MNI Gas Weekly: TTF Rallies While Asia Remains Dormant

By Lawrence Toye, Daniel Dawson & Zach Simon (14/01/2026)

Executive Summary:

- **European Gas Benchmarks** rally on colder weather forecasts in Europe/Asia and amid Iran tensions.
- Asia's **LNG market** continues to see tepid demand, although colder weather may spark a rebound.
- In the **Middle East & Africa**, Aramco's spending in gas reserve development is matching upstream oil expenditure.
- **Henry Hub** has been volatile amid mixed weather data.
- In **the Americas,** Colombia is seeking access to lower cost Venezuelan natgas.

European Natural Gas

TTF front month has rallied over recent sessions as a cold weather forecast in Europe coincided with below normal temperatures in China, threatening to boost competition for LNG cargoes. Forecasts shifted slightly milder on Wednesday. Meanwhile, riots in Iran are being closely watched for signs of spillover disruption.

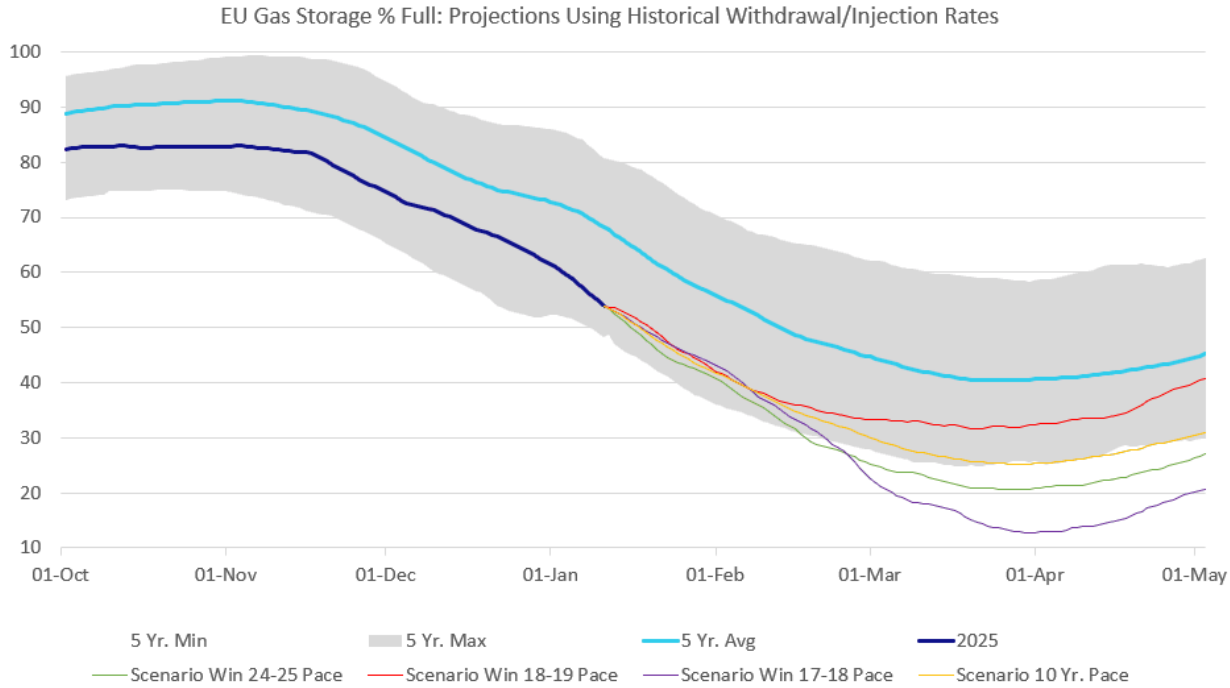
- Front month TTF prices traded between €27.055/MWh and €32.4/MWh this week, compared to €27.12/MWh and €29.175/MWh over the previous week.
- Temperatures in NW Europe are forecast above normal this week before a gradual cooling to below normal mid to late next week but with potential for a recovery late in the two-week period. CWE wind generation is expected to fall back to a low on Jan. 19 before recovery to Jan. 21.
- NW European LNG sendout is estimated at 291cm/d yesterday compared to an average of around 298mcm/d so far this month, Bloomberg shows.
- European gas storage is down to 53.17% full on Jan. 12, according to GIE data compared to the previous five-year seasonal average of 68.7% full with net withdrawals still greater than normal.
- Norwegian pipeline supplies to Europe are marginally higher at 339mcm/d today. Gassco shows a planned capacity reduction of 19.8mcm/d at Nyhamna until Jan. 16.
- Algeria gas flow to Italy at Mazara is estimated at 55.9mcm/d today, Snam data shows, compared to an average of 55.4mcm/d over the previous week.

