SPOT PRICES

MONDAY, APRIL 10, 2023

METAL	
PALLADIUM free $/troy oz	1,446.88
PALLADIUM JMI base, $/troy oz	1,455.00
PLATINUM free $/troy oz	999.07
PLATINUM JMI base $/troy oz	1,005.00
KRUGGERAND, fob $/troy oz	2,006.00
IRIDIUM, whs rot, $/troy oz	4,590.00
RHODIUM, whs rot, $/troy oz	7,890.00
GRAINS (April 6, 2023)	
(FOB Bangkok basis at every Thursday)	
FRAGRANT (100%) 1st Class, $/ton	878.00
FRAGRANT (100%) 2nd Class, $/ton	848.00
RICE (5%) White Thai- $/ton	505.00
RICE (10%) White Thai- $/ton	504.00
RICE (15%) White Thai- $/ton	499.00
RICE (25%) White Thai- $/ton (Super)	499.00
BROKER RICE A-1 Super $/ton	451.00
FOOD	
COCOA ICCO Dly (SDR/mt)	2,074.27
COCOA ICCO $/mt	2,800.12
COFFEE ICA comp '2001 cts/lb	173.96
SUGAR ISA FOB Daily Price, Carib. port cts/lb	23.20
SUGAR ISA 15-day ave.	21.18

LIFFE COFFEE

New Robusta 10 MT - $/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
May	2,320	2,284	2,299	2,314
July	2,277	2,241	2,256	2,274
Sept.	2,234	2,201	2,216	2,234
Nov.	2,197	2,163	2,177	2,197

LIFFE COCOA

(Ldn)-10 MT-£/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
May	2,203	2,167	2,186	2,169
July	2,191	2,155	2,181	2,156
Sept.	2,168	2,140	2,159	2,140
Dec.	2,104	2,083	2,098	2,085

COCONUT

MANILA COPRA (based on 6% moisture)

Peso/100kg		Buyer/Seller
Lag/Qzn/Luc	23	3,350.00/3,400.00
Philippine Coconut Oil - Crude		
CIF NY/NOLA		53.50
PALM OIL RAIL/NOLA		56.50
COCONUT OIL (PHIL/IDN),$ per ton, CIF Europe		
Apr./May'23		0.00/1,085.00
May/June'23		1,050.00/1,080.00
June/July'23		1,050.00/1,080.00
July/Aug.'23		1,055.00/1,080.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

LME FINAL CLOSING PRICES, US$/MT

	3 MOS
ALUMINUM H.G.	2,333.50
ALUMINUM Alloy	2,007.00
COPPER	8,800.00
LEAD	2,095.50
NICKEL	22,800.00
TIN	24,308.00
ZINC	2,779.00

Crude settles lower as rate hike worries balance tighter supplies

CRUDE OIL PRICES settled lower on Monday, after rising for three straight weeks, as concern about further interest rate hikes that could curb demand balanced the prospect of a tighter market due to supply cuts from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and allies including Russia (OPEC+) producers.

The US dollar rose after US jobs data pointed to a tight labor market, heightening expectations of another US Federal Reserve rate hike. Dollar strength makes oil more expensive for other currency holders and can weigh on demand.

Brent crude settled down 96 cents or 0.2% at $84.58 a barrel, while US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) also fell 94 or 0.1% to $79.74. Both benchmarks fell by more than $1 earlier in the session.

"We look for this week's trade to be heavily influenced by inflation data featured by Wednesday's CPI and Thursday's PPI that will likely revive the specter of higher interest rates that could strengthen the US dollar," said Jim Ritterbusch, president of Ritterbusch and Associates in Galena, Illinois.

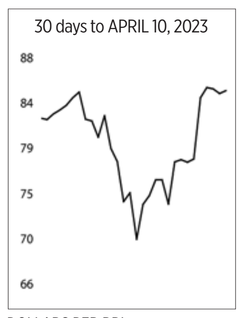
Crude last week jumped more than 6% after OPEC+ surprised the market with a new round of production cuts starting in May.

