



# Gas Market Report –Q1 2026

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# IEA Quarterly Gas Report –Q1 2026

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## Gas Market Report, Q1-2026

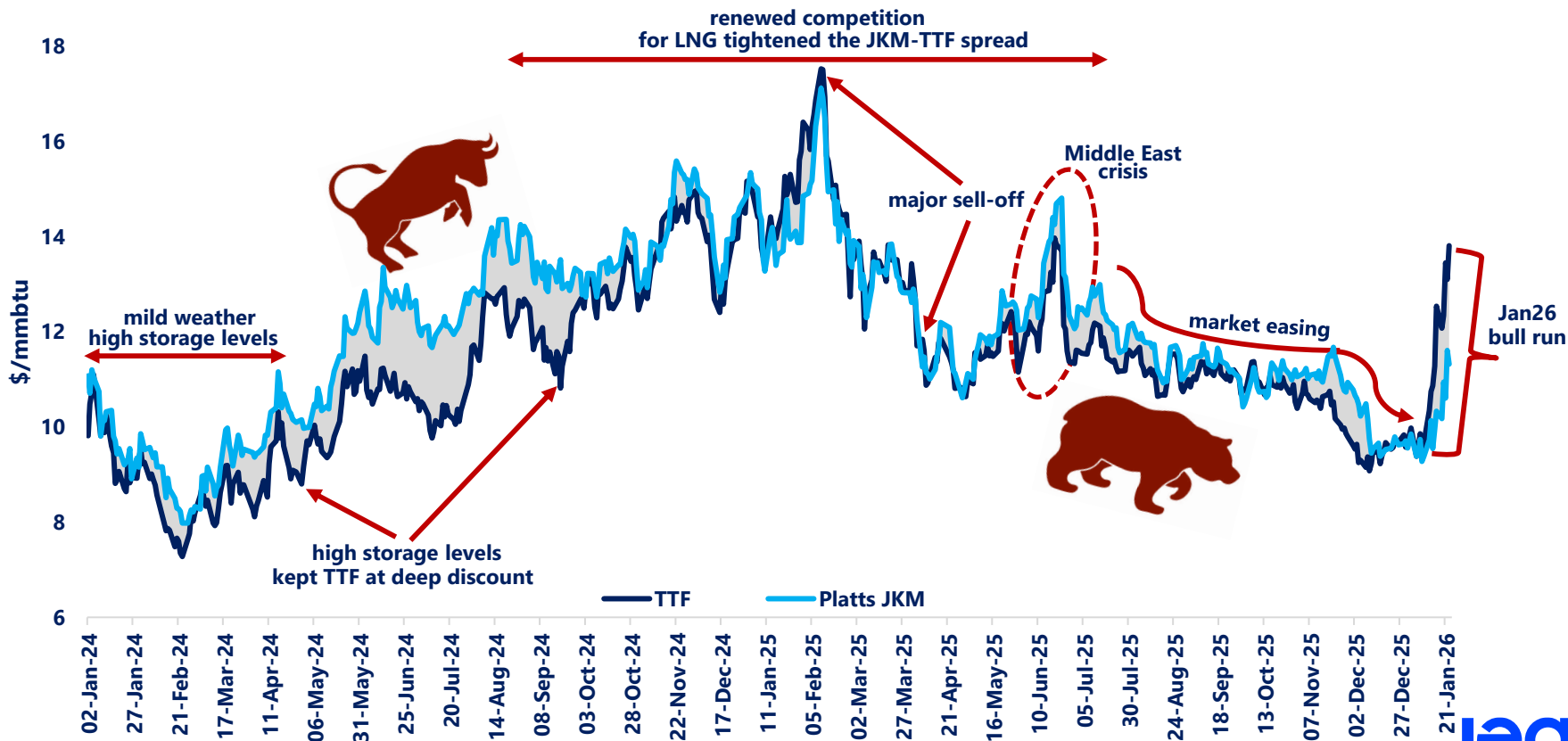


<https://www.iea.org/reports/gas-market-report-q1-2026>

# Global gas market trends in 2025

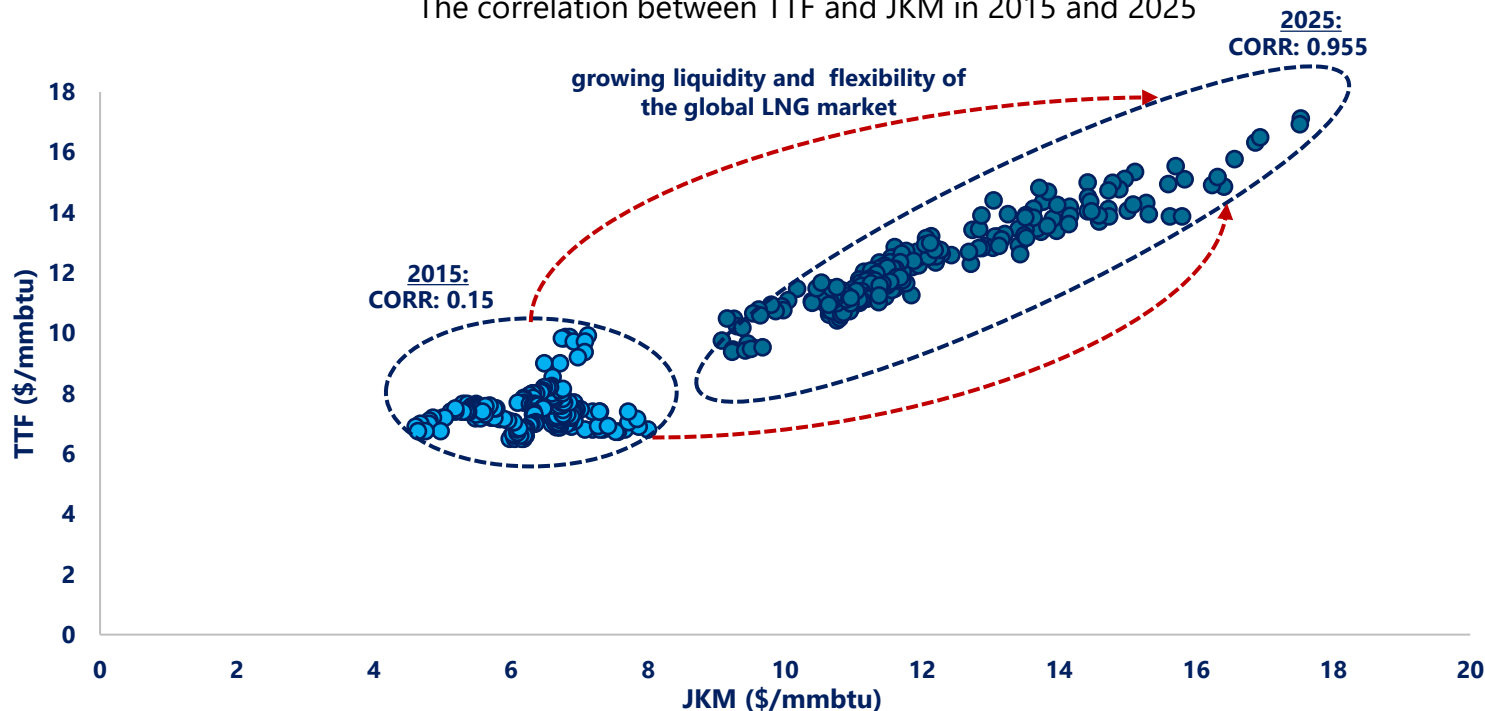
# Between bulls and bears: natural gas markets in 2025