Weather Risk Pressures Already Low European Gas Storage

Temperatures in NW Europe are expected to turn colder again during the second half of Jan. putting further pressure on already low storage levels.

- European gas storage has fallen to 53.98% full on Jan. 11, according to GIE data, as withdrawals from underground facilities have continued at greater than normal rates.
- Withdrawal rates have eased in the last couple of days amid milder weather in Europe this week but remain stronger than normal after last week - reaching the highest draws since Jan. 2024.
- The week to Jan. 11 showed an average net storage withdrawal of 9,445GWh/d compared to withdrawals of 6,442GWh/d the prior week. The previous five-year average for the week shows withdrawals of 6,032GWh/d, based on GIE data.
- European gas storage is down to 53.98% full on Jan. 11, according to GIE data compared to the previous five-year seasonal average of 69.1% full.
- 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 25.2% of capacity at the end of the season with a range between 12.8% and 32.3%.

European Gas Storage - Source (GIE / MNI)



European Natgas Demand Rose 21% W/W: JPMorgan

European natural gas demand in NWE averaged 870 mcm/d for the week of January 5-11, 21% higher w/w and 29% higher y/y, according to JP Morgan.

- Colder weather led to significantly higher gas demand as residential and non-residential demand rose by 61 mcm/d and 88 mcm/d w/w, respectively.
- All countries in the region experienced higher demand w/w led by Germany, where demand rose by 76 mcm/d over the week.
- Net storage withdrawals averaged 520 mcm/d for the week, compared to 354 mcm/d the week prior, equivalent to about 1% of storage capacity daily.
- Net storage withdrawals for the month of January are also significantly above the bank's forecast of 237 mcm/d for the month, but "are expected to normalise throughout the balance of the month as the weather turns marginally warmer."
- Month-to-date in January, demand has averaged 816 mcm/d, or 22% higher y/y, and 126 mcm/d above the bank's forecast for the full month amid colder weather.

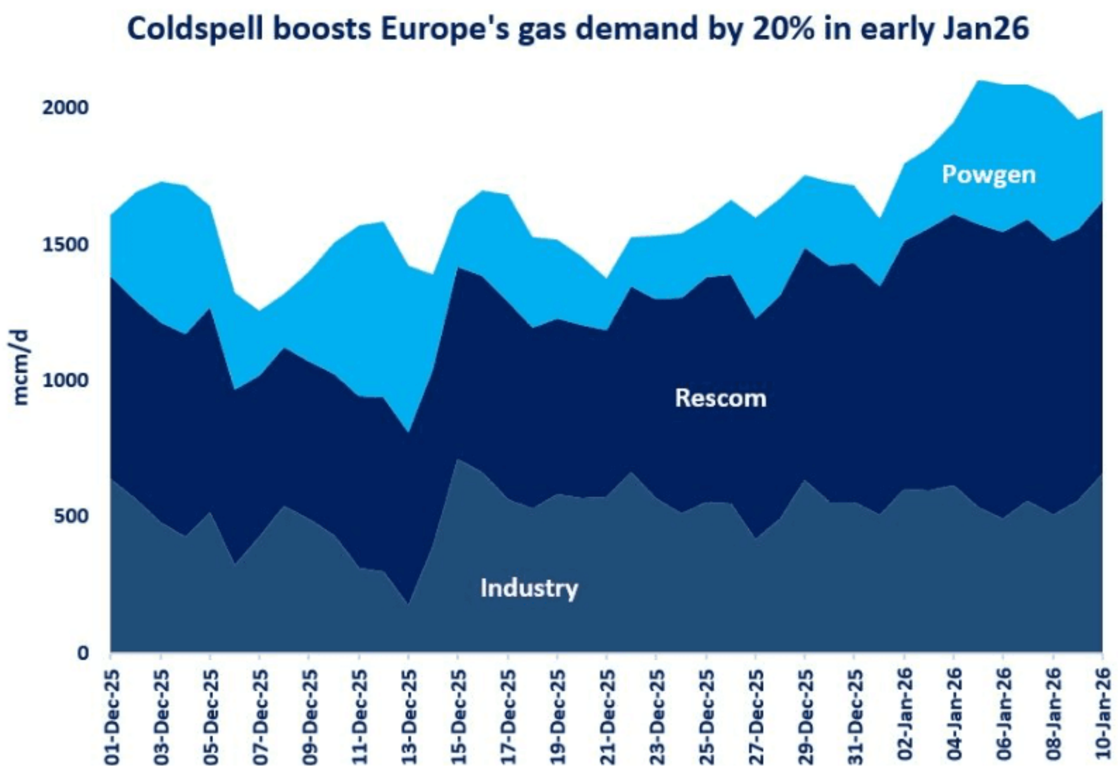
European Gas Demand Rose 20% Y/Y in First 10 Days of January

Europe's gas demand surged 20% y/y in the first 10 days of Jan. 2026, as colder weather boosted space heating demand and supported higher gas-fired power generation, according to IEA analyst Greg Molnar.

