

Newstracker:

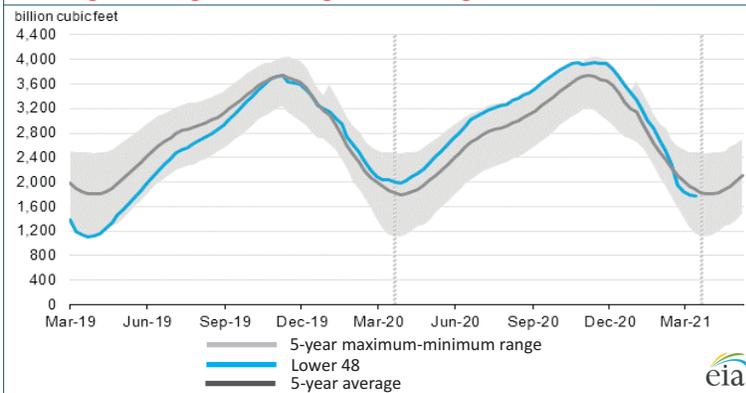
- Natural gas spot price movements were mixed from Wednesday, March 10 to Wednesday, March 17 (the Report Week). The Henry Hub spot price fell from \$2.60/MMBtu to \$2.51/MMBtu for the Report Week term.
- At the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX), the price of the April 2021 natural gas futures contract decreased 16¢, from \$2.692/MMBtu to \$2.528/MMBtu from open to close of the Report Week. The price of the 12-month strip averaging April 2021 through March 2022 futures contracts declined 16¢/MMBtu to \$2.734/MMBtu.
- Net natural gas withdrawals from storage totaled 11 Bcf for the week ending March 12, compared with the five-year (2016-2020) average net withdrawals of 59 Bcf and last year's net withdrawals of 15 Bcf during the same week. Working natural gas stocks totaled 1,782 Bcf, which is 93 Bcf (5%) lower than the five-year average and 253 Bcf (15%) lower than last year at this time.
- Total US consumption of natural gas fell by 3.9% compared with the previous Report Week, according to data from IHS Markit. Consumption in the residential and commercial sectors declined by 9.0%. Industrial sector consumption decreased by 1.8%. Natural gas consumed for power generation climbed by 0.5% as lower natural gas prices made natural-gas fueled power generation more competitive. Natural gas exports to Mexico decreased 0.4%. Natural gas deliveries to US LNG export facilities averaged 11.1 Bcf/d, or 0.45 Bcf/d higher than last week.
- The natural gas plant liquids composite price at Mont Belvieu, Texas, fell by 7¢/MMBtu, averaging \$7.90/MMBtu for the week ending March 17.
- According to Baker Hughes, for the week ending Tuesday, March 9, the natural gas rig count remained flat at 92. The number of oil-directed rigs fell by 1 to 309. The total rig count decreased by 1. At 402, the total rig count is now more than 400 for the third week in a row, the highest level since the first week of May 2020 and 158 higher than the 244 level reported in the second week of August 2020, which was the lowest level on record going back to 1987. The rig count remains down year over year at 49% lower than the same week last year.

Excerpted from 

Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: Apr 2020 - Mar 2021:



Working natural gas in underground storage as of March 12, 2021

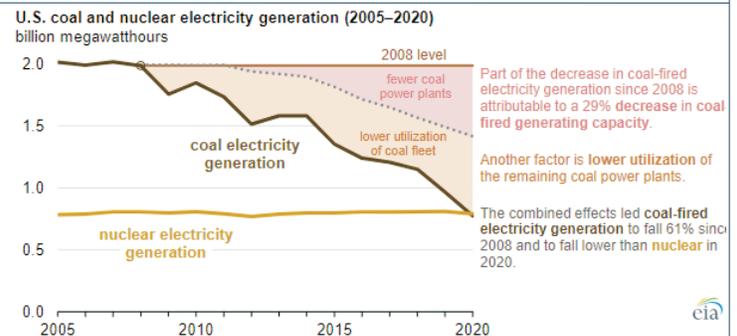


Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Apr21-Mar22:

Process Load-weighted \$2.734/dth - w/o/w = ▼\$0.156
 Typical Heat Load-weighted \$2.807/dth - w/o/w = ▼\$0.143

Less electricity was generated by coal than nuclear in the US in 2020:

US coal-fired generated electricity totaled 774 million MWh in 2020, which is less than both natural gas-fired (1.6 billion MWh) and nuclear-powered generation (790 million MWh). 2020 marked the first time that coal was not the largest or second-largest source of annual electricity generation in the US since at least 1949. Coal-fired electricity generation in the US has continued to decrease as coal-fired generating units have been retired or converted to use other fuels and as the remaining coal-fired generating units have been used less often. In 2008, coal's capacity factor was 72%. Capacity factors measure the actual generation output for a fleet of generators as a percentage of what those generators can generate. By 2020, the coal fleet's capacity factor had fallen to 40%. Nuclear-powered generation was relatively steady in the previous decade. Although several nuclear power plants were retired, that decline in capacity was partially offset by upgrades and additions at several plants. US nuclear power, with 97 GW of capacity in 2020, has less than half as much operating capacity as coal, but nuclear power plants are operated more intensively. Nuclear's capacity factor in 2020 was 93%. Coal-fired electricity generation is forecast to increase and nuclear-powered electricity generation to decrease in both 2021 and 2022 as projected natural gas price increases will make coal more competitive in the electric power sector. This expected increase in coal's utilization more than offsets the upcoming retirement of 2.8 GW of coal capacity in 2021 and another 8.5 GW in 2022. The expected decrease in nuclear-powered electricity generation three nuclear plants planning to retire in 2021 and one in 2022.



Excerpted from 

“Just cause you got the monkey off your back doesn’t mean the circus has left town.” -George Carlin¹