU storage level would fall to an average of 23.6% of capacity at the end of the season with a range between 12.5% and 29.7%.
- The week to Feb. 15 showed an average net storage withdrawal of 5,077GWh/d compared to withdrawals of 6,342GWh/d the prior week. The previous five-year average for the week shows withdrawals of 5,767GWh/d, based on GIE data.

- Seven of the 18 GIE storage reporting members are now showing gas in store around 30% full or below. Storage in Germany is at 59.1TWh (23.5% full), Italy at 103.5TWh (50.9%), Netherlands at 21.5TWh (14.9%), France at 30.2TWh (24%) and Austria at 39.8TWh (39.5%).
- TTF Summer 26 is holding a discount to Winter 26 of around €0.6/MWh as the market weighs restocking requirements over the coming summer.

**EU Gas Storage Withdrawals** - Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P. / GIE)



**NWE Natgas Demand Fell 5% W/W: JPMorgan**

European natural gas demand in NWE averaged 664 mcm/d for the week of February 9-15, 5% lower w/w and 11% lower y/y, according to JP Morgan.

- Demand in Germany fell by 36 mcm/d w/w, primarily driving the decline for the entire NWE region.
- Lower heating demand led the decline as weather conditions remained on the warmer side.
- The weather outlook continues to be revised warmer, including into March, with March HDDs broadly in line with the 10-year average.
- Month-to-date in February, demand is averaging 681 mcm/d, or 8% lower y/y, the bank said.
- Consumption is 48 mcm/d above JP Morgan’s forecast for the month, primarily driven by higher gas burn in the power sector.
- Net withdrawals of 282 mcm/d in the month-to-date remain above the bank’s forecast of 175 mcm/d, partly due to lower LNG sendout.
- Net withdrawals may moderate to the forecast level over the balance of the month as warmer weather sets in, the bank said.

### Spain Gas Demand to Fall 7% This Year: Enagas

Spain's gas demand is expected to fall by around 7% this year as the boost following a major blackout last year softens, said Enagas CEO Arturo Gonzalo cited by Reuters.

- The power grid operator increased the use of steady sources like gas plants to generate electricity after the blackout in Portugal and Spain in April last year.
- The increase caused gas demand for electricity generation to rise by around a third last year.
- Overall gas demand, including exports to countries like France, is expected to fall close to 2024 levels at around 345 TWh this year after rising 7.4% in 2025 to 372 TWh.
- Overall gas exports rose 17% in 2025 with exports to France rising 59% amid demand to restock underground storage facilities.
- The lack of incremental Spanish power generation sector demand will limit any possible LNG import growth, despite lower global LNG prices, according to Energy Intelligence last month. Most of the industrial demand lost post-2022 is not coming back, Energy Intelligence sources said.

### LNG Cargo Reloaded from China Heading to Europe

An LNG cargo reloaded from China is heading to Europe, a rare move that highlights the continent's push to refill inventories, Bloomberg reports.

- The Seapeak Glasgow tanker loaded a cargo from the Zhejiang Ningbo terminal in late January and was headed south toward Singapore, signalling Europe as its next destination.
- If delivered, it would mark the first time reloaded LNG from China has been sent to Europe in four years.
- Europe's LNG imports have surged to a seasonal high this year as the region turns to LNG to replace a drop in Russian pipeline deliveries since 2022.
- Meanwhile, China's demand for LNG has lagged over the last year as its end-users turn to cheaper alternatives.
- Chinese importers have maintained high inventories through winter and have opted to resell shipments to other Asian nations.

### Strong Interest at Krk LNG Regas Capacity Auction

Croatia's Krk LNG terminal's latest regasification capacity auction has attracted strong market interest as the region seeks to diversify its supply mix, Energy Intelligence reported.

- Operator LNG Croatia offered additional regasification capacity for the 2026–30 and 2037–40 through an auction on Feb. 3-5.
- An existing long-term user of the Croatian facility secured most of the slots for the 2026-30 period at a significant premium, an Energy Intelligence source said.
- The latest auction also attracted companies with no firm capacity at the terminal.
- Slots for 2037-40 will be reoffered to the market at a later date after no bids.
- The Croatian terminal is vital for the diversification of supplies to Central and Eastern Europe, primarily Hungary, considering the EU's incoming ban on Russian gas and LNG flows.

