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OPEC+ Boosts Oil Output Sharply Amid Iran War Escalation

By AFP

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Russia's President Vladimir Putin shakes hands with OPEC Secretary General Haitham Al Ghais during a meeting on the sidelines of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), June 20, 2025.
EPA/ANTON VAGANOV/REUTERS POOL/TASS

Key members of the OPEC+ oil cartel announced a greater-than-expected increase to production quotas on Sunday following U.S. and Israeli strikes on Iran that triggered retaliation by Tehran across the Middle East.

The eight-member V8 (Voluntary Eight) group in the alliance, which includes key oil producers Saudi Arabia and Russia — as well as several Gulf states bearing the brunt of Tehran's missile strikes — said they had agreed a "production adjustment" of 206,000 barrels per day (bpd).

"This adjustment will be implemented in April," they said in a statement.

The text did not explicitly mention the outbreak of the Iran conflict, instead citing “a steady global economic outlook and current healthy market fundamentals” as their reasons for the increase.

Before the weekend's meeting, experts had forecast a more modest increase of 137,000 barrels per day.

But Jorge Leon, an analyst at Rystad Energy, warned the agreed increase was potentially not large enough to prevent the Iran conflict causing a spike in oil prices when trading opens on Monday.

Leon pointed to the possibility that Iran could target the Strait of Hormuz, a key waterway through which around nearly a quarter of the world's seaborne oil supplies, in retaliation.

Iran's Revolutionary Guards have contacted ships to announce the strait was closed. On Sunday, Iranian state TV said an oil tanker in the strait was struck while attempting to “illegally” pass through and was sinking. It showed footage of a burning tanker at sea.

“If oil cannot move through Hormuz, an extra 206,000 barrels per day does very little to ease the market,” Leon said, arguing that “logistics and transit risk matter more than production targets right now.”

The OPEC+ move “is unlikely to calm markets,” he said.

“Prices will respond to developments in the Gulf and the status of shipping flows, not to a relatively small increase in output.”

Besides Russia and Saudi Arabia, the V8 group within OPEC+ includes Kuwait, Oman, Iraq and the UAE, all of which were targeted by Iranian attacks for a second day on Sunday.

Algeria and Kazakhstan are also part of the group.

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