

**Newstracker:**

-Natural gas spot prices fell at most locations from Wednesday, December 8 to Wednesday, December 15 (the Report Week, during which the Henry Hub spot price fell 4 cents to \$3.75/MMBtu. LNG cargos in East Asia rose to a weekly average of \$35.29/MMBtu, the second-highest weekly average on record dating back to January 2020 and 23 cents above last week's average of \$35.06/MMBtu. At the Title Transfer Facility (TTF) in the Netherlands, the most liquid natural gas spot market in Europe, the day-ahead price rose for the sixth week in a row to a weekly average of \$38.10/MMBtu, the highest weekly average on record dating back to September 2007 and up \$6.92/MMBtu from last week's average of \$31.18/MMBtu.

-The price of the January 2022 NYMEX natural gas futures contract decreased 1.3 cents to \$3.802/MMBtu for the Report Week. The price of the 12-month strip averaging January 2022 through December 2022 futures contracts climbed 1.7 cents to \$3.738/MMBtu.

-Net natural gas withdrawals from storage totaled 88 Bcf for the week ending December 10, compared with the five-year average of 114 Bcf and last year's 118 Bcf during the same week. Working natural gas stocks totaled 3,417 Bcf, which is 64 Bcf (2%) lower than the five-year average and 326 Bcf (9%) lower than last year at this time.

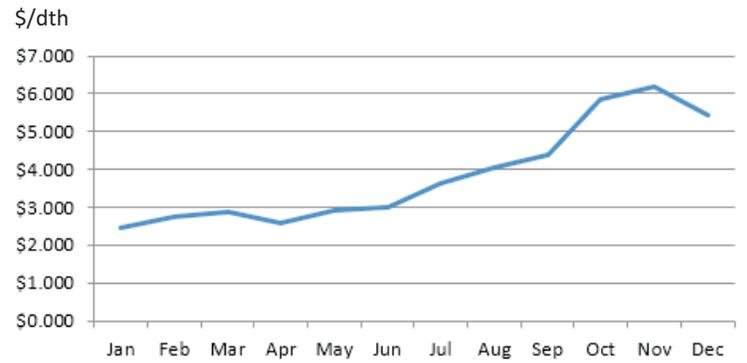
-Total US natural gas consumption fell 1.4% for the Report Week: consumption rose less than 1% for power generation, residential and commercial sectors consumption fell by 2.8%, industrial consumption decreased by 1.2%. Natural gas exports to Mexico fell by 0.2 Bcf/d and natural gas deliveries to LNG export facilities were 1% lower.

-The natural gas plant liquids composite price at Mont Belvieu, Texas, rose by 36 cents/MMBtu, averaging \$9.57/MMBtu for the Report Week. Propane prices rose 5%, compared to a 1% increase in Brent crude oil prices, narrowing the propane discount to crude oil by 24%.

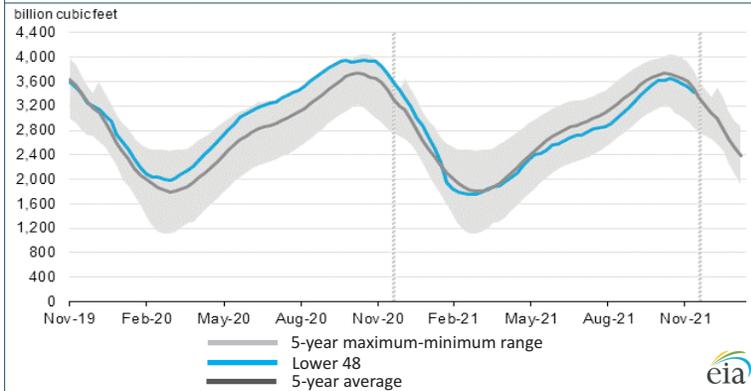
-According to Baker Hughes, as of Tuesday, December 7, the natural gas rig count increased by 3 to 105 from the week. The number of oil-directed rigs increased by 4 to 471 this week. The total rig count now stands at 576, the highest level since April 9, 2020.

Excerpted from 

**Monthly NYMEX Natural Gas Settle Price: Jan 2021 - Dec 2021:**



**Working natural gas in underground storage as of Dec. 10, 2021**

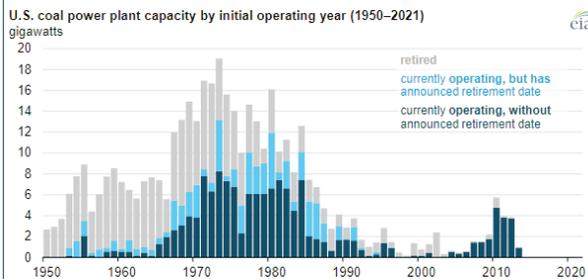


**Forward 12-month NYMEX natural gas strip price - Jan22-Dec22:**

Process Load-weighted \$3.738/dth - w/o/w = ▲ \$0.017  
Heat Load-weighted \$3.772/dth - w/o/w = ▲ \$0.007

**Of the operating US coal-fired power plants, 28% plan to retire by 2035:**

Although coal-fired power plants have no mandatory retirement age, power plant owners and operators have reported plans to retire 28%, or 59 GW, of the coal-fired capacity currently operating in the US by 2035. As of September 2021, 212 GW of utility-scale coal-fired electric-generating capacity was operating in the US, most of which was built in the 1970s and 1980s. The average operating coal-fired generating unit in the US is 45 years old. The units that have reported plans to retire are not necessarily the oldest ones operating; some units built in the 1980s and 1990s are also scheduled to retire. When they retire, the retiring units will have approximately 50 years of service, based on their planned retirement dates. Planned retirement dates within the next four to five years are considered relatively firm; retirements further in the future are subject to more regulatory and economic uncertainty. Since 2002, around 100 GW of coal capacity has retired in the US; the capacity-weighted average age at retirement was 50 years. Coal plants usually aren't built with a specific planned or enforced retirement age. Retirements largely occur either when the cost of operating a plant exceeds expected revenue or when operating costs exceed the



plant's value to the power system, such as its value in providing reliability to the electric grid. These situations can occur when lower-cost or more efficient technologies enter the market, when fuel prices change, or when new regulations require additional investment in the unit to remain in compliance. Coal-fired plants have been identified as a large source of CO2 emissions. As a result, many states with clean energy standards have required a reduction or complete phase-out of coal-fired generation, even though some units may still be economically viable. As a result of continued pressure on coal generation to reduce CO2 emissions, the number of coal plants planning to retire between now and 2035 is likely to increase. As of September 2021, developers have not reported plans to install any new utility-scale coal-fired power plants in the US.

Excerpted from 

"All right everyone, line up alphabetically according to your height." -Casey Stengel<sup>1</sup>