- In Q4, Hungary's state-owned MVM signed long-term LNG supply agreements with Engie and Chevron, with most of the volumes expected to be delivered to Krk.
- Terminal gas flows have averaged nearly 92.8GWh/d so far this winter since the start of November compared to 75.1GWh/d in the same period a year earlier, GIE data shows.
- The maximum capacity at the terminal last year increased from 3.1 Bcm to 6.1 Bcm, or about 4.4m tons, per year.

### EU-Algeria Eye Further Gas Cooperation: Platts

The EU and Algeria agreed on Feb. 12 to strengthen cooperation in the gas sector, with Brussels calling Algeria a “strategic and reliable” partner, Platts reported.

- The European Commission said both sides aim to further enhance cooperation and support the resilience of Europe’s energy system.
- The high-level dialogue involved Algeria’s ministers Mohamed Arkab and Mourad Adjal, and EU energy commissioner Dan Jorgensen.
- Discussions included boosting upstream hydrocarbon investment in Algeria and preparing a new licensing round following a successful 2024–2025 bid round.
- Algeria is also exempted from the REPowerEU “prior authorization” requirements for non-Russian gas, along with Nigeria, Norway, Qatar, the UK and US.
- The agreement comes as European spot gas prices trade above €30/MWh, highlighting the strategic importance of secure Algerian supply amid global market uncertainties.
- Algeria supplied 39.2 Bcm of gas to the EU in 2024, about 14.4% of total EU imports, primarily via pipelines to Italy and Spain and LNG shipments to European markets.

### Falling EU Carbon Prices Bearish for European Gas: Platts

Falling EU carbon prices are exerting bearish pressure on European gas and LNG markets, as expectations of softer climate policy weigh on demand for gas-fired power, Platts said.

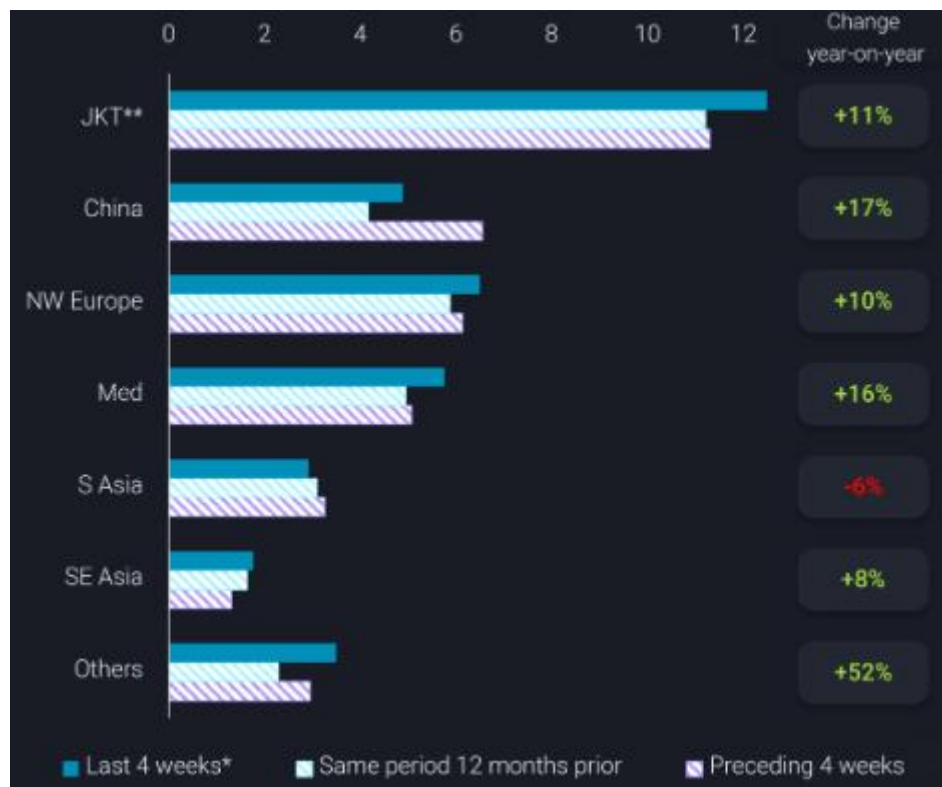
- European Union Allowances (EUAs) dropped 8% to €72.18/mt Feb. 12 after Friedrich Merz signalled openness to revising the bloc’s carbon market. Prices have retreated from above €92/mt in mid-January amid calls to ease the system.
- Lower carbon prices reduce compliance costs for coal generation, narrowing the penalty relative to gas.
- As coal becomes more competitive, utilities are incentivised to switch away from gas, weakening demand for TTF and JKM-linked LNG cargoes. High gas prices had already encouraged coal burn; softer EUAs reinforce that trend.
- Policy discussions, including potential extensions of free allowances under the EU ETS, suggest a reset rather than reversal.
- Anticipation of looser supply constraints in the carbon market is also prompting funds to exit long positions, accelerating price declines across EUAs, gas and LNG.