The evolution of TTF month-ahead and JKM prices, January 2024 – January 2026



# A global gas market: TTF-JKM correlation at record high in 2025

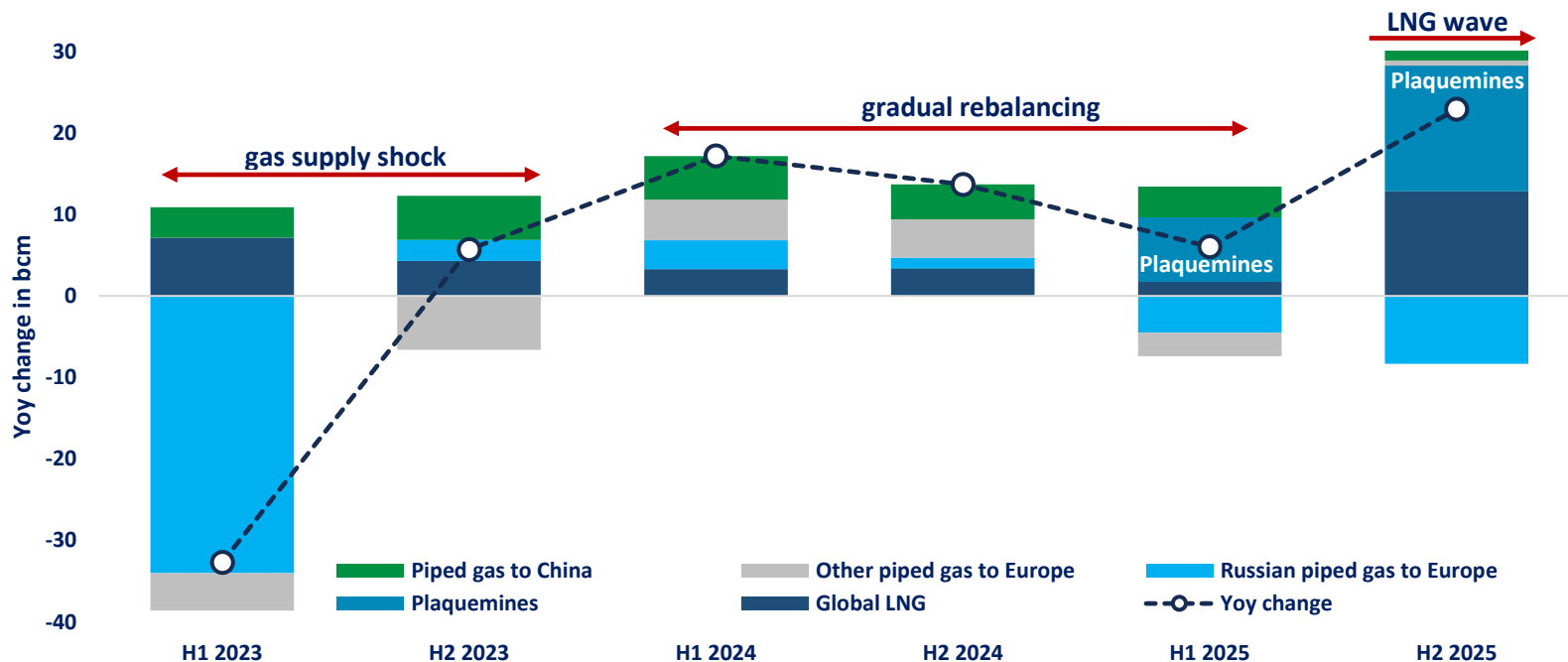
The correlation between TTF and JKM in 2015 and 2025



The correlation between Asian and European spot prices rose from around 15% in 2015 to an all-time high of 95.5% in 2025 –largely supported by the growing volumes of destination-flexible US LNG.

# Speeding up: global LNG supply growth accelerated to 10% in 2025

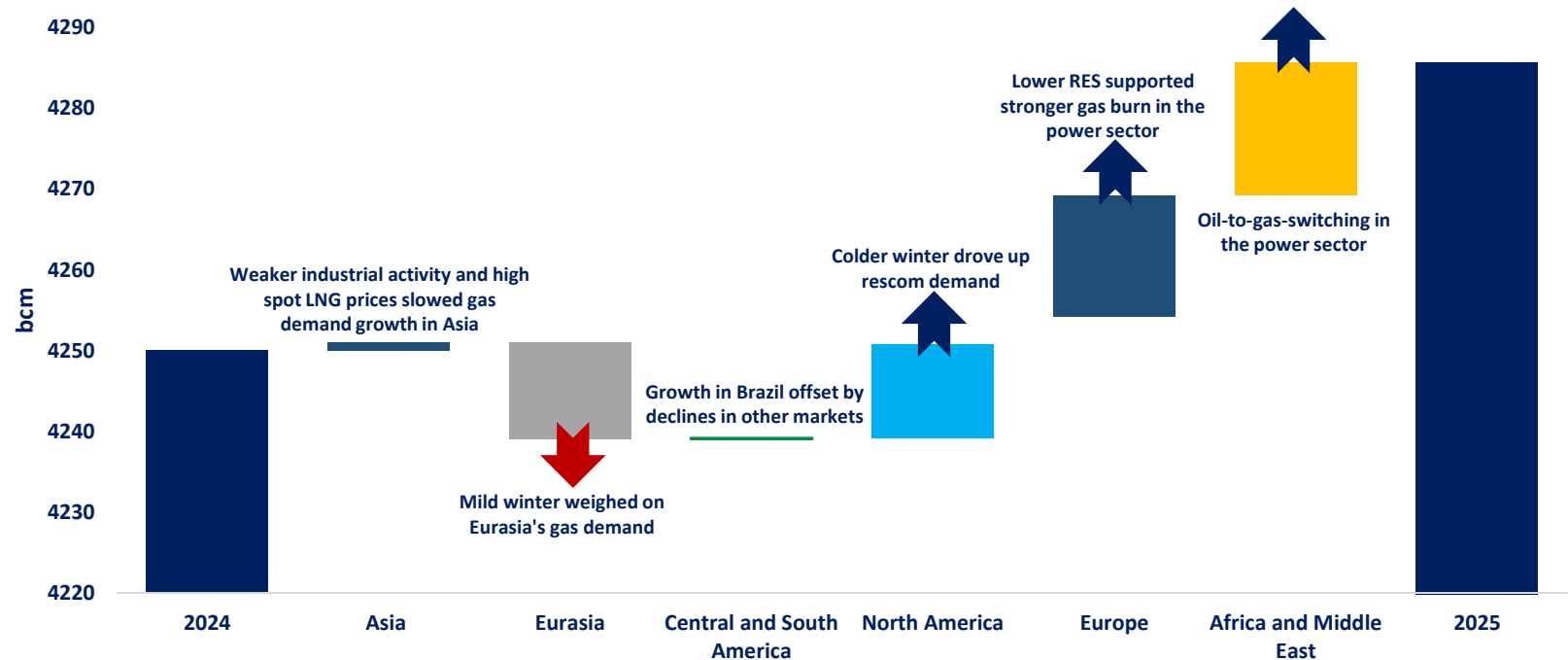
Year-on-year change in key piped natural gas trade and global LNG supply, H1 2023-H2 2025



Global LNG supply grew by nearly 7% in 2025, with around 75% of the incremental volumes concentrated the second half of the year. This strong growth gradually eased up market conditions through H2 2025.

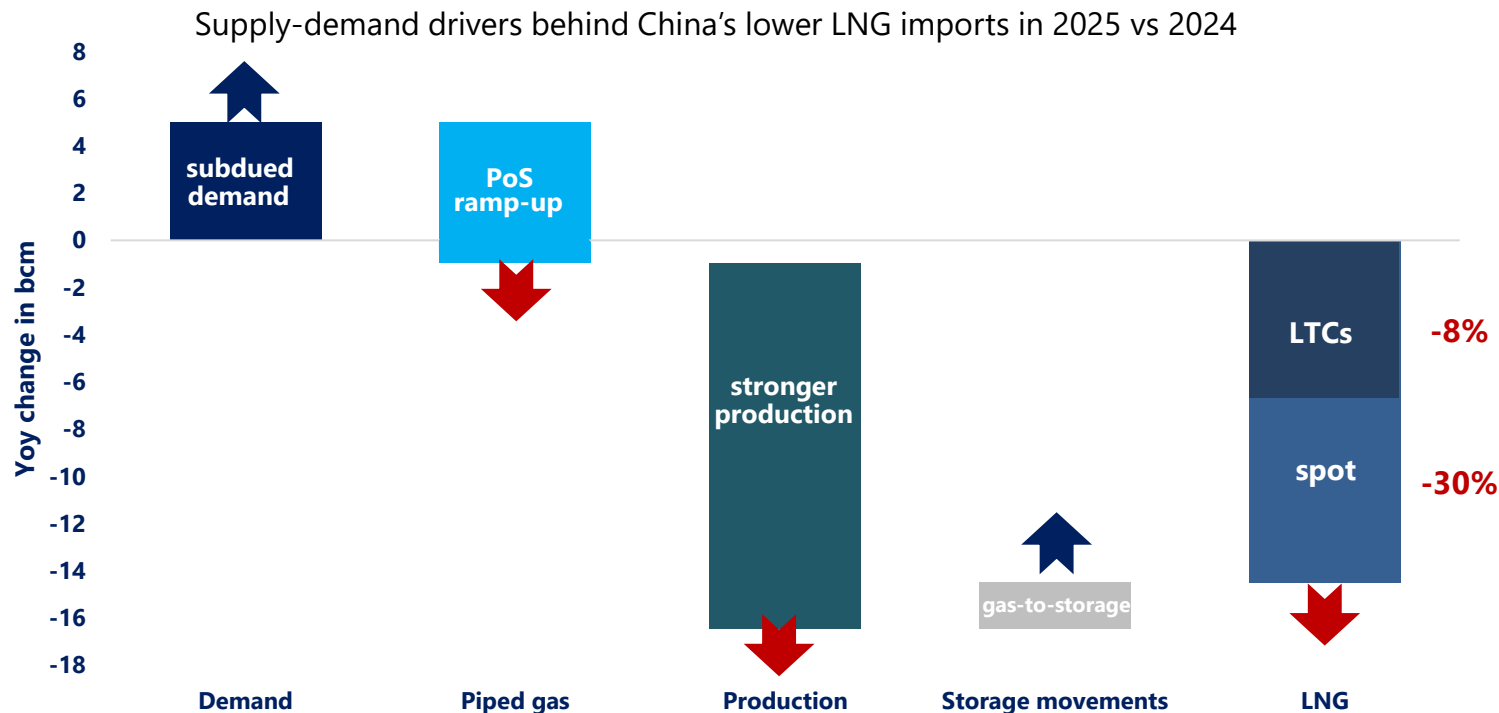
# Global gas demand growth slowed down in 2025

