SPOT PRICES

TUESDAY, AUGUST 2, 2022

METAL	
PALLADIUM free $/troy oz	2,170.01
PALLADIUM JMI base, $/troy oz	2,190.00
PLATINUM free $/troy oz	920.55
PLATINUM JMI base $/troy oz	922.00
KRUGGERAND, fob $/troy oz	1,778.00
IRIDIUM, whs rot, $/troy oz	4,490.00
RHODIUM, whs rot, $/troy oz	14,640.00
GRAINS (July 28, 2022)	
(FOB Bangkok basis at every Thursday)	
FRAGRANT (100%) 1st Class, $/ton	870.00
FRAGRANT (100%) 2nd Class, $/ton	842.00
RICE (5%) White Thai- $/ton	411.00
RICE (10%) White Thai- $/ton	409.00
RICE (15%) White Thai- $/ton	408.00
RICE (25%) White Thai- $/ton (Super)	408.00
BROKER RICE A-1 Super $/ton	386.00
FOOD	
COCOA ICCO Dly (SDR/mt)	1,713.44
COCOA ICCO $/mt	2,269.87
COFFEE ICA comp '2001 cts/lb	189.51
SUGAR ISA FOB Daily Price, Carib. port cts/lb	17.47
SUGAR ISA 15-day ave.	18.17

LIFFE COFFEE

New Robusta 10 MT - $/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
Sept.	2037	2011	2027	2031
Nov.	2031	2006	2020	2028
Jan.	2008	1982	1995	2005
Mar.	1993	1964	1979	1988

LIFFE COCOA

(Ldn)-10 MT-£/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
Sept.	1740	1714	1734	1711
Dec.	1791	1768	1781	1767
Mar.	1783	1763	1776	1764
May	1772	1754	1766	1755

COCONUT

MANILA COPRA (based on 6% moisture)	
Peso/100kg	Buyer/Seller
Lag/Qzn/Luc 22	4,000.00/4,050.00
Philippine Coconut Oil - Crude	
CIF NY/NOLA	75.00
PALM OIL CIF NY/NOLA	80.00
COCONUT OIL (PHIL/IDN),$ per ton,	
CIF Europe	
Aug./Sept.'22	0.00/1,450.00
Sept./Oct.'22	0.00/1,400.00
Oct./Nov.'22	1,275.00/1,400.00
Nov./Dec.'22	0.00/1,400.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

LME FINAL CLOSING PRICES, US$/MT

	3 MOS
ALUMINUM H.G.	2,414.50
ALUMINUM Alloy	1,760.00
COPPER	7,806.50
LEAD	2,050.00
NICKEL	22,492.00
TIN	24,249.00
ZINC	3,312.00

Crude edges up ahead of OPEC+ meeting despite recession fears

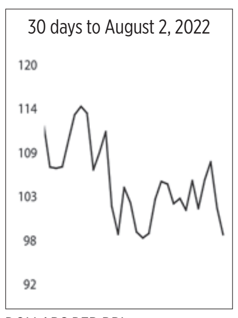
NEW YORK — Oil futures edged up less than 1% on Tuesday ahead of a meeting of OPEC+ producers this week that may not lead to a further boost in crude supply amid concerns a possible global recession could limit energy demand.

Brent futures rose 51 cents or 0.5% to settle at $100.54 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude rose 53 cents or 0.6% to settle at $94.42.

Also giving oil prices a slight lift were analyst expectations that US crude inventories declined by around 600,000 barrels last week.

The American Petroleum Institute (API), an industry group, will issue its US inventory report at 4:30 p.m. EDT (2030 GMT). The US Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports at 10:30 a.m. EDT (1430 GMT) on Wednesday.

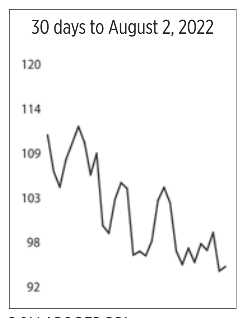
ASIA-DUBAI
(AUGUST CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

July	27	28	29	1	2
$/bbl	101.40	105.00	107.24	101.50	98.15
Average (Aug. 1-2)					**$99.83**
Average (July 1-29)					**$103.12**

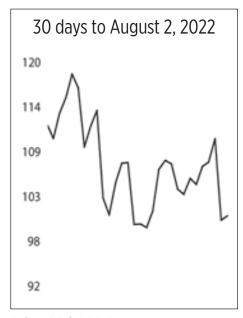
NEW YORK-WTI
(SEPTEMBER CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

