Crude Oil

U.S. crude oil prices decreased $2.65, or 2 percent, to $103.85 per barrel in the past month and stand 7 percent higher compared to this time last year.

- At the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), crude oil futures for September delivery ended $1.26, or 1.2 percent, lower on August 21 to close at $103.85 per barrel, after minutes of the Federal Reserve’s July policy meeting signaled a likely reduction in economic stimulus this year.

- The record of the July 30-31 session showed members of the Federal Open Market Committee were “broadly comfortable” with Chairman Bernanke’s plan to start cutting the $85 billion in bond purchases per month later this year if the economy continues to improve.

- Compared to this time last year, the U.S. crude oil futures settlement price of $103.85 is $6.59, or 7 percent, higher.

- Total petroleum products supplied to market over the last four-week period averaged 19.4 million barrels per day (MMB/D), up by 1.2 percent compared to the similar period last year. According to the August 21 Energy Information Administration (EIA) weekly fuels report, U.S. oil inventories decreased 1.4 MMB at 359.1 MMB. U.S. crude supplies are now 1.7 MMB lower than at this time last year.
- Crude imports increased 34,000 barrels per day (B/D) from the prior week at 7.9 MMB/D. Imports at this time last year averaged 8.2 MMB/D.

- U.S. refinery crude runs increased, with refiners processing 15.8 MMB/D of crude. U.S. refinery capacity use was 90.9 percent, up 1.5 percent from the prior week and down 0.3 percent compared to this time last year.

- Gasoline output increased at 9.3 MMB/D on the week and was up 251,000 B/D compared to the production level at this time last year. Distillate output was up slightly on the week at 4.9 MMB/D, an increase of about 35,000 B/D, and stands 157,000 B/D higher compared to the production level at this time last year.

**Transportation Fuels**

On August 20, Missouri’s statewide average retail price for gasoline was about $3.36 per gallon, down 12.2 cents in the past month and down 19.5 cents in the past year.

### Regular Unleaded Gasoline - Retail Prices (cents per gallon)

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<th>08-20-12</th>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
<td>362.2</td>
<td>363.9</td>
<td>down 0%</td>
<td>374.4</td>
<td>down 3%</td>
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<td>336.2</td>
<td>348.4</td>
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### Diesel Fuel - Retail Prices (cents per gallon)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>US</td>
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<tr>
<td>Missouri</td>
<td>369.1</td>
<td>367.1</td>
<td>up 1%</td>
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<td>down 5%</td>
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- On August 20, Missouri’s average retail price for gasoline was about $3.36 per gallon, a decrease of 12.2 cents in the past month. The average price for diesel fuel was up by 2.0 cents per gallon in the past month. Missouri’s average retail gasoline price is 19.5 cents, or 5 percent, lower, while the average retail diesel fuel price is 17.8 cents, or 5 percent, lower for the comparable period in August 2012.

- The U.S. average price for regular gasoline was down by 1.7 cents, or less than 1.0 percent, per gallon compared to last month at $3.62 per gallon. The U.S. average was down by 12.2 cents compared to this time last year. In the past week, the U.S. average decreased by 1.1 cents per gallon.

- Gasoline imports decreased by 141,000 B/D from the prior week at 0.4 MMB/D. Imports are 406,000 B/D lower than last year at this time.
• Implied demand for gasoline was unchanged at 9.2 MMB/D from the prior week and stands about 119,000 B/D higher compared to this time last year. In the past four weeks, U.S. gasoline demand has averaged about 9.2 MMB/D, an increase of 184,000 B/D compared to the same four-week period last year.

• U.S. gasoline supplies decreased 4.0 MMB at 218.4 MMB on the week. U.S. gasoline inventories are up 15.7 MMB compared to this time last year and trend at the upper range of the five-year average for this time of year.

• Distillate stocks increased 0.9 MMB at 129.4 MMB and stand 4.1 MMB higher compared to the same period last year. Distillate demand was unchanged at 3.6 MMB/D on the week and up 51,000 B/D compared to the same period last year. On a four-week average, distillate demand was down 174,000 B/D compared to the same period last year at 3.8 MMB/D.

• On August 20, Missouri’s average retail price for E85 motor fuel, conventional motor fuel containing 85 percent ethanol, was about $2.75 per gallon, 61.0 cents or 18.2 percent lower than the average price for conventional motor gasoline.

• On August 20, Missouri’s average retail price for B20, diesel fuel containing 20 percent biofuel, was about $3.76 per gallon, 7.0 cents or 1.9 percent higher than the average retail price for conventional diesel fuel.

• According to the August 6, 2013, Short Term Energy Outlook, EIA expects the regular gasoline retail price to average $3.59 per gallon in the third quarter of 2013, and the annual average price to decline from an average of $3.63 per gallon in 2012 to $3.52 per gallon in 2013, and to $3.37 per gallon in 2014.
Natural Gas
Approximately 58 percent (1,261,397) of Missouri households use natural gas to heat their homes. Natural gas is also used to produce goods and electricity.

On August 21, natural gas futures at the NYMEX closed at $3.46 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), down 17 cents from a month ago and up 63 cents compared to last year at this time.

- At the NYMEX, natural gas futures for September 2013 delivery ended 1.6 cents higher on August 21 to close at $3.46 per MMBtu. In the past year, natural gas values have increased 63 cents or 22 percent.

- For the reporting week August 14 to August 21, the price of the September 2013 contract increased from $3.34 per MMBtu to $3.46. The 12-month strip (the average of the 12 contracts between September 2013 and August 2014) increased from $3.65 per MMBtu to $3.77.

- According to EIA, total gas consumption decreased by 4.5 percent from the previous week. For the week, the power sector fell most noticeably, by 8.4 percent, likely in response to cooler temperatures in these regions from the previous week.

- Working gas in storage totaled 3,063 billion cubic feet (Bcf), 1.5 percent above the five-year average inventory level for the week, according to EIA’s Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report. U.S. natural gas supplies are 238 Bcf, or 7.2 percent, lower than last year at this time.
Propane
Approximately 13 percent (293,603) of Missouri households use propane to heat their homes. Propane is also used to support commercial operations, produce goods, dry grain harvests and fuel vehicles.

(Note: Beginning April 2013, residential retail propane prices will be reported only for the first full week of each month through September 2013.)

On August 5, the average Missouri retail price for residential propane was about $1.56 per gallon, down 4.1 cents in the past month, and down 1 percent compared to last year at this time.

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<td>down 3%</td>
<td>154.1</td>
<td>down 1%</td>
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• According to the Division of Energy’s statewide propane price survey conducted August 5, the average Missouri retail residential propane price was about $1.56 per gallon, down 4.1 cents in the past month and down 1 percent compared to last year at this time.

• According to the survey, the highest Missouri retail residential price for propane was nearly $1.93 per gallon, while the lowest retail price was about $1.36 per gallon.

• U.S. inventories of propane increased by about 41,000 barrels to end at 61.9 MMB. Propane inventories are now 9.1 MMB, or 12.8 percent, lower compared to the same period last year. Implied demand for propane increased by 91,000 B/D at 1.3 MMB/D on the week and up 261,000 B/D compared to the demand level for this time last year.

• Midwest propane inventories increased 50,000 barrels on the week. At 21.6 MMB, Midwest inventories are 5.6 MMB, or 20.6 percent, lower than the 27.2 MMB reported at this time last year.

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