



## RLA Market Insights – Monday, 06 October 2025

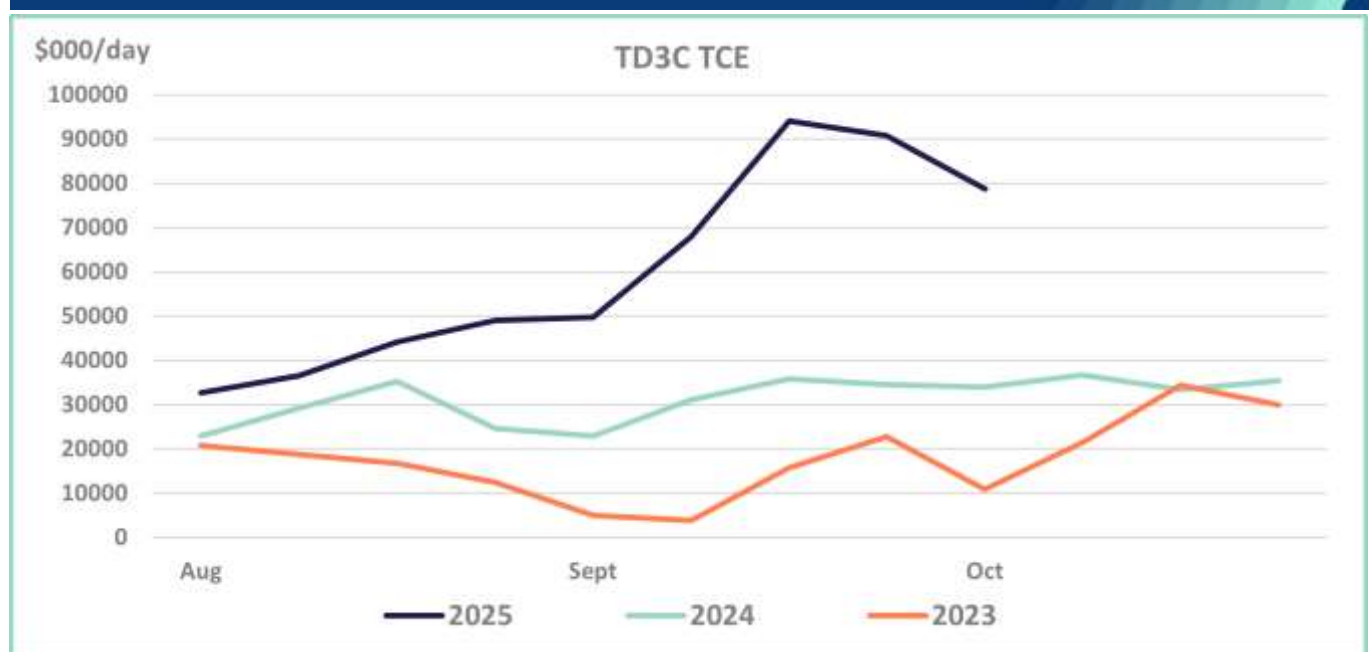
### VLCC Freight Rates Cool After Hitting Multi-Year High

The VLCC market has experienced dramatic swings in recent months, reflecting a complex interplay of demand, supply, and geopolitical drivers. In September 2025, spot earnings on the Middle East–China benchmark (TD3C) surged to their highest levels in more than two years. Several factors underpinned this rally.

Crude exports from the Middle East rose above 18 million b/d after OPEC+ raised output, creating more cargo and boosting demand for VLCCs. At the same time, Asian demand stayed strong—especially from China, which was actively filling its strategic and commercial oil reserves. This pulled crude not only from the Gulf but also from the Atlantic Basin. Shipments from the US Gulf, Brazil, and West Africa tied up vessels on long-haul voyages, leaving fewer ships available in the main markets. Geopolitical risks, including sanctions that reduced the supply of compliant tankers, added extra pressure and pushed rates higher.

By early October, VLCC rates started to cool down. Charterers resisted paying very high costs and delayed bookings around Asia’s Golden Week holiday. At the same time, some ships finished long-haul voyages and rejoined the spot market, adding more supply. The price gap between Atlantic and Asian crude narrowed, making fewer long trips attractive. Refinery maintenance and weaker product margins also lowered crude demand. Overall, after a big rally fueled by more cargoes and fewer available ships, the VLCC market is now correcting as supply and demand comes back into balance.

#### TD3C TCE Comparison





### SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

A monthly report covering the next four months and including trends in oil supply, demand and trade, tanker demand and supply, spot, and time charter rates for MRs up to VLCCs, comparisons with FFAs plus the latest news on developments impacting the oil and tanker sectors.

### MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – OIL TANKER MARKET

Concise analyses of topical issues, consistent market data series and views on future trends in tanker charter rates. The report covers Oil Prices; Economic Developments; Oil Demand and Supply; Trade; Tanker Demand, Supply and Rates. Sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year

### SHORT TERM OUTLOOK – VLGC MARKET

A monthly report looking four months ahead at likely trends in the VLGC Spot Market with the latest on key LPG carrier trades, benchmark LPG prices, arbitrage developments, a comparison with FFAs and recent news

### MEDIUM TERM OUTLOOK – LPG CARRIER MARKET

A quarterly series of regular reviews, analyses and forecasts of the LPG Carrier Market. The report covers Economic Developments; LPG production, consumption and pricing; LPG, chemical gases and ammonia trade, LPG Carrier Demand, Supply and Rates for Fully Ref, Semi-Ref and Pressurised Ships. Reports sent to clients around January, April, July and October each year.

### CHEMICAL CARRIER WORLD SERVICE

Chemical Carrier World service is an annual consultancy service that includes four quarterly market reports, monthly commodity trade bulletins for key countries, access to our global chemicals trade database, and an annual presentation on the market outlook.



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