■ CRITICAL: STRAIT OF HORMUZ EFFECTIVE CLOSURE | US-ISRAEL vs IRAN WAR | RUSSIA-UKRAINE YEAR 5 ■

WORLD TRADE CRISIS REPORT

APRIL 2026 — WAR SPECIAL EDITION

Hormuz Shutdown | Middle East War | Ukraine Conflict | Global Supply Shock

~0%	$96+	–2.9pp	444
HORMUZ DAILY TRANSITS	BRENT CRUDE (USD/BBL)	Q2 GDP IMPACT (FED)	RUSSIA SHADOW FLEET LISTED

PUBLISHER: World Trade Network (WTN) | wtn.world
AUTHOR: Ermal Hamzaj | info@wtn.world

CONFIDENTIAL — PROFESSIONAL USE ONLY

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

TABLE OF CONTENTS

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

■ CRISIS ALERT: The Strait of Hormuz has been effectively closed since late February 2026 following US-Israeli strikes on Iran. As of April 10, daily transits stand at ~10-15 vessels — down from the normal 130-140. This constitutes the largest disruption to world energy supply since the 1970s oil crisis.

April 2026 marks a pivotal inflection point for global trade. The WTO's March baseline forecast of **1.9% merchandise trade volume growth** is already under severe downside pressure. Three overlapping shocks are compounding simultaneously: the US-Israel vs Iran war and Hormuz closure, the now five-year Russia-Ukraine conflict, and an already fragmented tariff landscape. The convergence of these forces represents a stress test with no modern precedent.

Brent crude has risen above **$96/barrel**. The Dallas Fed models a **2.9 percentage-point drag** on annualised Q2 2026 global GDP from the Hormuz closure alone. Fertilizer prices have surged 43%, threatening food inflation. Maersk and Hapag-Lloyd have suspended Gulf routes. The Bab al-Mandeb closure — which would block an additional quarter of global oil — is now being threatened by Iranian allies.

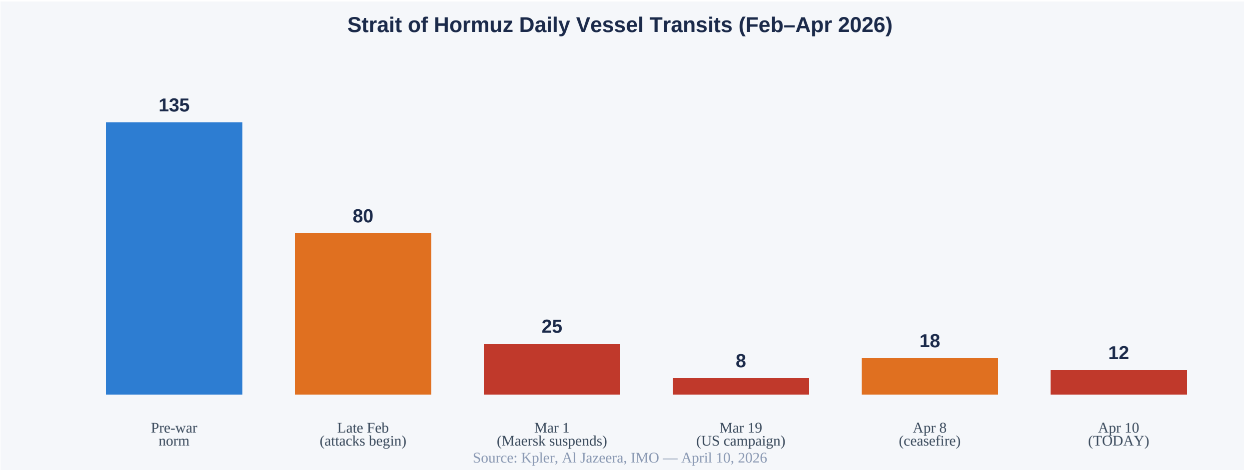
WTN Assessment: In a prolonged 3-quarter Hormuz closure scenario, 2026 global GDP growth could fall 1.3 percentage points below baseline. Merchandise trade volume growth could drop to near zero or negative. The world is navigating simultaneous energy, food, and geopolitical shocks. Scenario planning and supply chain diversification are now operational imperatives.

