

News Tracker:

-Natural gas spot prices rose at most locations for the Wednesday, March 14 to Wednesday, March 21 period (the Report Week). The Henry Hub spot price rose from \$2.66/MMBtu to \$2.70/MMBtu from open to close of the Report Week.

-At the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), the April 2018 natural gas futures contract price fell 9¢ from \$2.731/MMBtu to \$2.638/MMBtu from start to finish of the Report Week.

- Net natural gas withdrawals from storage totaled 86 Bcf for the week ending March 16, compared with the five-year (2013-17) average net withdrawal of 53 Bcf and last year's net withdrawals of 137 Bcf during the same week. Working gas stocks totaled 1,446 Bcf, which is 329 Bcf (19%) lower than the five-year average and 667 Bcf (32%) lower than last year at this time. Temperatures in the Lower 48 states averaged 43 degrees Fahrenheit (°F), the same as the normal and 3°F higher than last year at this time. The average temperature was the same as the prior storage week.

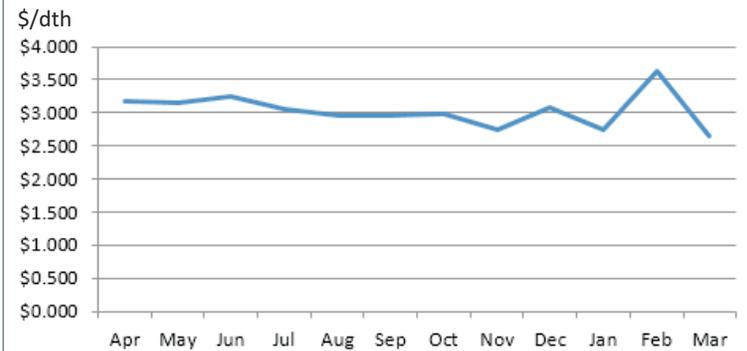
-Total U.S. consumption of natural gas fell by 5% compared with the previous report week, according to data from PointLogic Energy. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 1% week over week. Industrial sector consumption decreased by 3% week over week. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption declined by 9% as temperatures warmed in the Southeast. Natural gas export levels to Mexico were the same as last week, averaging 4.3 Bcf/d.

-The natural gas plant liquids composite price at Mont Belvieu, Texas, rose by 19¢, averaging \$7.26/MMBtu for the week ending March 21. The price of butane and isobutane fell by 1% and 2%, respectively. The price of ethane and propane rose by 4% and 6%, respectively. The price of natural gasoline remained flat week over week.

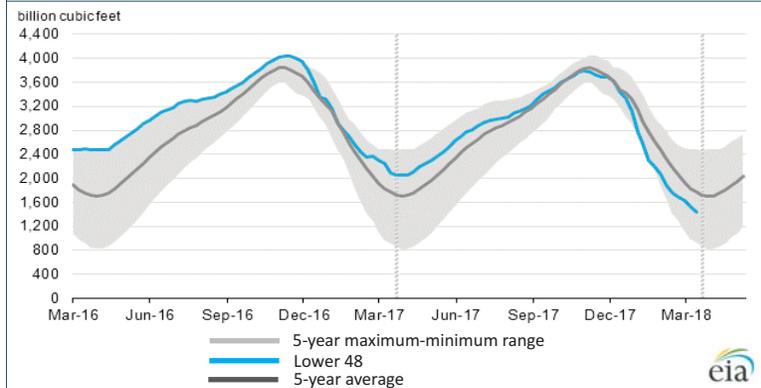
-According to Baker Hughes, for the week ending Tuesday, March 13, the natural gas rig count increased by 1 to 189. The number of oil-directed rigs rose by 4 to 800. The total rig count increased by 6, and it now stands at 990, the highest level since April 2015.

Excerpted from 

Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: Apr 2017 - Mar 2018:



Working nat. gas in underground storage as of March 16, 2018

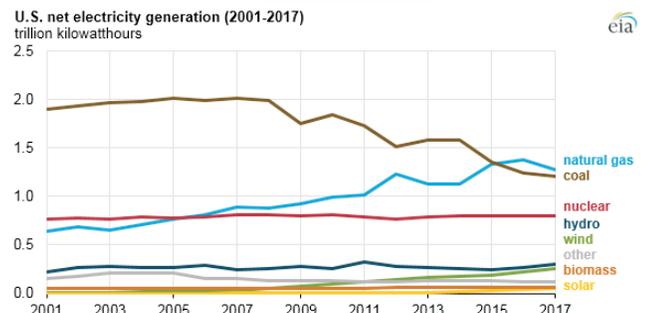


Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Apr18-Mar19:

Process Load-weighted \$2.836/dth - w/o/w = ▼\$0.076
 Typical Heat Load-weighted \$2.902/dth - w/o/w = ▼\$0.074

Electricity generation from fossil fuels declined in 2017 as renewable generation rose:

According to the US Energy Information Administration's (EIA) Electric Power Monthly, total US net electricity generation fell slightly (down 1.5%) in 2017, reflecting lower electricity demand. Natural gas and coal generation fell by 7.7% and 2.5% from 2016, respectively, as generation from several renewable fuels, particularly hydro, wind, and solar, increased from 2016 levels. Although natural gas continued to be most-used fuel for electricity generation for the third consecutive year, natural gas-fired electricity generation fell by 105 billion kilowatthours in 2017, the largest annual decline on record. Coal-fired electricity generation also fell, but to a lesser extent, marking the first year since 2008 that both natural gas- and coal-fired electricity generation fell in the same year. Coal-fired generation accounted for more than half of the electric capacity retired in 2017, with 6.3 gigawatts (GW) of the 11.2 GW total. For the first year in at least a decade, no new coal-fired generators were added. About 4.0 GW of natural gas-fired capacity was retired in 2017, most was steam turbine units. However, more natural gas capacity was added than retired, widening natural gas's lead as the largest source of generating capacity in the US. About 9.3 GW of new natural gas-fired generating capacity came online during 2017, 8.2 GW of which were combined-cycle units. Electricity from renewable sources, especially wind and solar, continued to increase in 2017. Wind made up 6.3% of total net generation, and utility-scale solar made up 1.3% record shares for both fuels. In part as a result of record precipitation in California, hydroelectricity increased in 2017, accounting for 7.5% of total net generation. EIA's latest Short-Term Energy Outlook expects hydro to continue to exceed wind in 2018, but wind is projected to become the predominant renewable electricity generation source in 2019.



Excerpted from 

“Behold, my friends, the spring is come; the earth has gladly received the embraces of the sun, and we shall soon see the results of their love!” -Sitting Bull¹