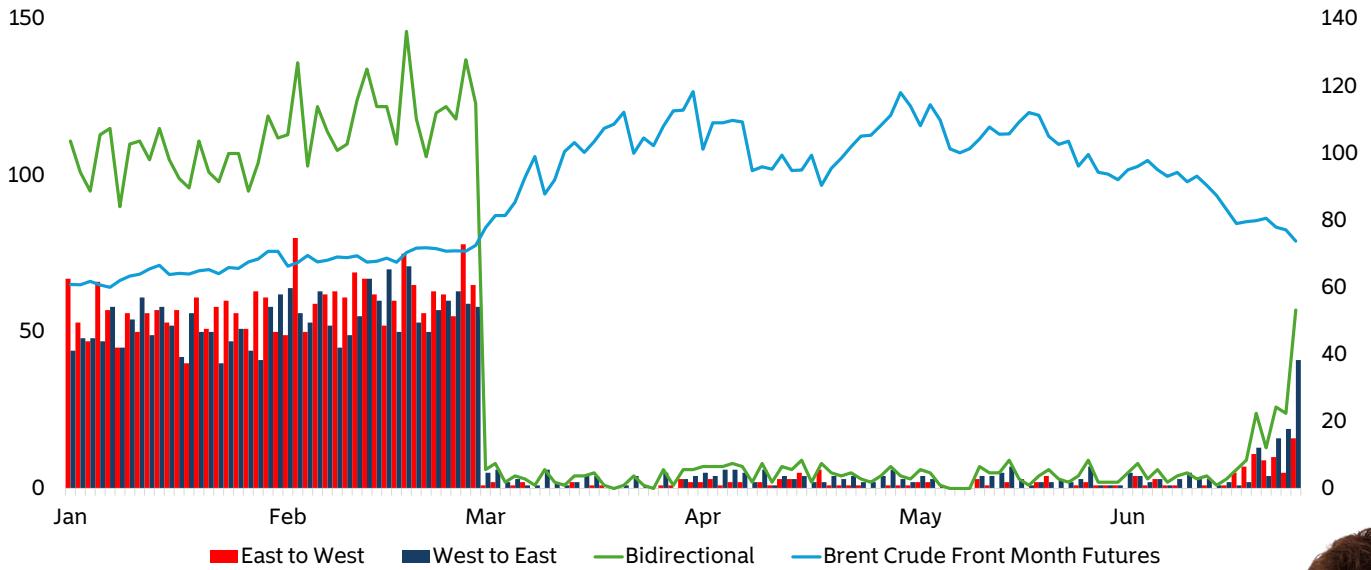


Strait of Hormuz Commercial Cargo Ship Daily Crossings



Source: Momentum Global Investment Management, Bloomberg Finance L.P. Data to 26 June 2026.

The Price of Passage

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What does the chart show?

This chart follows on from our April viewpoint and shows an upturn in commercial cargo ship crossings across the Strait of Hormuz since the revived US-Iran peace talks that took place in Geneva early last week, and also the price of the Brent Crude Front Month Futures.

Why is it important?

Conflict in the strait has been dominating headlines this year and rightly so, with the passage accounting for around 20% of global oil and liquefied natural gas, alongside a third of world fertiliser trade and various key imports.

On 17 June, Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian joined US President Trump in remotely signing a 14-point memorandum of understanding, an interim agreement outlining 60 days of talks with the hopes of building stability in the region. Under the terms both countries commit to an immediate (and permanent) ceasefire. Iran agrees not to pursue nuclear weapons and to allow international oversight of its nuclear programme whilst guaranteeing safe commercial shipping through the Strait. In return, the US agrees to begin easing sanctions, allow Iranian oil exports, work towards releasing frozen Iranian assets, remove its naval blockade, and support Iran's economic recovery, with further sanctions relief tied to Iran's compliance.

However, there's cause for scepticism. Critics argue that it gives Iran significant short-term concessions whilst 'kicking the can down the road' on many original catalysts

for the war which remain unresolved, not least the future of Iran's uranium enrichment and deteriorating economic landscape.

Differences over Lebanon remain a significant point of contention. At Iran's behest, the memorandum included commitment to a ceasefire in Lebanon between Israeli forces and Hezbollah, the Iran-backed Shia militia. Israel went into Lebanon back in March and whilst Israel and the US entered this war together, they found their interests diverging. Trump's administration concentrated on re-opening the strait, originally by military means but ultimately in the form of an agreement the US were compelled to accept. Conversely, Israel seeks to weaken Iran's missile and nuclear infrastructure and neutralise regional proxies such as Hezbollah.

Tankers left stranded in the gulf are beginning to head for the exits, laden with crude oil ready to take to world markets. Whilst this brings short term relief, it's still to be seen if new traffic will brave the crossing under this 'placeholder' framework (not to mention the Iranian underwater mine network that is yet to be cleared). On Thursday, the United Nations was already forced to pause evacuations following investigations on a further attack on a cargo ship.

In the upcoming weeks Iran and the US will each contest to present themselves in the more favourable light, with ongoing talks between the US and Iran but also Israeli and Lebanese governments in Washington. Further de-escalation should ensure the recent inflationary pulse does not become entrenched.

The markets were characterised by political transition in the UK, policy uncertainty in the US, competitiveness and climate debates in Europe, China's push for greater global influence, and continued investor focus on AI-led growth amid fiscal and geopolitical constraints.



US

- » Technology shares came under pressure, particularly semiconductor companies, despite continued investor focus on AI-related investment.
- » Markets monitored inflation and labour-market indicators ahead of key economic releases, with expectations for future Federal Reserve policy remaining a major driver of asset prices.
- » Political attention centred on pending Supreme Court decisions involving presidential powers, the Federal Reserve, campaign finance and immigration policy, all with potential implications for governance and regulation.
- » Treasury officials highlighted economic statecraft, technology leadership and AI innovation as central pillars of US competitiveness and national economic strategy.



