

Oil prices slide as global equities sell-off offsets rising ME tensions

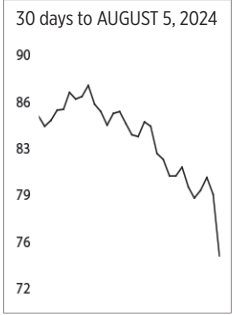
HOUSTON — Oil fell in volatile trade on Monday as a sell-off continued on global stock markets, but the slide was limited by fears Iran’s retaliation for the assassination of a Hamas leader in Tehran may lead to a wider war in the Middle East (ME).

Brent crude futures settled down 51 cents or 0.66% at \$76.30 a barrel, with prices earlier trading around their lowest levels since January. US West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude was down 58 cents or 0.79% at \$72.94.

Equities markets tumbled from Asia to North America as investors fled riskier assets while waging that rapid interest rate cuts by the US Federal Reserve will be needed to drive US economic growth.

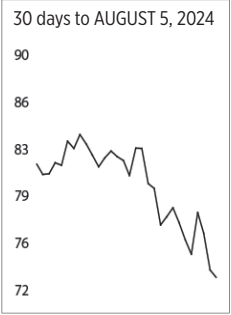
“The stock market was falling as the (Friday) jobs report has the market convinced that the Fed once

ASIA-DUBAI
(AUGUST CONTRACT)



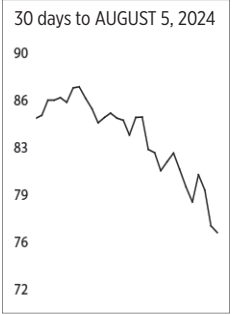
	Aug.	30	31	1	2	5
\$/bbl	78.95	79.55	80.55	79.24	74.50	
Average (August 1-5)	\$78.10					
Average (July 1-31)	\$83.84					

NEW YORK-WTI
(SEPTEMBER CONTRACT)



	Aug.	30	31	1	2	5
\$/bbl	74.75	77.91	76.31	73.52	72.94	
Average (August 1-5)	\$74.26					
Average (July 1-31)	\$80.48					

LONDON-BRENT
(OCTOBER CONTRACT)



	Aug.	30	31	1	2	5
\$/bbl	78.63	80.72	79.52	76.81	76.30	
Average (August 1-5)	\$77.54					
Average (July 1-31)	\$83.88					

Source: REUTERS

again fell behind the curve,” Phil Flynn, senior analyst with Price Futures Group, wrote in a morning note.

Worries over further possible supply disruptions from a wider

Middle East war limited oil’s losses throughout the day.

Israel and the US are bracing for a serious escalation in the region after Iran and its allies

Hamas and Hezbollah pledged to retaliate against Israel for the killings of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh and a top Hezbollah military commander last week.

Oil traders are expecting Iran’s response to be short in duration, making crude futures more vulnerable to fears of a US recession like those that roiled markets on Monday, said John Kilduff, founding partner of Again Capital LLC.

“If this passes quickly, crude oil prices will join this enormous dour party and prices will spiral out of control,” Mr. Kilduff said.

Slumping diesel consumption in China, the world’s biggest contributor to oil demand growth, is also weighing on oil. — *Reuters*

SPOT PRICES

MONDAY, AUGUST 5, 2024

METAL	
PALLADIUM free \$/troy oz	854.25
PALLADIUM JMI base, \$/troy oz	859.00
PLATINUM free \$/troy oz	915.15
PLATINUM JMI base \$/troy oz	918.00
KRUGGERAND, fob \$/troy oz	2,390.00
IRIDIUM, whs rot, \$/troy oz	4,690.00
RHODIUM, whs rot, \$/troy oz	4,615.00
GRAINS (August 1, 2024)	
(FOB Bangkok basis at every Thursday)	
FRAGRANT (100%) 1 st Class, \$/ton	963.00
FRAGRANT (100%) 2 nd Class, \$/ton	933.00
RICE (5%) White Thai- \$/ton	593.00
RICE (10%) White Thai- \$/ton	592.00
RICE (15%) White Thai- \$/ton	576.00
RICE (25%) White Thai- \$/ton (Super)	576.00
BROKER RICE A-1 Super \$/ton	447.00
FOOD	
COCOA ICCO Dly (SDR/mt)	5,073.88
COCOA ICCO \$/mt	6,741.72
COFFEE ICA comp '2001 cts/lb	226.88
SUGAR ISA FOB Daily Price, Carib. port cts/lb	18.09
SUGAR ISA 15-day ave.	18.74

