

SUPPLY PULSE - 8th August 2026

MIDDLE EAST NEWS

Saudi Arabia opens new northern transport link

Saudi Arabia opened the 246-km Rafha-Hail Road, strengthening connectivity between northern and central regions. The corridor links to the Hail-Madinah route and is expected to improve freight movement and regional logistics efficiency. [[Trade Arabia](#)]

UAE non-oil growth reaches four-month high

The UAE's non-oil PMI rose to 52.7 in July, its highest level in four months. New orders reached a five-month high while export activity improved, supporting continued diversification beyond hydrocarbons. [[Reuters](#)]

FedEx launches nonstop Saudi Arabia freight route

FedEx launched a dedicated nonstop B777 route into Saudi Arabia, running six times weekly and connecting the Kingdom with the US and onward to Asia. It is the first express carrier to offer a nonstop West-to-Kingdom link, supporting Vision 2030. [[Arab News](#)]

GLOBAL NEWS

US targets Chinese polysilicon supply chains

Washington imposed a 15% tariff and minimum import prices on polysilicon products, effective December 4. The measures target a critical input for solar panels and semiconductors, adding another layer to global sourcing risk. [[Reuters](#)]

Iran and Oman near Hormuz shipping deal

Iran said it reached agreement with Oman on a proposed Strait of Hormuz shipping route, a possible step toward reopening the waterway. Traffic stayed thin, with 33 vessels transiting Monday to Thursday as markets watched the talks. [[US News](#)]

US container import surge begins to fade

U.S. container imports are expected to fall 4.2% year-on-year in August after shippers front-loaded cargo to avoid higher tariffs and fuel surcharges. Freight costs are expected to remain elevated despite softer volumes. [[Reuters](#)]

COMMODITIES

Energy and metals prices decline in July

The World Bank's energy price index fell 1.1% in July, while metals declined 2.8%. Coal and crude oil fell 4.8% and 2.2%, respectively, while aluminum dropped 8.1%. European natural gas rose 19.1%. [[World Bank](#)]

Beverages drive agricultural price increase

Agricultural prices rose 2.6% in July as beverage prices jumped 17.4%, more than offsetting lower food and fertilizer prices. Raw material prices slipped 0.5% during the month. [[World Bank](#)]

REPORTS

WTO says Q1 trade held up despite war

World merchandise trade grew 3.2% year on year in the first quarter, the WTO said, as AI-related electronics offset the Middle East conflict. Hormuz disruption will show more fully in second-quarter data, with regional trade already down sharply. [[WTO](#)]

About TransformationX



TransformationX is a strategy consulting firm with focus on delivering exceptional client value, while retaining and nurturing happy teams. We deliver across core strategic and operational topics, through deep and focused expertise, proprietary data, increased digitalization of the consulting process and top tier talent.

Connect with us at info@transformationx.com