Estimated year-on-year changes in natural gas demand in key regions in 2025



Global gas demand growth slowed to below 1% in 2025, with growth primarily driven by Europe, North America and the Middle East. In contrast, gas demand remained subdued in the key Asian import markets.

# Year of the Snake: China's LNG imports plummeted in 2025

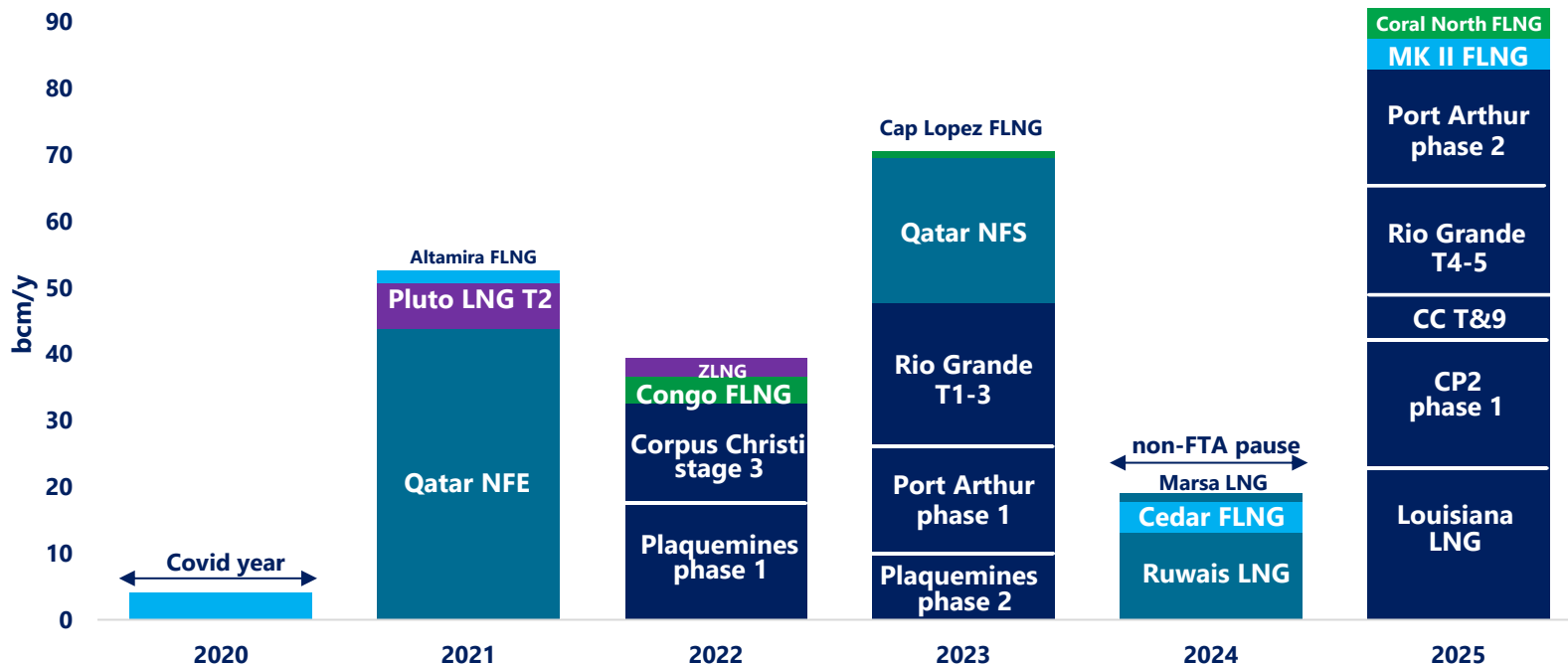


Lower demand, together with the continued ramp-up of Russian piped gas deliveries and higher domestic production weighed on China's LNG imports, which dropped by 14% yoy in 2025.



# No pause: strong momentum behind LNG FIDs continued in 2025

FIDs for new LNG liquefaction capacity, 2020-2025\*

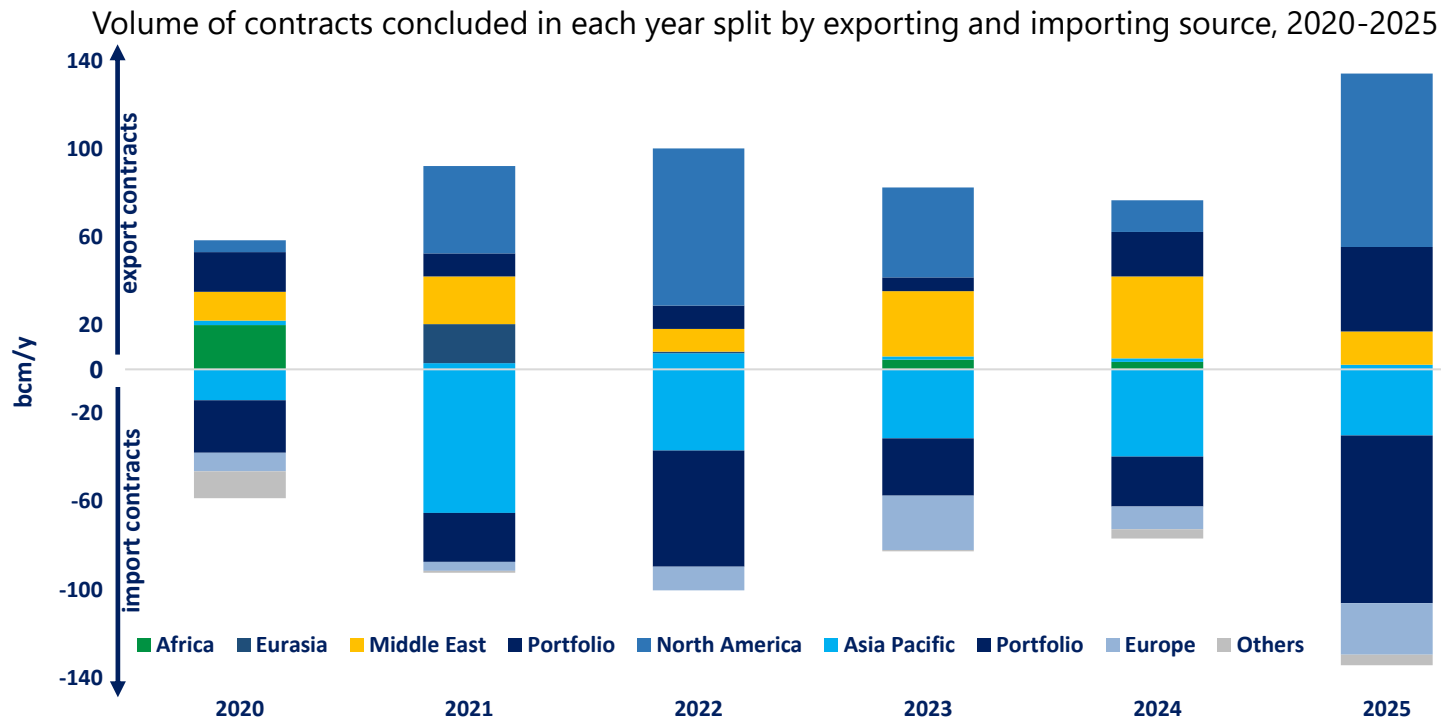


Over 90 bcm/y of LNG liquefaction capacity received approval in 2025. More than 80 bcm/y of capacity was sanctioned in the United States –an all-time high for the US LNG industry.