- Daily European gas demand climbed to over 2000 mcm/d last week, its highest daily levels since Jan. 2022.
- Gas consumption across the residential and commercial sectors grew by 18% y/y, with the coldspell supporting higher space heating requirements across the NW and Central European markets.

- In addition, gas-fired power generation surged by nearly 30% y/y, partly supported by stronger heating needs and partly by lower wind power generation during the coldest days of the coldspell.
- Net storage withdrawals surged by 35% y/y, meeting over 60% of the incremental gas demand.
- The second most important flex contributor over the coldspell was LNG, with send-outs jumping by almost 25% to meet around one-quarter of the additional demand.

European Gas Demand - Source (Greg Molnar)



German Gas Consumption Rose 2.2% Y/Y in 2025

German gas consumption rose almost 2.2% y/y to 864 TWh in 2025, though still 13.5% lower than the 2018-2021 average, according to Germany's Federal Network Agency.

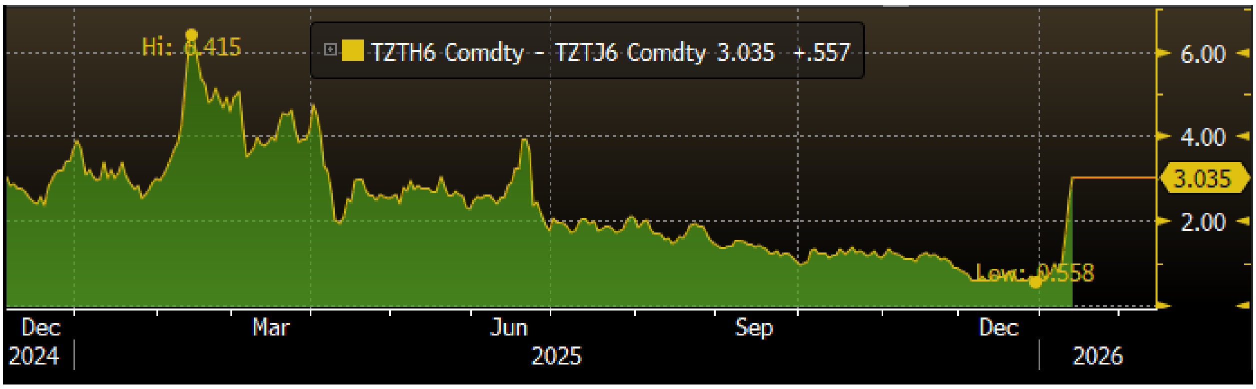
- In 2025, households and business accounted for 40% of total German gas consumption, while industrial customers made up 60%.
- Temperatures in 2025 were similar to the levels seen in 2018-2021.
- German gas imports amounted to 1,031 TWh in 2025, according to preliminary figures, compared to 864 TWh in 2024.
- The largest suppliers were Norway (44%), the Netherlands (24%) and Belgium (21%).
- 106 TWh of natural gas were imported via Germany's LNG terminals, accounting for 10.3% of the total.
- Exports totalled 221 TWh of gas, a significant increase from 89 TWh the previous year. The main customers were Austria (46%), the Czech Republic (26%) and Switzerland (13%).
- German gas storage started the new year significantly lower y/y, but "remains within acceptable limits," the Federal Network Agency said.

TTF March-April 2026 Spread Rallies Amid Increased Winter Risks, Iran Tensions

The TTF March-April 2026 spread has rallied further on Wednesday to a premium of ~€3.00/MWh, its highest since June 2025, amid colder weather forecasts in Europe and China and rising Iran-related risks.

