

Finance &amp; economics | The new abnormal

## Deal or no deal, oil prices will stay volatile for months

The pre-war days of \$60 crude are not coming back soon

Jun 16th 2026 | 5 min read

IT IS A moment of relief for energy markets. A [memorandum of understanding](#) to end the war between America and Iran calls for lifting the naval blockade of Iranian ports and reopening the Strait of Hormuz within 30 days. While Donald Trump and his Iranian counterparts work out the details of a peace deal, the world can look forward to recovering 15-20% of its usual supply of oil and liquefied natural gas.

The optimists may be getting ahead of themselves—especially in the short term. Wary buyers are not yet placing large orders for Gulf crude, notes Tom Reed of Argus Media, a price-reporting agency. Even if the deal holds, tankers must start returning to the Gulf, not just leaving it, production must restart and refining ramp up worldwide—all of which will take time.

### Mast transit

1

Before any of that, the strait must first be cleared of mines. A map from the IRGC, Iran's

Although Iran has promised no “tolls” for 60 days, it may charge “fees” instead. In April its central bank confirmed receipt of the first revenue from the new Persian Gulf Strait Authority (PGSA). A bill allocating 30% of the proceeds to Iran's armed forces, including the IRGC, is in parliament. Iran's recent communications suggest it views managed traffic as the new normal and unrestricted passage as the aberration, says someone familiar with the matter. Yet unless the peace deal lifts American sanctions on the PGSA and the IRGC, anyone paying Iran risks being blacklisted.

CHART: THE ECONOMIST

And even if supply does start to outstrip demand, the risk that Iran reasserts control over Hormuz—or that the fighting resumes—may add a lasting premium of up to \$10 a barrel to world oil prices, reckons Rystad Energy, a consultancy. For energy markets, the end of the war does not mean the end of uncertainty. ■