\* includes Qatar's North Field South expansion project.

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# LNG contracting activity reached a new all-time in 2025

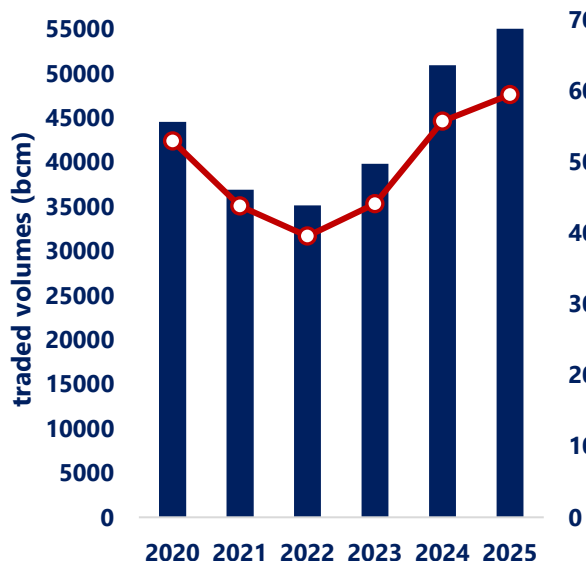


A record of 130 bcm/y of LNG contracts were signed in 2025. The United States accounted for around half of the total contracted volumes in 2025, while Europe's LNG contracting doubled compared to 2024.

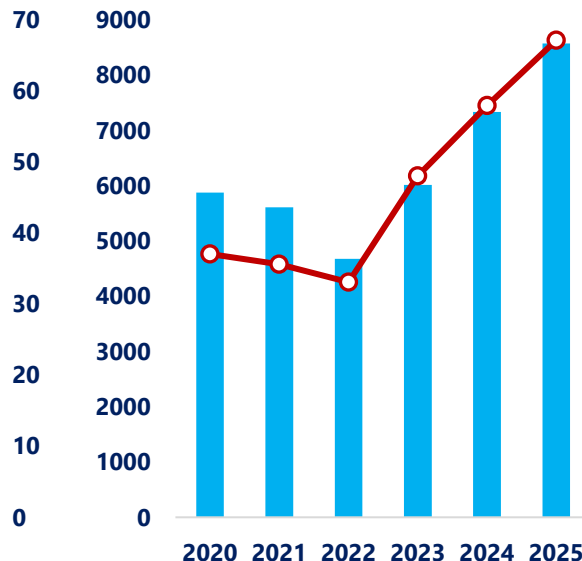
# Just turn the wheel: global gas trading reached new records in 2025

Estimated traded volumes and churn rates across key natural gas markets, 2020 – 2025

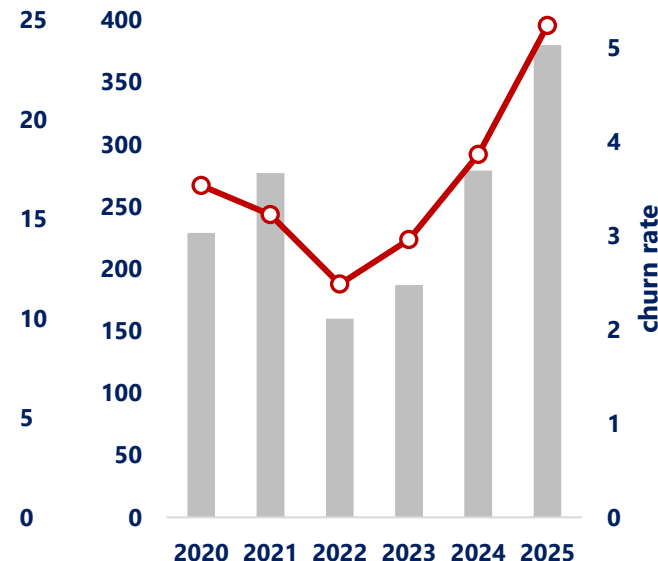
## United States



## EU+UK



## Northeast Asia

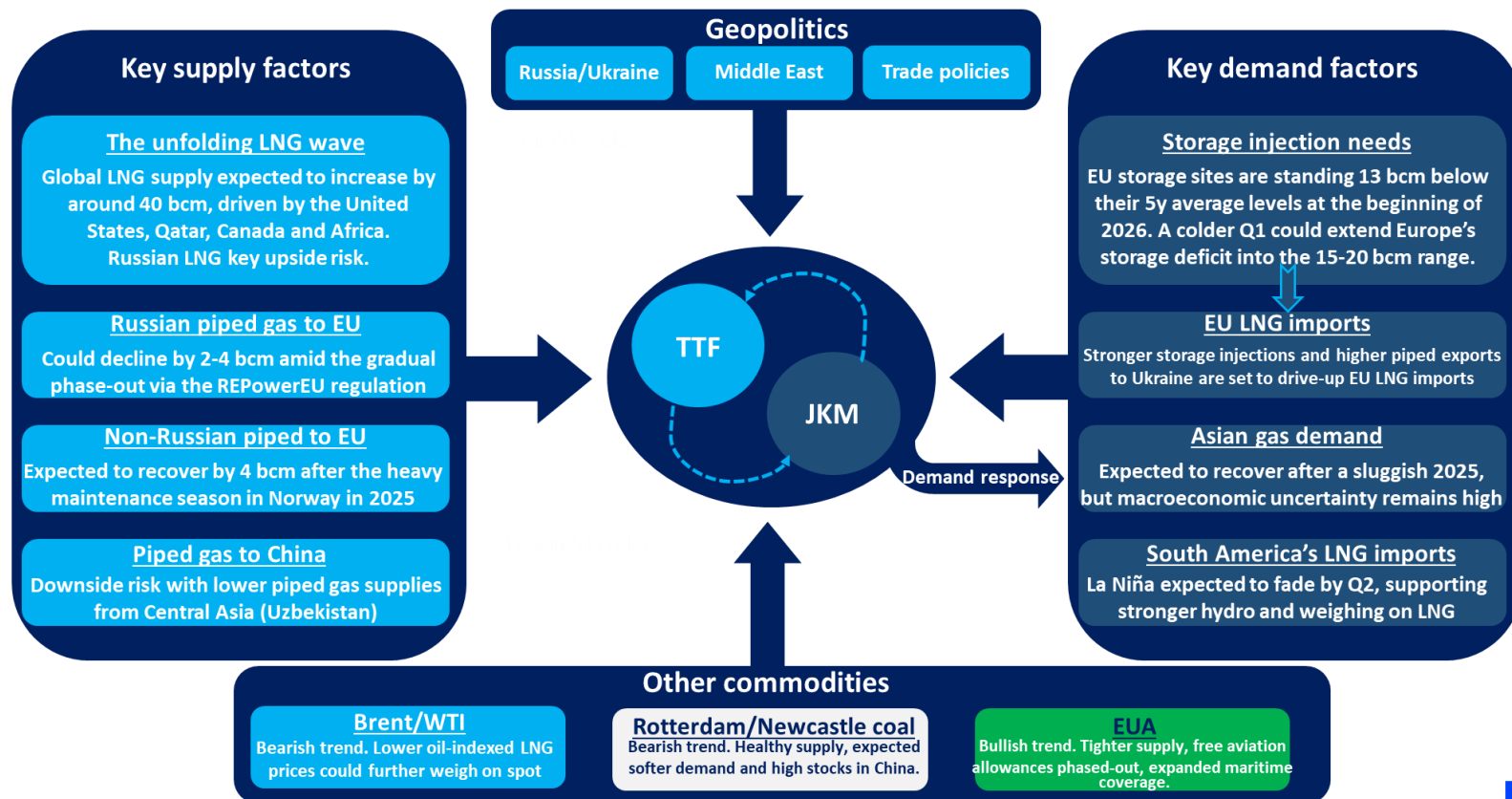


■ Traded volumes —○ Churn rate

Gas trading volumes rose to new all-time highs in 2025 across all key markets, driven by the rising short-term variability of gas-to-power demand and the growing interconnectivity of regional gas markets

