

MarketWatch | Refined Products

Thursday, February 16, 2023

Market Commentary

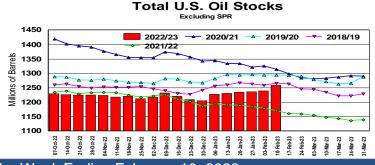
Recap: The oil market looked ready to post an inside trading day early in the session, however the market sold off sharply following the release of the EIA petroleum stock report on Wednesday morning. The market, which traded lower in overnight trading following the API report late Tuesday showing a build in crude stocks of 10.5 million barrels, held support at its previous low as it awaited the release of the EIA report. The market's losses may have also been limited by the IEA raising its forecast for 2023 oil demand growth and stating that restrained OPEC+ production could bring a supply deficit in the second half of the year. However, the market breached its support at its previous low and \$77.42, the 38% retracement level off a low of \$72.25 to a high of \$80.62, as the EIA reported a larger than expected build in crude stocks of over 16 million barrels in the week ending February 10th. The build was the eighth consecutive weekly increase. The oil market traded to a low of \$77.25 by midday. The market later bounced off its low and retraced its earlier losses as the market discounted the large build in crude stocks due to a data adjustment. Analysts said a crude oil supply adjustment of 2 million bpd in the week ending February 10 $^{\rm th}$ from an adjustment of minus 700,000 bpd in the previous week contributed to the unusually large build. The March WTI contract ended the session down 47 cents at \$78.59 and the April Brent contract settled down 20 cents at \$85.38. The product markets ended mixed once again with the heating oil market settling down 9.57 cents \$2.8444 and the RB market settling up 93 points at \$2.4978. Technical Analysis: The market continues to trade within a range from \$72.00 to about \$83.00. It is seen trading mostly sideways following Wednesday's swings due to the crude stock data. The oil market is seen finding support at its low of \$77.25, \$76.52, \$76.44, its 50% retracement level, \$75.45, its 62% retracement followed by \$74.35 and \$72.25. Meanwhile, resistance is seen at its highs of \$79.15, \$79.61 and \$80.62. More distant upside is seen at \$82.48 and \$82.64-\$82.66.

Fundamental News: The EIA reported that U.S. crude stocks increased by 16.3 million barrels to 471.4 million barrels in the week ending February 10th, the highest level since June 2021. Crude stocks in the Gulf Coast increased by 14.5 million barrels on the week to 263.1 million barrels, the highest level since May 2021. Meanwhile, crude stocks in the East Coast fell by 600,000 barrels on the week to 6.9 million barrels, the lowest level since Junary 2022 and stocks in the Midwest increased by 2.2 million barrels on the week to 127.3 million barrels, the highest level since June 2021. The EIA also reported that total crude imports fell by 826,000 bpd on the week to 6.322 million bd. Crude oil imports in the Gulf Coast increased by 434,000 bpd to 1.724 million bpd, the highest level since September 2021.

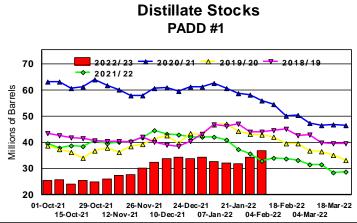
The International Energy Agency said China will account for 900,000 bpd or nearly half of this year's oil demand growth after it relaxed its COVID-19 curbs, but restrained OPEC+ production could mean a supply deficit in the second half. In its monthly report, the IEA said global oil demand is set to increase by 2 million bpd in 2023 to 101.9 million bpd, up 100,000 bpd from the previous month's forecast. The IEA also stated that global oil output is set to increase by 1.2 million bpd in 2023, driven by non-OPEC+ producers. It said "Supply from OPEC+ is projected to contract with Russia pressured by sanctions." It said "World oil supply looks set to exceed demand through the first half of 2023, but the balance could quickly shift to deficit as demand recovers and some Russian output is shut in." International sanctions on Russia aimed at depriving it of funds after it invaded Ukraine have so far had little impact on its oil exports, which in January were down by 160,000 bpd from pre-war levels. However, the IEA said that around 1 million bpd of production will be shut in by the end of the first quarter, following a European ban on seaborne imports and international price cap sanctions. The IEA reported that Russia's oil exports to the EU fell by 450,000 bpd from Inanuary.

Early Market Call - as of 8:30 AM EDT WTI - March \$78.54, down 5 cents RBOB - March \$2.4771, down 2.07 cents HO - March \$2.8225, down 2.19 cents

		ULSD (HO)	Prior Settle	Change In		
Month		Close	Change	One Week		
Mar-23		2.8444	-0.0957	-0.0489		
Apr-23		2.819	-0.0896	-0.0386		
May-23		2.7805	-0.0746	-0.0186		
Jun-23		2.7464	-0.0616	-0.0121		
Jul-23		2.7273	-0.0527	-0.013		
Aug-23		2.7172	-0.0455	-0.013		
Sep-23		2.7154	-0.0404	-0.0119		
Oct-23		2.7119	-0.0368	-0.0113		
Nov-23		2.7049	-0.0343	-0.0115		
Dec-23		2.6935	-0.0325	-0.0129		
Jan-24		2.6835	-0.0305	-0.0147		
Feb-24		2.6702	-0.029	-0.0171		
Mar-24		2.65	-0.0273	-0.0186		
Apr-24		2.6217	-0.0234	-0.0214		
May-24		2.6039	-0.0208	-0.0236		
Jun-24		2.5903	-0.0183	-0.0255		
Jul-24		2.5818	-0.0172	-0.0282		
Sprague HeatCurve October 2023-April 2024 \$2.6766						
	Close					
Crude - WTI	Apr Brent-	\$78.8300)	-\$0.4100		
Crude - Brent	WTI Spread	\$85.380		-\$0.2000		
Natural Gas	\$6.55	\$2.4710		-\$0.0960		
Gasoline		\$2.4978	3	\$0.0093		



Weekly EIA Petroleum Status Report for the Week Ending February 10, 2023



Overall U.S. Stats

Crude Oil Stocks(excluding SPR) Up 16.283 million barrels Cushing, OK Crude Stocks Up 659,000 barrels Gasoline Stocks Up 2.316 million barrels Distillate Stocks Down 1.285 million barrels Refinery % Operated 86.5%, down 1.4%

	<u>PADD #1</u>				
Distillate Stocks	Week Ending	Week Ending	Week Ending		
(in million bbl)	Feb 10, 2023	Feb 3, 2023	Feb 11, 2022		
New England	4.6	5.2	5.5		
Central Atlantic	16.7	15.9	17.1		
Total PADD #1 Distillate Imports	36.6	34.3	33.9		
(thousands b/d)	197	665	425		

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All NYMEX | Prior Settlements