Global renewables capacity set to double over next 5 years — IEA

LONDON — Global renewable power capacity is set to double over the next five years, driven by energy security concerns in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the International Energy Agency (IEA) said on Tuesday.

In an annual report on the outlook for renewables, the IEA said capacity worldwide is expected to grow by 2,400 gigawatts (GW) — equal to the entire power capacity of China today — to 5,640 GW by 2027.

The increase is 30% higher than the amount of growth forecast a year ago. High gas and power prices from a global energy crisis this year have made renewable power technologies more attractive.

Growth in renewables is also being driven by the United States, China and India implementing policies and market reforms to support renewables deployment more quickly than previously planned.

"Renewables were already expanding quickly, but the global energy crisis has kicked them into an extraordinary new phase of even faster growth as countries seek to capitalize on their energy security benefits," said IEA Executive Director Fatih Birol.

"The world is set to add as much renewable power in the next five years as it did in the previous 20 years," he added.

The report said renewables are set to account for over 90% of global electricity expansion over the next five years, overtaking coal to become the largest source of global electricity by early 2025.

Global solar photovoltaic capacity is set to almost triple by 2027, becoming the largest source of power capacity in the world, while wind capacity is set to almost double.

Meanwhile biofuels demand is set to increase by 22% by 2027, the report said. — ***Reuters***

NUNO MARQUES

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Libya's GNU says it lifted force majeure for oil and gas exploration

LIBYA'S Tripoli-based government, the Government of National Unity (GNU), said on Monday it had lifted the force majeure for oil and gas explorations and invited international oil companies that have contracts with the state-oil company (NOC) to resume their work in the country.

NOC also called in a statement on the companies to resume their work and assured them of its readiness to provide all necessary support, as oil production has been repeatedly hit in Libya — an OPEC member — by groups blockading facilities, sometimes to demand material benefits but also as a tactic to achieve wider political ends.

NOC said it would help the companies' return and provide a safe working environment "in co-operation with the civil and military authorities in Libya".

During the last major bout of conflict, groups affiliated with eastern commander Khalifa Haftar cut nearly all of Libya's oil output for eight months.

"This call comes within the corporation's efforts to lift force majeure after an objective follow-up and evaluation based on a realistic and logical analysis of the security situation, which has begun to improve dramatically," NOC said.

It added that the improvement of the security situation has led to "the commencement of excavation work in sites where it was difficult to work in the recent past, in which there are now many global service companies."

NOC chief Farhat Bengdara said in November that oil output had risen to 1.2 million barrels per day (bpd) from 600,000 bpd three months ago and that NOC does not expect any disruption in oil production.

The last major blockade, also by groups aligned with Haftar, cut Libyan oil output by about half and ended when the government in the western city of Tripoli appointed Mr. Bengdara as the head of NOC in July.

The government led by Abdulhamid al-Dbeibah had signed a preliminary deal on energy exploration with Turkey in October, which Libya's eastern-based parliament, that backs an alternative administration, rejects. — ***Reuters***

Pfizer, BioNTech countersue Moderna over COVID vaccine patents

PFIZER, Inc. and its German partner, BioNTech SE, fired back at Moderna, Inc. on Monday in a patent lawsuit over their rival COVID-19 vaccines, seeking dismissal of the lawsuit in Boston federal court and an order that Moderna's patents are invalid and not infringed.

Moderna first sued Pfizer in August, accusing the company of violating its rights in three patents related to innovations that Cambridge, Massachusetts-based Moderna said it pioneered before the COVID-19 pandemic.

Moderna has also filed a related lawsuit against Pfizer and BioNTech in Germany. All three companies are also embroiled in US patent disputes with other companies over the vaccines.

A Pfizer spokesperson said the company and BioNTech are confident in their intellectual property and will "vigorously defend" against Moderna's claims.

Moderna did not immediately respond to a request for comment on the Monday filing.

In its lawsuit, Moderna asked for an undisclosed amount of money damages from Pfizer COVID-19 vaccines sold since March. Pfizer's vaccine made over $26.4 billion for the New York-based company in the first nine months of 2022, while Moderna sold over $13.5 billion worth of its vaccine over the same period, according to company filings with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

Pfizer and BioNTech said in their Monday filing that they developed their vaccine independently, calling Moderna's lawsuit "revisionist history" and arguing its patents "far exceed its actual contributions to the field."

