

MarketWatch | Refined Products

Thursday, April 18, 2019

Market Commentary

Recap: Brent oil reached a fresh high for the year, trading above \$72.00 a barrel for the first time since mid-November, while WTI advanced above \$64.00 a barrel to a session high of \$64.61. Prices gathered support off of strong economic growth in China and an unexpected fall in U.S. crude oil stocks. An in-depth look at the EIA inventory report showed that product inventories weren't quite as supportive, which in turn diminished the bullish effect of the aforementioned economic news and the drop in crude oil stocks. Trading remained choppy, with both Brent and WTI bouncing around the unchanged level, but by 12:45 EST prices resumed to the down side. May WTI settled at \$63.76 a barrel, down 29 cents, or 0.45%, while Brent for June delivery fell 10 cents, or 0.14%, to settle at \$71.62 a barrel. May RBOB settled at \$2.0418 a gallon, down .0101, or 0.49%, while May heating oil fell .0130, or 0.64%, to settle at \$2.0692 a gallon.

<u>Technical Analysis:</u> WTI failed to sustain itself above \$64.00, indicating hesitancy to the upside, and as result we should see continued sideways trading. As with this type of pattern, we typically see a resumption of the previous trend, which in this case is to the upside. That being said, we would look for attempts to trade above \$65.00. Above this level, additional resistance is set at \$67.50, with \$70.00 in the realm of possibilities. Support set at \$63.22 and below that at \$62.00.

<u>Fundamental News:</u> Russia's Energy Minister, Alexander Novak, said it was too early to speak about preferable options in regards to its position on extending the OPEC and non-OPEC output cut agreement. He said the deal should be aimed at balancing the global oil market but should not be designed to achieve a certain oil price level. He also stated that Russia's average oil output in April should be in line with the global output cut agreement.

According to a preliminary loading program, Angola's crude oil exports are expected to fall in June to 38 cargoes due to a shutdown at the Saturno field during that month. Angola's export program in May was set at 48 cargoes.

The semi-official Mehr news agency reported that Iran has shut around a dozen oil wells in its oil-rich southwestern Khuzestan province because of massive floods, leading to a fall of between 15,000 bpd and 20,000 bpd in oil production.

IIR Energy reported that US refiners are expected to shut in 1.2 million bpd of capacity in the week ending April $19^{\rm th}$, increasing available refining capacity by 109,000 bpd from the previous week. The offline capacity is expected to fall to about 1.1 million bpd in the week ending April $26^{\rm th}$.

According to the US Census Bureau, US crude oil exports reached 2.99 million bpd in February, up from 2.575 million bpd in January.

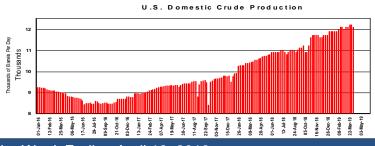
Indian refiners are increasing their planned purchases from OPEC countries, Mexico and the US to make up for any loss of Iranian oil if the US enforces sanctions more harshly from next month. All four Indian state-owned refiners that buy Iranian oil are confident of securing additional barrels from other producers. India's Bharat Petroleum Corp and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd have tapped Iraq to make up for Iranian oil, while Indian Oil Corp has signed its first annual contract with US suppliers and raised supplies from Mexico. Indian Oil Corp will cut its Iranian oil imports to 6 million tons or 120,000 bpd in the 2019/20 period from 9 million tons in 2018/19, and has raised the optional volumes it can buy from other producers to 2 million tons. Last year, MRPL signed its first annual deal with Iraq to buy 1.5 million tons of Basra oil in 2019. BPCL has signed an agreement to buy 5 million tons of Iraqi oil in 2019, compared with 1.5 million tons in 2018. BPCL recently purchased Brazilian crude and plans to buy Mexican crude as well.

Early Market Call - as of 8:35 AM EDT WTI - May \$63.98, up 22 cents RBOB - May \$2.0568, up 1.56 cents HO - May \$2.0765, up 76 points

All NYMEX | Prior Settlements

	ULSD (HO)	Prior Settle	Change In
Month	Close	Change	One Week
May-19	\$2.0692	-\$0.0130	-\$0.0184
Jun-19	\$2.0714	-\$0.0126	-\$0.0178
Jul-19	\$2.0768	-\$0.0121	-\$0.0171
Aug-19	\$2.0835	-\$0.0119	-\$0.0170
Sep-19	\$2.0934	-\$0.0115	-\$0.0157
Oct-19	\$2.1024	-\$0.0110	-\$0.0148
Nov-19	\$2.1098	-\$0.0107	-\$0.0144
Dec-19	\$2.1151	-\$0.0104	-\$0.0142
Jan-20	\$2.1188	-\$0.0105	-\$0.0140
Feb-20	\$2.1159	-\$0.0106	-\$0.0134
Mar-20	\$2.1075	-\$0.0107	-\$0.0125
Apr-20	\$2.0927	-\$0.0107	-\$0.0110
May-20	\$2.0815	-\$0.0106	-\$0.0093
Jun-20	\$2.0737	-\$0.0104	-\$0.0080
Jul-20	\$2.0692	-\$0.0109	-\$0.0074
Aug-20	\$2.0660	-\$0.0113	-\$0.0071
Sep-20	\$2.0647	-\$0.0115	-\$0.0065

Sprague HeatCurve Oct 2019-Apr 2020			\$2.1113
Other Front Month NYMEX		Close	Change
Crude - WTI	June Brent-	\$63.8700	-\$0.3200
Crude - Brent	WTI Spread	\$71.6200	-\$0.1000
Natural Gas	\$7.75	\$2.5170	-\$0.0550
Gasoline		\$2.0418	\$0.0101



Weekly EIA Petroleum Status Report for the Week Ending April 12, 2019

Distillate Stocks PADD #1 11.-an-19 12--an-19 12--an-19

Overall U.S. Stats

Crude Oil Stocks(excluding SPR) Down 1.396 million barrels Cushing, OK Crude Stocks Down 1.543 million barrels

Gasoline Stocks Down 1.174 million barrels

Distillate Stocks Down 362,000 barrels

Refinery % Operated 87.7%, Up 0.2%

PADD #1

Distillate Stocks (in million bbls)	Week Ending Apr 12, 2019	Week Ending Apr 5, 2019	Week Ending Apr 13, 2018
New England	6.0	6.3	5.6
Central Atlantic	20.3	20.3	20.6
Total PADD #1	37.2	38.2	37.7
Distillate Imports			
(thousands b/d)	122	65	101

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