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

THE STRAIT OF HORMUZ CRISIS

The Strait of Hormuz — a 33km-wide chokepoint between Iran and Oman — is the world's most critical energy transit corridor. In normal conditions it carries **~20% of global petroleum liquids** (approximately 21 million barrels/day) and **20% of global LNG**. On February 28, 2026, US-Israeli strikes on Iran triggered IRGC warnings forbidding passage for vessels bound to/from US, Israeli, or allied ports. By early March, major shippers including Maersk, Hapag-Lloyd, and CMA CGM had suspended operations entirely.

Daily Vessel Transits — Strait of Hormuz (Feb–Apr 2026)



Normal: ~130-140 transits/day. Source: Kpler, IMO, Al Jazeera — April 10, 2026

What Passes Through Hormuz — Disrupted Flows

Commodity	Normal Daily Flow	% of Global Supply	Current Status
Crude Oil & Petroleum	~21M barrels/day	20% of global	~95% blocked
LNG (Qatar, UAE)	~80M tons/year	20% of global LNG	Qatar Ras Laffan hit
Fertilizers (N, P, K)	30% of global trade	Critical for food	Severely disrupted
Petrochemicals	Major Gulf exports	Plastics, polymers	Suspended
Container trade	Jebel Ali hub	Key Asia-EU route	Rerouted via Cape
Helium	Significant volumes	US/Qatar supply	Supply shortfall

Sources: UNCTAD, EIA, Kpler, CNBC, Al Jazeera — March-April 2026

Cascade Effects on Shipping & Trade Finance

The closure is generating cascading effects across multiple sectors. War-risk insurance premiums have spiked from 0.125% to 0.2-0.4% of ship value per transit. Vessels rerouting via the Cape of Good Hope add **10-14 days** to transit times, increasing fuel costs and bunker charges. Container congestion at alternative ports is building. Saudi Arabia has maxed out its East-West Pipeline (7 million bpd capacity) to reroute crude via Yanbu to the Red Sea — the first time the pipeline has run at full capacity.

Fertilizer represents one of the most acute downstream risks: urea prices at New Orleans have surged from $475/mt to **$680/mt**. With the Midwest spring planting season underway, disruptions to fertilizer supply threaten significant food price inflation in coming months. Iran has continued shipping oil to China, exposing the selective nature of the blockade.

Ceasefire Status — April 10, 2026

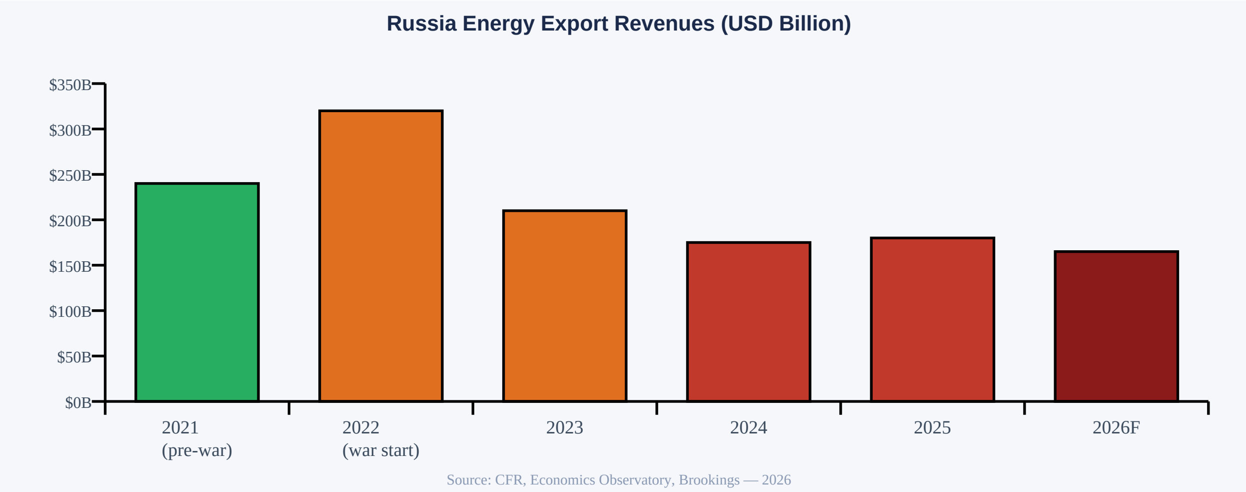
A temporary ceasefire was announced April 8. However, as of April 10, the strait remains "effectively closed, with Iran limiting the number of ships that can cross." Kpler analyst Ana Subasic confirms maximum 10-15 passages/day under current conditions. ADNOC CEO Sultan Al Jaber stated: the strait is NOT open — access is "subject to permission, conditions and political leverage." Trump has accused Iran of failing to honor the ceasefire. Brent: $96.39.