## APAC LNG

Asian spot LNG prices edged lower this week, despite falling Japanese inventories, as overall demand remained subdued ahead of the Lunar New Year, Reuters said.

- The average price for March delivery into north-east Asia was estimated at \$10.65/MMBtu, down slightly from \$10.70/MMBtu the previous week. April prices were assessed at \$10.45/MMBtu.
- Milder weather across Asia has signalled the effective end of winter, reducing heating demand. Weak economic data in China and limited trading appetite before the holiday also weighed on sentiment, prompting some cargoes to divert to other regions.
- Notably, the LNG tanker Seapeak Glasgow reloaded a cargo from Ningbo and is heading to Europe, the first such move since early 2022.
- US arbitrage continues to favour Europe, as Atlantic freight rates rose and Pacific rates declined further.
- Asia LNG imports held steady ahead of the holidays, Vortexa said. Aggregate Asia arrivals in the week to Feb. 15 were around the four-week moving average at 5.5 mt, or 81 cargoes, Vortexa added.
- The total estimated quantity of LNG on tankers that have not unloaded for at least 20 days increased 14% on the week to 2.01m mt as of Feb. 15, Bloomberg said.

### LNG Import Flows by Destination (mt) - Source (Vortexa)



**China**

China’s 30-day average daily LNG imports fell to the lowest since Oct. at 164k tons on Feb. 16, according to Bloomberg ship-tracking data

- The Qingcheng LNG tanker, originating from LNG Canada, appears to have switched direction again and is now back-tracking west again, ICIS

**Japan**

Inpex, Japan's largest oil and gas producer, expects global LNG demand to grow 75% to around 700 m mtpa by 2035, potentially causing a supply shortfall in the Pacific coastal region, Reuters reported.

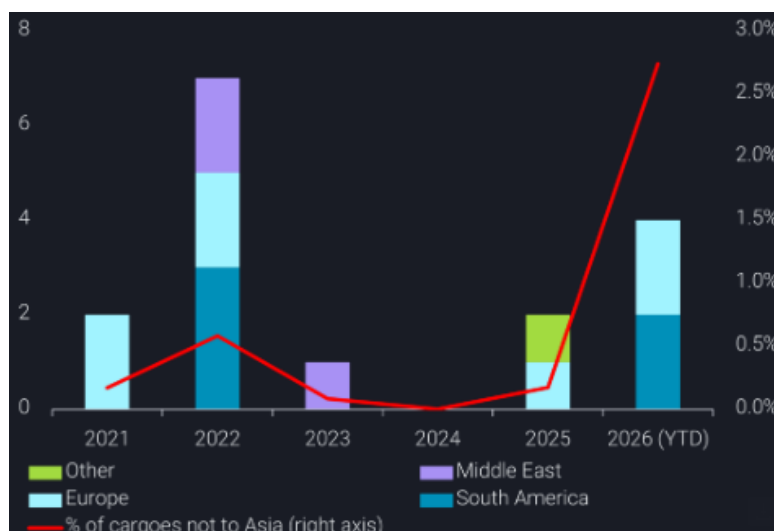
- The company, operator of the Ichthys LNG project in Australia and developer of the Abadi LNG facility in Indonesia, said demand growth will be driven primarily by Asia-Oceania, rising from the current 400 m mtpa.
- It forecast a 231m mt shortfall in the Pacific region by 2035, while the Atlantic and Indian Ocean regions may see oversupplies of 137m mt and 56 m mt, respectively.
- LNG stockpiles held by Japanese utilities increased 5.8% on the week to Feb. 15 to 2.0m mt, according to trade ministry data.

