

## MarketWatch | Refined Products

Thursday, January 30, 2020

### Market Commentary

Recap: Oil prices were mixed on Wednesday with WTI posting losses after the EIA reported an unexpected 3.5 million barrel increase in U.S. crude oil inventories, the largest increase since November. Meanwhile, Brent held on to gains on the back of reported conflicts in the Middle East. Softening U.S. refinery demand due to poor margins is having a negative effect on prices, while Brent is gaining on the heels of attacks on Aramco and by a fire on a tanker in the region. March WTI fell 15 cents, or 0.3%, to settle at \$53.33 a barrel, while March Brent, which expires at Friday's settlement, tacked on 30 cents, or 0.5%, to end at \$59.81 a barrel. February RBOB rose 1.8% to \$1.5308 a gallon, while February heating oil lost 0.7% at \$1.7035 a gallon. The February contracts expire at the settlement on Friday

Technical Analysis: Despite the lower settlement, March WTI continues to find support above \$52.00. Given the sharp move to the downside, we expect this market to rebound, with the \$57.00 our upside target. All things considered, and as long as this market remains above \$50.00, we expect to see WTI trade within the \$50.00 and \$58.00 range. Resistance is set at \$55.46, the current 10-day moving average and above that \$57.04, the 200-day moving average. Support is found at \$52.00 and \$50.18.

<u>Fundamental News:</u> The EIA reported that US crude oil stocks increased more than expected last week as refiners cut runs on the back of weakened demand for fuel, with gasoline stocks increasing to a record high. Crude inventories increased by 3.5 million barrels in the week ending January 24<sup>th</sup> to 431.7 million barrels. Refiners cut back runs sharply, with utilization rates falling by 3.3% last week to 87.2% of total capacity. US gasoline stocks built for a 12 th consecutive week, increasing by 1.2 million barrels to a record high of 261.2 million barrels. Distillate stocks fell by 1.3 million barrels to 144.7 million barrels.

S&P Global Platts Analytics is forecasting a fall of 200,000 bpd in oil demand for the next two to three months, which is about 15% of the expected oil demand growth in 2020. Platts Analytics estimated that in a "worst case scenario" where the Wuhan coronavirus is as deadly and contagious as the 2003 SARS pandemic, global jet fuel demand could fall by 700,000 - 800,000 bpd. It said it is likely that the virus could cause a fall in global jet demand of 50,000 - 150,000 bpd in the next two months. Platts said global oil demand could fall by 700,000 - 800,000 bpd, reflecting more than half of the expected demand growth for 2020.

According to Platts Analytics, December was 7% warmer than the 10-year normal for the three major OECD markets of Japan, Europe and the US, cutting about 330,000 bpd of oil heat demand.

Algeria's Energy Minister, Mohamed Arkab, said it was "very possible that OPEC+ meeting could be advanced to February instead of scheduled meeting in March."

IIR Energy reported that US oil refiners are expected to shut in 578,000 bpd of capacity in the week ending January 31st, increasing available refining capacity by 505,000 bpd from the previous week. Offline capacity is expected to increase to 705,000 bpd in the week ending February 7th

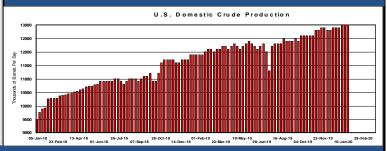
MPLX LP said the reversal of the Capline pipeline was progressing as planned, with the line on track to begin light crude service in mid-2021 and heavy crude service in 2022. The line is expected to increase flows of Canadian and Mid-Continent crude to the St. James, Louisiana market

Early Market Call - as of 8:30 AM EDT WTI - Mar \$52.37, down 96 cents RBOB - Feb \$1.4908, down 4.02 cents HO - Feb \$1.6637, down 3.88 cents

#### All NYMEX | Prior Settlements

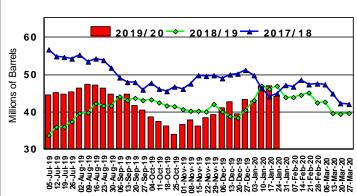
	ULSD (HO)	Prior Settle	Change In
Month	Close	Change	One Week
Feb-20	1.7035	-0.0124	0.0959
Mar-20	1.7043	-0.0119	0.1005
Apr-20	1.7058	-0.0114	0.1002
May-20	1.7083	-0.0105	0.0989
Jun-20	1.7115	-0.0094	0.0970
Jul-20	1.7150	-0.0082	0.0953
Aug-20	1.7195	-0.0069	0.0930
Sep-20	1.7256	-0.0056	0.0898
Oct-20	1.7313	-0.0045	0.0866
Nov-20	1.7359	-0.0036	0.0837
Dec-20	1.7392	-0.0033	0.0808
Jan-21	1.7434	-0.0030	0.0771
Feb-21	1.7434	-0.0029	0.0731
Mar-21	1.7377	-0.0024	0.0689
Apr-21	1.7257	-0.0017	0.0644
May-21	1.7207	-0.0009	0.0598
Jun-21	1.7181	-0.0004	0.0559

Other Front Month NYMEX		Close	Change
Crude - WTI	Mar Brent-	\$53.3300	-\$0.1500
Crude - Brent	WTI Spread	\$59.8100	\$0.3000
Natural Gas	\$6.48	\$1.8770	-\$0.0570
Gasoline		\$1.5308	\$0.0276



### Weekly EIA Petroleum Status Report for the Week Ending January 24, 2020

# Distillate Stocks PADD #1



#### **Overall U.S. Stats**

Crude Oil Stocks(excluding SPR) Up 3.548 million barrels

Cushing, OK Crude Stocks Up 758,000 barrels

Gasoline Stocks Up 1.203 million barrels

**Distillate Stocks** Down 1.289 million barrels

Refinery % Operated 87.2%, down 3.3%

PADD #1

Distillate Stocks	Week Ending	Week Ending	Week Ending
(in million bbls)	Jan 24, 2020	Jan 17, 2019	Jan 25, 2019
New England	7.1	8.1	8.6
Central Atlantic	24.6	25.2	25.6
Total PADD #1	44.1	46.9	46.9
Distillate Imports			
(thousands b/d)	101	279	89

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