

MarketWatch | Refined Products

Thursday, August 24, 2023

Market Commentary

Recap: The oil market sold off for the third consecutive day on Wednesday as a decline in euro zone business activity deepened more than expected in August and U.S. business activity approached the stagnation point in August, with growth at its weakest level since February. This was in addition to the concerns over China's economy and its impact on demand for commodities. The October WTI contract, on its first day as the spot contract, posted a high of \$79.91 in overnight trading before it extended its losses to over \$2 as it sold off to a low of \$77.62 ahead of the release of the EIA's weekly petroleum stocks report. It retraced more than 32% of its move from a low of \$67.42 to a high of \$84.16. The market retraced some of its earlier losses in light of the EIA report showing a larger than expected draw in crude stocks of over 6 million barrels. While the market retraced some of its losses, it still remained in negative territory as the weak economic data outweighed the draw in stocks and a Reuters news story stating that analysts expect Saudi Arabia to roll over its voluntary cut of 1 million bpd for a third consecutive month in October. The oil market traded mostly sideways during the remainder of the session, with the October WTI contract settling down 75 cents at \$78.89. The October Brent contract settled down 82 cents at \$83.21. The product markets settled in negative territory, with the heating oil market settling down 97 points at \$3.1291 and the RB market settling down 2.03 cents at \$2.7688.

Technical Analysis: The oil market will likely trade sideways as it looks for hints on the outlook for interest rates when Federal Reserve officials and policymakers from the European Central Bank, the Bank of England and the Bank of Japan gather for an annual meeting in Jackson Hole, Wyoming on Thursday. The market is seen finding support at its low of \$77.62, \$76.61, \$76.16 and \$75.79. Meanwhile, resistance is seen at its high of \$79.91, \$80.37, \$80.72 and \$81.75.

Fundamental News: Analysts said Saudi Arabia will likely roll over a voluntary oil cut of 1 million bpd for a third consecutive month into October, amid uncertainty about supplies and as the kingdom targets drawing down global inventories further. Earlier this month, Riyadh extended its voluntary cut into September, with the energy ministry saying that it could be "extended, or extended and deepened". Two analysts, brokerage PVM Oil's John Evans and Saxo Bank's Ole Hansen, said a possible resumption of oil production from Iraq's Kurdistan region may prompt Riyadh to withhold additional supplies to the market for now. Iraq and Turkey held talks this week to resume about 450,000 bpd of exports from northern Iraq which Turkey had halted in late March, but an agreement is yet to be reached. Meanwhile, UBS global oil inventories fall further from their current levels.

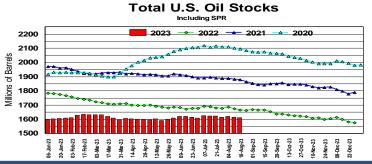
Iran's Oil Minister, Javad Owji said Iran's crude oil output will reach 3.4 million bpd by the end of September, despite U.S. sanctions remaining in place.

Goldman Sachs sees less of a downside risk to oil prices from higher -than-expected inventories, noting that lower OECD commercial stocks could add \$2 to its end -2023 Brent outlook of \$86/barrel. OECD commercial stocks were 30 million barrels lower in August than it had previously forecast.

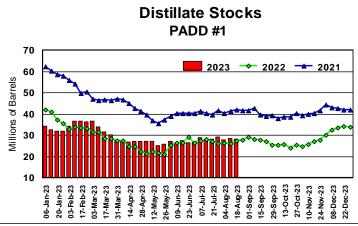
IIR Energy reported that U.S. oil refiners are expected to shut in about 382,000 bpd of capacity in the week ending August 25th, cutting available refining capacity by 175,000 bpd. Offline capacity is expected to increase to 402,000 bpd in the week ending September 1 st.

Early Market Call - as of 8:20 AM EDT WTI - October \$78.94, up 5 cents RBOB - September \$2.7885, up 1.97 cents HO - September \$3.1460, up 1.67 cents

		ULSD (HO)	Prior Settle	Change In		
Month		Close	Change	One Week		
Sep-23		3.1291	-0.0097	0.1082		
Oct-23		3.1021	-0.0104	0.1051		
Nov-23		3.0221	-0.0091	0.0860		
Dec-23		2.9227	-0.0098	0.0665		
Jan-24		2.8678	-0.0091	0.0535		
Feb-24		2.8235	-0.0089	0.0445		
Mar-24		2.7728	-0.0089	0.0349		
Apr-24		2.7162	-0.0095	0.0250		
May-24		2.6820	-0.0093	0.0222		
Jun-24		2.6587	-0.0098	0.0217		
Jul-24		2.6496	-0.0099	0.0195		
Aug-24		2.6427	-0.0099	0.0180		
Sep-24		2.6363	-0.0098	0.0176		
Oct-24		2.6269	-0.0094	0.0167		
Nov-24		2.6140	-0.0089	0.0164		
Dec-24		2.5985	-0.0077	0.0173		
Jan-25		2.5832	-0.0063	0.0183		
Sprague HeatCurve October 2023-April 2024 \$2.8757						
		Change				
Crude - WTI	Oct Brent-	\$78.8900)	-\$0.7500		
Crude - Brent	WTI Spread	\$83.210)	-\$0.8200		
Natural Gas	\$4.32	\$2.4970		-\$0.0630		
Gasoline		\$2.7688	3	-\$0.0203		



Weekly EIA Petroleum Status Report for the Week Ending August 11, 2023



Overall U.S. Stats

Crude Oil Stocks(excluding SPR) Down 6.134 million barrels Cushing, OK Crude Stocks Down 3.133 million barrels Gasoline Stocks Up 1.468 million barrels Distillate Stocks Up 945,000 barrels Refinery % Operated 94.5%, down 0.2% PADD #1

Distillate Stocks (in million bbl)	Week Ending August 18, 2023	Week Ending August 11, 2023	Week Ending August 19, 2022
New England	3.0	3.1	3.1
Central Atlantic	15.1	13.8	11.5
Total PADD #1	28.3	28.5	27.5
Distillate Imports			
(thousands b/d)	70	96	114

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All NYMEX | Prior Settlements