

Newstracker:

-Natural gas spot prices rose at most locations for the Report Week of Wednesday, March 13 to Wednesday, March 20. Henry Hub spot prices rose from \$2.81 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) to \$2.83/MMBtu from open to close of the Report Week.

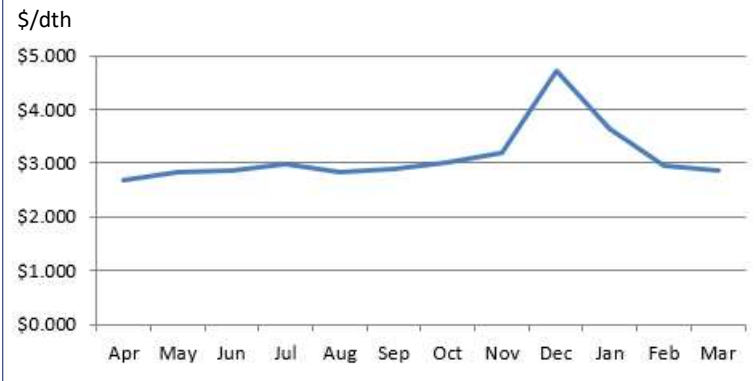
-At the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), the price of the April 2019 natural gas futures contract was unchanged for the Report Week at \$2.82/MMBtu. The price of the 12-month strip averaging April 2019 through March 2020 futures contracts remained the same for the Report Week at \$2.970/MMBtu.

- Net natural gas withdrawals from storage totaled 47 Bcf for the week ending March 15, compared with the five-year (2014-18) average net withdrawals of 56 Bcf and last year's net withdrawals of 87 Bcf during the same week. Working gas stocks totaled 1,143 Bcf, which is 556 Bcf (33%) lower than the five-year average and 315 Bcf (22%) lower than last year at this time. The average rate of net withdrawals from storage is 3% lower than the five-year average so far in the withdrawal season (November through March). If the rate of withdrawals from storage matched the five-year average of 3.9 Bcf/d for the remainder of the withdrawal season, total inventories would be 1,080 Bcf on March 31, which is 556 Bcf lower than the five-year average of 1,636 Bcf for that time of year.

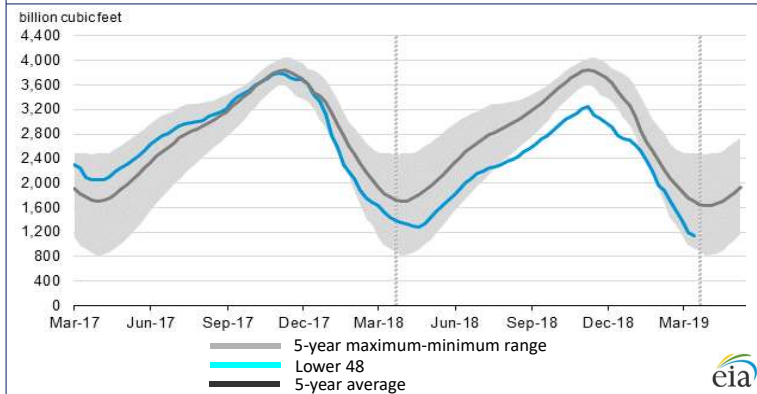
-Total U.S. consumption of natural gas fell by 8% compared with the previous report week, according to data from PointLogic Energy. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption declined by 17% as a result of warmer-than-normal temperatures in the population centers of California and the Northeast. Natural gas consumed for power generation was flat, averaging 22.5 Bcf/d. Industrial sector consumption decreased by 1% week over week. Natural gas exports to Mexico decreased 2%.

-According to Baker Hughes, for the week ending Tuesday, March 12, the natural gas rig count remained flat at 193. The number of oil-directed rigs fell by 1 to 833. The total rig count decreased by 1, and it now stands at 1,026.

Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: Apr 2018 - Mar 2019:



Working natural gas in underground storage as of Mar. 15, 2019



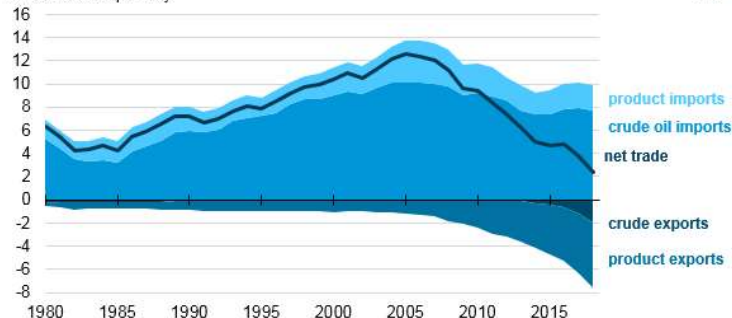
Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Apr19-Mar20:


Process Load-weighted \$2.970/dth - w/o/w = ▼\$0.005
 Typical Heat Load-weighted \$3.027/dth - w/o/w = ▼\$0.001

The US imports and exports substantial volumes of petroleum:

US net trade of petroleum, which includes crude oil, petroleum products, and natural gas plant liquids, has fallen in recent years, reaching 2.3 million barrels per day (b/d) in 2018. This level is the lowest level of net petroleum trade (imports minus exports) since 1967. At the same time, total US gross petroleum trade (imports plus exports) have reached an all-time high of 17.5 million b/d in 2018. The result has been a growing role for the US in world petroleum trade. Crude oil imports have decreased in recent years as US crude oil production has increased. After averaging a record high of 10.1 million b/d in 2005, crude oil imports fell to an average of 7.3 million b/d in 2014. Since then, crude oil imports have increased slightly, averaging 7.7 million b/d in 2018. Not all crude oil is the same quality. Most of the reduction in US imports was of light, sweet crude oil, as those barrels were replaced by domestic production of a similar quality. US crude oil exports have also increased as domestic production has risen. US crude oil exports have set annual record highs in each year since 2014, most recently averaging 2.0 million b/d in 2018. At the same time, US refinery runs have been setting record highs. The increase in refinery output of petroleum products has outpaced the increase in US consumption of petroleum products such as distillate fuel oil, gasoline, and propane, leading to an increase in exports. Total US petroleum product exports averaged a record 5.6 million b/d in 2018. Distillate and gasoline exports have increased, particularly to countries in the Western Hemisphere. Propane exports have also increased, mostly to Asian markets.

U.S. crude oil and petroleum product trade (1980-2018)
million barrels per day



Excerpted from  eia

“Normal people...believe that if it ain't broke, don't fix it. Engineers believe that if it ain't broke, it doesn't have enough features yet.” -Scott Adams¹

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¹https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/scott_adams_393470