July	27	28	29	1	2
$/bbl	97.26	96.42	98.62	93.89	94.42
Average (Aug. 1-2)					**$94.16**
Average (July 1-29)					**$99.38**

LONDON-BRENT
(OCTOBER CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

July	27	28	29	1	2
$/bbl	106.62	107.14	110.01	100.03	100.54
Average (Aug. 1-2)					**$100.29**
Average (July 1-29)					**$105.12**

Source: REUTERS

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, known as OPEC+, meet on Wednesday. Two of eight sources said a modest output hike would be discussed. The rest said a boost was unlikely. OPEC+ trimmed its forecast for an oil market surplus this year by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 800,000 bpd, three delegates told Reuters.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February fed worries about global oil supply and sent prices soaring to near record highs. But with central banks raising interest rates to fight inflation, worries about slowing growth have eclipsed tight supply.

Surveys showed factories across the United States, Europe and Asia struggled for momentum in July as flagging global demand and China's strict coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) restrictions slowed production.

Also casting a cloud over the market were worries that US Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi's visit to Taiwan will escalate tensions between the United States and China. China put its military on high alert and said it will launch "targeted military operations" in response to the visit. — ***Reuters***

S&P 500 settles lower as Pelosi visits Taiwan

WALL STREET ended lower after a choppy session on Tuesday, with geopolitical tensions flaring after US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan.

Ms. Pelosi said her trip demonstrated American solidarity with the Chinese-claimed self-ruled island, but China condemned that first such visit in 25 years as a threat to peace and stability.

Heavy hitters Microsoft and Visa lost 1.1% and 2.4% respectively, weighing on the S&P 500. All 11 S&P 500 sector indexes lost ground, led lower by real estate, which lost 1.3%. Financials SPSY dipped 1.1%.

Shares of chipmakers heavily exposed to China were mixed. Advanced Micro Devices rallied 2.6% ahead of its quarterly report after the bell.

Industrial bellwether Caterpillar tumbled 5.8% after warning of a bigger drop in demand for its excavators in property crisis-hit China, piling more pain on the industrial bellwether grappling with supply-chain disruptions.

Financial markets have been roiled in recent months by the Russia-Ukraine war, soaring inflation and tightening financial conditions.

US job openings in June fell by the most in just over two years, as demand for workers eased in the retail and wholesale trade industries. Overall, the labor market remained tight.

Since the US Federal Reserve raised interest rates by 75 basis points in July, investors have been speculating about whether the central bank's largest hikes are behind it.

Shares of US defense companies Raytheon Technologies Corp., Lockheed Martin Corp., Northrop Grumman Corp. and L3Harris Technologies, Inc. rallied for much of the session, ending with gains between 0.5% and 2.3%. The United States is Taiwan's main supporter and arms supplier.

The S&P 500 declined 0.66% to end the session at 4,091.32 points.

The Nasdaq declined 0.16% to 12,348.76 points, while Dow Jones Industrial Average declined 1.23% to 32,396.30 points.

Volume on US exchanges was relatively heavy, with 11.2 billion shares traded, compared to an average of 10.8 billion shares over the previous 20 sessions.

The CBOE volatility index, also known as Wall Street's fear gauge, eased from the day's high of 24.68 points.

Uber Technologies, Inc. jumped almost 19% after the ride-hailing firm reported positive quarterly cash flow for the first time ever and forecast upbeat third-quarter operating profit.

The most traded stock in the S&P 500 was Tesla, Inc., with $28.7-billion worth of shares exchanged during the session. Its shares rose 1.1% after Citigroup hiked its price target on the electric carmaker.

Pinterest, Inc. surged over 11% after activist investor Elliott Investment Management became the largest shareholder of the digital pin-board firm.

Declining stocks outnumbered rising ones within the S&P 500 by a 3.1-to-one ratio.

The S&P 500 posted two new highs and 30 new lows; the Nasdaq recorded 40 new highs and 73 new lows. — ***Reuters***

Gold gains on China-US tensions and recession fears

GOLD hit its highest level in about a month on Tuesday as China-US tensions and fears of a possible recession in America burnished bullion's safe-haven appeal.

Spot gold was little changed at $1,771.59 per ounce by 1:59 p.m. EDT (1759 GMT). US gold futures settled 0.1% higher at $1,789.70.

Expectations of toned-down rate hikes and a clear slowdown in the US economy have significantly supported gold, said David Meger, director of metals trading at High Ridge Futures.