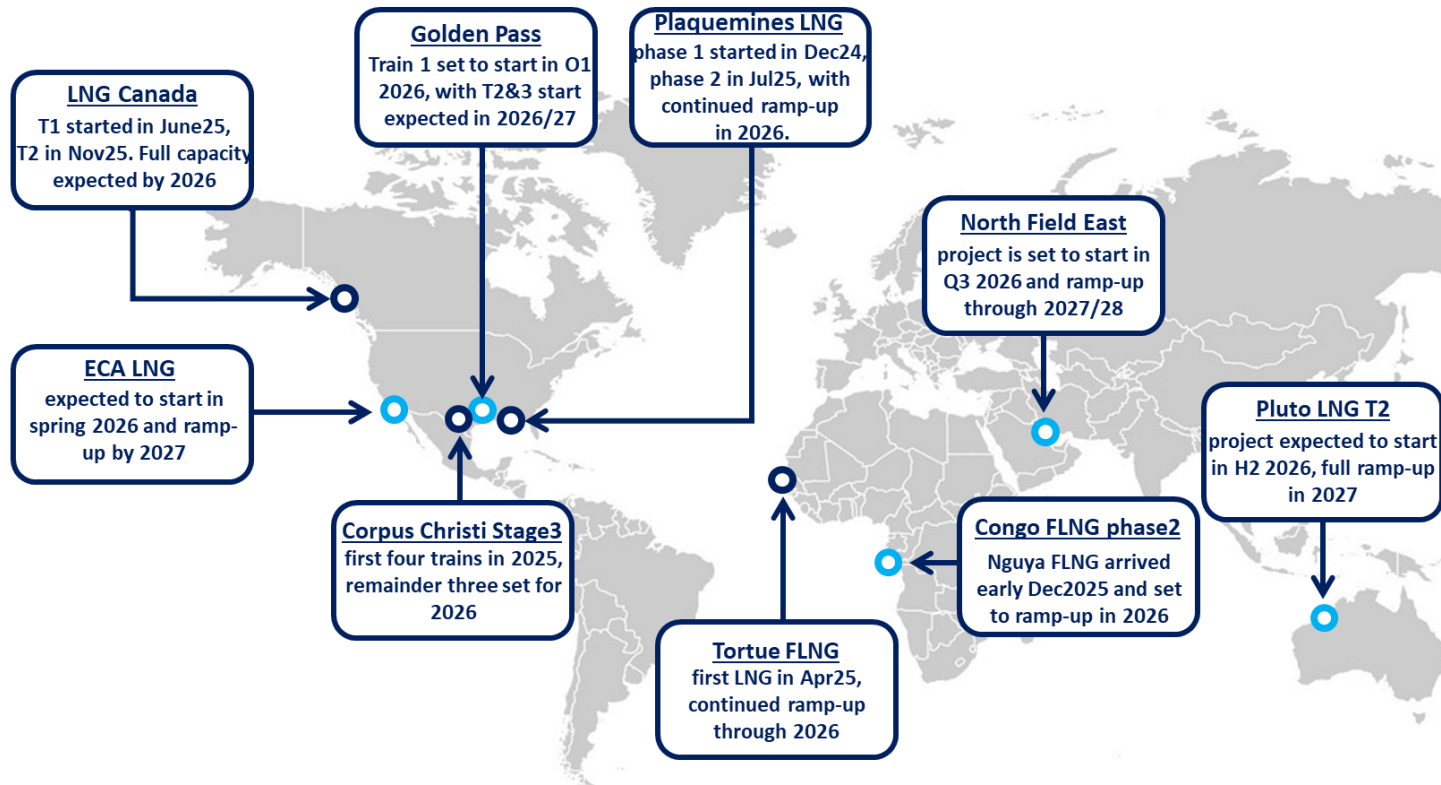
# Short-term outlook for 2026

# Key gas market considerations for 2026



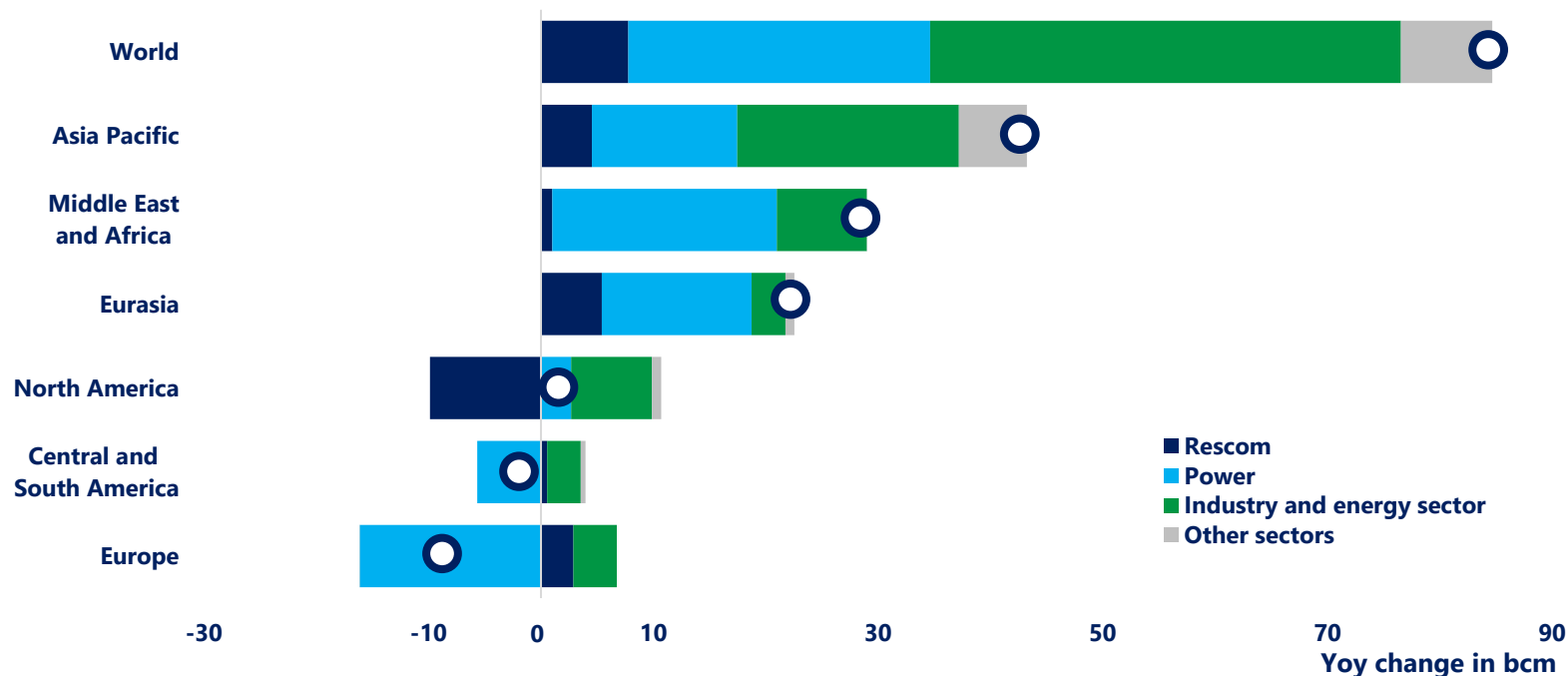
# Global LNG growth is set to accelerate in 2026...