**Australia**

Inpex sees no major maintenance shutdown at the Ichthys LNG project in 2026, the firm said on Thursday Feb. 12 cited by Bloomberg.

- However, the company plans to start work on booster compressor modules at the plant, which will enable gas to be pumped even in low-pressure environments.
- Inpex is looking to ship around 10 cargoes per month this year from Ichthys.

**Australia LNG Deliveries Outside Asia - Source (Vortexa)**



## Middle East & Africa

An agreement to import Russian gas into Iran will be “finalised soon,” Iran’s state-run Shana reports, citing Iranian Oil Minister Mohsen Paknejad, according to Bloomberg.

- “Measure aimed at ensuring stable energy supply amid continued imbalance in the gas sector,” Paknejad said.
- Meanwhile, daily gas production from the South Pars gas field reached a record 730 mcm, the minister said.
- Moscow and Tehran have resolved almost all issues related to Russian gas supplies to Iran, Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said in an interview with TASS in early January.
- The main issue of land acquisition will be fully resolved by March 2026, the ambassador noted.
- Russian Energy Minister Sergei Tsivilev announced previously that Moscow and Tehran had agreed on a gas pipeline route to Iran via Azerbaijan, with negotiations around pricing in the final stages.
- Initial volumes could reach up to 1.8 bcm/y, according to Kommersant.

### Aramco’s Jafurah Gas Field Ramping Up

Saudi Aramco sold condensate oil from its Jafurah project in the first reported exports from the massive natural gas development Bloomberg sources reported on Wednesday.

- It will go to buyers in Asia for loading later this month or in early March, the traders said.
- Companies including energy majors and refiners in Asia bought several spot cargoes of the condensate.

### Vitol Backs LNG Import Facility in South Africa

Vitol is backing a consortium planning to build a \$3bn gas-fired power station and LNG import facility at South Africa’s Durban port, Reuters reports.