- The widening of the spread in recent days has been driven by a surge in the March contract in line with a bullish move in the front month, while the April contract, the first month of gas summer, gained less.
- Temperatures in both Europe and parts of Asia have turned colder this week, raising competition for LNG cargoes.
- Temperatures in parts of Northeast China are 6C below average this week and the cold is expected to spread throughout much of the country next week. Cold weather is also expected in the Korean Peninsula and Japan.
- Meanwhile, the market is monitoring US-Iran tensions, fearing that any confrontation could result in a spillover of disruption into regional shipping lanes, which are crucial for LNG flows from the Middle East.
- Reuters reported on Wednesday that some US personnel have been advised to leave a Qatari airbase. Ahead of US strikes on Iran in June, some personnel were moved off US bases in the Middle East.
- Before this move in recent days, the spread had been narrowing for months amid mild weather expectations and muted Asian LNG demand.

TTF March-April 2026 Spread - Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P.)



Ukraine Gas Imports from EU Dip as EU Prices Rally

Gas flows from the EU to Ukraine via Poland, Slovakia and Hungary rose to the highest in over two years but have since eased amid a rally in European gas prices, Bloomberg said.

- Supplies via Poland, Slovakia and Hungary rose above 28 mcm/d on Jan. 12 but are expected back at 24mcm/d according to ExPro Consulting estimates.
- Spot commercial imports become much less attractive at current price levels, analyst Mykhailo Svyshcho said.
- State-run Naftogaz is likely to continue importing gas regardless of short-term spreads.
- Gas storage withdrawals have been higher than a year ago levels in recent days due to cold weather, but overall stocks are relatively comfortable and above last year’s levels.

- GIE shows working Ukrainian gas storage 23.32% full at 75.49 TWh on Jan. 11 compared to 14.71% full at 46.97 TWh this time last year.

APAC LNG

Asia spot LNG prices edged lower this week, weighed by tepid demand in the region and ample supply conditions, according to Reuters.

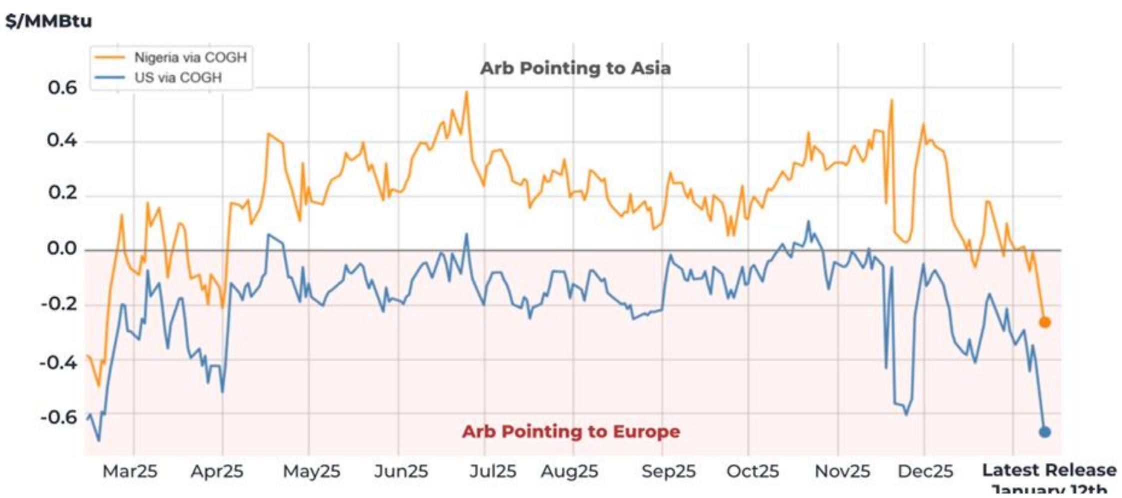
- The average LNG price for February delivery into Northeast Asia was estimated at $9.50/MMBtu, slightly down from $9.60/MMBtu the previous week, industry sources said.
- A cold weather forecast for Northeast China coinciding with below normal temperatures in Europe threatens to boost LNG competition and prices, Bloomberg said.
- However, demand remains weak despite a cold snap in December with coal still favoured for most generation, Argus head of LNG pricing Martin Senior said.
- However, he added that there have been some prompt diversions to South Korea following record low temperatures in Seoul last month, with the demand likely backfilling stocks.,
- Morgan Stanley has trimmed its 2026 JKM forecast to $8.50/MMBtu from $9.50/MMBtu previously, according to Reuters. It has a view of qa $7/MMBtu JKM for 2027-28.

US Arbs to Asia

The USG front-month arb to NE Asia (via COGH) continues to fall this week to the lowest level since February 2025, according to Spark Commodities.

- The move has been driven by a narrowing JKM-TTF spread as TTF has rallied while JKM has lagged, Spark added.
- The JKM - TTF front month spread has extended the recent trend falling to a low of around -$1.0/MMBtu this week from a high of nearly +$1.5/MMBtu in December, Bloomberg shows.