Key LNG projects expected to ramp-up supplies in 2026



# ...and support stronger gas demand growth in Asian markets

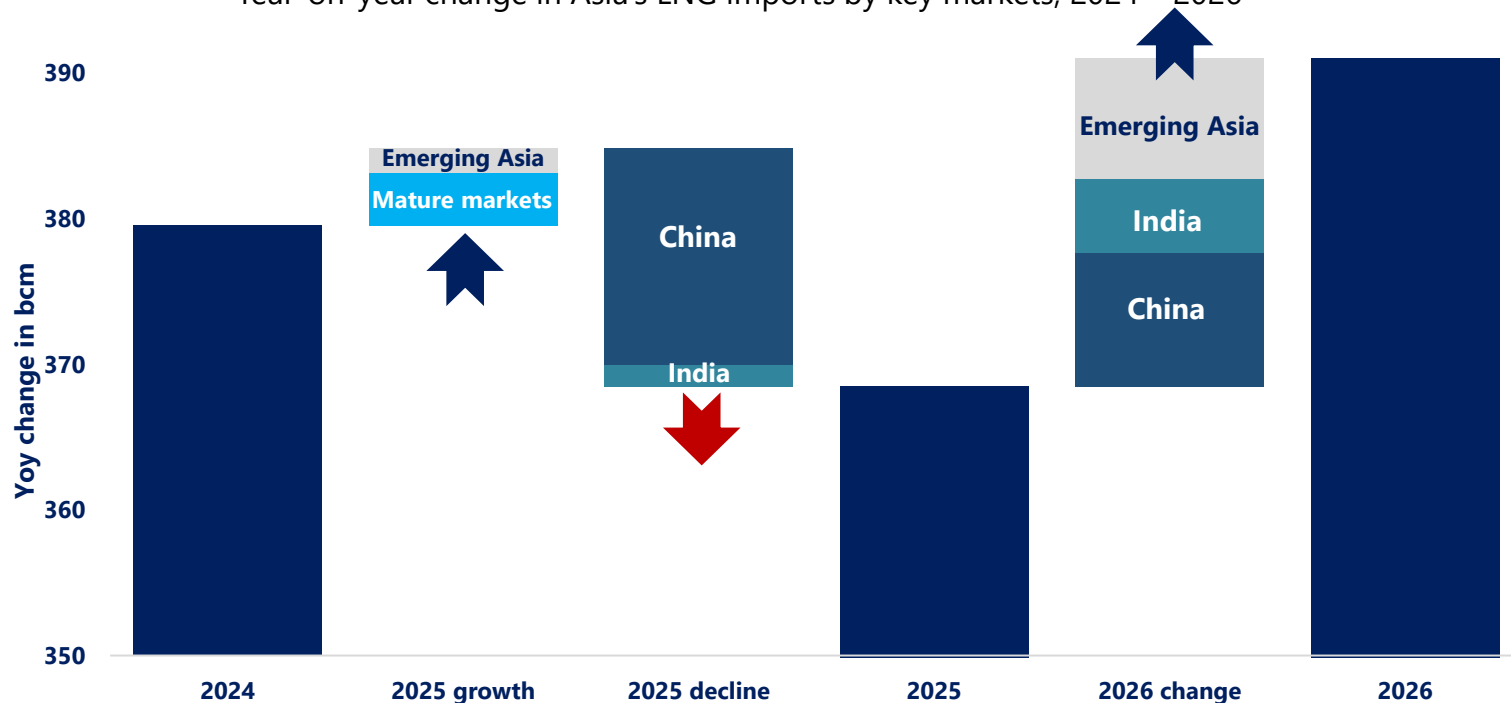
Forecast change in natural gas consumption by region and sector, 2026 vs 2025



Following the slowdown in 2025, global gas demand growth is expected to accelerate to nearly 2% in 2026. Asia alone accounts for half of incremental gas demand, driven by stronger gas use in industry and power.

# Asia's LNG imports are expected to bounce back in 2026

Year-on-year change in Asia's LNG imports by key markets, 2024 – 2026



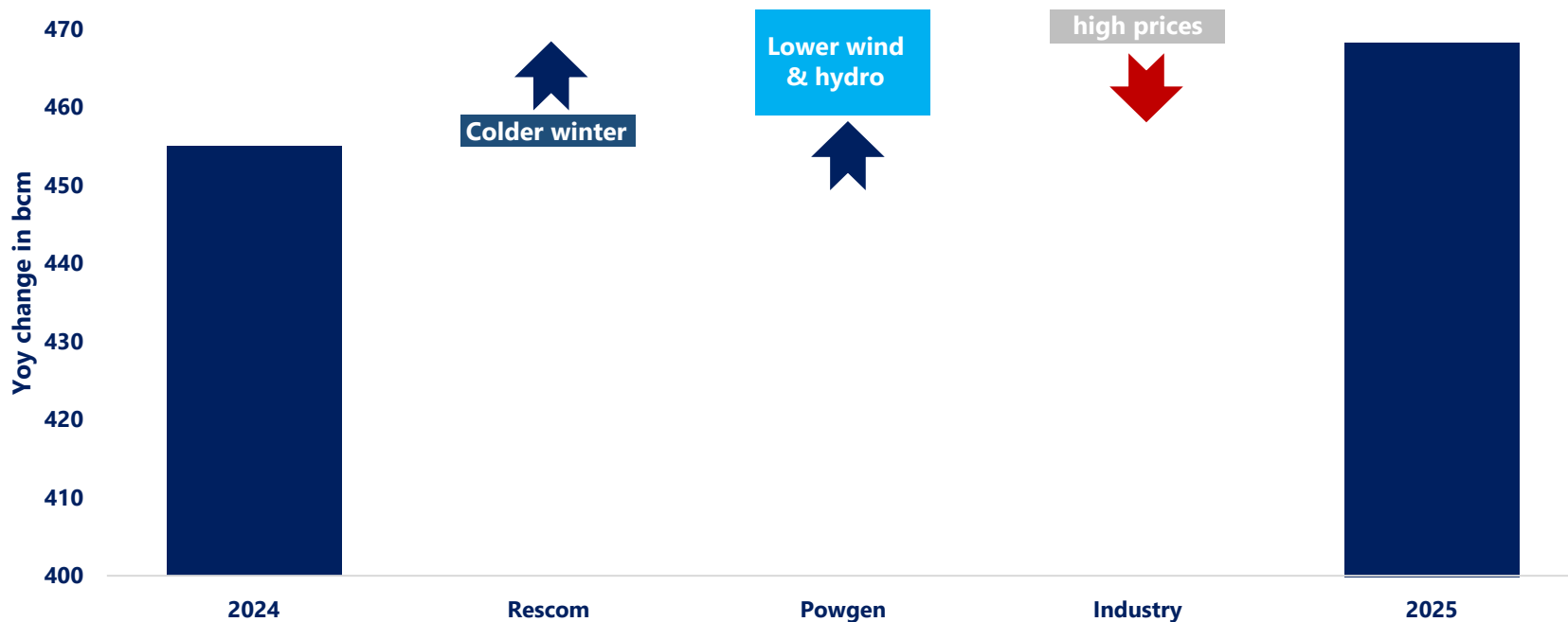
After the decline in 2025, Asia's LNG imports are expected to recover in 2026 and increase by more than 6%. China, together with India and emerging Asian markets drives this recovery.



# Focus on Europe

# Lower renewables supported higher European gas demand

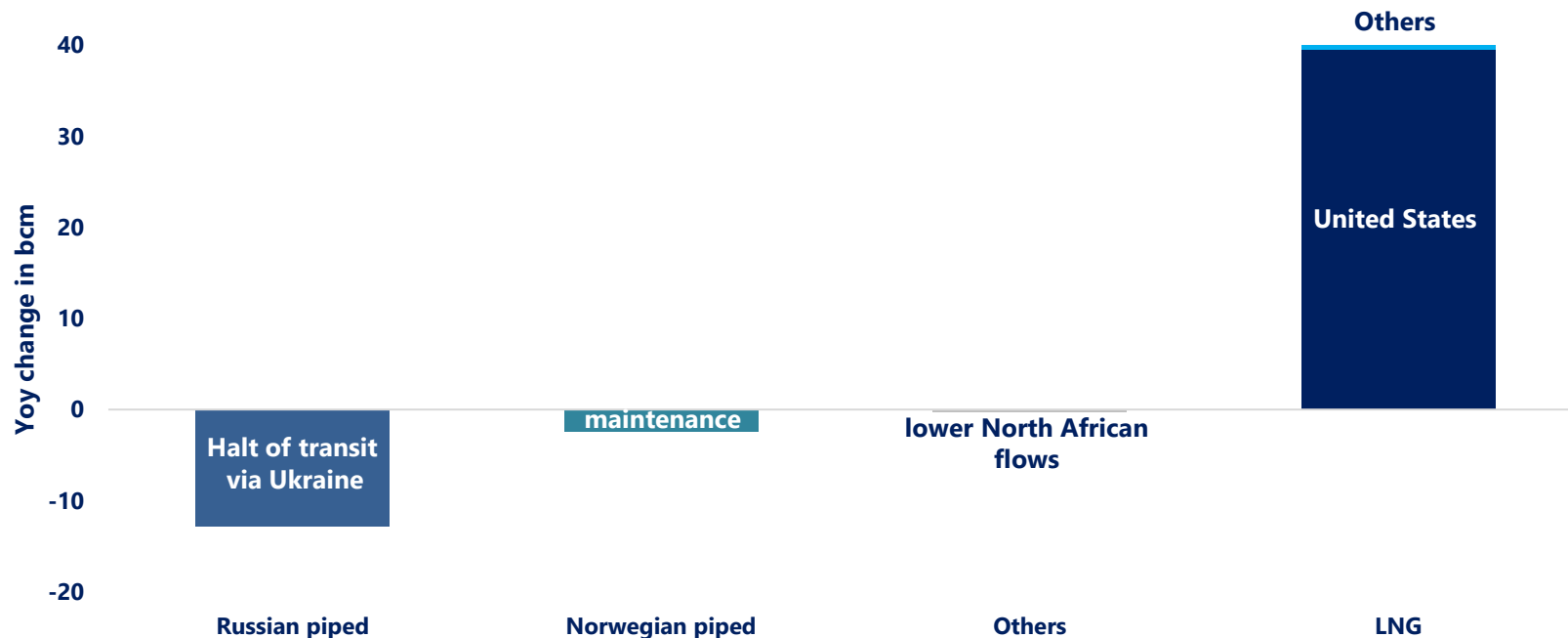
Estimated year-on-year changes in OECD Europe by sectors, 2025 vs 2024



Europe's natural gas demand grew by around 3% in 2025. Colder weather supported stronger rescom demand, while lower renewables output boosted gas burn in the power sector by more than 10%.