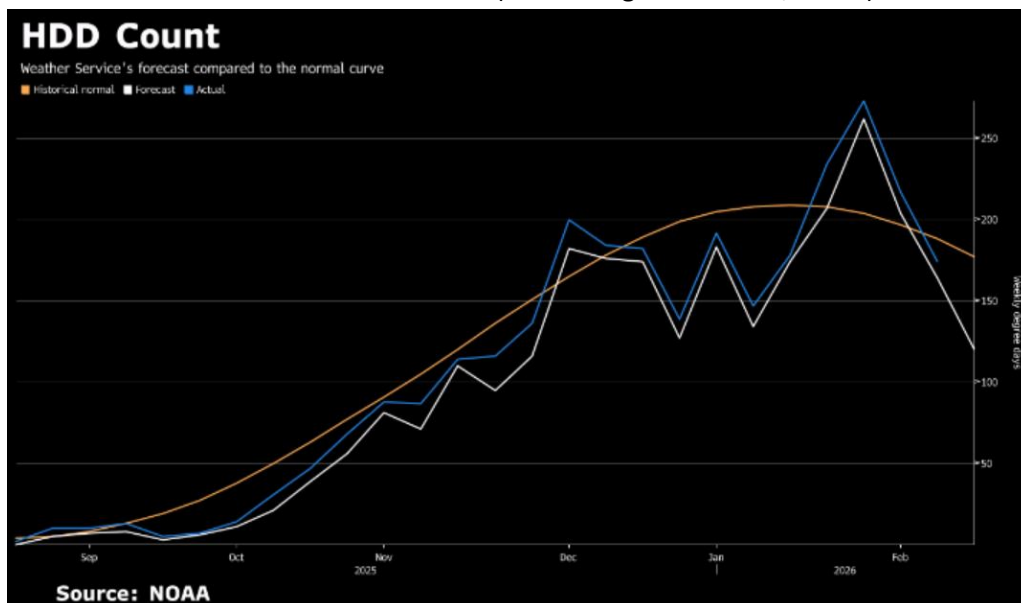
- The Vitol spokesperson told Reuters the project consortium includes Saudi Arabia’s ACWA Power, Vitol unit Vivo Energy and terminal operator VTTI.
- The project received Strategic Integrated Projects status from the state in September, allowing it to be fast-tracked.
- The power plant will have a capacity of between 1,000 to 1,800 MW, according to a document seen by Reuters.
- There was no indication of timing for the project, Reuters said.
- A source with knowledge of the project told Reuters that it planned to deliver regasified-LNG distribution through the Lilly gas pipeline, which links Secunda to Durban, LNG trucking to off-grid industrial and mining operations, as well as LNG bunkering for shipping.
- South Africa sees gas as crucial for its efforts to move away from coal-fired power plants.

## US Natural Gas

The Henry Hub front month contract has slid since the EIA storage report on Thursday Feb. 12 showed the US withdrew a smaller-than-expected amount of gas out of storage: 249 Bcf, about 8-15 Bcf below the leading surveys. Warmer weather in the near-term forecast is the main culprit for the downward trend this week. The latest forecasts show some temporary cold weather across the East Coast, but then a warm shift below normals in late February and early March. Record-touching production is also to blame as post-Winter Storm Fern production roared back over the weekend, near all-time highs in the L48. The warming patterns and robust production are outweighing jump in feedgas demand to US LNG facilities, including Golden Pass as it awaits startup next month.

- Henry Hub Front Month has traded between \$2.968/MMBTU and \$3.316/MMBtu this week, compared to \$3.055/MMBtu and \$3.659/MMBtu over the previous week.
- Natural gas deliveries to US LNG terminals averaged 19.56 bcf/d in the seven days to Feb-18, compared to the seven-day average of 19.19 bcf/d during the previous period.
- Lower 48 natural gas production averaged 114.26 bcf/d in the 10 days to Feb-17, compared to last week's 10-day average of 112.7bcf/d.
- Baker Hughes US rig count: Gas: 133 (3) - up 32 rigs, or 31.7% on the year.
- The EIA's latest forecast for US gas markets calls for Henry Hub to average \$4.31/MMBtu in 2026, up 85 cents from the previous month's forecast and up nearly 80 cents from last year's average. Prices are expected to rise in 2027 slightly to average \$4.38/MMBtu.
- The agency expects markets to moderate through 2027 with new drilling activity coming online later in the forecast period.
- US heating demand for the week ending Feb. 21 is forecast to be 59 heating degree days (HDD) below the long-term normal, according to Bloomberg, citing the NOAA. During the week to Feb. 14, the US was 15 HDD below normal.

