

A worker in a white protective suit and helmet is working on a ship's deck. The background shows the ship's structure and equipment. A blue geometric overlay is present on the right side of the image.

Bunkering Market Report

March 2023

Brent Crude Market Analysis & Forecast

The month of March started with Brent crude trading up 2.23% at \$84.32/b after a fairly stable February.

The oil market had ignored bearish signals at the beginning of the month, and instead, focused on the sentiment of economic optimism of China and it's remerging from Covid restrictions and increased demand for oil.

Early March

In the first week of the month, industrial action in France led to most of the country's refineries being shut down and several ports blocked by striking workers.

The second week of the month saw Brent losing ground as the fallout from the collapse of SVB Bank in the US. Oil traders feared that this bank collapse could be the start of another financial crisis. Contagion spread to Switzerland, with Credit Suisse also showing signs of trouble.

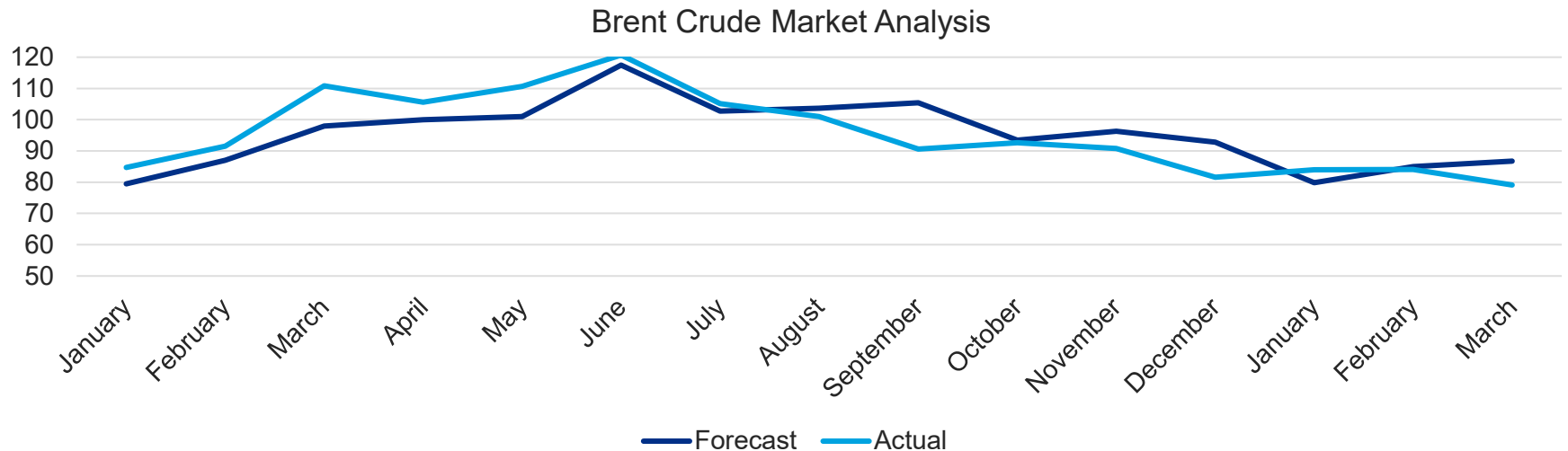
After a bailout by the Swiss Central Bank, things seemed to be going well for the troubled bank. However, the bailout by the central bank proved not to be enough. Eventually, rival Swiss bank UBS bought out Credit Suisse, with UBS seeing their stock price lose considerable value.