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

RUSSIA-UKRAINE WAR: YEAR 5 TRADE EFFECTS

Now entering its fifth year, Russia's war against Ukraine continues to reshape global trade flows, energy markets, and the architecture of sanctions. The EU's 18th sanctions package, adopted July 2025, is the most comprehensive to date — adding 105 vessels to the shadow fleet ban (444 total), targeting Rosneft and Lukoil, and widening sanctions on third-country financial institutions enabling Russian oil trade. EU sanctions are extended to **July 31, 2026**.

Russia Energy Export Revenues (USD Billion)



Russia's energy revenue peaked at ~$320B in 2022, falling sharply as sanctions tightened. 2026F estimated at ~$165B — a 49% decline from peak. Source: CFR, Economics Observatory, Brookings

Key Russia-Ukraine Trade Dynamics

Russia has successfully redirected oil exports to Asia, with India becoming its largest customer after EU import bans took effect. China imports more than 80% of Iranian oil and significant Russian volumes. 92% of China-Russia trade is now in rubles and yuan. However, the G7 oil price cap maintains a significant spread below market price, reducing Russian revenue per barrel.

The **shadow fleet** — now 444 vessels under EU port bans — enables Russia to circumvent price caps. But insurance for these vessels is increasingly difficult to secure, raising operating costs. The US October 2025 ban on trading with Rosneft and Lukoil marked Trump's first direct punitive action against Russia.

Ukraine's grain exports have largely recovered via Danube river routes and Black Sea corridors, but Russia continues missile and drone strikes on Ukrainian port infrastructure. Peace negotiations have stalled — Trump's frustration with Putin is growing, with new tariff threats issued to force Russia to the table.

Sanctions Scorecard — April 2026

Measure	Status
EU oil import ban	Active → Jul 2026
G7 price cap ($60/bbl crude)	Active — enforced
444 shadow fleet vessels	Port access banned
Rosneft/Lukoil (US ban)	Oct 2025 — active
SWIFT exclusion (key banks)	Active
EU sanctions (18th package)	Active → Jul 2026
Trump tariff threat on Russia	Pending — no deal
Ukraine arms support (US)	Continuing
Russia-China trade in yuan	92% of bilateral
India: Russia's top oil buyer	Replacing EU share

Ukraine Conflict — Trade Infrastructure Damage

Sector	Impact	Global Effect
Black Sea grain exports	Ports repeatedly struck; Danube routes restored	Grain price +15-25% vs pre-war baseline
Steel & metals	Ukrainian capacity down 70% since 2022	European steel imports rerouted from Asia
Sunflower oil	Ukraine = 46% of global pre-war supply	Persistent vegetable oil inflation

