

# Iran's oil exports near 18m barrels after US blockade removal

## Economy Desk

Iran has exported nearly 18 million barrels of crude oil over five days after the United States lifted its naval blockade of the country's southern ports and coastal waters, tanker tracking firm TankerTrackers said on Friday.

"Iran has exported nearly 18 million barrels (or \$1.44 billion) of crude oil over the past five days."

TankerTrackers.com estimated the value of the crude exported during the past five days at about \$1.44 billion.

The shipments mark a sharp rebound after Iran's crude exports were effectively suspended from mid-April through mid-June due to the naval embargo.

Iran had amassed more than 60 million barrels of crude oil stored on vessels anchored in its southern waters prior to the blockade, based on estimates from shipping intelligence companies.

Since the announcement of the US-Iran agreement on June 15, "Iranian-linked tankers and cargo ships

have become noticeably more active globally," according to advocacy and monitoring group United Against Nuclear Iran (UANI).

However, the US Navy formally ended its blockade of Iranian ports and coastal areas on June 18, Thursday, following a directive from President Donald Trump.

"All US military blockade enforcement efforts have ceased," US Central Command said in a statement posted on social media.

The decision came after Trump and Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian signed a memorandum of understanding. The memorandum extends the US-Iran ceasefire for 60 days and establishes a framework for future negotiations on Tehran's nuclear program and other key issues.

Iran also remains subject to long-standing US sanctions over its nuclear program. Under one provision of the agreement, the United States is to grant Iran a sanctions waiver during the 60-day negotiation period to allow it to export its oil.

The agreement also obliges Iran to al-

low commercial vessels to transit the Strait of Hormuz without paying tolls for 60 days.

Iran said on Friday that several Iranian oil tankers had transited the Gulf of Oman and entered international waters over the previous 24 hours, with more tankers expected to depart in the coming days.

About 14 million barrels per day of crude oil and 6 million barrels per day of refined petroleum products transited the Strait of Hormuz before the United States and Israel attacked Iran on February 28. As tensions escalated following the joint US-Israeli attack in late February, major shipping companies suspended operations in the region.

After the war began, Iran imposed new conditions on traffic through the strait, permitting only commercial vessels with prior authorization to pass and barring ships linked to the United States, Israel, and other "hostile states." Tankers linked to Iran, however, continued to pass through the strategic waterway.

Before the blockade, Tehran was ex-



MARCOS MORENO/AP

porting between 2.4 million and 2.8 million barrels of crude oil per day. The US blockade, imposed on Iran's southern ports on April 13, cut the country's crude exports to 260,000 barrels per day in May, the lowest level in six years and less than one-fifth of the 2025 average of 1.67 million barrels per day, according to maritime

intelligence firm Kpler.

According to OPEC estimates, Iran earned \$46.7 billion from exports of crude oil and petroleum products last year. If sanctions are lifted and oil prices remain relatively high, that figure could increase substantially, although a rapid recovery is not expected.

## Iran debuts first Iraq-Afghanistan combined rail transit route



According to ISNA, the cargo was the first transit shipment of fuel to enter Iran from Iraq under a combined transport scheme before being forwarded to Afghanistan after customs procedures at the inland customs office in Sanandaj.

The first diesel shipment arrived from Iraq through the Bashmaq border crossing and, under the combined transport method, was transferred from tanker trucks to rail before being transported to Afghanistan via the Sanandaj inland customs office, ISNA reported.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) said the transit method was being implemented for the first time as part of the Economy Ministry's policy of strengthening the customs authority's role in facilitating trade and transit.

The IRICA said it introduced the combined transport method for goods in transit after assuming responsibility for border management, adding that the initiative had been welcomed by the private sector because it reduced costs and made better use of rail transport capacity.

Torki told IRNA that the operation marked a milestone in activating the underutilized capacity of Iran's western railway corridor and expanding international rail transit.

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Iran launched its first combined rail transit shipment from Iraq to Afghanistan via the country's western railway corridor and the Kermanshah freight station, marking a step toward expanding international transport corridors and increasing the share of rail in regional transit.

Ahmad Torki, director general of the Arak and Kermanshah Railway Region, told IRNA on Saturday that the shipment entered Iran through the country's western border crossings and was transferred to the national rail network after logistical procedures at the Kermanshah freight station.

"This shipment will be transported via Iran's rail lines to the eastern borders and its final destination of Afghanistan," he said.