UK

- » The week's biggest political story was the resignation of Prime Minister Keir Starmer, triggering renewed political uncertainty and a leadership transition with Andy Burnham emerging as clear favourite to succeed.
- » Financial markets assessed the implications of the political transition and what new leadership could mean for future economic policy.
- » Business confidence remained fragile amid concerns about taxation, public finances, inflation and weak productivity growth.
- » Debate intensified around tax reform, fiscal sustainability and policies needed to restart economic growth without increasing already elevated tax burdens.



Europe

- » EU policymakers concentrated on competitiveness, economic resilience and preparations for the next long-term EU budget framework.
- » The European Parliament and Commission advanced discussions on energy infrastructure, industrial decarbonisation, AI regulation and economic modernisation.
- » An intense heatwave across Europe elevated climate policy and adaptation concerns, creating fresh political debate over environmental priorities.
- » European leaders continued discussions on Ukraine support, competitiveness and future EU enlargement, including accession progress for Ukraine and Moldova.



Rest of the World/Asia

- » Investors continued to watch for further policy support from China as authorities sought to strengthen economic growth.
- » Asian equity markets weakened alongside the global technology sell-off, highlighting continued sensitivity to developments in the semiconductor sector.
- » Geopolitical tensions in the Middle East remained elevated following further exchanges between the US and Iran, although hopes for renewed negotiations helped ease concerns over energy supplies.
- » Russia faced growing economic and energy-sector pressures, including fuel shortages linked to Ukrainian drone attacks on energy infrastructure.

Asset Class / Region	Currency	Cumulative returns			
		Week ending 26 June 2026	Month to date	YTD 2026	12 months
Developed Markets Equities					
United States	USD	-1.9%	-2.9%	79%	20.8%
United Kingdom	GBP	1.4%	0.9%	7.8%	24.7%
Continental Europe	EUR	-0.3%	2.2%	9.8%	20.9%
Japan	JPY	-2.0%	0.2%	17.5%	44.6%
Asia Pacific (ex Japan)	USD	-4.4%	-2.6%	22.5%	38.5%
Australia	AUD	-0.7%	0.4%	2.1%	5.8%
Global	USD	-1.7%	-2.4%	7.8%	20.6%
Emerging Markets Equities					
Emerging Europe	USD	-3.1%	-1.7%	14.0%	33.1%
Emerging Asia	USD	-5.0%	-2.4%	26.6%	45.9%
Emerging Latin America	USD	-0.1%	-2.0%	10.9%	33.9%
BRICs	USD	-3.2%	-4.7%	-11.8%	-6.1%
China	USD	-5.9%	-8.9%	-16.7%	-7.8%
MENA countries	USD	-2.0%	-0.1%	1.3%	1.2%
South Africa	USD	-2.3%	-7.1%	-5.6%	30.1%
India	USD	0.2%	2.9%	-11.8%	-13.5%
Global emerging markets	USD	-4.4%	-2.4%	22.6%	41.7%
Bonds					
US Treasuries	USD	0.5%	0.7%	0.8%	3.3%
US Treasuries (inflation protected)	USD	0.2%	-0.2%	1.4%	3.8%
US Corporate (investment grade)	USD	0.4%	0.5%	1.3%	5.1%
US High Yield	USD	-0.1%	0.1%	1.7%	5.9%
UK Gilts	GBP	0.9%	0.8%	0.3%	2.6%
UK Corporate (investment grade)	GBP	0.6%	0.8%	1.0%	4.5%
Euro Government Bonds	EUR	0.8%	0.5%	1.3%	1.3%
Euro Corporate (investment grade)	EUR	0.6%	0.5%	1.4%	2.6%
Euro High Yield	EUR	0.2%	0.6%	1.8%	4.2%
Global Government Bonds	USD	0.2%	-0.4%	-0.5%	-0.8%
Global Bonds	USD	0.2%	-0.5%	0.0%	1.4%
Global Convertible Bonds	USD	-3.4%	-2.8%	16.3%	29.1%
Emerging Market Bonds	USD	-0.1%	0.7%	2.1%	9.8%
Property					
US Property Securities	USD	4.6%	5.0%	19.3%	23.2%
Australian Property Securities	AUD	1.7%	3.9%	-3.7%	-3.6%
Global Property Securities	USD	2.7%	1.6%	9.4%	14.6%
Currencies					
Euro	USD	-0.7%	-2.4%	-2.9%	-2.9%
UK Pound Sterling	USD	-0.2%	-1.9%	-1.8%	-4.0%
Japanese Yen	USD	-0.3%	-1.6%	-3.1%	-10.8%
Australian Dollar	USD	-1.5%	-4.0%	3.4%	5.3%
South African Rand	USD	0.0%	-1.5%	0.7%	8.1%
Swiss Franc	USD	-0.2%	-3.5%	-2.0%	-1.3%
Chinese Yuan	USD	-0.4%	-0.5%	2.8%	5.4%
Commodities & Alternatives					
Commodities	USD	-3.8%	-9.1%	21.1%	26.6%
Agricultural Commodities	USD	-0.5%	-2.3%	6.5%	3.4%
Oil	USD	-10.6%	-21.8%	18.3%	6.3%
Gold	USD	-1.7%	-10.5%	-5.5%	22.6%

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Additional sources: <https://genevasolutions.news/peace-humanitarian/hard-work-lies-ahead-for-us-iran-negotiators-after-burgenstock-talks>, UN pauses Straft of Hormuz evacuation after cargo ship attacked - BBC News, Economist podcasts.