US House of Representatives Speaker Nancy Pelosi arrived in Chinese-claimed Taiwan aboard a US military aircraft late on Tuesday, the first such visit in 25 years and one that risks pushing relations between Washington and Beijing to a new low.

Gold is considered as a safe store of value during economic and geopolitical uncertainties and typically does well when interest rates are low or near zero.

While recent economic data has raised bets that US interest rates could peak early next year, San Francisco Fed President Mary Daly said the central bank's work of bringing down inflation is "nowhere near" almost done. Ms. Daly added that Fed officials are "still resolute and completely united" in the task of achieving price stability.

The US central bank last month raised its benchmark interest rate by three quarters of a percentage point for a second straight meeting.

"The next big test (for gold prices) to the upside falls around $1,800, although it could see some resistance around $1,780," Craig Erlam, senior market analyst at OANDA, said in a note.

Spot silver was 1.3% lower at $20.07 per ounce.

Platinum eased 0.1% to $905.97, while palladium fell 5.8% to $2,064.68. — ***Reuters***

China services sector expands at quickest pace in 15 months

BEIJING — China's services activity grew at the fastest rate in 15 months in July as easing coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) curbs boosted consumer confidence, but foreign demand fell and companies cut staff for the seventh month in a row, a private-sector survey showed on Wednesday.

The Caixin services purchasing managers' index (PMI) rose to 55.5 in July, the fastest growth since April 2021, rising further from the robust reading of 54.5 in June.

The 50-point mark separates growth from contraction on a monthly basis.

The reading contrasted somewhat with China's official services PMI on Sunday which showed growth moderated, but both gauges still pointed to solid expansion in the hard-hit sector while the country's manufacturers struggled.

A sub-index for new business soared to nine-month high, thanks to improved domestic demand, but new export business contracted for the seventh successive month, the survey showed.

Meanwhile, the rate of cost inflation in the services sector picked up for the first time since March as prices for food, fuel, raw materials and staff remained high.

But some market watchers are not sure how long the COVID-19 reopening boost will last.

Fresh virus flareups have led to tightening curbs on activity in some cities in recent weeks, while the property market is in a deepening slump and global demand is faltering. Many businesses have put big spending plans on hold and are trying to cut costs.

"Beware the July rebound narrative. Markets are convinced that easing lockdowns mean the worst is over, but July data show that firms are still largely refusing to invest, borrow and especially now, hire," said Leland Miller, chief executive at data firm China Beige Book.

"This is likely because companies simply do not believe that their COVID-19 Zero nightmare is over."

Caixin's July composite PMI, which includes both manufacturing and services activity, fell to 54.0 from 55.3 the month prior. The Caixin PMI is compiled by S&P Global from responses to questionnaires sent to purchasing managers in China.

The country's top leaders last week signalled their preparedness to miss the government growth target of around 5.5% for 2022. Analysts polled by Reuters have forecast growth to slow to 4.0% this year. — ***Reuters***

Japan's services sector nearly stagnates in July

TOKYO — Japan's services sector activity almost completely stagnated in July as rising inflation and growing economic uncertainty weighed on sentiment, while firms also said a boost from the lifting of COVID-19 pandemic curbs had faded.

The marked slowdown in activity in the sector offered an early warning sign that Japan's economy may struggle to stage a convincing recovery, a worrying trend for a country greatly exposed to fluctuations in global growth.

The final au Jibun Bank Japan Services purchasing managers' index (PMI) slumped to a seasonally adjusted 50.3, marking the lowest reading since March.

The figure showed activity came in slightly above the 50-mark that separates contraction from expansion.

It was below June's final of 54.0, which was a more than eight-year high, and a 51.2 flash reading.

"The Japanese services economy signalled that demand conditions had broadly stagnated at the start of the second half of the year as the boost from the wider reopening of the economy waned," said Usamah Bhatti, economist at S&P Global Market Intelligence, which compiles the survey.

"Panel members commented that weaker economic conditions, partly due to inflation and uncertainty, had weighed on the sector."

Average cost burdens faced by services firms remained elevated, coming in at the second-highest rate in the survey's history after June's record.

The composite PMI, which is estimated by using both manufacturing and services, slipped to a five-month low of 50.2 from June's 53.0 final.

"Overall, private sector activity broadly stagnated in July following June's solid rise," added Bhatti.

"A renewed fall in manufacturing output and stalling aggregate new orders contributed to the weaker reading." — ***Reuters***

Starbucks beats Wall Street earnings estimates despite inflation, hit to China business

STARBUCKS Corp. beat Wall Street estimates for quarterly profit on Tuesday as higher prices and strong demand for its coffees in the United States helped offset a hit to business in China from renewed COVID-19 lockdowns.

