



**News Tracker:**

-Natural gas prices moved up at most market locations through the report week (Wednesday, April 15 Wednesday, April 22) to post modest gains. Henry Hub spot prices started the report week at \$2.58/MMBtu, and rose to \$2.60/MMBtu to close the report week.

-The NYMEX near-month (May 2015) natural gas contract opened for the week at \$2.610/MMBtu on April 15, fluctuated slightly through the week, dropping less than 1¢ to close the report week at \$2.606/MMBtu on April 22.

-Working natural gas in storage increased to 1,629 Bcf as of Friday, April 17, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration Weekly Natural Gas Storage Report. A net injection into storage of 90 Bcf for the week resulted in storage levels 82.6% above year-ago levels and 5.8% below the five-year average for this week. Market expectations, on average, called for a smaller build of 86 Bcf. Temperatures in the Lower 48 states averaged 57.0° for the storage report week, 4.7° warmer than the 30-year normal temperature and 2.3° warmer than the average temperature during the same week last year.

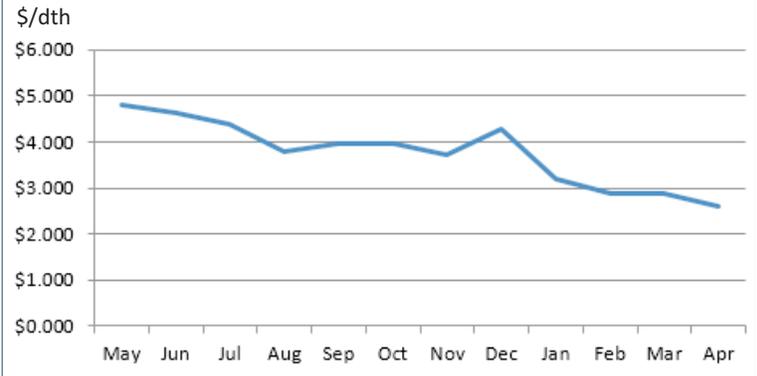
-The total rig count for April 17 fell by 34 units to 954 rigs, according to data reported by Baker Hughes Inc. Oil rigs fell by 26 units to 734; gas rigs fell by 8 to 217. The miscellaneous rig count remained the same at 3 units.

-The natural gas plant liquids composite price rose 29¢, increasing 5.5% for the week ending April 17, from \$5.35/MMBtu to \$5.64/MMBtu from Friday to Friday. All Mont Belvieu NGL spot prices were up this week. Natural gasoline increased 8.8%, ethane prices increased 2.9%, propane rose 4.9% and butane prices increased 3.7%, and isobutane rose 4.4%.

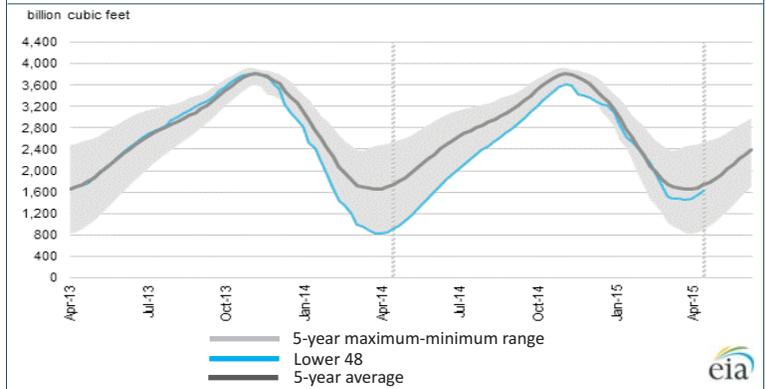
-Total natural gas consumption fell by 1.7% week over week, with declines coming in all sectors except power. Residential/commercial sectors fell by 5.2%, while industrial consumption fell by 1.1%. Power consumption increased 0.7% for the week, but was up more than 26% over the same period in 2014.

Excerpted from cia

**Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price May 2014 - Apr 2015:**



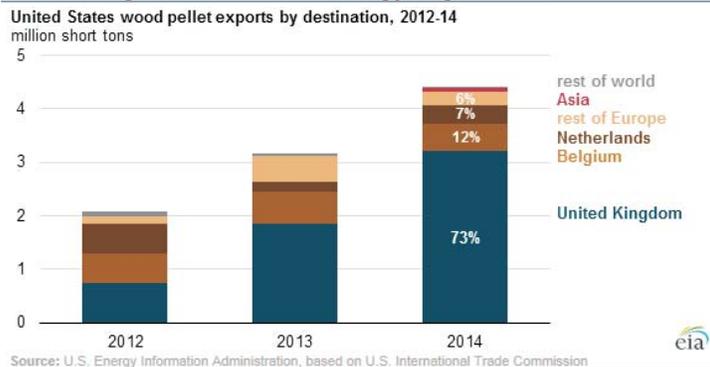
**Working nat. gas in underground storage as of April 17, 2015:**



**Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - May15-Apr16:**

Process Load-weighted - \$2.820/dth (w/w -\$0.095)  
Heat Load-weighted - \$2.933/dth (w/w -\$0.078)

**United Kingdom's renewable energy targets drive increases in US wood pellet exports :**



In 2014, almost three-quarters of all U.S. wood pellet exports were delivered to the United Kingdom (UK), mainly for the purpose of generating electricity. Overall, U.S. wood pellet exports increased by nearly 40% between 2013 and 2014, from 3.2 million short tons to 4.4 million short tons, as the United States continues to be the largest wood pellet exporter in the world. Canada, formerly the global leader in wood pellet exports, fell behind U.S. exports in 2012. According to the U.S. International Trade Commission, U.S. wood pellet exports accounted for more than \$500 million of trade in 2014. Wood pellets can be used for heating homes and businesses and as fuel for small-scale industrial boilers, but in the United Kingdom, Belgium, and the Netherlands, wood pellets are used predominantly for utility-scale electricity generation. The main driver for growing wood pellet consumption in Europe is the European Commission's 2020 climate and energy plan, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and increase the contribution of renewables to total energy consumption in the European

Union. Individual member states are assigned national renewable energy targets. The United Kingdom in particular is relying on the use of wood pellets in cofiring or dedicated biomass power plants as part of its compliance plan. Cofiring is the simultaneous combustion of two different fuels, while dedicated biomass plants run completely on biomass. A renewables obligation credit (ROC) program has caused plant operators of large coal-fired power plants to retrofit existing units to either cofire with wood pellets or convert to dedicated biomass. {Click here for full article}

**"The secret to getting ahead is getting started." -Mark Twain**