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

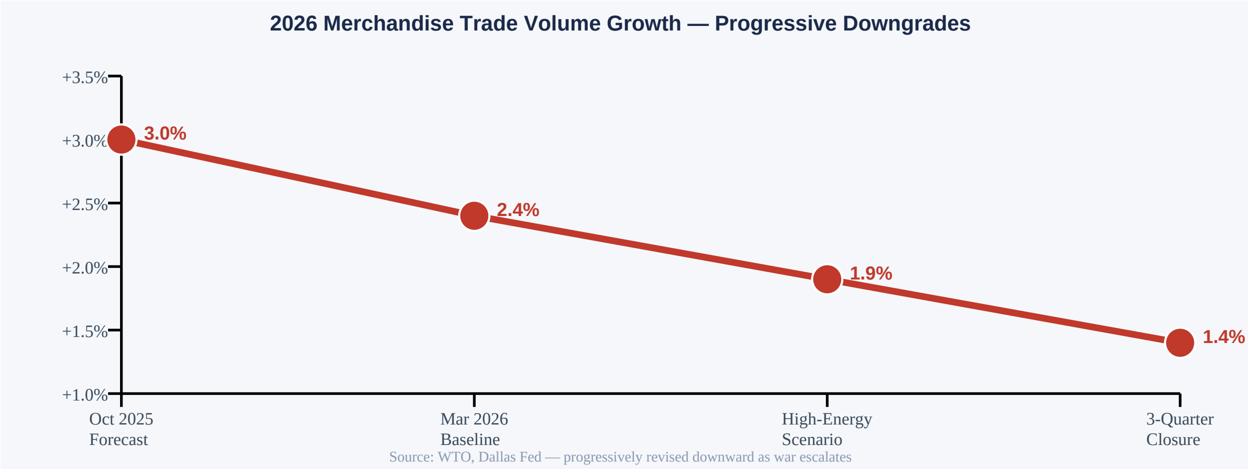
Fertilizers (Ukraine/Russia)	Russia restricts exports; Ukraine production hit	Compounding Hormuz fertilizer disruption
European energy transition	Forced LNG pivot from Russia; €1-7% GDP shield costs	LNG import infra build-out accelerated

Sources: CFR, EU Council, Congress.gov, Brookings — April 2026

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

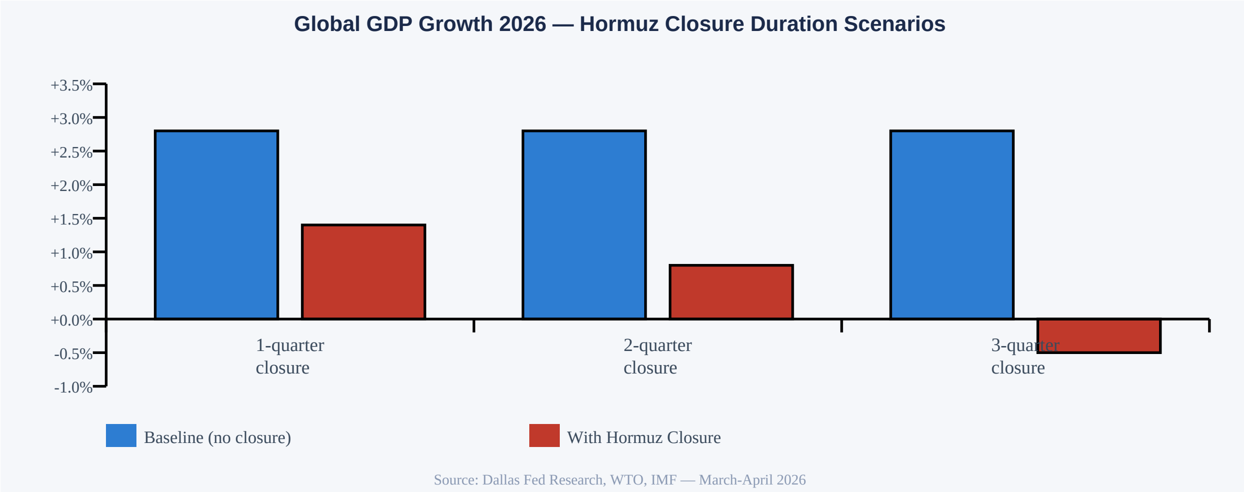
GLOBAL TRADE FORECASTS UNDER WAR SCENARIOS

2026 Trade Growth Forecast — Progressive Downgrades



Each escalation step downgrades 2026 outlook further. Source: WTO, Dallas Fed

GDP Growth Impact — Hormuz Closure Duration



Baseline assumes no Hormuz closure. Source: Dallas Fed Research, March-April 2026