Despite record inflation in the United States that ate in to Starbucks' operating margin, the chain is "not currently seeing any measurable reduction in customer spending or any evidence of customers trading down," interim Chief Executive Officer Howard Schultz told investors on a conference call.

The Seattle-based chain earned 84 cents per share on an adjusted basis, beating estimates of 75 cents. The company's stock rose nearly 2% in extended trading.

However, global comparable sales rose 3% in the fiscal third quarter ended July 3, compared with analysts' average estimate for a 3.76% rise, according to Refinitiv IBES.

US sales were boosted by Starbucks' ability to raise prices without pushback from its wealthier customers and its booming sales of cold beverages, which now make up about 75% of total beverage sales in US company-operated cafes.

Its US active membership in its rewards program also grew 13% to 27.4 million members.

Higher costs for ingredients and enhanced benefits for some US employees affected operating margins, which fell by 400 basis points to 15.9%. Same-store sales grew 9% in North America.

As it fends off an organizing drive that has prompted workers at 200 stores to vote to unionize since last year, Mr. Schultz said in April that the company would boost benefits and wages — but only for workers in nonunionized stores — starting this week.

China was hit by the "most severe COVID-19 disruption since the pandemic began," with comparable sales in the company's fastest-growing market slumping 44% in the quarter, Belinda Wong, chairman of Starbucks China, said during the call. — ***Reuters***

OPEC and allies see slightly lower crude oil market surplus this year

LONDON — OPEC+ sees this year's oil market as slightly less supplied than previously thought, a day ahead of a meeting at which the producer group is set to decide on its production policy for next month.

New data showed that the OPEC+ Joint Technical Committee (JTC), meeting on Tuesday, trimmed its forecast for a surplus in the oil market this year by 200,000 barrels per day (bpd) to 800,000 bpd, three OPEC+ delegates told Reuters.

The JTC is meeting ahead of a ministerial meeting of the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies led by Russia, known as OPEC+, on Wednesday.

One of the sources said that the JTC, which advises the group on market fundamentals, did not discuss any output policy at its meeting.

OPEC+ sources told Reuters last week that the group will likely keep output unchanged in September, or raise it slightly.

Fox News reported on Monday that Saudi Arabia will push OPEC+ to increase oil production on a Wednesday, a Fox Business news reporter said on Monday. — ***Reuters***

Marathon posts bumper profit on soaring fuel prices

MARATHON Petroleum smashed quarterly profit estimates on Tuesday, the latest US refiner to benefit from a surge in fuel prices due to strong demand and tight supplies.

Global refining capacity has declined in the past two years because the pandemic-driven demand hit forced several less profitable operations to shut shop, while Western sanctions against Russia have tightened an already undersupplied market.

Demand, meanwhile, is benefiting from the easing of COVID-19 curbs and a surge in travel after two years of pandemic disruption, Chief Executive Michael Hennigan said.

Marathon's refining and marketing margins tripled to $37.54 per barrel in the quarter, mirroring similar gains at rivals such as Phillips 66 and sending its shares 4.2% higher.

Faisal Hersi, an analyst at Edward Jones, said he expected refining profits to decelerate but they would likely remain above historical averages.

The industry's bumper profits have drawn criticism from President Joseph R. Biden, who has said refiners were putting profits ahead of consumers and urged them to expand capacity. "The largest refining system in the United States (Marathon) did its part to manufacture fuel during the peak demand season," said Third Bridge analyst Peter McNally.

Marathon's refineries ran at nearly full capacity in the quarter, resulting in a total throughput of 3.1 million barrels per day (bpd), compared with utilization of 94% and a total throughput of 2.9 million bpd a year earlier.

For the third quarter, Marathon expects a throughput of 2.9 million bpd and utilization of 94%.

The firm also said it would buy back $5 billion worth of shares as it was nearing the end of the $15 billion return plan from proceeds of the Speedway sale. — ***Reuters***

ERRATUM

In the publications of **Notice of Virtual Hearing** of **ERC Case No. 2022-037 RC** of **Pampanga I Electric Cooperative, Inc. (PELCO I)** dated June 23 and 30, 2022, the following corrections are applied in the summary of the Non-Network Projects (NNP):

a. **NNP01 2022** from *4,746,61244* to **4,746,612.44**

b. **NNP11 2022** from *3,457,12640* to **3,457,126.40**

Our apologies.