

25 April 2024

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Pricewatch | 20 Jul 2021 | Gas Matters Today
Publication date: 20 July 2021

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[1]

Crude prices plummeted on Monday, falling by ~USD 5/barrel amid fears that OPEC's deal to increase production could result in a supply surplus as Covid-19 cases continue to rise globally, which could hit oil demand.

The September-dated WTI and Brent contracts recorded major losses on Monday, with both settling below the USD 70/barrel mark for the first time since June and late May, respectively. Monday's loss also marked the largest single day loss by the crude benchmarks since March.

Prices plunged after OPEC and its allies reached a deal on Sunday to increase oil production starting in August. The agreement has eased fears of a tight supply outlook, with increasing Covid-19 cases globally also weighing on prices on Monday. Some market observers fear that there could now be a supply surplus over the second half of the year if Covid-19 cases continue to rise, as this could dent demand.

Under the agreement reached on Sunday, OPEC+ has agreed to increase production by an additional 400,000 barrels/d, starting in August, with the monthly increases to continue through to December 2022.

As for gas, prices in Europe continued to rise amid a weaker supply outlook and strong gas prices in Asia.

The month-ahead TTF and NBP contracts rallied by over 2% on Monday, with NBP returning to the USD 12/MMBtu range.

The Asian LNG marker JKM was unchanged, with the August-dated contract remaining at USD 12.97/MMBtu. However spot LNG prices in north-east Asia have recently been averaging over USD 13/MMBtu for September delivery, according to reports.

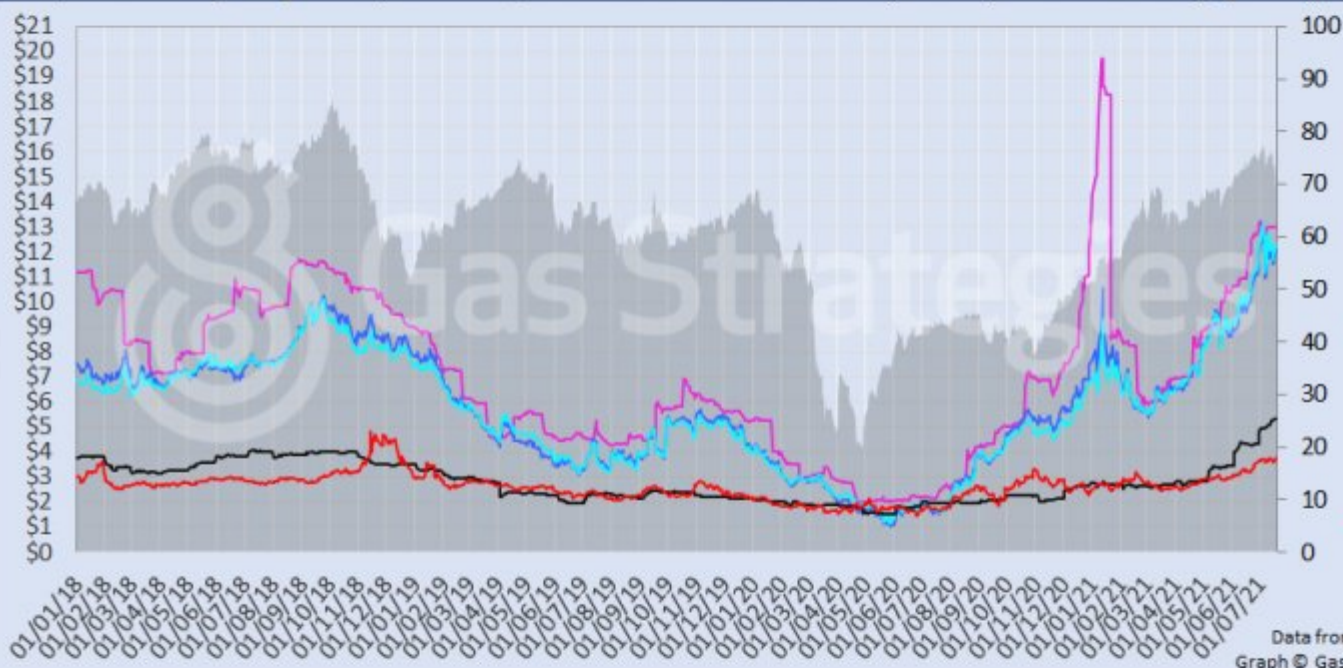
The strong gains by the European markers saw JKM's premium over TTF cut to USD 0.64/MMBtu.

