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ENERGY

U.S. seizes oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela: Report

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KEY POINTS

U.S. forces have seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela, people familiar with the matter told Bloomberg News.

President Donald Trump has escalated pressure on Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, saying his "days are numbered."

Most of Venezuela's oil exports go to China.



Bloomberg | Getty Images

A Venezuelan flag in La Guaira, Vargas State, Venezuela, on Sunday, Nov. 30, 2025.

Venezuela, people familiar with the matter told <u>Bloomberg News</u>.

U.S. forces have seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of

Oil prices rose slightly on the reported seizure. <u>U.S. crude oil</u>

up 28 cents, or 0.48%, at \$58.53 per barrel. Global benchmark Brent rose 31 cents, or 0.5%, to \$62.25 a barrel. President Donald Trump has escalated pressure on Venezuelan

President Nicolas Maduro in recent weeks. Trump said Maduro's

"days are numbered" in an interview with Politico published Tuesday. The president would not rule out a ground invasion of the South American nation.

Politico. The White House has undertaken a large military buildup in the

"I don't want to rule in or out. I don't talk about it," Trump told

Caribbean and launched controversial, deadly strikes against boats that it claims were trafficking drugs to the U.S. Venezuela is a founding member of OPEC and has the largest

proven oil reserves in the world. It is exporting about 749,000 barrels per day this year with at least half that oil going to China, according to data from energy consulting firm Kpler. Venezuela exports about 132,000 bpd to the U.S., according to

Kpler. "Shippers will likely be much more cautious and hesitant about loading Venezuelan crude going forward," said Matt Smith, an oil

analyst at Kpler. CNBC has reached out to the White House and Pentagon.



Divided Fed approves third rate cut this year, sees slower pace ahead



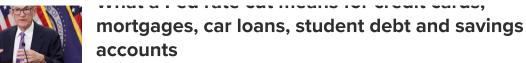
Watch live: Fed chair Powell says central bank











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