The companies argued that Moderna ignored the contributions of their scientists to foundational mRNA technology, as well as those of researchers at the US government's National Institutes of Health.

Moderna also waived its right to bring the lawsuit when it pledged not to sue other COVID-19 vaccine makers during the pandemic, the filing said, arguing the pandemic has not yet ended. — ***Reuters***

US SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

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Microsoft offers Sony 10-year contract for PlayStation's new *Call of Duty*

MICROSOFT has offered Sony a 10-year contract to make each new *Call of Duty* release available on PlayStation the same day it comes to Xbox, according to an opinion piece in the *Wall Street Journal* (*WSJ*) on Monday from a Microsoft executive.

Sony's gaming chief Jim Ryan said in September that Microsoft's earlier offer to keep the popular game series made by Activision Blizzard on PlayStation for three years after the current agreement expires was inadequate.

Xbox maker Microsoft's latest offer to Sony comes as it faces increased regulatory scrutiny over its $69-billion buyout deal for Activision Blizzard.

The offer, made in January, has attracted regulatory headwinds in the European Union, Britain and in the United States, with Sony criticizing the deal and even calling for a regulatory veto.

Reuters reported last month that Microsoft's remedy would consist mainly of a 10-year licensing deal to Playstation owner Sony.

"The main supposed potential anticompetitive risk Sony raises is that Microsoft would stop making *Call of Duty* available on the PlayStation. But that would be economically irrational," Microsoft President Brad Smith said in the *WSJ* opinion piece. — ***Reuters***

Gold retreats as dollar rallies on strong US data

GOLD PRICES beat a sharp retreat on Monday as the dollar rebounded on bets that strong US economic readings may give the US Federal Reserve fodder to accelerate rate hikes.

Spot gold dipped 1.6% to $1,769.14 per ounce by 1:33 p.m. ET (1833 GMT) after touching its highest since July 5 at $1,809.91 earlier in the day.

US gold futures settled down 1.6% at $1,781.30.

Silver too was caught in gold's slipstream, falling 3.8% to $22.24.

US services industry activity unexpectedly picked up in November, with employment rebounding, offering more evidence of underlying momentum in the economy as it braces for an anticipated recession next year.

The hotter-than-expected Institute of Supply Management data prompted a rally in the dollar index, in turn causing a selloff in gold and silver on expectations that the Fed is going to be more hawkish, said Phillip Streible, chief market strategist at Blue Line Futures in Chicago.

The dollar's subsequent bounce made gold less attractive for bullion traders holding other currencies.

On the technical front, gold "hit the 200-day moving average last night which is at $1,823.90 ... we've been pulling back since," Mr. Streible added.

Gold also gave up some gains from an earlier rally, prompted by news on top bullion consumer China easing some coronavirus disease 2019 restrictions.

Gold traders were still focused on the US Federal Reserve's rate-hike path, with a recent softening of its aggressive stance giving a fillip to non-yielding bullion.

November consumer price index data will be released on Dec. 13.

Platinum fell 1.8% to $996.51 per ounce, while palladium slid 1.3% to $1,874.50. — ***Reuters***

Oil tumbles after data raises Fed rate worries

NEW YORK — Oil prices fell over 3% on Monday, following US stock markets lower, after US service sector data raised worries that the Federal Reserve could continue its aggressive policy tightening path.

Brent crude futures settled down $2.89 or 3.4%, at $82.68 a barrel. West Texas Intermediate crude (WTI) fell $3.05 or 3.8% to $76.93 a barrel. Both benchmarks had earlier risen more than $2, before reversing direction.

During the session, WTI's front-month contract began trading lower than prices in half a year, a market structure called contango, which implies oversupply.

US services industry activity unexpectedly picked up in November, with employment rebounding, offering more evidence of underlying momentum in the economy as it braces for an anticipated recession next year.

The news caused oil and stock markets to pare gains.

The data challenges hopes that the Fed might slow the pace and intensity of its rate hikes amid recent signs of ebbing inflation.

