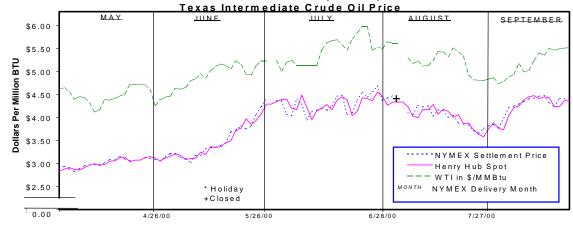


Energy Information Administration Office of Oil and Gas August 21, 2000

http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/natural_gas/nat_frame.html

NYMEX Natural Gas Future Price, Henry Hub Spot Price, and West

Henry Hub Price						
Spo	t	Futures				
Aug	Sept					
Deliv	Delivery					
(\$ per MMBtu)						
08/14 08/15 08/16 08/17 08/18	4.40-4.46 4.22-4.26 4.21-4.26 4.35-4.38 4.37-4.40	4.318 4.234 4.413 4.406 4.436				



Note: The Henry Hub spot price is from the GAS DAILY and is the midpoint of their high and low price for a day. The West Texas Intermediate crude oil price, in dollars per barrel, is the "sell price" from the GAS DAILY, and is converted to \$/MMBtu using a conversion factor of 5.80 MMBtu per barrel. The dates marked by vertical lines are the NYMEX near-month contract settlement dates.

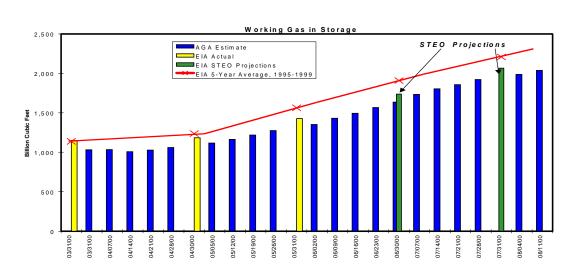
Daily Average of High Temperatures, and Daily Highest and Lowest High Temperatures for 6 Cities

Average High Temperature for Six Major Electricity **Consuming Cities** Actual Normal Diff 2 08/12 90 88 08/13 89 88 1 08/14 2 90 88 08/15 93 89 4 08/16 89 5 94 08/17 93 89 4 08/18 90 89 3

120 -			(Dallas/Ft		n ie oustor								New `	York)				
100								× 1										
Degrees Fahrenheit	⊕			2	2			•				aily Ave	erage l	High		7	0	† - -
20 -										× D. ♦ H Δ L(EXPEC ALLAS OUSTO OS AN IAMI	TED F /FT W G O N G E L E S R L E A N	RANGE ORTH					
6/15/00	6/18/00	6/24/00	00/02/00 mputed by	00/9//	00/6/2	7/12/00	7/15/00	7/18/00	7/21/00	7/24/00	7/27/00	2/30/00	8/2/00	8/5/00	8/8/00	8/11/00	8/14/00	8/17/00

The bounds are computed by adding to and subtracting from the daily average high temperatures for the last 10 years an amount equal to twice an estimate of the standard deviation for high temperatures for each day.

Working Gas Volume as of 08/11/00						
	Bcf	% Full				
East	1157	63				
West	367	72				
Prod Area	513	54				
U. S.	2037	62				
Source: AGA						



Spot and futures prices came down slightly overall last week as forecasts for the arrival of warmer temperatures in the Midwest and Northeast and for production-threatening tropical storms were not realized. However, severe heat continued pretty much unabated for much of the Gulf Coast, and, after a brief respite the previous week, high temperatures returned to much of California and the Southwest. A cumulative drop of nearly 25 cents through Tuesday off the settlement price of the NYMEX futures contract for September delivery was nearly offset by a jump of \$0.179 on Wednesday, after the American Gas Association (AGA) announced estimated net injections into storage of only 42 Bcf. For the week (Friday to Friday), the September NYMEX contract lost \$0.039, settling Friday, August 18 at \$4.436 per MMBtu. At the Henry Hub, cash prices were down or flat through Wednesday, then recorded a 13-cent gain on Thursday, driven primarily by the Wednesday recovery in the futures market. For the week, Henry Hub spot gas was down 6 cents, ending trading on Friday at \$4.39 per MMBtu. The price of West Texas Intermediate crude oil hovered just under \$32.00 per barrel (\$5.52 per MMBtu) throughout the week, finally reaching that price on Friday, a gain of just \$0.95 per barrel from Friday, August 11.

