MarketWatch | Refined Products

Monday, August 17, 2026

Market Commentary

Recap: The oil market posted an inside trading day and ended the session higher ahead of the weekend as the market remained concerned about situation in the Middle East and disruptions to crude supplies. Shipping traffic through the Strait of Hormuz has fallen below the month's average as both the U.S. and Iran make claims over control of the waterway, as well as renewed attacks on tankers transiting the strait. The market was well supported after the U.S. on Thursday stated that it could maintain a naval blockade of Iran indefinitely and increase economic pressure on Iran as the ceasefire talks have stalled. The crude market posted the day's trading range in overnight trading, as it continued to hold support over the $80 level, posting a low of $80.71 and later rallied to a high of $82.99. The market later settled in a sideways trading range during the remainder of the session. The September WTI contract settled up $1.15 at $82.40 and the October Brent contract settled up $1.45 at $88.52. The product markets ended the session higher, with the heating oil market settling up 3.23 cents at $4.2829 and the RB market settling up 5.61 cents at $3.1841.

Technical Analysis: The crude market will remain supported as talks to end the war with Iran remain stalled and both the U.S. and Iran continue to claim control over the Strait of Hormuz, which will keep shipping traffic through the waterway limited. The market will also remain supported by renewed attacks on tankers, with the UAE condemning Iranian attacks on two vessels on Thursday. The oil market is seen finding resistance at $80.71, $83.30, $83.87, $84.35, $84.61, $86.14 and $86.87 to $87.68. Further upside is seen at $92.83 and $93.50. Meanwhile, support is seen at $80.71, $80.09, $77.79, $76.53, $74.57 and $74.24.

Fundamental News: The United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations agency said a tanker was struck by an uncrewed aerial vehicle while making an outbound transit of the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday. The vessel sustained minor damage, while all crew were reported safe and accounted for, with no environmental impact reported.

Shipping traffic at the Strait of Hormuz fell below the month average towards the end of the week due to volatile sentiment between the United States and Iran, with both countries making competing claims over its control. Commodity vessel transits at Hormuz increased slightly on Thursday, but remained lower than the month's daily average of 12, based on Kpler data in August so far. According to Kpler data, a total of nine vessels transited the strait on Thursday, up from five the previous day. The nine vessels included five entries heading into the Gulf and four exits into the Gulf of Oman, mostly via the Iranian shipping route. Shipping risk persisted, with Abu Dhabi National Oil Company stating that two of its vessels were attacked while transiting the Strait of Hormuz on Thursday evening, with no injuries reported, as the United Arab Emirates accused Iran of carrying out the attack. Meanwhile, Kpler data showed that 19 commodity vessels passed through the Bab el-Mandeb Strait on Thursday with their transponders on, relatively unchanged from 20 on the previous day.

Baker Hughes said U.S. energy firms this week added rigs for the second time in three weeks. The total oil and gas rig count increased by five to 593 in the week ending August 14 th, its highest level since March 2025. Baker Hughes said oil rigs increased by one to 455 this week, their highest level since May 2025, while gas rigs increased by four to 128, their highest level since May 2026, and other miscellaneous rigs were unchanged at 10.

IIR Energy said U.S. oil refiners are expected to shut in about 163,000 bpd of capacity in the week ending August 14th, unchanged on the week. Offline capacity is expected to remain unchanged at 163,000 bpd in the week ending August 21 st.

