

Introduction

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- This PowerPoint presentation discusses the unbundling of the gas and oil prices.
 - For a further discussion of the unbundling, please refer to the PowerPoint presentation "Gas market – the great unbundling"
 - At *houmollerconsulting.dk*, you can download the document from the sub-page *Facts and findings*.
- The PowerPoint presentation is animated
 - It's recommended to run the animation when viewing the presentation.
- On most computers, you can start the animation by pressing <u>F5</u>.
 - Now the presentation moves one step forward, when you press <u>Page Down</u>. It moves one step backward, when you press <u>Page Up</u>.

Gas prices in Europe



- Historically, gas has often been traded by means of long-term contracts
 - > Where the price of gas was linked to the price of oil.
- Long-term contracts and oil-linked pricing have a long history
 - > When gas first began to be used a lot in the 1960s it was a substitute for home heating oil.
 - > Hence, it made sense to anchor the gas price to the oil price.
- However, today oil is generally no substitute for gas.
- Increasingly, gas is spot traded.
- ► The severing of the linking makes sense
 - > As there's no longer any correlation between the gas and the oil prices
 - As a case: the slides no. 4-7 compare the main oil index with gas exchange prices.



Gas and oil prices

If you still want to tie your gas price to the oil price:

There is a bewildering array of oil indices, which can be used for the linking.

And in order to make it even more complex:

There may be a time delay, so your gas price this month is linked to an oil price from a previous month.

In order to cut a long history short, this presentation uses this oil index:

The monthly prices of the index *Europe Brent Spot Price FOB*.

No time delay is considered

Currency issues are not considered either.



Gaspool (Northern Germany)





Sources: www.eia.gov and www.eex.de

NCG (Southern Germany)







Sources: www.eia.gov and www.eex.de



Correlation coefficient



- For two sets of data, the correlation coefficient measures the degree, to which the two data sets move in parallel.
 - > A correlation coefficient of 1 means the two data sets move in lockstep.
 - > A correlation coefficient of 0 means no tendency at all for the two data sets to move in parallel.
 - > A correlation coefficient of 0.5 indicates a very weak tendency to move in parallel.
 - > A negative correlation coefficient indicates an inverse correlation.



Example 1: Correlation(a,b) = 1 as a and b move in lockstep.

Example 2: Correlation(x,y) = -1 as x and y have perfect inverse correlation.





Thank you for your attention!

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