"Macro-economic jitters about the Fed and what they're going to do on interest rates are taking over the market," said Phil Flynn, an analyst at Price Futures group.

Supporting the market earlier, the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries and allies including Russia, together called OPEC+, agreed on Sunday to stick to their October plan to cut output by two million barrels per day (bpd) from November through 2023.

"The decision... is not a surprise, given the uncertainty in the market over the impact of the Dec. 5 EU (European Union) Russia crude oil import ban and the G7 (Group of Seven) price cap," said Ann-Louise Hittle, vice-president of consultancy Wood Mackenzie.

"In addition, the producers' group faces downside risk from the potential for weakening global economic growth and China's zero-COVID policy."

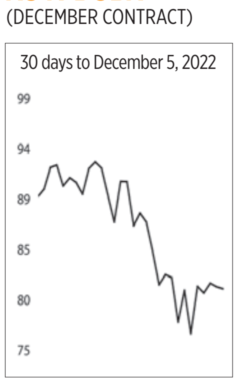
The G7 countries and Australia last week agreed on a $60-a-barrel price cap on seaborne Russian oil.

However, the price cap's effect on the futures market during Monday's session ran out of steam by the end of the day, said Andrew Lipow, president of Lipow Oil Associates in Houston.

"The market has realized that the EU is already banning the purchase of Russian oil with a few limited exemptions, and China and India are going to continue and purchase Russian crude oil, so the impact of the price cap will be mitigated," Mr. Lipow said.

At the same time, in a positive sign for fuel demand in the world's top oil importer, more Chinese cities eased coronavirus disease 2019 curbs over the weekend. — ***Reuters***

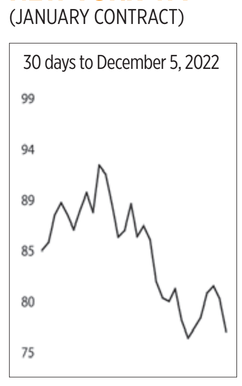
ASIA-DUBAI
(DECEMBER CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

Dec.	29	30	1	2	5
$/bbl	81.05	80.40	81.35	81.00	80.80
Average (Dec. 1-5)					**$81.05**
Average (Nov. 1-30)					**$86.19**

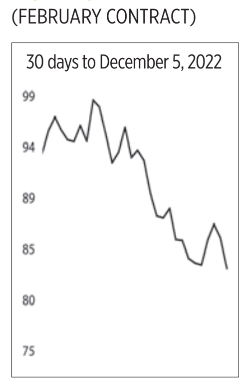
NEW YORK-WTI
(JANUARY CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

Dec.	29	30	1	2	5
$/bbl	78.20	80.55	81.22	79.98	76.93
Average (Dec. 1-5)					**$79.38**
Average (Nov. 1-30)					**$84.39**

LONDON-BRENT
(FEBRUARY CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

Dec.	29	30	1	2	5
$/bbl	83.03	85.43	86.88	85.57	82.68
Average (Dec. 1-5)					**$85.04**
Average (Nov. 1-30)					**$90.85**

Source: REUTERS

Wall St. slides as investors unnerved by strong services data

US MARKETS ended Monday lower, as investors spooked by better-than-expected data from the services sector re-evaluated whether the US Federal Reserve could hike interest rates for longer, while shares of Tesla slid on reports of a production cut in China.

The electric-vehicle maker slumped 6.4% on plans to cut December output of the Model Y at its Shanghai plant by more than 20% from the previous month.

This weighed on the Nasdaq, where Tesla was one of the biggest fallers, pulling the tech-heavy index to its second straight decline.

Broadly, indexes suffered as data showed US services industry activity unexpectedly picked up in November, with employment rebounding, offering more evidence of underlying momentum in the economy.

The data came on the heels of a survey last week that showed stronger-than-expected job and wage growth in November, challenging hopes that the Fed might slow the pace and intensity of its rate hikes amid recent signs of ebbing inflation.

Investors see an 89% chance that the US Fed will increase interest rates by 50 basis points next week to 4.25%-4.5%, with the rates peaking at 4.984% in May 2023.

The rate-setting Federal Open Market Committee meets on Dec. 13-14, the final meeting in a volatile year, which saw the central bank attempt to arrest a multi-decade rise in inflation with record interest rate hikes.