Early Market Call - as of 9:05 AM EDT

WTI - Sep $82.77, up 37 cents

RBOB - Sep $3.1726, down 62 points

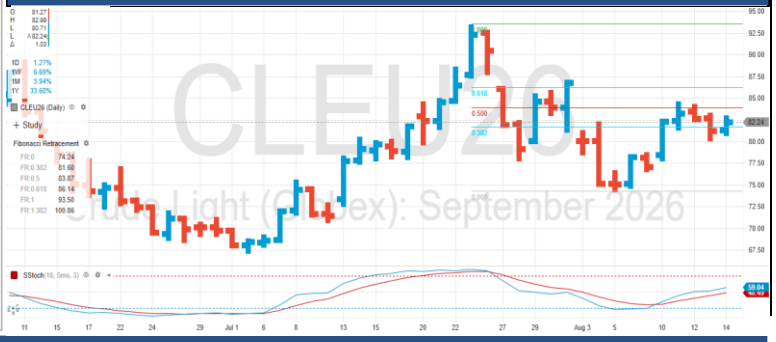
HO - Sep $4.3401, up 5.64 cents

All NYMEX | Prior Settlements

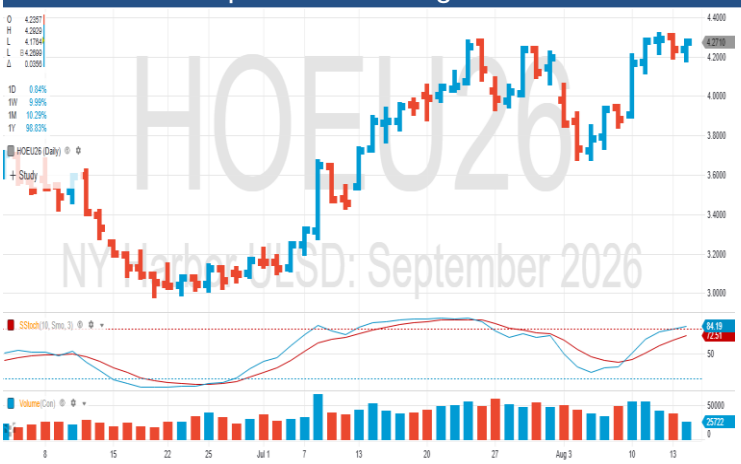
	ULSD (HO) Close	Prior Settle Change	Change In One Week
Sep-26	4.2829	0.0323	0.3805
Oct-26	4.1647	0.0330	0.3416
Nov-26	4.0270	0.0281	0.3124
Dec-26	3.8681	0.0271	0.2854
Jan-27	2.7547	-0.9761	-0.7366
Feb-27	3.6544	0.0218	0.2436
Mar-27	3.5429	0.0199	0.2228
Apr-27	3.4249	0.0183	0.2019
May-27	3.3307	0.0171	0.1831
Jun-27	3.2552	0.0167	0.1678
Jul-27	3.2062	0.0169	0.1572
Aug-27	3.1669	0.0175	0.1494
Sep-27	3.1363	0.0184	0.1437
Oct-27	3.1088	0.0199	0.1402
Nov-27	3.0774	0.0224	0.1376
Dec-27	3.0436	0.0254	0.1363
Jan-27	3.0178	0.0259	0.1317
Sprague HeatCurve October 2026-April 2027			**$3.5448**

		Close	Change
Crude - WTI	**Oct Brent-WTI Spread $7.05**	$81.4700	$1.0300
Crude - Brent		$88.5200	$1.4500
Natural Gas		$2.7330	$0.0060
Gasoline		$3.1841	$0.0561

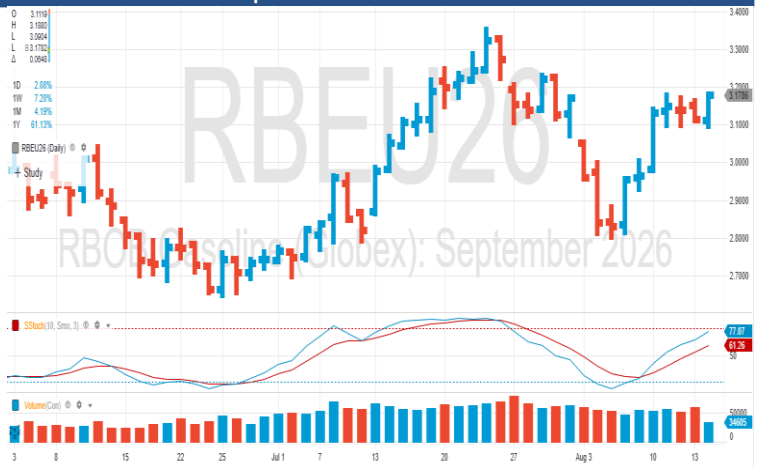
September WTI



September Heating Oil



September RBOB



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