

## Newstracker:

-Natural gas spot prices rose at most locations for the period of Wednesday, March 18, to Wednesday, March 25 (the Report Week). The Henry Hub spot price rose from \$1.65 per million British thermal units (MMBtu) to \$1.71/MMBtu from start to finish of the Report Week.


-At the New York Mercantile Exchange (Nymex), the price of the April 2020 natural gas futures contract increased 6¢, from \$1.604/MMBtu to \$1.659/MMBtu from open to close of the Report Week. The price of the 12-month strip averaging April 2020 through March 2021 futures contracts climbed 10¢/MMBtu to \$2.179/MMBtu.

-The net withdrawal from storage totaled 29 Bcf for the week ending March 20, compared with the five-year (2015-19) average net withdrawal of 40 Bcf and last year's net withdrawal of 39 Bcf during the same week. Working natural gas stocks totaled 2,005 Bcf, which is 292 Bcf (17%) more than the five-year average and 888 Bcf (79%) more than last year at this time.

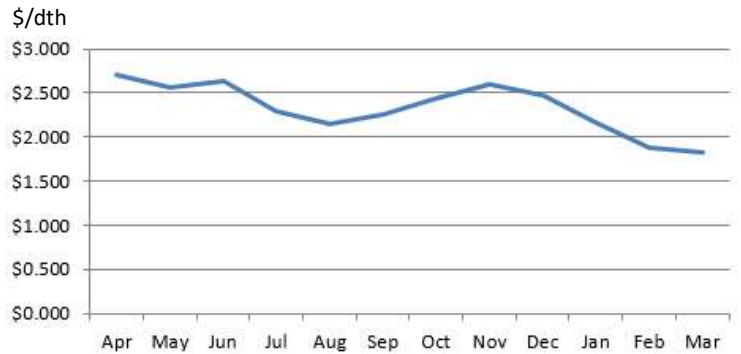
-Total US consumption of natural gas fell by 1% compared with the previous report week, according to data from IHS Markit. Natural gas consumed for power generation declined by 2% week over week. Industrial sector consumption decreased by 2% week over week. In the residential and commercial sectors, consumption remained at last week's level, averaging 27.2 Bcf/d. Natural gas exports to Mexico increased 1%. US LNG exports decreased week over week as fifteen LNG vessels with a combined LNG-carrying capacity of 55 Bcf departed the US between March 19 and March 25, 2020, according to shipping data provided by Marine Traffic.

-The natural gas plant liquids composite price at Mont Belvieu, Texas, fell by 71¢/MMBtu, averaging \$2.40/MMBtu for the week ending March 25. The prices of butane, natural gasoline, isobutane, propane, and ethane all fell, by 30%, 27%, 24%, 22%, and 18%, respectively. The deep decline in crude oil prices is a primary driver for the discounting across all hydrocarbon gas liquids.

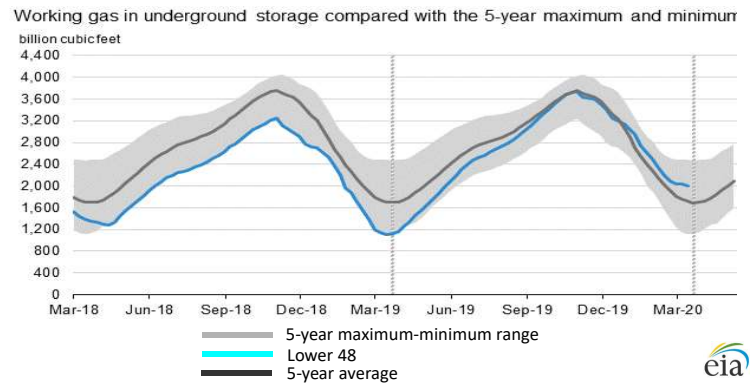
-According to Baker Hughes, for the week ending Tuesday, March 17, the natural gas rig count decreased by 1 to 106. The number of oil-directed rigs fell by 19 to 664. The total rig count decreased by 20, and it now stands at 772.

Excerpted from 

## Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: Apr 2019 - Mar 2020:



## Working natural gas in underground storage as of Mar. 20, 2020



## Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Apr20-Mar21:

Process Load-weighted \$2.179/dth - w/o/w = ▲\$0.096  
 Typical Heat Load-weighted \$2.382/dth - w/o/w = ▲\$0.103


## Twelve US states generate more than 30% of their electricity from nuclear power:

Nuclear power plants play an important role in US electricity generation, consistently providing about 20% of total annual generation. Of the 30 US states with operating commercial nuclear power plants, 12 states generated more than 30% of their electricity from nuclear power. Three states generated more than 50% of their in-state electricity from nuclear power in 2019. NH had the largest share of in-state generation from nuclear power at 61%, followed by SC with 56%. IL, which has the most nuclear reactors (11) and the most nuclear generating capacity (11.6 gigawatts) among states, generated 54% of its in-state generation from nuclear power in 2019. The Grand Gulf Nuclear Station in Port Gibson, Mississippi, is the largest single nuclear reactor in the US, with a capacity of more than 1,400 megawatts (MW). The largest nuclear power plant, however, is the Palo Verde nuclear plant in western AZ. Palo Verde has three reactors and is the largest power plant in the US by annual generation. In 2019, Palo Verde produced nearly 32 million megawatt-hours, more electricity than any other plant in the country. Two new nuclear reactors are under construction in GA at the existing Vogtle nuclear plant. Each new reactor has a planned electricity generation capacity of about 1,100 MW. The US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) licenses nuclear reactors to operate for 40 years. After that, reactors can apply to renew their operating licenses for up to 20 years at a time. All but two reactors in the US have applied for and received license renewals from the NRC; the Clinton Power Station (licensed in 1987 in IL) and Watts Bar Unit 2 (licensed in 2015 in TN) are still operating on their initial licenses. Clinton's initial license does not expire until 2027, and the station has until 2024 to submit its renewal application to the NRC. Watts Bar Unit 2 will not need a license renewal until 2050.

Share of state electricity generation from nuclear power (2019)





Excerpted from 

“Don’t ever take a fence down until you know why it was put up.” -Robert Frost<sup>1</sup>