





Source: SMC Research & Reuters



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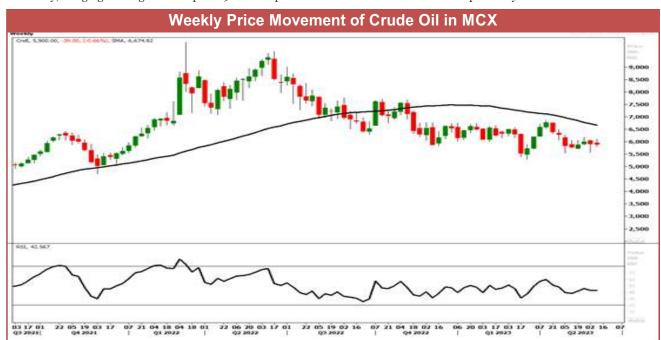
In May, oil prices experienced a significant decline of over 11% as the market grappled with concerns surrounding supply and renewed economic worries in the United States and China. There was mounting apprehension that the United States, being the largest oil consumer globally, could potentially enter a recession. Weak manufacturing data from China, the world's largest crude importer, raised fears about oil demand growth in the second half of the year. This sentiment was fuelled by postponed talks over the U.S. government's debt ceiling and growing concerns regarding a crisis-hit regional bank. In the U.S., field production of crude oil rose in March to 12.696 million barrels per day, the highest since March 2020, when the coronavirus pandemic began to decimate global energy demand, Energy Information Administration data showed.

Outlook

- The recent volatility in oil prices may continue on fears of global recession, high inflation and as well as on-going geopolitical developments.
- Fears of a global recession, which could stymie oil demand this year, have kept oil prices depressed despite multiple efforts from the OPEC to reduce supply and improve prices.



- Weak Chinese trade data spurred more fears of slowing demand in the country as China's trade surplus sank to a 13-month low in May, driven chiefly by a surprise drop in exports as foreign demand for Chinese goods dried up. Imports also fell, signaling weak economic trends in the world's largest oil importer.
- The U.S. Energy Information Administration said that oil markets will tighten in the second half of the year as supply cuts by Saudi Arabia and the OPEC+ go into effect, somewhat supporting prices. The agency expects Brent to trend just below \$80 by end-2023.
- The Energy Information Administration projected U.S. crude output will rise from 11.9 million bpd in 2022 to 12.6 million bpd in 2023 and 12.8 million bpd in 2024, That compares with a record 12.3 million bpd in 2019.
- Saudi Arabia, the world's top oil exporter, raised the prices of its flagship crude Arab Light to Asian buyers in July to a six-month high, following its pledge to make a deep cut to its production next month.
- The official selling price for July-loading Arab Light to Asia was increased by 45 cents a barrel from June to \$3.00 a barrel over Oman/Dubai quotes, according to a statement issued by state oil giant Saudi Aramco.
- Saudi Arabia unexpectedly announced its biggest reduction in years of an extra output reduction of 1 million barrels per day (bpd) in July, bringing the kingdom's output to 9 million bpd next month from around 10 million bpd in May.



Weekly Price Movement of Crude Oil in MCX 72 63 07 21 04 18 04 18 01 22 06 20 03 17 01 22 05 19 02 16 07 21 04 18 02

Source: Reuters

In June 2023, Crude oil prices may trade with high volatility within the range of 5500-6200 where buying near support and sell near resistance would be strategy.



Natural gas

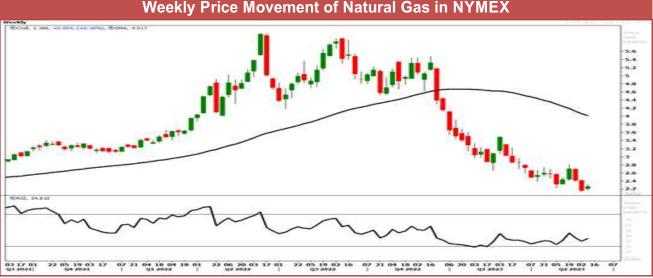
In May, natural gas prices slipped almost 6% lower on NYMEX and almost 3.5% on MCX due to high production, subdued demand for LNG, or liquefied natural gas, and weak demand for cooling forced by unseasonably mild pre-summer weather. Pleasant temperatures across most of the United States resulted in very light national demand for natural gas. EIA reported that total gas in underground caverns in the United States for the week ended May 26 stood at 2.446 trillion cubic feet, or tcf — up 29.5% from the year-ago level of 1.889 tcf and 16.6% higher than the five-year average of 2.097 tcf.

Outlook

- In terms of supply, gas output in the U.S. Lower 48 states reached a new record of 102.5 billion cubic feet per day (bcfd) in May, surpassing the previous monthly all-time high. Additionally, gas flows from Canada to the United States were expected to increase to a near four-month high of 9.7 bcfd, with exports to Mexico on track to set a new record as well.
- The second half of June into early July suggests that consistent heat isn't too far off into the future and once that heat materializes, demand will rebound.
- Natural gas prices will rise this summer as power sector demand increases and production growth slows, according to updated projections from the Energy Information Administration (EIA).
- Meteorologists predict that weather in the Lower 48 states will remain mostly near normal until mid-June when it is expected to turn warmer than normal. This shift in weather patterns is likely to increase gas demand, including exports, in the coming weeks. Refinitiv forecasts indicate a rise in U.S. gas demand to 93.3 bcfd, reflecting the seasonal shift in temperatures.



Source: Reuters



Source: Reuter

In June 2023, MCX Natural gas Prices may witness some pullback and may target 220. However overall the prices may trade with bearish bias with high volatility where resistance is seen near 220 and support is seen near 160.



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