Chart of the Week #2022-21
U.S. LNG Exports: Recent Trends

Max Pyziur
June 15, 2022
Washington, DC

Source: AP/Houston Chronicle
Steve Campbell
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Asian purchases of U.S. LNG fell ahead of winter 2021-2022 in the northern latitudes in favor of less expensive energy resources such as coal. Notably, Japanese LNG inventories were at normal levels for the season.

Most of the purchasers of U.S. LNG in the Americas are located in the southern latitudes and, therefore, have countervailing seasonal requirements.
Ahead of winter 2021-2022, European natural gas inventories were at 2.8 trillion cubic feet, well below the five-year average of 3.3. Critically, Russia’s GazProm-owned and Germany-based Astora storage was at 25% of capacity instead of the usual 70%.

In response to European shortages, close to fifty U.S. LNG cargos (about 100 billion cubic feet) were diverted to Europe. During January, U.S. LNG made up 46% of European LNG imports compared to those from Qatar, Nigeria, and Algeria at 10%, 9%, and 8%, respectively.

Europe has 22 BCF/d of LNG regasification capacity, generally running at 25% utilization. With higher LNG imports, Europe’s LNG terminals were running at an average of almost 40% during the winter.

Additional information on recent U.S. LNG trends is available from the EIA: [U.S. Liquefied Natural Gas Exports to Europe Increased During the First 4 Months of 2022](https://www.eia.gov). This slide deck and additional charts on LNG are available at [EPRINC’s Chart of The Week Archive](https://www.eprinc.org).

For more information on these charts, please contact Max Pyziur (maxp@eprinc.org).