Macro Forecasts: Baseline vs War Scenarios

Indicator	Baseline (no closure)	1-Quarter Closure	2-Quarter Closure	3-Quarter Closure
Merch. Trade Volume Growth	1.9%	1.4%	0.8%	~0% or negative
Global GDP Growth 2026	2.8%	2.3%	1.8%	<1.5%
WTI Oil Price (avg Q2)	$78/bbl	$98/bbl	$115/bbl	$132/bbl
Global Inflation Impact	Moderate	+0.8-1.2pp	++	+++
Services Trade Growth	4.8%	3.5%	2.5%	<2%
Shipping Cost Index	Elevated	+40-60%	++	+++

Red columns = current risk trajectory as of April 10, 2026. Sources: Dallas Fed, WTO, IMF, UNCTAD

REGIONAL WINNERS & LOSERS

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

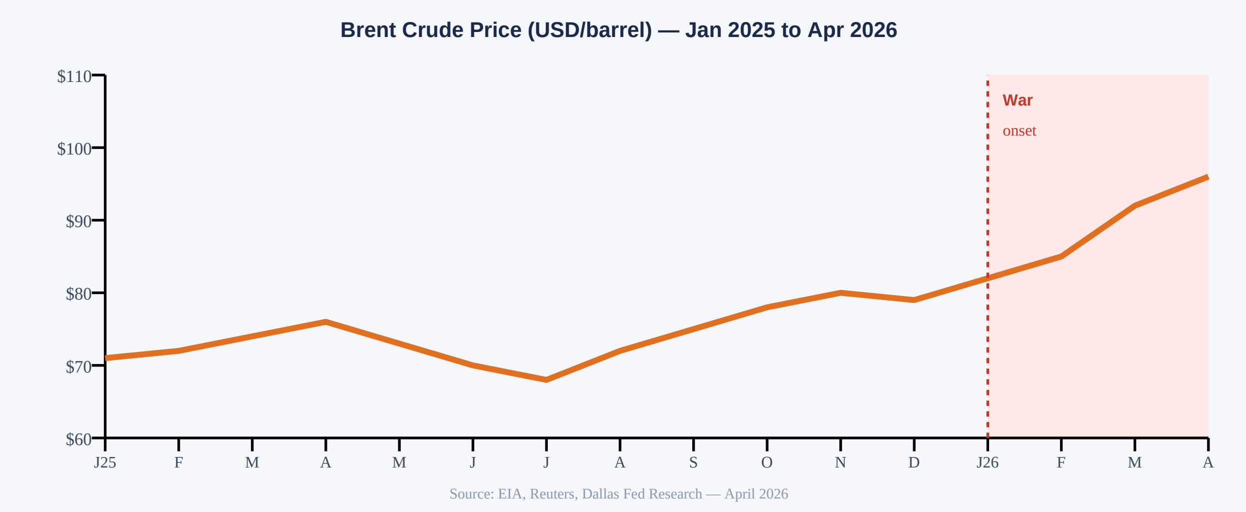
Region / Country	War Impact	Oil Position	Trade Outlook
Japan	HIGH — 88% of crude via Hormuz	Net importer 70% via Hormuz	Severe cost inflation; emergency SPR release
South Korea	HIGH — 70% crude via Hormuz	Net importer	Current account under acute pressure
India	HIGH — 60% oil from Middle East	Mixed: benefits from cheap Russian oil	Rerouting costs; fertilizer disruption
China	MEDIUM-HIGH — 40% oil via Hormuz	Buffers via stockpiles; imports Russian oil	7.6M ton LNG stock; competes for Atlantic LNG
Europe	MEDIUM — LNG and food inflation	Post-Russia pivot; LNG infra built	Cost inflation; Ukraine reconstruction
USA	LOW direct — high indirect	Net energy exporter	Trade deficit widening; tariff complexity
Saudi Arabia	MEDIUM — some exports rerouted	Rerouting via Yanbu EW Pipeline maxed	Revenue constrained; OPEC+ output up
Africa	MEDIUM — import costs surge	Net importer (most countries)	Food/fertilizer costs; debt pressures
ASEAN	HIGH — energy import dependent	Net importers; Thailand most exposed	Manufacturing hubs benefit from rerouting