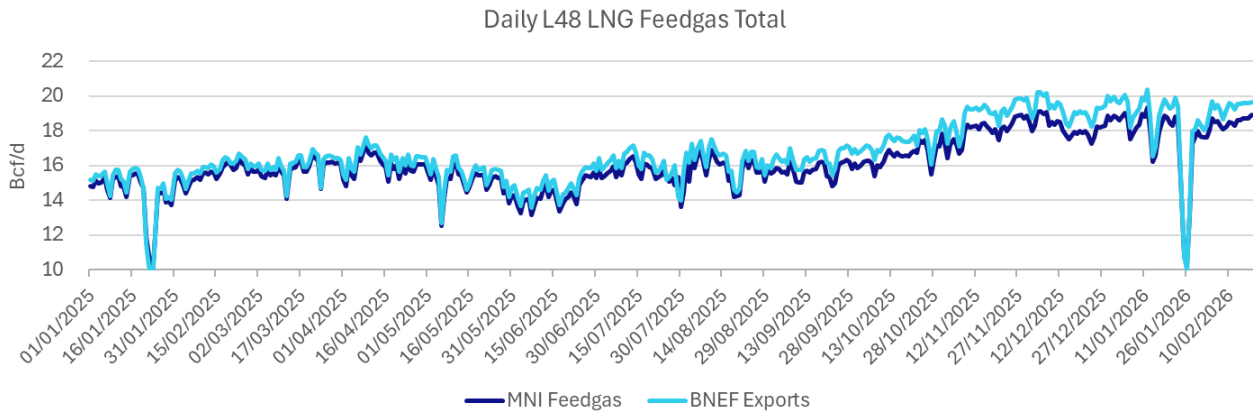
**US HDD Count-** Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P./NOAA)



**US LNG**

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**Daily L48 LNG Feedgas Total-** Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P./MNI)



**Golden Pass LNG**

Feedgas flows to Golden Pass LNG jumped on Tuesday Feb. 17 to about 200,000 cf/d from about 35,000 cf/d the previous day, indicating an imminent start

- Flows to the facility on Feb. 18 were about 300,000 cf/d.
- Previously, the 30-day average had been about 7,000 cf/d as the facility goes through the steps to startup.

**Commonwealth LNG**

Aramco Trading signed a 1-MTPA SPA with Commonwealth LNG, owned by Catarus, an independent integrated natural gas and LNG company

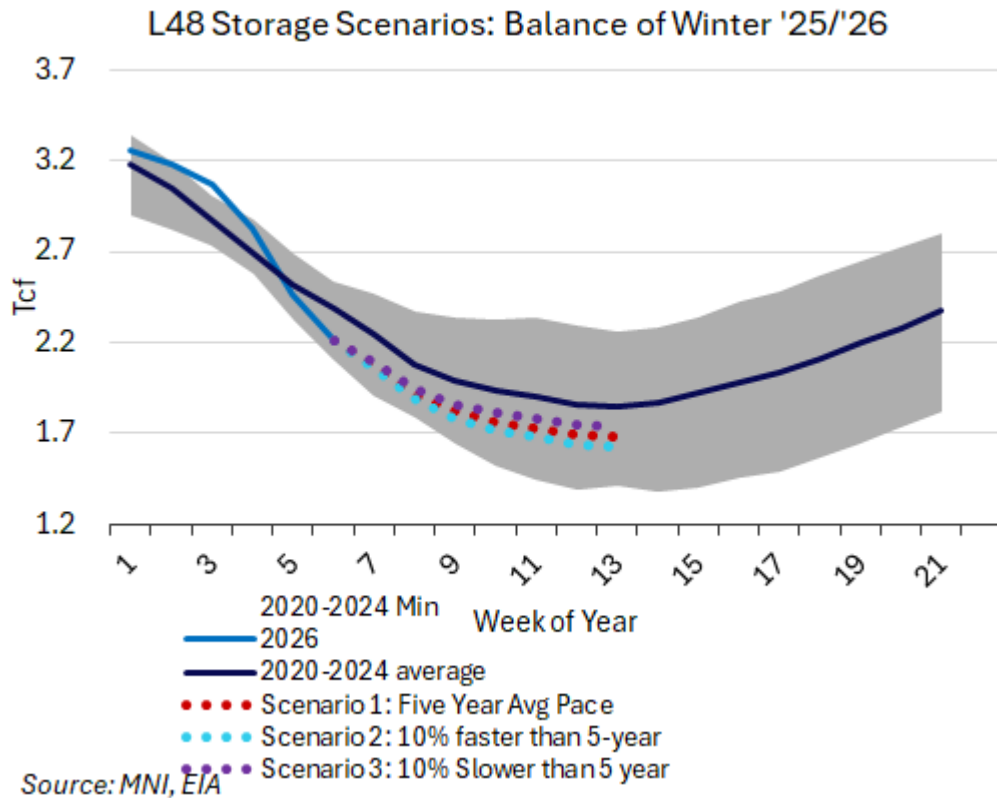
- The SPA adds to Commonwealth’s deals and marks the second deal in two weeks. The facility now has 7 MTPA committed with customers including EQT, Jera, Glencore, Petronas, and Mercuria.
- This moves the facility to fill nearly its 9.5 MTPA of capacity with commitments as the company looks to reach FID this quarter 26Q1.