Front Month Arbs via Cape of Good Hope - Source (Spark)



China

China's imports of natural gas, including both pipeline gas and LNG, rose 16.3% in December from a year earlier to 13.448m mt and up from 11.947m mt in November, GACC data showed.

- Temperatures in parts of Northeast China are 6C below average this week and the cold is expected to spread throughout much of the country next week. Cold weather is also expected in the Korean Peninsula and Japan.
- Russian gas supplies to China via the Power of Siberia pipeline reached a new all-time daily high Jan. 10, Gazprom said cited by Platts
- Gazprom's CEO Alexei Miller said flows to CNPC totalled about 38.8 Bcm in 2025, exceeding the pipeline's design capacity of 38 Bcm and China is now the company's largest export market.

Arctic LNG 2

The Alexey Kosygin LNG tanker has resumed its journey toward the Arctic LNG 2 facility, according to Bloomberg Jan 9.

- The tanker is Russia's first domestically built ice-class vessel for the Arctic LNG 2 export plant.
- Alexey Kosygin briefly stopped at the Koryak floating storage unit in Russia's far east earlier this week, but the draft level didn't change suggesting no fuel was loaded.
- Alexey Kosygin, Arctic LNG 2 and Koryak have all been sanctioned by the US.
- The expected arrival of Alexey Kosygin could help unlock more exports from the facility during the winter months.
- Just one icebreaker, the Christophe De Margerie, has been exporting fuel directly from Arctic LNG 2, allowing the facility to operate at roughly 25% capacity, Bloomberg reported on Jan. 5.

Wider APAC

LNG stockpiles held by Japanese utilities decreased by 0.44% on the week to Jan. 11 to 2.28m mt, according to trade ministry data.

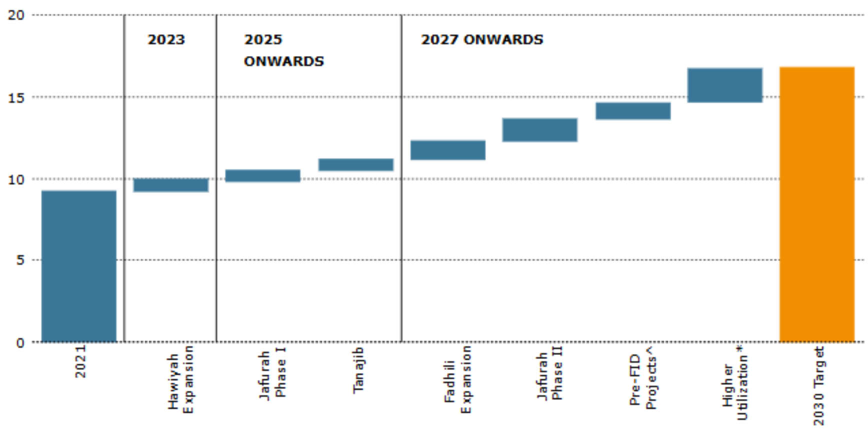
- Total imports during 2025 were 127.865m mt, down 2.8% after weak demand throughout much of the year.
- India's Bharat Petroleum Corp has issued a tender for cargoes of LNG for 10 years, with deliveries beginning from 2026, according to Reuters sources.
- BPCL is seeking four cargoes per year from 2026 to 2029, and eight cargoes per year from 2030 to 2035. The tender closes on January 14.

Middle East & Africa

Aramco is now investing as much in developing its gas reserves as in its upstream oil sector as it targets huge gains by 2030, MEES said.

- Gas is expected to drive robust economic growth and diversification, and Aramco anticipates significant revenue upside.
- Aramco has raised its gas growth target from 60% to 80% by 2030, driven by stronger expectations for domestic demand, positioning the company to generate billions in additional cash flow as the sole gas supplier to the Saudi market.
- In an interview with MEES, Aramco's EVP for Gas described large-scale gas development as a highly compelling and strategic investment opportunity.
- While global gas demand is expected to grow to at least 2050, the core value case for Aramco lies in meeting domestic demand within its captive market.

Aramco's Path to 80% Gas Sales Growth by 2030 (bcf/d) - Source (MEES)



Egypt Gas Hub Ambitions

Even after hitting a nine-year low in production and importing record LNG and Israeli gas, Egypt is pressing ahead with its ambition to become a regional gas hub and re-export gas via its LNG facilities.

