

MarketWatch | Refined Products

Wednesday, September 20, 2023

Market Commentary

Recap: The oil market continued on its upward trend and posted a 10-month high early in the day on supply concerns and weakness in the dollar. However a rebound in the dollar index pushed the oil market to its lows in afternoon trading. The crude market breached its previous high and rallied to a high of \$93.74 by mid-morning as the EIA estimated that U.S. oil output from top shale producing regions were on track to fall to 9.393 million bpd in October, the lowest level since May 2023. The market breached the upper boundary of its upward trending channel as it rallied to a level not seen since November. However, the market erased its gains and sold off to a low of \$91.13 ahead of the close. The October WTI contract settled down 28 cents at \$91.20 and the November Brent contract settled down 9 cents at \$94.34. The product markets ended the session mixed, with the heating oil market settling up 8.56 cents at \$3.3739 and the RB market settling down 3.98 cents at \$2.6581.

Market Analysis: The oil market will seek further direction from the weekly petroleum stocks reports, which are expected to show draws across the board, which will keep the market supported. The market is also positioning itself ahead the Federal Reserve's meeting, with the market expecting the Fed to leave interest rates unchanged. Technically, the crude market's daily stochastics crossed to the downside, suggesting that the market may see a correction. The oil market is seen finding support at its low of \$91.07, \$90.75, \$89.22, \$88.68, \$88.29, \$88.04 followed by \$87.49 and \$87.22. Resistance is seen at \$92.10, \$93.05, its high of \$93.74 and \$94.12.

<u>Fundamental News</u>: LyondellBasell Industries said slow economic activity and lack of import demand from China is impacting global supply and demand balances. It said refined product inventories remain low and fuel demand remains stable. It said underlying demand in North America is steady but tepid and added the consumer uncertainty and energy volatility are restraining demand in Europe.

Mexico's Pemex has resumed dealing with Vitol, nearly three years since deals with the world's largest independent energy trader were banned over a graft scandal. The ban followed Swiss-based Vitol's public acknowledgement in December 2020, in a deal with the U.S. Department of Justice, that it had paid kickbacks to win business with Pemex, as well as state companies in Persil and Equator.

Russia is pushing more crude onto the market even as it says it will extend supply cuts to the end of the year along with Saudi Arabia. That increased Russia's seaborne flows to a three month high. Tanker-tracking data compiled by Bloomberg show that average nationwide shipments in the four weeks ending September 17th increased to 3.34 million bpd, up 465,000 bpd from the period ending August 20th with the increases concentrated at the Baltic ports of Primorsk and Ust-Luga and Novorossiisk on the Black Sea.

The OECD forecast that a stronger than expected U.S. economy is helping to keep a global slowdown in check this year but a weakening Chinese economy will prove to be a bigger drag next year. After expanding 3.3% last year, global GDP growth is on course to slow to 3.0% this year. While that was an upgrade from 2.7% in the OECD's June outlook, global growth was expected to slow to 2.7% in 2024, down from its estimate of 2.9% in June.

Early Market Call - as of 8:15 AM EDT
WTI - October \$90.36, down 84 cents
RBOB - October \$2.6287, down 2.94 cents
HO - October \$3.3192, down 5.47 cents

All NYMEX | Prior Settlements

| | ULSD (HO) | Prior Settle | Change In |
|--------|-----------|--------------|-----------|
| Month | Close | Change | One Week |
| Sep-23 | 3.3739 | 0.0856 | 0.0456 |
| Oct-23 | 3.2925 | 0.0678 | 0.0375 |
| Nov-23 | 3.1589 | 0.0558 | 0.0329 |
| Dec-23 | 3.0926 | 0.044 | 0.039 |
| Jan-24 | 3.0447 | 0.0368 | 0.0429 |
| Feb-24 | 2.9839 | 0.0304 | 0.041 |
| Mar-24 | 2.912 | 0.0243 | 0.0358 |
| Apr-24 | 2.8677 | 0.0196 | 0.0324 |
| May-24 | 2.8356 | 0.0149 | 0.0291 |
| Jun-24 | 2.8157 | 0.0121 | 0.0255 |
| Jul-24 | 2.802 | 0.0106 | 0.024 |
| Aug-24 | 2.7938 | 0.01 | 0.0251 |
| Sep-24 | 2.7845 | 0.0092 | 0.0265 |
| Oct-24 | 2.7706 | 0.0073 | 0.0275 |
| Nov-24 | 2.7526 | 0.0053 | 0.0261 |
| Dec-24 | 2.7336 | 0.0038 | 0.0261 |
| Jan-25 | 2.71 | 0.003 | 0.0272 |

| Sprague HeatCurve October 2023-April 2024 | | | \$3.1059 |
|-------------------------------------------|------------|-----------|-----------|
| | | Close | Change |
| Crude - WTI | Nov Brent- | \$90.4800 | -\$0.1000 |
| Crude - Brent | WTI Spread | \$94.3400 | -\$0.0900 |
| Natural Gas | \$3.86 | \$2.8480 | \$0.1200 |
| Gasoline | | \$2.6581 | -\$0.0398 |

API Report for the Week Ending September 15, 2023

Crude Oil Stocks(exl SPR) Gasoline Stocks Distillate Stocks Refinery Runs

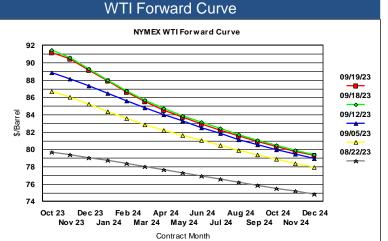
Actual Down 5.25 million barrels Up 730,000 barrels Down 258,000 barrels

Mkt Expectations Down 2.7 million barrels Down 2.2 million barrels

Down 2.2 million barrels Down 480,000 barrels Down 0.5% at 93.5%

Sprague HeatCurve October-April

\$3.80 \$3.40 \$3.40 \$3.00 \$2.60 \$1.80 \$1.40 \$1.00



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