

MarketWatch | Refined Products

Thursday, December 2, 2021

Market Commentary

All NYMEX | Prior Settlements

Recap: Oil futures gave back early gains, falling to a fresh three-month low after the EIA issued a bearish inventory report, as OPEC+ began a two day meeting to decide on supply plans for 2022 amid concerns the Covid-19 Omicron variant will reignite a waning pandemic. Some analysts said the group, known as OPEC+, may decide to pause their current deal to boost monthly output by 400,000 barrels per day, given the recent plunge in oil prices following the discovery of the new variant of coronavirus. January West Texas Intermediate crude fell 61 cents, or 0.9%, to settle at \$65.57 a barrel after touching an intraday high of \$69.49. Prices lost 5.4% on Tuesday. February Brent lost 36 cents, or 0.5%, to \$68.87 a barrel, following a 5.5% loss on Tuesday. November marked the biggest monthly declines for front-month WTI -- down 21% -- and Brent crude -- off 16% -- since March 2020, the start of the COVID-19 pandemic as per the World Health Organization. The following month, WTI crashed below zero dollars a barrel. January RBOB added a penny, to settle at \$1.951 a gallon, while January heating oil rose 0.8%, to \$2.077 a gallon.

<u>Technical Analysis</u>: The near-term outlook for the oil market has turned even more negative as Covid-19 omicron variant pops up in the U.S. The put skew -- or premium a buyer must pay to protect against a drop in prices versus a rise -- in West Texas Intermediate crude options is the biggest since May 2020. As of now, we would expect the market to wait on OPEC+ for its decision on Thursday and as a result, would expect to see little movement until then. Support is seen at \$61.74 and \$60. Resistance is seen at \$69.44 and above that at \$70.78.

<u>Fundamental News</u>: U.S. Deputy Energy Secretary, David Turk, told Reuters that the Biden administration could adjust the timing of its planned release of strategic crude oil stockpiles if global energy prices fall substantially. He added that other consumer nations that had agreed to release strategic reserves in concert with the United States to lower prices could also adjust their timing, if needed.

Republican senators introduced legislation that would require the administration to issue a plan on increasing domestic production before tapping the SPR for reasons other than a severe energy supply interruption.

OPEC and its allies will decide on Thursday whether to release more oil into the market or restrain supply. Three OPEC sources stated that Wednesday's meeting of OPEC ministers ended without any recommendation on output policy. Separately, an OPEC+ report states that the producer group sees the oil surplus worsening to 2 million bgd in January, 3.4 million bpd in February and 3.8 million bpd in March next year. The report said that it sees the impact of Omicron on the jet fuel market for now, particularly in Africa and Europe. It said mobility and transportation fuel demand within Europe may also be impacted by the virus variant.

Iraqi Oil Minister, Ihsan Abdul Jabbar, expects OPEC to agree on extending its current production policies over the short term. He said Iraq's stance will be aligned with the outcome of the next OPEC meeting.

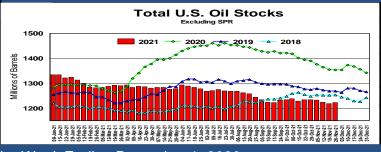
Angola's Oil Minister said OPEC+ must remain prudent and proactive.

IIR Energy reported that U.S. oil refiners are expected to shut in 285,000 bpd of capacity in the week ending Dec. 3, increasing available refining capacity by 29,000 bpd. Offline capacity is expected to remain the same at 285,000 bpd in the week ending December 10 th.

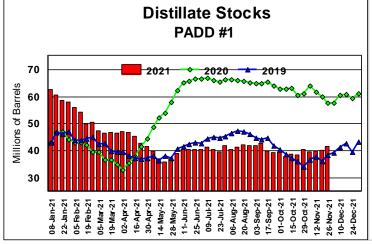
Early Market Call - as of 8:45 AM EDT WTI - Jan \$65.36, down 22 cents RBOB - Jan \$1.9510, down 1 point HO - Jan \$2.0820, up 49 points

	ULSD (HO)	Prior Settle	Change In
Month	Close	Change	One Week
Jan-22	2.0674	0.0071	-0.312
Feb-22	2.054	0.0012	-0.3183
Mar-22	2.0344	-0.0075	-0.3235
Apr-22	2.0218	-0.0024	-0.3135
May-22	2.016	0.0033	-0.3017
Jun-22	2.0147	0.0082	-0.2886
Jul-22	2.0145	0.0104	-0.2815
Aug-22	2.016	0.013	-0.2744
Sep-22	2.0179	0.0139	-0.2725
Oct-22	2.0187	0.0131	-0.2667
Nov-22	2.0184	0.0121	-0.2654
Dec-22	2.0178	0.0121	-0.264
Jan-23	2.0117	0.0066	-0.2672
Feb-23	2.0007	0.0019	-0.2688
Mar-23	1.9867	-0.0011	-0.2682
Apr-23	1.9805	0.0067	-0.2551
May-23	1.9775	0.01	-0.2461

Settlements				
		Close	Change	
Crude - WTI	Feb Brent-	\$65.3700	-\$0.4800	
Crude - Brent	WTI Spread	\$68.8700	-\$0.3600	
Natural Gas	\$3.50	\$4.2580	-\$0.3090	
Gasoline		\$1.9511	\$0.0110	



Weekly EIA Petroleum Status Report for the Week Ending December 1, 2020



Overall U.S. Stats

Crude Oil Stocks(excluding SPR) Down 909,000 barrels

Cushing, OK Crude Stocks Up 1.159 million barrels **Gasoline Stocks** Up 4.029 million barrels

Distillate Stocks Up 2.16 million barrels

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Refinery % Operated 88.8%, Up 0.2%

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Distillate Stocks	Week Ending	Week Ending	Week Ending
(in million bbls)	Nov 26, 2021	Nov 19, 2021	Nov 27, 2020
New England	7.2	7.6	11.8
Central Atlantic	21.3	19.8	33.3
Total PADD #1	41.6	40.2	57.6
Distillate Imports			
(thousands b/d)	220	295	575