# Europe's LNG imports surged to an all-time high in 2025

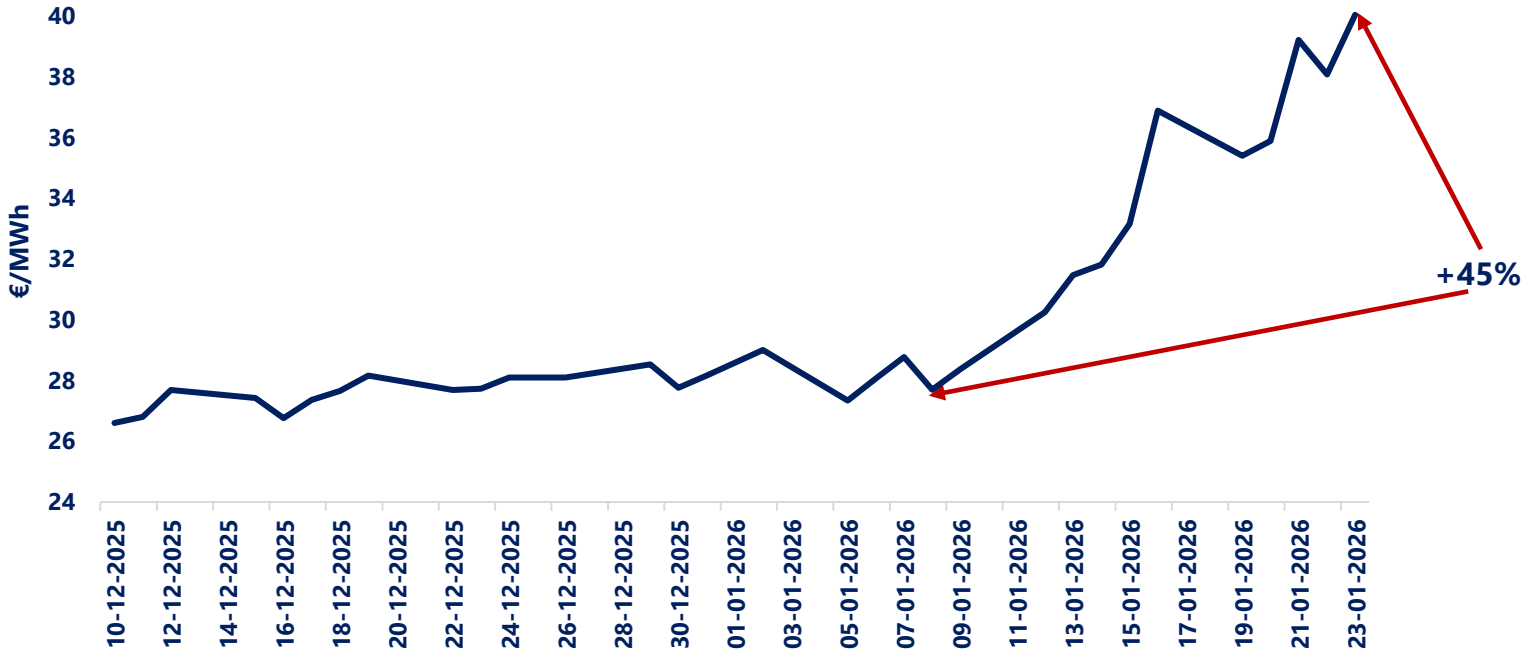
Estimated year-on-year change in European natural gas imports and deliveries from Norway, 2025 vs 2024



Europe's LNG imports rose by more than 30% yoy and reached an all-time high of over 175 bcm in 2025, amid stronger domestic demand, lower piped gas imports and higher storage injections.

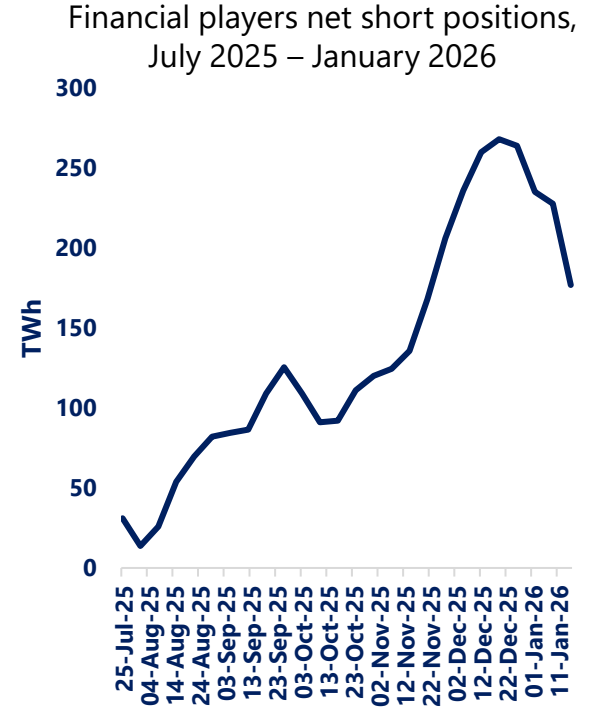
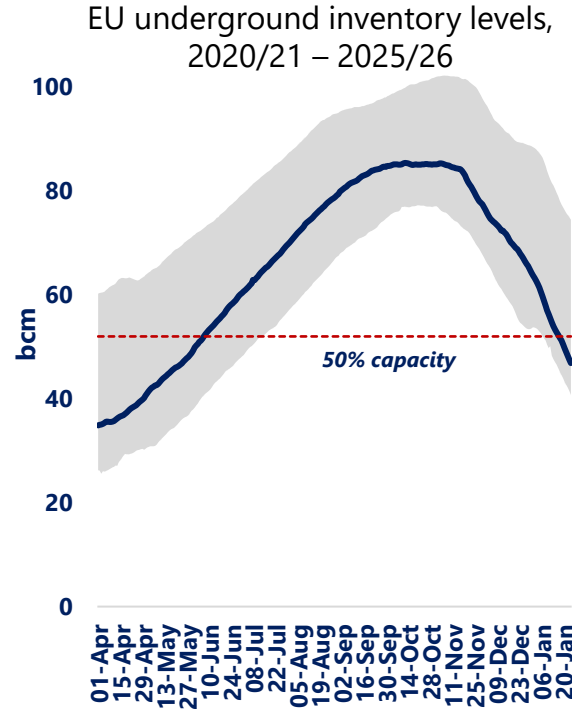
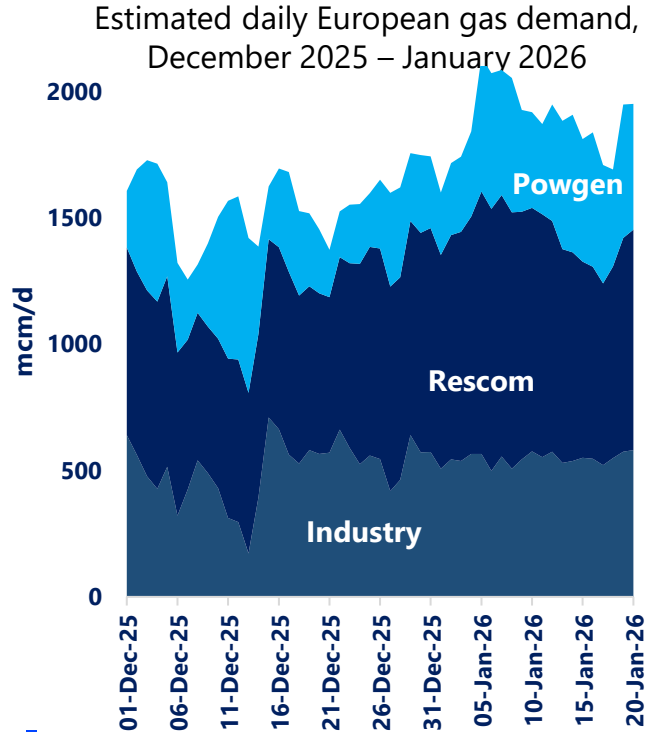
# TTF opened 2026 with a wild bull run...