Storage: U.S. natural gas inventories stood at an estimated 2,133 Bcf as of Friday, August 11, or just over 7 percent (171 Bcf) below the 5-year average for this point in the refill season (traditionally, April 1-October 31). For the week ending August 11, 2000, AGA estimated that net injections to storage were 42 Bcf, nearly all of which occurred in East Coast facilities. (AGA's estimate of total inventories actually increased 52 Bcf, because of one Producing region company's correction of 10 Bcf to its previously reported working gas levels.) The net injection rate of 6.0 Bcf per day for the week ending August 11 is 33 percent below the 5-year average for August of 8.9 Bcf per day. With less than 3 months remaining in the refill season, weekly net additions must become significantly higher or inventories on November 1 will be at record low levels.

Spot Prices: Last Monday's trading saw losses of a few cents at most producing-area trading points in Midwest and Midcontinent markets as cooler-than-normal temperatures prevailed, while the beginning of the downward price trend lagged a day in the Northeast. Losses increased to 10-20 cents on Tuesday, as forecasted hot weather for the Northeast and Midwest did not develop, rainfall from former Tropical Storm Beryl cooled south Texas a bit, and markets digested Monday's near 16-cent drop of the NYMEX September contract. Wednesday price movements were mixed, with most Northeast points continuing down, while Thursday's prices were uniformly up, by as much as 20 cents or more at some points, getting a boost from Wednesday's jump on the futures market. By contrast, with the heat wave's return, prices in California were on an upward path again. However, prices were strongest in the Rockies, as the increased demand in California, maintenance actions at both a key regional compressor station and processing plant, and storage capacity tightness led to daily increases throughout the week. By Friday, prices in the Rockies averaged \$3.30 per MMBtu, up about 41 cents from the previous Friday. Gains in California ranged from about 5 cents in the north to around \$4.60 per MMBtu, and to about 19 cents in the south to around \$4.90. Conversely, Northeast points dropped 7-12 cents to \$4.50-\$4.60 plus, and Chicago citygates were down about 6 cents to around \$4.45.

Futures Prices: Last Monday, futures prices gave up much of their gains of the previous week, as it became apparent that Tropical Storm Beryl and Hurricane Alberto would not threaten Gulf production. Price declines continued on Tuesday, as it also became apparent that the previous week's National Weather Service forecasts for hot weather to blanket the Midwest and Northeast were less and less likely. The September NYMEX futures contract traded as low as \$4.21 per MMBtu on Tuesday before settling at \$4.234. But, as has happened in 2 of the last 3 weeks, AGA's release of a lower-than-expected net storage injection estimate sent futures contracts for all delivery months through March 2001 up sharply, by 10 cents or more, with the September contract recording a gain of \$0.179 to settle at \$4.413 per MMBtu. The final 2 trading days of the week were comparatively placid, as no further significant market developments occurred. The September contract ended the week on a tiny upswing of 3 cents per MMBtu, but for the week was down, although by only \$0.039, to \$4.436.

Summary: Early-week downward price movements were largely offset by late-week upturns, leaving futures and most spot prices slightly down for the week, except for western and Rockies prices that bucked this trend. Continued cooler-than-normal temperatures in the Midwest and Northeast may result in relatively higher storage injections for the week. Absent a resumption of higher net injections, gas inventories entering next winter will be at record lows.