Tanker Shipping Market Overview & Outlook Q3 2023

Highlights



Demand



The IMF forecasts that the global economy will grow by 3.0% in both 2023 and 2024. The current slowdown in the Chinese economy remains a concern.



The crude oil market will be undersupplied during Q3 2023 or for as long as Saudi Arabia's and Russia's production cuts remain in place.



Mainly due to increasing demand in China, oil consumption is expected to hit new recording highs in both 2023 and 2024, 101.2 mbpd in 2023 and 102.8 mbpd in 2024.



New oil supply is coming mainly from the Americas while new refinery capacity is added mainly in Asia, causing longer sailing distances for both crude and product tankers.

Supply



Due to a small order book, deliveries of new ships remain muted . However, recycling of ships is also low. Crude tanker fleet is forecast to grow 2.0% in 2023 and 0.4% in 2024.



The product tanker fleet is estimated to grow 2.2% in 2023 and 1.4% in 2024. Orders for new ships have increased during 2023 but these ships will only start delivery in 2025.



Crude and product tankers have sailed faster in 2023 and experienced less congestion. As a result, we expect supply to grow 2 pp faster than the fleet in 2023 but 1 pp slower in 2024.

Supply/demand



Changes in sailing speed result in different supply than fleet growth.

Crude tanker supply is expected to grow 4.0% and -0.6% in 2023 and 2024, product tanker 4.2% and 0.3%.



Increased sailing distances and record oil consumption underpin demand. Crude tanker market will grow 5-6% in 2023 and 5.5-6.5% in 2024, product 5.5-6.5% and 5-6%.



Limited supply growth combined with record oil consumption and longer sailing distances drive the market.

Already strong markets are expected to be stronger in 2024.