

Highlights

Although U.S. crude oil refinery inputs have now averaged below 15 million barrels per day for 6 weeks in a row, they continue to be higher than average for this time of year. With last year's crude oil inputs unusually high, on the surface it may appear that crude oil refinery inputs are currently low by comparison. However, considering how high product inventories have been in recent weeks, crude oil inputs are surprisingly high. Crude oil refinery inputs in the Gulf Coast (PADD III), the major refining center in the world, averaged 7.4 million barrels per day last week, the highest ever weekly average in January. Meanwhile, jet fuel refinery production continues to increase, with the most recent 4-week average nearly 95 percent of the 4-week average ending September 7.

Crude oil imports have averaged 8.5 million barrels per day over the last 4 weeks, or about 6 percent below the comparable period last year. Total product imports have averaged 2.1 million barrels per day over the last 4 weeks, with motor gasoline imports (including blending components for gasoline) averaging 770,000 barrels per day over this period. Distillate fuel imports have averaged only 248,000 barrels per day over the last 4 weeks, much less than the 447,000 or 778,000 barrels per day that was averaged in December 2000 and January 2001, respectively.

Despite crude oil imports decreasing last week from the previous week and refinery inputs increasing, crude oil inventories rose by 1.0 million barrels to 312.1 million barrels. Overall, distillate fuel inventories decreased by 0.3 million barrels, with a 3.1 million barrel draw in high-sulfur distillate fuel (often referred to as heating oil), nearly offset by a 2.9 million barrel increase in low-sulfur distillate fuel (often referred to

as diesel fuel). Low-sulfur distillate fuel inventories are now above 80 million barrels for the first time ever. Motor gasoline inventories rose by 2.8 million barrels to 210.5 million barrels.

With colder weather seen in parts of the United States over the last few weeks, distillate fuel demand (defined as the amount supplied into the distillate fuel market) has averaged over 3.8 million barrels per day in 3 out of the last 4 weeks. Motor gasoline demand over the last 2 weeks has been down considerably, yet the 4-week average of 8.6 million barrels per day is 1.7 percent above the amount in the same period a year ago.

The average world crude oil price on January 11, 2002 was \$19.55 per barrel, up \$0.41 from the previous week but \$4.02 less than last year. WTI was \$19.67 per barrel, down \$1.80 from last week and \$10.40 less than last year. The spot price for conventional gasoline in the New York Harbor was 53.78 cents per gallon, down 6.32 cents from last week and 34.92 cents lower than last year. The spot price for heating oil in the New York Harbor on January 11, 2002 was 53.45 cents per gallon, 4.80 cents lower than last week and 30.85 cents less than a year ago.

The national average retail regular gasoline price dipped slightly to 111.1 cents per gallon on January 14, 2002, down 0.1 cent per gallon from last week and 36.30 cents per gallon lower than a year ago. The national average retail diesel fuel price fell for a second straight week, reaching 115.9 cents per gallon on January 14, 2002. This was 0.9 cent per gallon less than last week and 35.0 cents per gallon lower than a year ago.

Refinery Activity (Million Barrels per Day)

	Four Weeks Ending		
	01/11/02	01/04/02	01/11/01
Crude Oil Input to Refineries.....	14.8	14.8	15.1
Refinery Capacity Utilization (Percent) .	89.4	89.3	92.5
Motor Gasoline Production.....	8.2	8.2	8.2
Distillate Fuel Oil Production.....	3.7	3.8	3.8

See Table 2.

Stocks (Million Barrels)

	Week Ending		
	01/11/02	01/04/02	01/11/01
Crude Oil (Excluding SPR).....	312.1	311.1	288.3
Motor Gasoline.....	210.5	207.7	199.0
Distillate Fuel Oil ¹	141.9	142.2	118.1
All Other Oils.....	350.7	354.5	324.3
Crude Oil in SPR ²	551.3	550.2	541.0
Total	1,566.5	1,565.7	1,470.7

See Table 3.

Net Imports (Million Barrels per Day)

	Four Weeks Ending		
	01/11/02	01/04/02	01/11/01
Crude Oil.....	8.5	8.5	9.1
Petroleum Products.....	1.3	1.3	2.0
Total	9.7	9.9	11.0

See Table 1.

Products Supplied (Million Barrels per Day)

	Four Weeks Ending		
	01/11/02	01/04/02	01/11/01
Motor Gasoline.....	8.6	8.7	8.5
Distillate Fuel Oil.....	3.7	3.8	4.3
All Other Products.....	7.4	7.5	7.8
Total	19.7	19.9	20.5

See Table 9.

Prices (Cents per Gallon except as noted)

	Week Ending		
	01/11/02	01/04/02	01/12/01
World Crude Oil (Dollars per Barrel)	19.55	19.14	23.57
Spot Prices			
WTI Crude Oil - Cushing (Dollars per Barrel).....	19.67	21.47	30.07
Conv. Regular Gasoline - NYH.....	53.78	60.10	88.70
RFG Regular - NYH.....	55.85	61.88	92.33
No. 2 Heating Oil - NYH.....	53.45	58.25	84.30
No. 2 Low-sulfur Diesel Fuel - NYH.....	53.50	58.55	87.15
Kerosene-Type Jet - NYH.....	55.95	59.98	85.15
Residual Fuel - NYH.....	38.76	41.43	61.90
Propane - Mont Belvieu.....	28.88	30.38	83.25

	01/14/02	01/07/02	01/15/01
	Retail Prices		
Motor Gasoline - Regular.....	111.1	111.2	147.4
Conventional Areas.....	109.9	110.9	145.8
RFG Areas.....	113.4	111.7	151.1
On-Highway Diesel Fuel.....	115.9	116.8	150.9

See Tables 12-14 and 16.

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.

Notes: • NA=Not Available. • Data may not add to total due to independent rounding.