## SADRA kicks off Persian Gulf sunken vessel recycling initiative

### Economy Desk

The chief executive of Iran Marine Industries Organization (SADRA) said the company had begun the process of recovering and recycling sunken vessels in the Persian Gulf as part of a broader initiative to develop the country's ship and offshore structure recycling industry.

Speaking at a ceremony on Saturday to sign a national contract for the removal of sunken vessels from the Persian Gulf, Manouchehr Alipour said SADRA's board approved a comprehensive plan last year to enter the ship and offshore structure recycling industry.

"In the recycling industry, obsolete structures will be recycled in accordance with established procedures, which will certainly bring benefits such as reducing the consumption of mineral resources and preventing foreign currency outflows from the country," ISNA quoted him as saying.

Alipour said ship recycling had become a well-developed industry in many countries but had not expanded in Iran because of environmental requirements and concerns raised by the Department of Environment. "The company intends to enter this field by using new technologies," he said, adding that the initiative was aimed at expanding the company's portfolio of products and services while creating a sustainable source of revenue.

He said the minimum benefit of the recycling industry would be reducing the use of mineral resources.



An Emirati ship is seen sinking 30 miles from Assaluyeh in the Persian Gulf, Iran, March 17, 2022. Reuters

"This industry is aligned with the realization of the maritime-oriented economy, and establishing it is one of the key pillars of achieving that goal," Alipour said.

He said the project would also help prevent foreign currency outflows, create jobs and support the development of the Makoran coasts.

"The preliminary site for this industry has been selected on the Makoran coasts, and its implementation can contribute to the region's development, improve the welfare of local residents and enhance the country's economy," he said.

Alipour said the company was seeking to move from a linear economy to a circular economy.

"In a linear economy, raw materials are turned into products, used and ultimately discarded. In a circular economy, the goal is for every marine product to enter the recycling cycle once it reaches the end of its operational life," he said.

## Assaluyeh power plant reaches 1,500 MW capacity as final steam unit comes online



MEHR

### Economy Desk

Iran has connected the final steam unit of the Assaluyeh power plant in southern Bushehr Province to the national grid, boosting the facility's total generation capacity to 1,500 megawatts (MW), a deputy energy minister said on Saturday. Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, who also serves as head of Iran's Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Management Company (Tavanir), said that the 160-megawatt steam unit was synchronized with the grid on Friday night.

"The power plant, which previously operated with six gas units and two steam units with a capacity of 1,330 MW, has reached a production capacity of 1,500 MW with the completion of the third steam unit," Rajabi Mashhadi said, as per Mehr News Agency.

According to the official, the new unit alone will result in annual fuel savings of 280 million cubic meters. With all three steam units now fully operational, the plant's efficiency has improved to by around 50%, generating total annual fuel savings of 840 million cubic meters. The Assaluyeh combined-cycle power plant plays a key role in providing stable electricity supply to Iran's southern regions.

## Football Word Cup ...

Discussing Iran's qualification prospects, Korbekandi said a victory in the opening match would have made the path to the knockout stage easier. Now, however, the situation has become more complicated, and the second round of matches could go a long way toward determining the teams that advance. "If our direct rivals pick up the points they need, the task will become even more difficult. That is why Iran must take points from the upcoming match

against Belgium," he said, adding that while the challenge would be extremely tough, the team still has a chance of success.

In his view, the coaching staff's most important responsibility before the second match is to prepare the players mentally and psychologically for various scenarios.

Issues such as travel, logistical concerns and certain restrictions were foreseeable in the previous match, but not everything can be attributed to those

factors, especially when a team fails to perform at the required technical level. Another football analyst and former player, Hassan Haj-Rasouliha, also told IRNA that Iran lacked the necessary focus in the opening match and failed to execute its plans as expected. Given the nature of the opposition and New Zealand's standing in world football, he said there had been a genuine opportunity for Iran to claim all three points, but that objective was not achieved. He also criticized the individual per-

formances of most players, saying few deserved passing marks.

"With the exception of a handful of players, including Ramin Rezaeian, the rest failed to meet expectations, although the circumstances surrounding the match were unusual."

Turning to the upcoming clash with Belgium, he said that an impartial assessment shows Belgium holding the upper hand in both technical quality and overall cohesion. In such a match, if Iran lacks a clear game plan and the

players are not fully prepared mentally, the challenge will be extremely difficult. Haj-Rasouliha predicted that the match against Belgium would be significantly tougher than the opening fixture and would also be of a higher technical standard. For that reason, he said the national team must take to the field with a precise plan and the necessary adjustments.

"Under the current circumstances, even taking a single point from this match would be a valuable result for Iran."