TTF month-ahead prices, December 2025 – January 2026



Cold weather, together with lower storage levels, short-covering and geopolitical tensions drove up TTF month-ahead prices by more than 45% since the start of Jan26 –albeit standing 15% below Jan25 average.

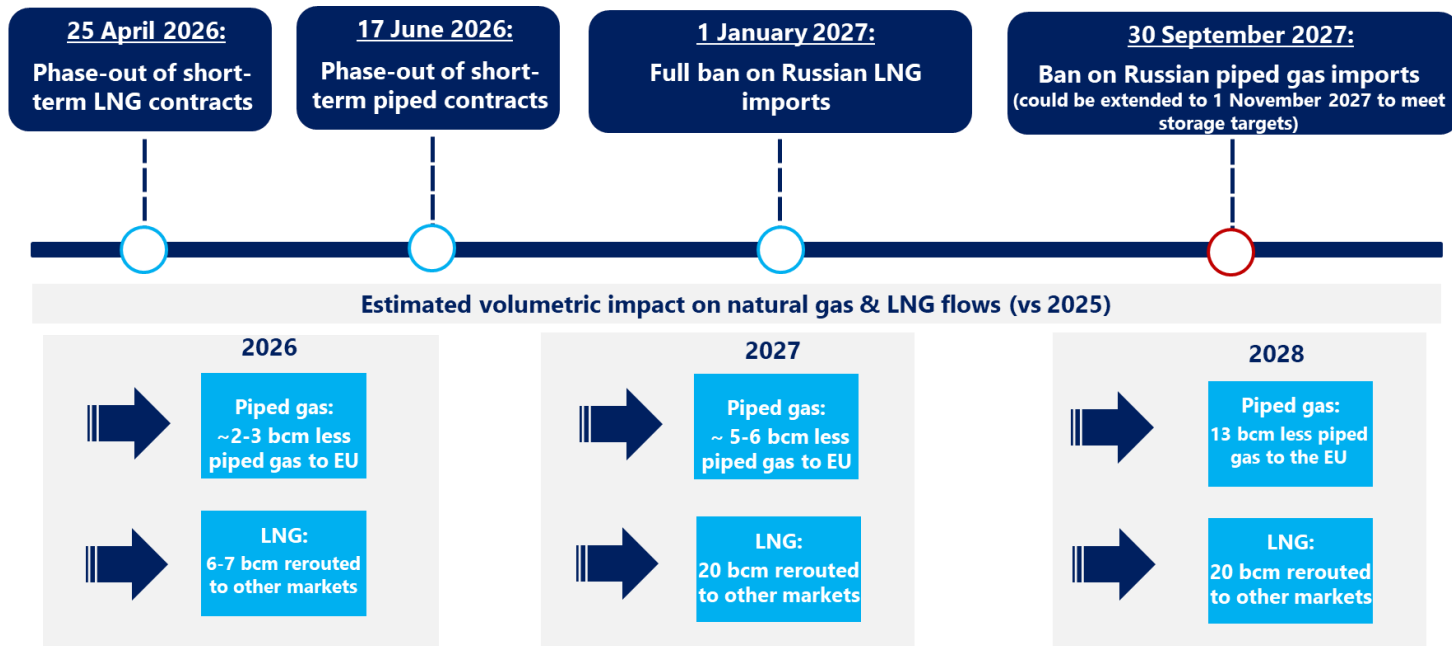
# ...driven by physical fundamentals and repositioning



The rapid change in underlying market fundamentals prompted short covering from financial players, whose net short position was near all-time high in Dec25. This further exacerbated the upward price swing on TTF.

# The Russian gas phase-out creates additional market space for LNG

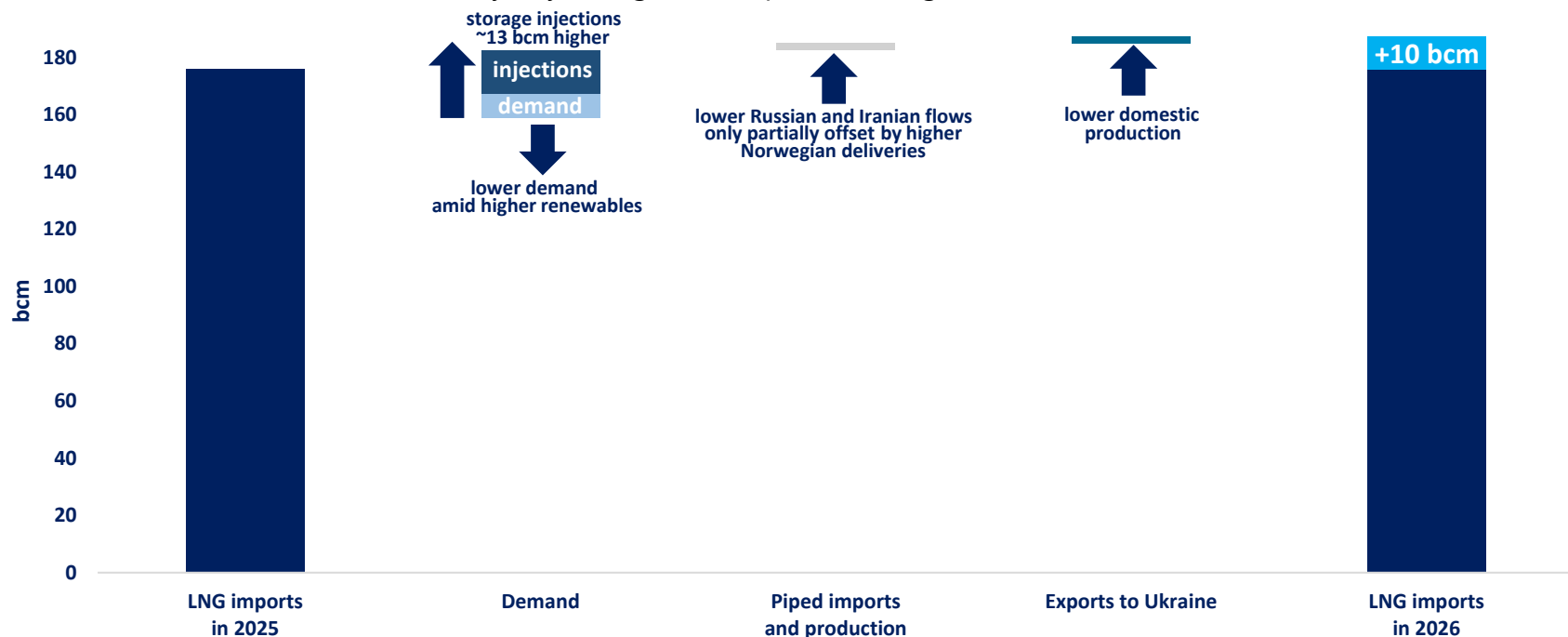
Timeline for the phase-out of Russian natural gas imports into the European Union and estimated volume impact



The new regulation is expected to reduce Russia's natural gas deliveries to the European Union by over 30 bcm by 2028, creating additional market space for non-Russian LNG suppliers.

# Thirsty for gas: Europe's LNG imports set for another record year

Forecasted y-o-y change in Europe's natural gas balance, 2026 vs 2025



Stronger storage injections together with higher piped gas exports to Ukraine are expected to drive Europe's LNG imports to a new all-time high of over 185 bcm in 2026.

# Key takeaways

- **2025 was a transitional year** for natural gas markets: while supply fundamentals remained tight in the first half of the year, LNG supply growth accelerated to 10% in H2 2025 and eased market conditions.
- **Global gas demand growth slowed to below 1%** in 2025, with **Asia's gas consumption remaining broadly flat** amid weaker industrial activity and high spot LNG prices in the first half of the year.
- **LNG FIDs recorded their second strongest year in 2025**, with over 90 bcm/y of capacity sanctioned. This supported **booming LNG contracting activity**, with more than 130 bcm/y of contracts signed.
- **Global LNG supply growth is set to accelerate further in 2026** and increase by 7% -its fastest pace since 2019. Growth is largely supported by the **United States, Qatar and Canada**.
- **Improving supply fundamentals** are set to foster stronger demand growth in price sensitive Asian markets, driving up **global gas demand growth to near 2% in 2026**.
- **Europe's LNG imports** are expected to increase to a **new all-time high in 2026**, driven by a combination of higher storage injections, lower piped gas flows and higher piped exports to Ukraine.



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