The aggressive policy tightening has also triggered worries of an economic downturn, with JPMorgan, Citigroup and BlackRock among those that believe a recession is likely in 2023.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 482.78 points or 1.4% to close at 33,947.1; the S&P 500 lost 72.86 points or 1.79% to end on 3,998.84; and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 221.56 points or 1.93% to finish on 11,239.94.

Energy was among the biggest S&P sectoral losers, dropping 2.9%. It was weighed by US natural gas futures slumping more than 10% on Monday, as the outlook dimmed due to forecasts for milder weather and the delayed restart of the Freeport liquefied natural gas (LNG) export plant.

EQT Corp., one of the largest US natural gas producers, was the steepest faller on the energy index, closing 7.2% lower.

Financials were also hit hard, slipping 2.5%. Although bank profits are typically boosted by rising interest rates, they are also sensitive to concerns about bad loans or slowing loan growth amid an economic downturn.

Meanwhile, apparel maker VF Corp. dropped 11.2% - its largest one-day decline since March 2020 — after announcing the sudden retirement of Chief Executive Officer Steve Rendle. The firm, which owns names including outdoor wear brand The North Face and sneaker maker Vans, also cut its full-year sales and profit forecasts

Volume on US exchanges was 10.78 billion shares, compared with the 11.04 billion average for the full session over the last 20 trading days. The S&P 500 posted six new 52-week highs and four new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 105 new highs and 133 new lows. — ***Reuters***

SPOT PRICES

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2022

METAL	
PALLADIUM free $/troy oz	1,907.63
PALLADIUM JMI base, $/troy oz	1,928.00
PLATINUM free $/troy oz	1,014.25
PLATINUM JMI base $/troy oz	1,022.00
KRUGGERAND, fob $/troy oz	1,773.00
IRIDIUM, whs rot, $/troy oz	3,940.00
RHODIUM, whs rot, $/troy oz	13,290.00
GRAINS (December 1, 2022)	
(FOB Bangkok basis at every Thursday)	
FRAGRANT (100%) 1st Class, $/ton	885.00
FRAGRANT (100%) 2nd Class, $/ton	856.00
RICE (5%) White Thai- $/ton	456.00
RICE (10%) White Thai- $/ton	453.00
RICE (15%) White Thai- $/ton	450.00
RICE (25%) White Thai- $/ton (Super)	450.00
BROKER RICE A-1 Super $/ton	412.00
FOOD	
COCOA ICCO Dly (SDR/mt)	1,848.11
COCOA ICCO $/mt	2,454.96
COFFEE ICA comp '2001 cts/lb	153.95
SUGAR ISA FOB Daily Price, Carib. port cts/lb	18.49
SUGAR ISA 15-day ave.	18.76

LIFFE COFFEE

New Robusta 10 MT - $/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
Nov.	1,906	1,883	1,899	1,888
Jan.	1,864	1,840	1,856	1,846
Mar.	1,846	1,826	1,838	1,830
May	1,832	1,819	1,823	1,816

LIFFE COCOA

(Ldn)-10 MT-£/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
Dec.	2,140	2,110	2,120	2,144
Mar.	1,971	1,942	1,949	1,971
May	1,904	1,879	1,886	1,902
July	1,881	1,860	1,867	1,881

COCONUT

MANILA COPRA (based on 6% moisture)	
Peso/100kg	Buyer/Seller
Lag/Qzn/Luc 22	3,550.00/3,600.00
Philippine Coconut Oil - Crude	
CIF NY/NOLA	57.50
PALM OIL RAIL/NOLA	65.50
COCONUT OIL (PHIL/IDN),$ per ton,	
CIF Europe	
Nov./Dec.'22	1,075.00/1,160.00
Dec./Jan.'23	1,085.00/1,180.00
Jan./Feb.'23	1,100.00/1,185.00
Feb./Mar.'23	1,135.00/1,190.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

LME FINAL CLOSING PRICES, US$/MT

	3 MOS
ALUMINUM H.G.	2,522.50
ALUMINUM Alloy	1,860.00
COPPER	8,391.00
LEAD	2,238.50
NICKEL	28,680.00
TIN	24,446.00
ZINC	3,126.00