Oil also drew support from a steeper-than-expected drop in US crude inventories last week, as well as a decline in gasoline and distillate stocks, hinting at rising demand.

In global financial markets, a US inflation report to be released on Wednesday could help investors gauge the near-term trajectory for interest rates.

Also coming up are monthly reports from OPEC on Thursday and the International Energy Agency on Friday, which will update oil demand, supply forecasts. — *Reuters*

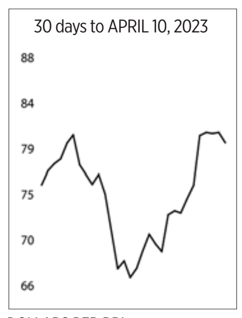
ASIA-DUBAI
(APRIL CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

April	3	4	5	6	10
$/bbl	84.05	85.05	84.90	84.45	84.75
Average (April 3-10)					**$84.64**
Average (March 1-31)					**$78.49**

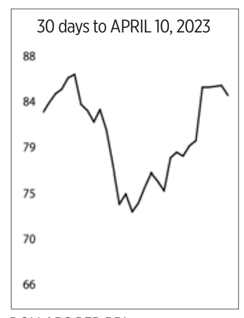
NEW YORK-WTI
(MAY CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

April	3	4	5	6	10
$/bbl	80.42	80.71	80.61	80.70	79.74
Average (April 3-10)					**$80.44**
Average (March 1-31)					**$73.37**

LONDON-BRENT
(JUNE CONTRACT)



DOLLARS PER BBL

April	3	4	5	6	10
$/bbl	84.93	84.94	84.99	85.12	84.18
Average (April 3-10)					**$84.83**
Average (March 1-31)					**$79.21**

Source: REUTERS

Gold prices fall below $2,000; US jobs growth lifts greenback

GOLD retreated below the key $2,000 level on Monday as the dollar advanced on Friday's strong US jobs numbers, while traders also positioned for inflation readings this week that could influence interest rate hikes.

Spot gold fell nearly 1% to $1,988.88 per ounce by 1:57 p.m. EDT (17:57 GMT), while US gold futures settled down 1.1% at $1,989.10.

US Treasury yields rose following a US jobs report that showed a still strong pace of hiring in March, likely giving room for the US Federal Reserve to hike rates again.

Chances of a 25-basis-point rate hike next month were now pegged at 72%, driving an uptick in the dollar, making dollar-denominated bullion less attractive for holders of other currencies.

Another rate hike could "really box the market in," with gold likely consolidating in a range, Daniel Pavilonis, senior market strategist at RJO Futures, said.

Gold surpassed $2,000 last week as weak US services sector and job openings data made a rate hike next month less likely.

The US CPI print is due at 1230 GMT (8:30 a.m. ET) on Wednesday, and will be followed later in the day by the minutes from the Fed's last meeting.

Signs that US disinflation is gathering pace, allowing the Fed to pause rate hikes sooner rather than later, may restore gold to recent highs, said Han Tan, chief market analyst at Exinity.

Silver fell 0.9% to $24.78 per ounce; platinum shed 1.5% to $992.07; while palladium dropped 3.5% to $1,415.19. — *Reuters*

NYSE ends mixed with inflation data, earnings on tap

NEW YORK — US stock indexes clawed back from steep losses to a mixed close on Monday as investors digested Friday's employment report and prepared for an eventful week of inflation data and bank earnings.

Megacap momentum stocks dragged the tech-heavy Nasdaq slightly lower, while industrials helped boost the blue-chip Dow into green territory.

The bellwether S&P 500 ended the session nominally higher.

Economically sensitive transports, semiconductors, small-caps, and industrials outperformed the broader market, hinting that the economy is sturdy enough to withstand further rate increases from the US Federal Reserve.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 101.23 points or 0.3% to 33,586.52; the S&P 500 gained 4.09 points or 0.10% to 4,109.11; and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 3.60 points or 0.03% to 12,084.36.

