

News Tracker:

-Natural gas prices declined in most market locations across the country over the Report Week (Wednesday, September 16, through Wednesday, September 23), with changes remaining relatively small. The Henry Hub spot price began the Report Week at \$2.68/MMBtu and ended the Report Week at \$2.59/MMBtu.

-At the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), the price of the near-month futures contract (October 2015) began the Report Week at \$2.660/MMBtu and ended the Report Week down at \$2.569/MMBtu.

-Natural gas net storage injection larger than five-year average and year-ago. The net natural gas injection reported for the storage report week ending September 18 was 106 Bcf, up from 73 Bcf the previous week. This injection compares with the five-year (2010-14) average increase of 83 Bcf for the week and last year's increase of 96 Bcf.

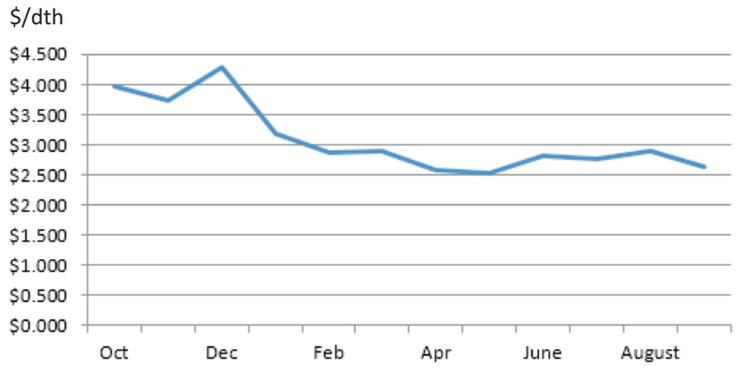
Working gas inventories for the report week totaled 3,440 Bcf, 466 Bcf (16%) higher than last year at this time and 148 Bcf (4%) higher than the five-year average. Market expectations, on average, called for a build of 97 Bcf for the week. Temperatures in the Lower 48 states averaged 69° for the storage report week, 1o warmer than the 30-year normal temperature and 3° warmer than the average temperature during the same week last year.

-The total oil and natural gas rig count fell by 6 from the previous week, with 842 units in service for the week ending Friday, September 18. This was 1,089 rigs below the same week in 2014, according to data from Baker Hughes Incorporated. The oil rig count decreased by 8 units to 644, and the natural gas rig count increased by 2 to 198 units.

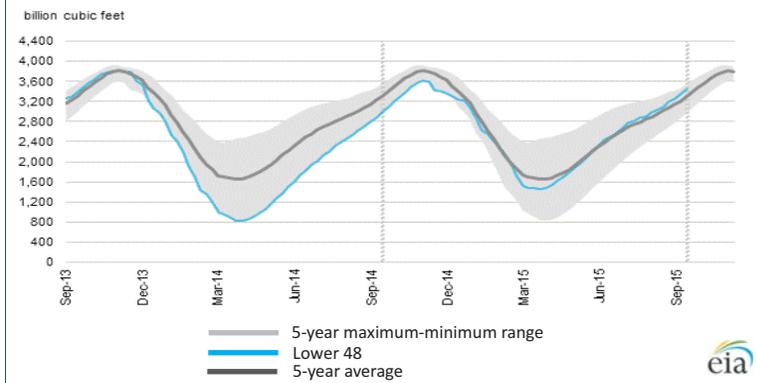
-The natural gas plant liquids composite price at Mont Belvieu increased slightly, by 7¢ (1.4%) to \$4.86/MMBtu for the week ending September 18. The natural gasoline price declined by 1.5%, or 13¢, while the prices for ethane, propane, butane, and isobutane increased moderately, by 1%, 3.2%, 2.9%, and 1.8%, respectively.

Excerpted from 

Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price Oct 2014 - Sep 2015:



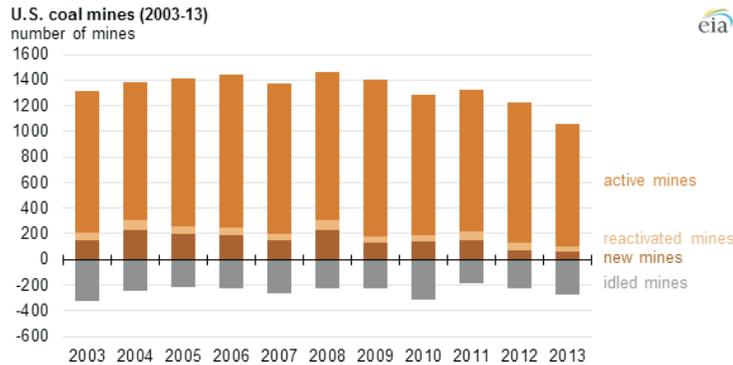
Working nat. gas in underground storage as of September 18, 2015:



Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Oct15-Sep16:

Process Load-weighted \$2.817/dth (w/w -\$0.041)
 Heat Load-weighted \$2.852/dth (w/w -\$0.041)

Number of US coal mine starts and active mines continues to decline:



The number of new and reactivated coal mines that began production in 2013 fell to the lowest level in at least the past 10 years. The addition of 103 mines in 2013 came as 271 mines were idled or closed, resulting in a 14% decline in the total number of producing coal mines from 2012 to 2013. The 2013 total was 397 fewer coal mines than in 2008, when coal production was at its highest. Although preliminary 2014 data on coal production from the Mine Safety and Health Administration indicate a slight increase both in production and in new and reactivated mines for 2014, these levels will still be below previous levels. The declining number of new mines reflects regulatory and permitting challenges, reduced investment in the coal industry, strong competition from natural gas, stagnant electricity demand, and a weak coal export market. The lower number of new mines and the closing of less-efficient mines resulted in 2013 having the lowest number of active coal mines on record. The opening, reopening, and idling or closing of mines serves as a measure of coal industry growth or contraction. The number of mines fluctuates with the demand for coal, almost all of which is used to produce electricity. Examples of this fluctuation can be seen in 2008, when higher coal demand increased the number of new mines, and in 2010, when lower coal demand led to fewer new mines and more idled mines.

You better cut the pizza in four pieces because I'm not hungry enough to eat six." -Yogi Berra