

Highlights

U.S. crude oil refinery inputs for the 4-week period ending August 31, 2001 were 374,000 barrels per day less than the same 4-week period a year ago, despite a significant increase last week from the week ending August 24, 2001. However, as sometimes evident in weekly data, refinery production for motor gasoline, distillate fuel oil, and residual fuel oil were all down last week compared to the previous week, even with the increase seen in crude oil refinery inputs.

The 4-week average for total crude oil imports remained relatively stable, but crude oil imports last week fell over 1.1 million barrels per day from the previous week. Although weekly import data by country are preliminary and vary from week to week, it appears that the large decline in crude oil imports did not reflect ongoing low imports from Iraq. Iraqi imports appear to have finally returned to more typical levels, after being substantially down for the last 6 weeks as a result of Iraq's oil export cutoff in June. Total product imports increased about 200,000 barrels per day last week compared to the previous week, with a sizeable increase in motor gasoline imports.

As a result of the large decline in crude oil imports last week, crude oil stocks decreased by 2 million barrels, resuming a downward trend evident since July 27 that was briefly interrupted during the week ending August 24, 2001. Stocks in the critically important Midwest region (PADD II) remained relatively flat and below 60 million barrels. U.S. motor gasoline stocks fell 1.2 million barrels last week, continuing a trend apparent since early July. From the end of June to the week ending August 31, 2001, motor gasoline stocks have fallen 25.4 million barrels, the largest such decline ever for July and August

combined. Meanwhile, total distillate fuel oil stocks, which normally build this time of year, declined by 0.3 million barrels last week.

Motor gasoline demand averaged 8.8 million barrels per day over the most recent 4-week period, despite averaging somewhat less last week. For the year to date, motor gasoline demand is averaging 1.4 percent more than for the same period of time last year. Meanwhile, distillate fuel oil demand averaged a strong 3.8 million barrels per day over the 4-week period ending August 31, 2001, and is averaging over 7 percent more this year to date than for the same period of time last year.

The average world crude oil price on August 31, 2001 was \$25.07 per barrel, an increase of \$0.58 from the previous week but \$6.03 less than last year. WTI was \$26.65 per barrel on August 31, 2001, \$1.69 less than the previous week and \$6.77 below last year. The spot price for conventional gasoline in the New York Harbor was 78.65 cents per gallon, down 4.55 cents from last week and 12.03 cents lower than last year. The spot price for diesel fuel in the New York Harbor on August 31, 2001 was 78.43 cents per gallon, 2.08 cents more than one week ago but 18.90 cents lower than last year.

The national average retail regular gasoline price increased for a fourth consecutive week. The price was 154.5 cents per gallon on September 3, 2001, rising 5.7 cents from last week and 1.5 cents higher than a year ago. The national average retail diesel fuel price on September 3, 2001 climbed for the fourth straight week to 148.8 cents per gallon, rising 3.6 cents from last week but 12.1 cents less than last year.

Refinery Activity (Million Barrels per Day)

	Four Weeks Ending		
	08/31/01	08/24/01	08/31/00
Crude Oil Input to Refineries.....	15.3	15.2	15.6
Refinery Capacity Utilization (Percent) .	92.6	92.5	95.8
Motor Gasoline Production.....	8.2	8.3	8.3
Distillate Fuel Oil Production.....	3.7	3.8	3.7

See Table 2.

Products Supplied (Million Barrels per Day)

	Four Weeks Ending		
	08/31/01	08/24/01	08/31/00
Motor Gasoline.....	8.8	8.9	8.9
Distillate Fuel Oil.....	3.8	3.9	3.7
All Other Products.....	7.5	7.1	7.8
Total	20.1	19.9	20.5

See Table 9.

Stocks (Million Barrels)

	Week Ending		
	08/31/01	08/24/01	08/31/00
Crude Oil (Excluding SPR).....	302.5	304.5	287.1
Motor Gasoline.....	194.7	195.9	194.9
Distillate Fuel Oil ¹	120.4	120.7	110.7
All Other Oils.....	383.6	382.2	368.0
Crude Oil in SPR ²	543.7	543.7	571.3
Total	1,544.9	1,547.0	1,532.0

See Table 3.

Prices (Cents per Gallon except as noted)

	Week Ending		
	08/31/01	08/24/01	09/01/00
World Crude Oil (Dollars per Barrel)	25.07	24.49	31.10
Spot Prices			
WTI Crude Oil - Cushing (Dollars per Barrel).....	26.65	28.34	33.42
Conv. Regular Gasoline - NYH.....	78.65	83.20	90.68
RFG Regular - NYH.....	79.80	83.40	96.95
No. 2 Heating Oil - NYH.....	76.30	74.45	97.60
No. 2 Low-sulfur Diesel Fuel - NYH.....	78.43	76.35	97.33
Kerosene-Type Jet - NYH.....	81.03	79.85	102.60
Residual Fuel - NYH.....	49.12	47.81	62.21
Propane - Mont Belvieu.....	40.75	41.13	65.13
	09/03/01	08/27/01	09/04/00

Retail Prices			
	09/03/01	08/27/01	09/04/00
Motor Gasoline - Regular.....	154.5	148.8	153.0
Conventional Areas.....	153.8	148.0	150.2
RFG Areas.....	155.9	150.5	160.5
On-Highway Diesel Fuel.....	148.8	145.2	160.9

See Tables 12-14 and 16.

Net Imports (Million Barrels per Day)

	Four Weeks Ending		
	08/31/01	08/24/01	08/31/00
Crude Oil.....	8.6	8.7	9.9
Petroleum Products.....	1.2	1.2	1.2
Total	9.8	9.9	11.1

See Table 1.

Data for the week ending August 31 reflects benchmarking to the June *Petroleum Supply Monthly* values.

¹ Distillate fuel oil stocks located in the "Northeast Heating Oil Reserve" are not included. For details see Appendix D.

² Crude oil stocks in the SPR include non-U.S. stocks held under foreign or commercial storage agreements.

Note: Data may not add to total due to independent rounding.