- Egypt has agreed to supply gas to both Lebanon and Syria despite facing a growing domestic gas deficit.
- Any gas delivered via pipelines to Damascus and Beirut would originate from Israel due to regional logistics.
- Lebanon has no gas production, while Syria is seeking to boost output from just 7mn m^3/d by attracting foreign partners.

Africa

Nigeria's Bonny to NE Asia via COGH front-month arb closed recently on the back of a fall in the JKM-TTF spread, Spark Commodities said. The arb had been open since April.

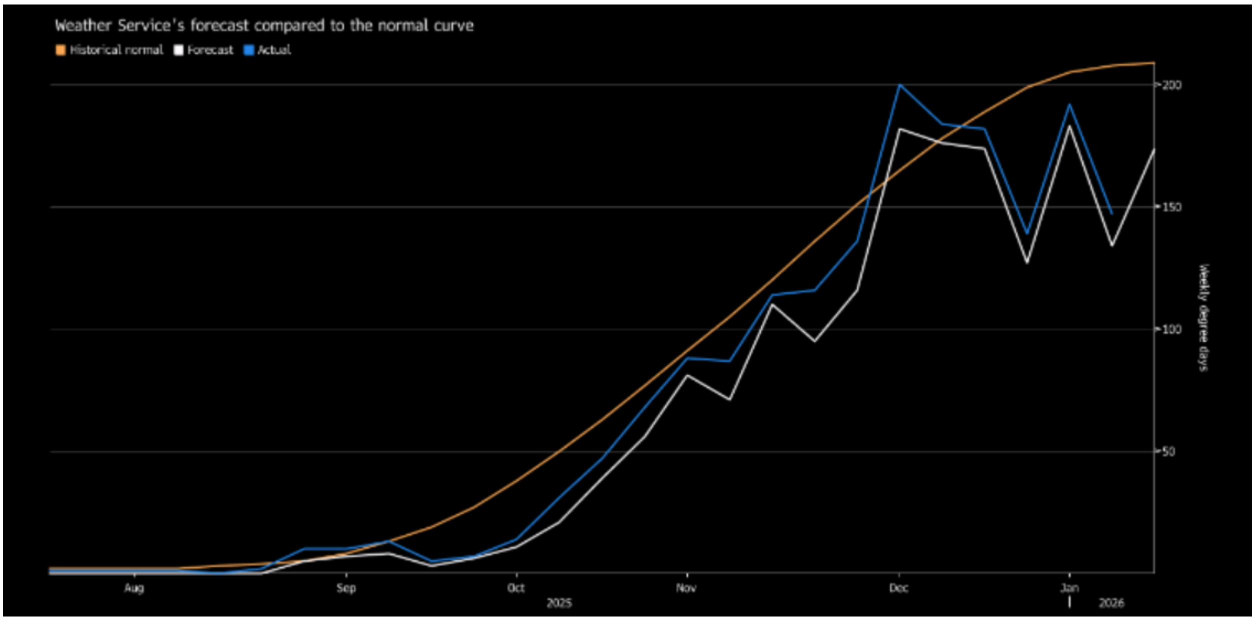
- The Seapeak Galicia LNG vessel could have journeyed from the old 0.6m mtpa Congo Tango facility to the new 2.4m mtpa Nguya offshore FLNG plant to delivery cool-down volumes, ICIS analyst Alex Froley said.

US Natural Gas:

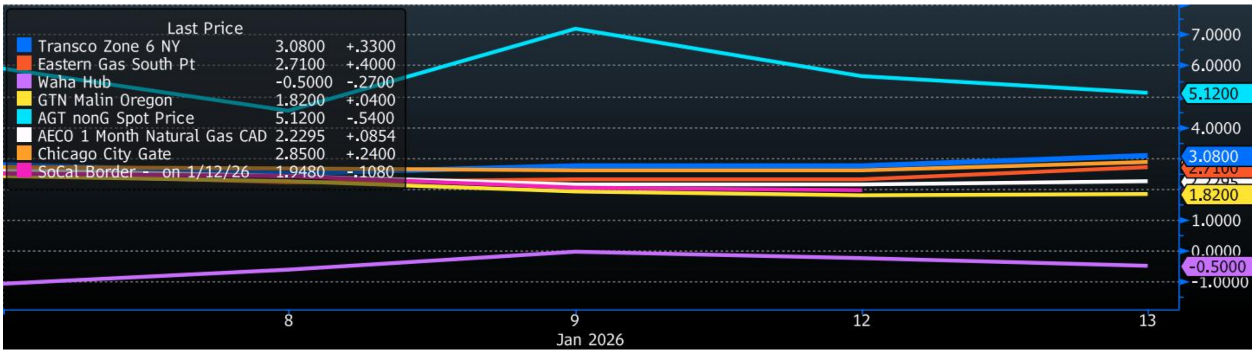
The Henry Hub front month was volatile over the week as mixed weather data for the rest of January changed day over day. Feedgas to US export terminals notched up to set a new record this week.