Sources: Kpler, CNBC, UNCTAD, Nomura — March-April 2026

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

SUPPLY CHAIN STRESS & COMMODITY MARKETS

Brent Crude Price Trajectory — Jan 2025 to Apr 2026



Red shaded zone = war escalation period (Feb 28 onward). Brent at $96.39 as of Apr 10. Source: EIA, Reuters, Dallas Fed

Commodity Market Disruptions

Commodity	Pre-War Price (Jan 2026)	Apr 10, 2026	Change	Primary Driver
Brent Crude	~$78/bbl	$96.39/bbl	+24%	Hormuz closure
WTI Crude	~$75/bbl	~$93/bbl	+24%	Hormuz closure
LNG (spot, Asia)	$9.5/MMBtu	~$14-16/MMBtu	+50-68%	Qatar Ras Laffan hit
Urea fertilizer	$475/mt	$680/mt	+43%	Hormuz + war
Wheat	$210/mt	$235/mt	+12%	Ukraine/Russia tension
Aluminum	$2,400/mt	$2,750/mt	+15%	Gulf energy/aluminium
Shipping (Baltic Dry)	~1,400	~2,100	+50%	Rerouting + demand
War-risk insurance	0.125%/transit	0.2-0.4%/transit	2-3x	Hormuz attacks

Sources: Reuters, CNBC, Kpler, Baltic Exchange — April 10, 2026

KEY STRUCTURAL RISKS BEYOND PRICE

- **Bab al-Mandeb threat:** Iran allies have threatened to close the Bab al-Mandeb (connecting Red Sea to Gulf of Aden). If both straits close, 25% of global oil and 10% of global container trade are blocked simultaneously.
- **Container repositioning:** Thousands of containers are stranded in Gulf ports. Hapag-Lloyd warns supply chain disruption will last months even after strait reopens.
- **Spring planting window:** Fertilizer shortages during April-May Midwest planting season could reduce US soy and corn output — feeding into food inflation through H2 2026.
- **Dollar trust erosion:** Russia-China yuan settlement, Iran-China oil trade, and shifting reserve accumulation are creating long-term pressure on USD's reserve currency status.
- **Shadow fleet liability:** 444 EU-banned vessels continue operating with degraded insurance. A major spill or incident could trigger environmental and legal crises.
- **AI supply chain insulation:** AI-enabling goods remain tariff-exempt and are not directly Hormuz-dependent — this remains the key upside cushion for 2026 trade.

LIVE SITUATION: Hormuz ceasefire fragile — max 10-15 transits/day | Brent ~$96/bbl | Ukraine: EU sanctions extended to Jul 2026 | WTO forecasts 1.9% trade growth at risk

OUTLOOK & WTN ASSESSMENT — APRIL 2026

WTN's April 2026 assessment is one of **elevated and multi-directional risk**. The convergence of the Hormuz crisis, year-five Russia-Ukraine conflict, and structural tariff fragmentation has created a global trade environment without modern precedent. The ceasefire of April 8 is fragile — ships are not flowing freely. Extended closure scenarios of 2-3 quarters would push 2026 global GDP growth to near 1.5% and merchandise trade to near zero or negative.

Watch — Next 30 Days

- Hormuz ceasefire durability
- IRGC enforcement actions
- Bab al-Mandeb escalation risk
- OPEC+ emergency output response
- US-Iran direct diplomacy
- WTO April 2026 forecast release

WTN Recommendations

- Activate energy contingency plans
- Secure fertilizer supply for planting
- Diversify shipping routes and logistics
- Hedge oil price exposure aggressively
- Monitor Bab al-Mandeb daily
- Prepare for prolonged disruption

About WTN — World Trade Network: WTN is a global research and intelligence platform dedicated to tracking, analyzing, and interpreting world trade developments. This report synthesizes real-time data from WTO, UNCTAD, Dallas Fed, Kpler, IMO, Reuters, Al Jazeera, Brookings, McKinsey, CFR, and CNBC as of April 10, 2026. It does not constitute investment advice. **Author: Ermal Hamzaj** | info@wtn.world | wtn.world