Of the 11 major sectors of the S&P 500, six ended the session higher, led by industrials. Communication services and utilities suffered the largest percentage losses.

On Friday, a market holiday, the Labor department released its March jobs report, which showed robust payrolls growth and a welcome but modest wage inflation cooldown.

While the report signaled the Fed's restrictive policy is beginning to have its intended economic dampening effect, it raised the odds that the central bank will move forward with another 25-basis-point increase to the Fed funds target rate at the conclusion of its May policy meeting.

At last glance, financial markets have priced in a 72% likelihood of that happening, according to CME's FedWatch tool.

Market participants will pay close attention to the consumer and producer price indexes, expected on Thursday and Friday, respectively, for a more complete picture on the extent to which inflation cooled in March.

On Friday, a trio of big banks — Citigroup, Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co. and Wells Fargo & Co. — unofficially kick off first-quarter earnings season, and investors will be scrutinizing the reports for clues on the sector's overall health after two US regional banks collapsed in March.

As of Friday, analysts expected aggregate S&P 500 earnings down 5.2% year on year, a stark reversal from the 1.4% annual growth expected at the beginning of the quarter, according to Refinitiv.

Shale oil producer Pioneer Natural Resources Co. jumped 5.8% following a report that Exxon Mobil Corp. held preliminary talks with the company about a potential acquisition.

Charles Schwab Corp. gained 4.8% in the wake of the broker's reported second-highest ever influx of client assets in March.

Chip stocks Micron Technology, Inc. and Western Digital Corp. gained 8.0% and 8.2%, respectively, on Samsung Electronics Co. Ltd.'s plans to cut chip production.

Volume on US exchanges was 9.09 billion shares, compared with the 12.28 billion average over the last 20 trading days at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) in New York City. — *Reuters*

Debt crunch looms for weaker economies with a wall of bond maturities ahead

WASHINGTON — A combination of sticky high interest rates and lackluster global growth could push a number of emerging economies that are facing soaring refinancing needs into debt difficulties next year.

Many weaker economies navigated the fallout from the COVID-19 pandemic and the war in Ukraine with financing aid from multilateral and bilateral lenders.

But repayments on emerging markets' high-yield international bonds will total $30 billion in 2024, a steep increase compared to the $8.4 billion left for the remainder of this year. This adds a layer of complexity to more vulnerable countries if some issuers can't refinance their debt soon.

"A more prolonged period without market access would be of more concern for the lower-rated tiers of the emerging markets sovereign universe," said James Wilson, EM sovereign strategist for ING.

How to mitigate the threat of severe debt distress for more vulnerable emerging economies will be a key topic in Washington, where policy makers and asset managers are meeting for the World Bank/IMF Spring Meetings this week.

Tapping international debt markets hasn't been a problem across the board for emerging economies. Sovereign issuance has hit a record high so far this year, although that bond sale bonanza has been driven by higher rated sovereigns.

Meanwhile countries such as Tunisia, Kenya, and Pakistan "would need to find alternative sources of financing if the market doesn't reopen for them," said Thys Louw, portfolio manager for the emerging markets hard currency debt strategy at Ninety One, in London.

Investors are concerned over refinancing risks for Kenya's $2-billion bond maturing in June 2024, said Merveille Paja, EEMEA sovereign credit strategist for BofA.

"The market expects more solutions to be delivered, either the IMF's resilience and sustainability trust or $1 billion external issuance or syndication loan," Ms. Paja told Reuters.

The resilience and sustainability trust, approved a year ago, is a lending facility for climate and pandemic preparedness for low-income and some middle-income nations.

Tunisia's debt crunch comes even earlier than Kenya's: a 500-million euro overseas bond matures in October and another €850 million are due in February. Ratings agency Fitch sees a default as a "real possibility" for the CCC-rated country.