- Henry Hub Front Month has traded between $3.131/MMBTU and $3.634/MMBtu this week, compared to $3.324/MMBtu and $3.703/MMBtu over the previous week.
- Natural gas deliveries to US LNG terminals averaged 19.28 bcf/d in the seven days to Jan-14, compared to the seven-day average of 19.31 bcf/d during the previous period.
- Lower 48 natural gas production averaged 113.27 bcf/d in the 10 days to Jan-13, compared to last week's 10-day average of 113.4bcf/d.
- Baker Hughes US rig count: Gas: 124 (-1).
- The EIA's latest forecast for US gas markets calls for Henry Hub to average $3.46/MMBtu in 2026, down 55 cents from the previous month's forecast and down nearly 10 cents from last year's average. Prices are expected to rise in 2027 to average $4.59/MMBtu.
- The agency expects markets to tighten in 2027, providing support for the benchmark, as the market balance is forecast to be short. US dry gas production is expected to increase 1% in 2026 to 109 Bcf/d, led by associated gas in the Permian basin.
- The forecast calls for increased LNG export capacity and higher natural gas consumption from the electric power sector to contribute to higher demand in 2027 and push storage below the 5-year average. Industrial, residential, and commercial natural gas consumption is forecast to decline by 3% in 2026.
- US heating demand for the week ending Jan. 17 is forecast to be 35 heating degree days (HDD) below the long-term normal, according to Bloomberg, citing the NOAA. During the week to Jan. 10, the US was 61 HDD below normal.

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



US Regional Hub Prices - Source (Bloomberg Finance L.P.)



US Pipeline Expansion

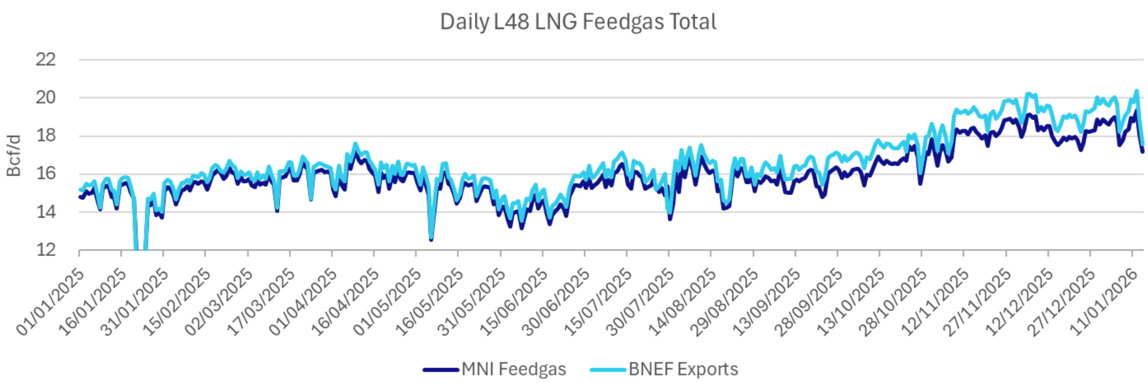
2026 Will See the Largest Pipeline Expansion Since 2026 at 18 Bcf/d of New Capacity

- Growing US natgas demand has led to the construction of 18 Bcf/d capacity in new pipelines, according to estimates from Morningstar DBRS.
- One key driver behind the new construction is the negative pricing at Waha.
- Growth also comes from new players rather than purely producers: LNG exporters, utilities, and large industrial power users are spurring investment with commitments to long-term firm transportation.

US LNG

Natural gas deliveries to US LNG terminals averaged 19.28 bcf/d in the seven days to Jan-14, compared to the seven-day average of 19.31 bcf/d during the previous period.

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



LNG Canada

Kpler data show that LNG Canada's second train has returned to service at 50% capacity and is ramping up further, pushing export records at the facility.

- Once fully online, LNG Canada will be able to send out one cargo every two weeks to fulfil the 14-MTPA nameplate capacity.