**US Natgas Inventories**

The Feb. 6 withdrawal of 249 Bcf was more than 100 Bcf above the five-year normal but came up short of market expectations

- The pull extended the widened deficit under the five-year average to 130 Bcf from 27 Bcf the week before.
- MNI storage scenarios for the winter exit now show little chance of landing in line with the five-year average unless the pace of withdrawals dramatically slows down in the next seven weeks. The most likely scenario would be an exit of 1.68 Tcf.
- Inventories in the South Central dropped by the largest magnitude in the past five years, as 107 Bcf was withdrawn there. This may be due in part to compensation for lost production in the region during Winter Storm Fern.

US Gas Inventories and Storage Scenarios – Source (MNI, EIA)



Latam

Eni, YPF and XRG have signed a binding joint development agreement to advance Argentina LNG, replacing Shell to bring total capacity back to 12 MTPA, according to a statement and reported by Bloomberg. The deal also moves back project FID to the second half of 2026

- The deal will unlock Argentina’s Vaca Muerta shale basin and advance the country to the status of a long-term global LNG supplier with the addition of vital partners in the project.
- FID is now on track for the second half of 2026, according to YPF CEO. The earlier expectation to make FID was in the first half of this year.
- The project is expected to consist of two floating LNG facilities with a capacity of 6 MTPA each and will integrate upstream production, gas processing, transportation and export infrastructure.
- The new partnership is needed after Shell stepped away from the project in early December, taking away 6 MTPA of capacity in the planning, according to Reuters, citing YPF’s chief.
- Jack Prandelli a commodity analyst, notes that Shell likely exited due to project economics, regulation, offshore logistics, political stability, or an unrealistic scale, highlighting that Petronas had left the project in 2024.
- On Dec. 1, Germany’s SEFE signed a heads of agreement (HOA) for 2 MTPA for eight years with Southern Energy, a consortium formed in 2024 to develop Argentina’s first large-scale LNG export project, reported Bloomberg.

### Colombia's Amazonica LNG Launches Gas Supply Offer

Amazonica LNG launched an offer to sell natural gas under long-term firm contracts, mainly targeting Colombia's Caribbean region, Bloomberg said.

- The project involves an onshore LNG regasification terminal in Palermo, Magdalena province, designed to import LNG and supply the domestic market. It is expected to start operating in the second half of 2027 following a \$150m investment.
- The terminal will have capacity to deliver up to 150 mmcf/d, adding a new source of gas supply to the region.
- Amazonica LNG has secured environmental and port permits and arranged LNG volumes through an alliance with Vitol, supporting project execution and long-term supply availability.

### Atlantic LNG Could See Quarter of Production Offline for Month

Atlantic LNG in Trinidad and Tobago shut Train 3 Feb. 13 after a crack in its flaring system was discovered, which could take away 3 out of the total 12 MTPA of export capacity for a month, a Reuters source said

- The shutdown could affect the average 12 cargoes per month sent from the facility, typically to the Netherlands, Canada, and the United States when extra volumes are needed at Elba Island, Cove Point, or Everett LNG in Boston.
- Atlantic LNG accounts for 10% and 15% of Shell and BP's respective worldwide production of LNG, according to Reuters.
- Maintenance had been scheduled for 50 days on the 6-MTPA Train 4 in May and June for extensive maintenance and repairs. The facility did not respond to Reuters questioning whether the outage at Train 3 would affect that schedule.