

Middle East Turmoil

Middle East turmoil keeps oil and gas markets on edge

June 2024



Highlights



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The Middle East accounts for a large proportion of global crude oil & Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) supply. Any expansion of the Middle East conflict could put a chunk of global crude and LNG supply at risk and could spike crude oil and natural gas prices.



- The Middle East accounts for ~51% of global crude oil exports. Most of the oil produced in the region is transported through the Strait of Hormuz (SoH) (32%), the Suez Canal (10%), and the Bab el-Mandab (8%).
- Around a fifth of the global LNG exports originate from the Middle East with the SoH being the sole evacuation channel apart from a minor volume of pipeline exports from Qatar.
- Already attacks by Houthi rebels on shipping vessels in the Red Sea have led to rerouting via the Cape of Good Hope. While supplies have not been impacted, the travel time has increased by about 15 days. However, there is no alternate evacuation route to the Strait.
- Iran straddles the SoH and has repeatedly threatened to disrupt trade flows through SoH. In a
 scenario of expansion of the Middle East conflict, any disruptions in the Strait will put a chunk of
 global crude and LNG supply at risk with no alternate evacuation route and could spike crude oil
 and natural gas prices.
- Imports from the Middle East contribute to ~44% and 64%, respectively, of India's total crude oil and natural gas imports. Any increase in crude oil prices would impact marketing margins on auto fuels. Further, rise in LNG prices would increase input prices for fertilisers, gas-based power generation, city gas distribution, refineries and petrochemical companies.



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