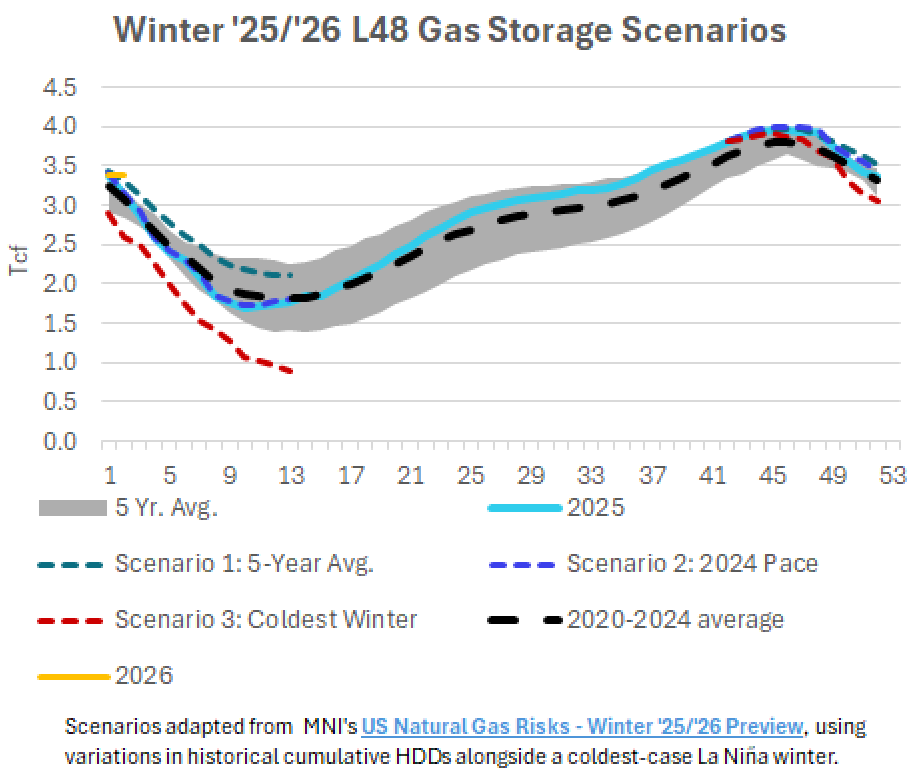
- Predictive Kpler data show another eight ships have signalled an arrival at LNG Canada in January, which would mean more than double December's shipments if they all arrive and load this month.

US Natgas Inventories

The EIA weekly gas inventories for the week ending Jan. 2 showed a withdrawal of 119 Bcf. The seasonal five-year average shows a net withdrawal of 92 Bcf.

- This dropped storage to 3,256 Bcf but kept storage above the five-year average of 3,225 Bcf.

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



Latam

Colombia is seeking access to lower-cost Venezuelan natural gas as renewed US–Venezuela dialogue raises the possibility of easing restrictions on cross-border energy trade, Bloomberg said.

- Energy Minister Edwin Palma described the discussions as a "historic opportunity" to revive energy integration, potentially lowering costs for households, public transport, and industry while strengthening Colombia's energy security.
- Domestic gas supply in Colombia is tightening, forcing the country to rely increasingly on expensive imported LNG, with the supply gap expected to reach about 20% of total demand in 2026. Previous plans to resume Venezuelan gas exports were blocked by US sanctions, but Palma has continued to push for an agreement, noting that Venezuelan supply would remain cheaper than current LNG imports.
- Venezuela has indicated willingness to supply up to 50 mmcf/d initially and invest $20mn–30mn to repair the 224-km pipeline linking the two countries. The plan would revive a bilateral accord that previously

allowed Venezuela to import Colombian gas before sanctions and economic collapse halted the arrangement.

Banks in Talks to Finance Argentina Natgas Pipeline

A group of banks, including JPMorgan Chase, Citigroup and Banco Santander, are in talks to provide around $1 billion in financing to natural gas producers in Argentina for a cross-country pipeline, according to Bloomberg.

- The loan would support a consortium led by Pan American Energy Group, following last year's $2 billion financing for the VMOS shale oil pipeline and port, currently under construction.
- The pipeline will transport gas from the Vaca Muerta shale field to Argentina's first floating liquefaction terminal on the Atlantic coast.
- The project will use two leased vessels, Hilli Episeyo and MKII, with a combined capacity of 6m mtpa, much of it destined for Germany.
- The pipeline is critical to fully unlocking Vaca Muerta's gas potential, complementing existing infrastructure and supporting Argentina's broader LNG export ambitions.
- The consortium, Southern Energy SA, is partly owned by BP (30%) and Argentina's state energy firm YPF (25%), with smaller stakes held by Pampa Energia, Harbour Energy and Golar LNG. Negotiations are ongoing and terms may change before a final agreement.