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China fuel export halt

China Shuts the Fuel Tap as the Global Diesel Crunch Deepens

By **Manasee Kurlekar** | October 2, 2026



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Key details:

Refiners have no green light to export outside Hong Kong and Macau for October 2026; Beijing has tied exports to domestic stocks returning to pre-war levels.

Key developments:

- PetroChina cancelled several gasoline and jet fuel cargoes; Zhejiang Petrochemical scheduled no shipments during the National Day holiday, which ends 7 October 2026.
- Commercial diesel stocks are an estimated 20 million barrels below the export threshold; gasoline about 9 million barrels below.
- September 2026 exports: about 1.4 million tonnes of diesel, 500,000 tonnes of gasoline, and at least 2 million tonnes of jet fuel. August 2026 total: 4.58 million tonnes.

Timeline: Beijing first curbed exports in March 2026 after the Iran war began, relaxed them in July 2026, and has managed them month by month since.

Market reaction: oil rose about \$3; the October–November Asian diesel spread hit a two-week high.

The halt follows Xi Jinping's Washington visit, where Trump urged help stabilising fuel supply. Washington has told Germany and France to release emergency diesel stocks or face a possible US diesel export ban.

WBW angle: energy nationalism is back. When supply is scarce, the biggest refiner protects its own market first.

Read online: <https://worldbusinesswatch.com/news/12/200/china-fuel-export-halt.html>

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