End of March

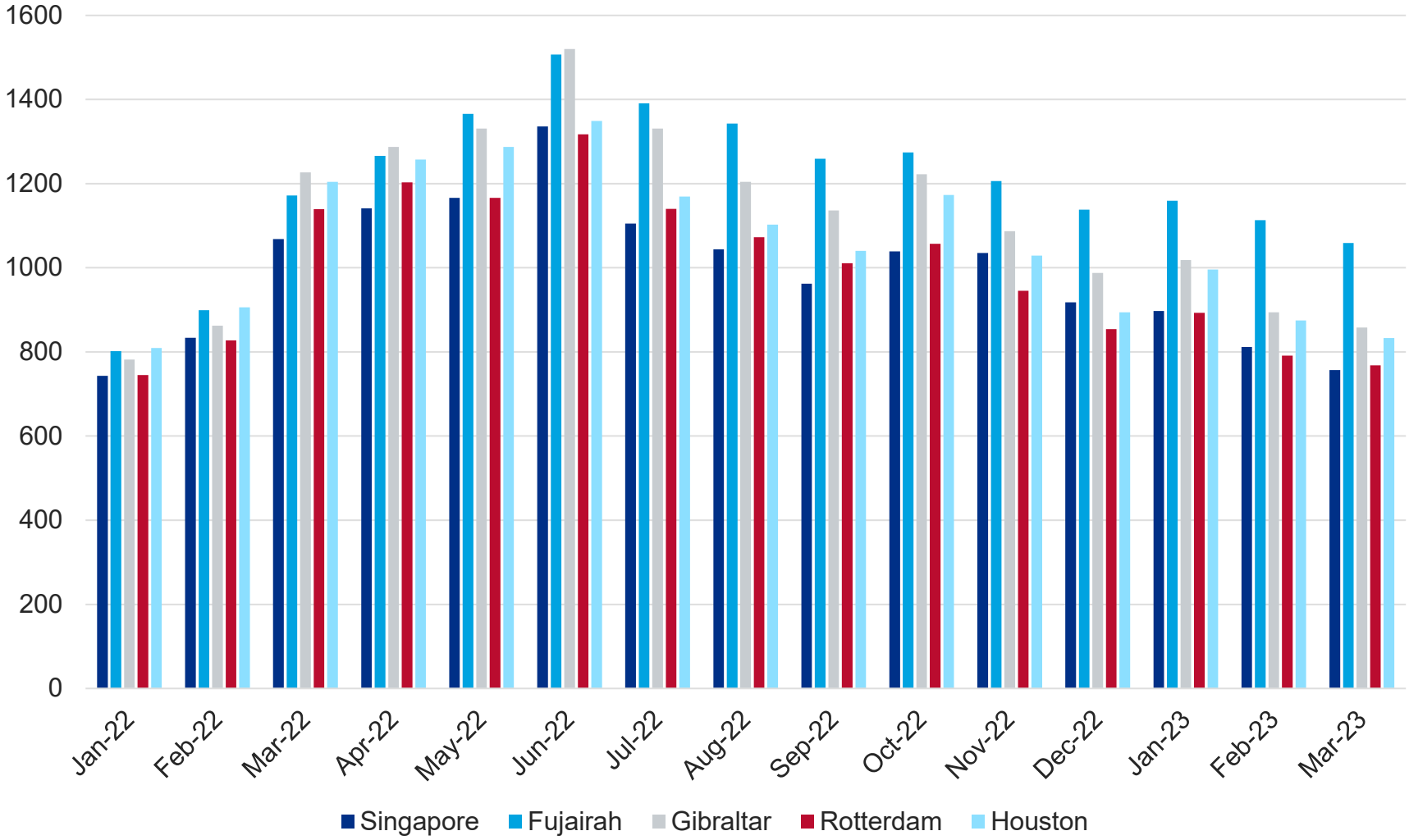
By mid-month, Brent was in very bearish territory and reached a low of \$72.52/b. March also saw unusually bad weather across swathes of the Mediterranean, Gibraltar was badly affected and led to the closure of the port.

The weather was so bad that many vessels cancelled their bunker calls in Gibraltar and instead headed to Las Palmas and Lisbon, leading to the second lowest number of bunker calls at Gibraltar in 12 years.

As the month moved to a close, Brent had made a recovery due to a new found optimism that the banking crisis was over, The month ended with Brent trading at \$79.73.



Global LSMGO Average Prices



Global VLSFO Average Prices

