

MarketWatch | Refined Products

Thursday, April 4, 2019

Market Commentary

<u>Recap:</u> Oil prices fell from 5 month highs after the EIA reported an unexpected 7.2 million barrel build in U.S. crude oil inventories for the week of March 29. This compares to the expected 1.2 million barrel draw. Trading was choppy, as prices opened the session trading to the upside. The inability for May WTI to trade above \$63.00 prompted a round of technical selling, taking this spot contract below unchanged, to an intermediate session low of \$62.38, a mere 2 cents above the 200-day moving average of \$62.36. Day traders sprang into action, pushing May WTI back above unchanged, but gains were severed by the large inventory build, and this spot contract slipped back below unchanged, to a session low of \$62.06. Losses were trimmed, with May WTI settling at \$62.46 a barrel, down 12 cents, or 0.19 percent. June Brent settled at \$69.31 a barrel, down 6 cents, or 0.09 percent. May RBOB settled at \$1.9512 a gallon, up 2.27 cents, while heating oil for May delivery fell 0.0021, to settle at \$2.0068 a

gallon. <u>Technical Analysis:</u> WTI remains above \$62.32, the current 200-day moving average and \$61.13, the 50 percent retracement provided by the range between the October 2018 high of \$79.43 and the December low of \$43.59. Although we support higher prices with the possibility of reaching \$65.00, we would not discount a shake out to the downside, with a test back towards \$61.13. Resistance is set at \$63.98 and above that at \$65.70. Support is set at \$62.00 and below that at \$61.13.

Fundamental News: The EIA reported that US crude oil stocks unexpectedly increased last week as imports rose, while gasoline and distillate stocks fell. Crude inventories increased by 7.2 million barrels in the last week, with crude stocks in Cushing, Oklahoma increasing by 201,000 barrels. US Gulf Coast crude inventories increased by 8.7 million barrels last week, the largest increase since September 2017. Net crude oil imports increased by 386,000 bpd on the week. Gasoline stocks fell by 1.8 million barrels, while distillate stocks fell by 2 million barrels. Forces loyal to eastern Libyan commander, Khalifa Haftar, have been ordered to move to western Libya to fight militants. The deployment is likely to alarm the internationally recognized government in Tripoli, whose Prime Minister Fayez al-Serraj has been negotiating a power sharing deal with a parallel administration in the east that is allied to Haftar. Russia's Lukoil signed a contract for hydrocarbon exploration and development of the Zhenis block in Kazakhstan's sector of the Caspian Sea. Lukoil will perform drilling of at least one exporation well and a seismic survey.

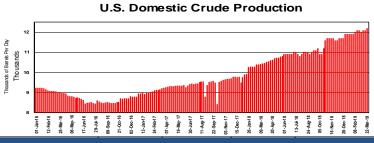
The Petroleum Association of Japan reported that the country's crude oil stocks in the week ending March 30th increased by 4.75 million barrels on the week but fell by 520,000 barrels on the year to 78.88 million barrels. Japan's gasoline stocks increased by 60,000 barrels on the week but fell by 170,000 barrels on the year to 10.18 million barrels, while its kerosene stocks were unchanged on the week and fell by 1.08 million barrels on the year to 8.37 million barrels and naphtha stocks fell by 600,000 barrels on the week and by 1.27 million barrels on the year to 8.64 million barrels.

IIR Energy reported that US oil refiners are expected to shut in 1.4 million bpd of capacity in the week ending April 5th, increasing available refining capacity by 388,000 bpd from the previous week. The offline capacity is expected to fall to 1.1 million bpd in the week ending April 12th.

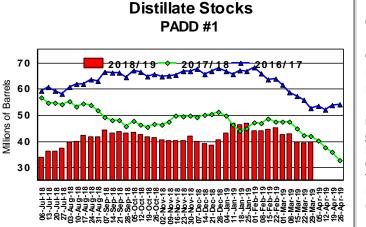
Colonial Pipeline Co said its Line 22, a mixed products line on the country's largest fuel network that was shut after a report of a product release on Sunday, has resumed normal operations. Repairs to the line, which runs from Greensboro and Selma, North Carolina was completed on April 2nd.

Early Market Call - as of 8:15 AM EDT WTI - May \$62.61, up 15 cents RBOB - May \$1.9469, down 44 points HO - May \$2.0133, up 61 points

		ULSD (HO)	Prior Settle	Change In	
Month		Close	Change	One Week	
May-19		\$2.0068	-\$0.0021	\$0.0254	
Jun-19		\$2.0111	-\$0.0016	\$0.0262	
Jul-19		\$2.0166	-\$0.0016	\$0.0268	
Aug-19		\$2.0240	-\$0.0021	\$0.0270	
Sep-19		\$2.0340	-\$0.0026	\$0.0271	
Oct-19		\$2.0433	-\$0.0023	\$0.0277	
Nov-19		\$2.0514	-\$0.0018	\$0.0279	
Dec-19		\$2.0583	-\$0.0013	\$0.0276	
Jan-20		\$2.0645	-\$0.0007	\$0.0272	
Feb-20		\$2.0640	-\$0.0003	\$0.0262	
Mar-20		\$2.0578	-\$0.0004	\$0.0245	
Apr-20		\$2.0444	-\$0.0003	\$0.0226	
May-20		\$2.0343	-\$0.0002	\$0.0213	
Jun-20		\$2.0279	-\$0.0001	\$0.0198	
Jul-20		\$2.0257	-\$0.0002	\$0.0184	
Aug-20		\$2.0249	-\$0.0004	\$0.0180	
Sep-20		\$2.0257	-\$0.0004	\$0.0177	
Sprague HeatCurve Oct 2019-Apr 2020 \$2.0575					
Other Front Mo	nth NYMEX	Close		Change	
Crude - WTI	June Brent-	\$62.5200		-\$0.0900	
Crude - Brent	WTI Spread	L \$69.3100		-\$0.0600	
Natural Gas	\$6.79	\$2.6770		-\$0.0070	
Gasoline		\$1.9512		\$0.0227	



Weekly EIA Petroleum Status Report for the Week Ending March 29, 2019



Overall U.S. Stats

Crude Oil Stocks(excluding SPR) Up 7.238 million barrels Cushing, OK Crude Stocks Up 201,000 barrels Gasoline Stocks Down 1.781 million barrels Distillate Stocks Down 1.998 million barrels Refinery % Operated 86.4%, Down 0.2%

PADD #1

Distillate Stocks	Week Ending	Week Ending	Week Ending
(in million bbls)	Mar 29, 2019	Mar 22, 2019	Mar 30, 2018
New England	6.2	6.6	6.1
Central Atlantic	20.7	21.9	23.5
Total PADD #1	39.6	39.4	42.0
Distillate Imports			
(thousands b/d)	116	162	82

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All NYMEX | Prior Settlements