The nation reached in October a staff-level agreement for a $1.9 billion bailout with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), though Tunisia's President Kais Saied recently gave his clearest rejection yet of the terms of the stalled program.

Ethiopia, which is currently negotiating a financing program with the IMF, has a $1 billion eurobond issue coming due in 2024. Investors are already offering to extend maturities.

Sri Lanka, Zambia, and Ghana have already defaulted on their overseas debt and are working towards debt reworks with creditors, albeit slowly.

Bahrain has limited reserves and large refinancing needs, but "strong support from peers such as Saudi Arabia mitigates some of this risk," according to an ING report.

GLOBAL RISKS

"In Tunisia and Pakistan, the finalization of the IMF program will be an important step to avoiding a default as that would unlock bilateral and multilateral financing," added Mr. Louw.

Pakistan's refinancing needs for 2024 stand at 12% of its international reserves.

The JPMorgan's emerging markets bond index for high-yield debt is at 900 basis points (bps) over US Treasuries, and has largely remained over 800 bps since the beginning of last year.

"The spread movements during the pandemic were massive, but retreated very quickly. The Russia conflict and then the Fed hiking cycle led to higher spreads for a much longer period," said Gregory Smith, emerging markets fund manager at London-based M&G Investment.

A weaker US dollar should help countries to tap international markets in the medium term, but recent data fueled jitters that restrictive central bank policies could push the global economy into recession.

"Investors are concerned about further contagion of the banking sector and risks of the Fed pausing too early or tightening too aggressively," said Ms. Paja from BofA. — *Reuters*

IMF's Kristalina Georgieva says 44 countries interested in $40-B new resilience trust loans

WASHINGTON — International Monetary Fund (IMF) Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva said on Monday that 44 countries had expressed interest in borrowing from its $40-billion Resilience and Sustainability Trust after an initial five had arranged loans.

The facility was created last year to help channel excess IMF Special Drawing Rights reserves from wealthier countries to poor and vulnerable middle-income countries to provide long-term concessional financing for needs such as climate change adaptation and transitioning to cleaner energy sources.

Ms. Georgieva told a Bretton Woods Committee event at the start of IMF and World Bank spring meeting week that the "healthy queue" of countries was a sign that the resilience facility resources needed to be scaled up to much higher levels.

Ms. Georgieva said the facility's current resources of around $40 billion were "modest in size." Rwanda, Barbados, Costa Rica, Bangladesh, and Jamaica have reached agreements for loan programs from the facility, which come with certain economic policy requirements such as meeting fiscal targets.

Her comments come as IMF and World Bank member countries will discuss this week ways to dramatically scale up climate-related lending and private sector investment to meet needs estimated in the trillions of dollars a year to meet emissions reduction targets.

"So $40 billion is not a solution on its own, but it is a contribution to a solution, if it helps remove barriers for massively scaling investment, especially private investment, in emerging markets and developing economies," Ms. Georgieva said. — *Reuters*

China's electric vehicle maker BYD bets on self-developed chassis suspension system

SHANGHAI — China's BYD launched on Monday a new chassis suspension system as the electric vehicle maker ramps up efforts to move upmarket with premium products.

The system, BYD DiSus Intelligent Body Control System, is similar to the chassis suspension systems available in premium and luxury cars, such as Porsche's Dynamic Chassis Control and Mercedes Benz's Magic Body Control.

The DiSus system will come in three variations and will be used in BYD's luxury off-road SUV Yangwang U8 initially, BYD said in a statement. It will also be available in BYD's Han, Tang, and Denza models, it added.

The move underscores a shift for BYD, whose current car products are mostly concentrated in the mass market segment priced under 300,000 yuan ($43,641.44), as it attempts to reach a more upmarket segment with its offerings.

BYD launched its first luxury car brand Yangwang in January with an off-road SUV and a sportscar priced above 1 million yuan. — *Reuters*