In the US, gas benchmark Henry Hub continued to rally, recording a 2.9% gain to close at USD 3.78/MMBtu. The gains were largely attributed to forecasts for warmer weather over the second half of July, which is expected to drive gas demand for air conditioning.

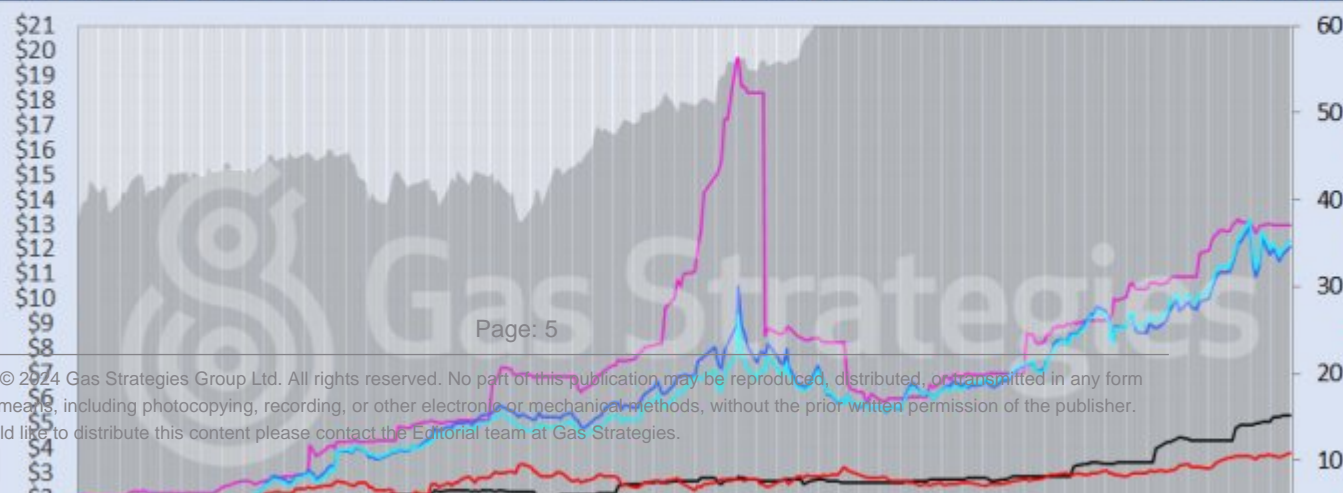
Front-month futures and indexes at last close with day-on-day changes (click to enlarge):

Front-month futures/index	19/07/2021	16/07/2021	Daily +/- (\$)	Daily
Henry Hub (\$/MMBtu)	3.78	3.67	0.11	
NBP (\$/MMBtu)	12.10	11.78	0.32	
NBP (£p/th)	88.38	85.48	2.90	
Henry Hub-NBP spread	8.32	8.11	0.21	
TTF (\$/MMBtu)	12.33	12.06	0.27	
TTF (€/MWh)	35.65	34.84	0.81	
Henry Hub-TTF spread	8.55	8.39	0.17	
JKM (\$/MMBtu)	12.97	12.97	0.00	
TTF-JKM spread	0.64	0.91	-0.27	
Henry Hub-JKM spread	9.19	9.30	-0.11	
Brent (\$/barrel)	68.62	73.59	-4.97	
WTI (\$/barrel)	66.35	71.81	-5.46	
Brent-WTI spread (\$/barrel)	2.27	1.78	0.49	
API2 Coal (\$/tonne)	133.20	132.65	0.55	
API2 Coal (\$/MMBtu)	5.33	5.31	0.02	
EU CO ₂ emissions allowances (€/tonne)	52.32	52.79	-0.47	

US, UK and European gas hubs, Asian LNG, API2 coal front-month futures (left axis) and Brent crude (right axis), since 1/01/18



US, UK and EU gas hubs, Asian LNG, API2 coal front-month futures (left axis) and Brent crude (right axis), since 1/01/18



[2]

Time references based on London GMT. Brent, WTI, NBP, TTF and EU CO2 data from ICE. Henry Hub, JKM and API2 data from CME. Prices in USD/MMBtu based on exchange rates at last market close. All monetary values rounded to nearest whole cent/penny. Text and graphic copyright © Gas Strategies, all rights.



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