LIFFE COFFEE

New Robusta 10 MT - \$/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
Sept.	4,192	4,065	4,175	4,227
Jan.	3,913	3,795	3,888	3,947
Mar.	3,789	3,682	3,761	3,822
May	3,650	3,600	3,674	3,725

LIFFE COCOA

(Ldn)-10 MT-£/ton

	High	Low	Sett	Psett
Sept.	6,346	5,881	6,284	6,024
Mar.	4,795	4,577	4,783	4,658
May	4,611	4,415	4,587	4,478
July	4,488	4,298	4,447	4,358

COCONUT

MANILA COPRA (based on 6% moisture)	
Peso/100kg	Buyer/Seller
Lag/Qzn/Luc	24 4,300.00/4,350.00
Philippine Coconut Oil - Crude	
CIF NY/NOLA	74.50
FOB RAIL/NOLA	77.00
COCONUT OIL (PHIL/IDN), \$ per ton,	
CIF Europe	
Aug./Sept.'24	0.00/1,580.00
Sept./Oct.'24	0.00/1,575.00
Oct./Nov.'24	0.00/1,577.50
Nov./Dec.'24	0.00/1,580.00

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE

LME FINAL CLOSING PRICES, US\$/MT

	3 MOS.
ALUMINUM H.G.	2,250.00
ALUMINUM Alloy	2,370.00
COPPER	8,888.50
LEAD	1,930.50
NICKEL	16,276.00
TIN	29,484.00
ZINC	2,633.50



DYLAN CALLUW/UNSPLASH

Seven group of stocks, which previously had propelled the indexes to record highs this year.

Declining issues outnumbered advancing ones on the New York Stock Exchange by a 9.04-to-1 ratio; on Nasdaq, a 6.44-to-1 ratio favored decliners.

The S&P 500 posted 16 new 52-week highs and 26 new lows; the Nasdaq Composite recorded 14 new highs and 508 new lows. — *Reuters*

US stocks plummet amid US recession concerns

NEW YORK — US stocks ended with steep losses on Monday, leaving the Nasdaq and the S&P 500 down at least 3% each as the market extended last week’s sell-off amid US recession worries and as Apple shares fell sharply on news that a big investor had cut its stake.

All three major indexes registered their biggest three-day percentage declines since June 2022, and the Nasdaq and S&P 500 closed at their lowest levels since early May.

The recession fears shook global markets and drove investors out of risky assets following weak economic data last week, including Friday’s soft US payrolls report.

Investors worry that the economy is losing steam more rapidly than anticipated and that the US Federal Reserve erred by keeping interest rates steady at its last policy meeting.

Shares of Apple fell 4.8% after Berkshire Hathaway halved its stake in the iPhone maker. Billionaire investor Warren Buffett also left cash at Berkshire soar to \$277 billion.

Nvidia, Microsoft and Alphabet also slid, while the CBOE Volatility index, Wall Street’s “fear gauge,” had its highest close since Oct. 28, 2020. All 11 of the S&P 500 sectors fell, led by declines in technology.

Chicago Fed President Austan Goolsbee downplayed recession fears, but said Fed officials need to be cognizant of changes in the environment to avoid being too restrictive with interest rates.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average fell 1,033.99 points or 2.6% to 38,703.27; the S&P 500 lost 160.23 points or 3% to 5,186.33; and the Nasdaq Composite dropped 576.08 points or 3.43% to 16,200.08.

The S&P 500 was down more than 4% at its lowest level of the session, 5,119.26.

Indexes trimmed losses in late morning after data showed US services sector activity in July rebounded from a four-year low amid a rise in orders and employment.

The weak jobs report and shrinking manufacturing activity in the world’s largest economy added to worries following recent disappointing forecasts from the big US technology companies. The Nasdaq Composite on Friday confirmed it was in correction territory.

Traders are now pricing in an 86% chance the Fed will cut rates by 50 basis points (bps) at its next scheduled policy meeting in September, and a 14% chance of a 25-bp reduction, according to the CME Group’s FedWatch Tool.

The focus of the sell-off has been the so-called Magnificent

Emperor’s profit falls amid market challenges

LISTED global brandy and whiskey company Emperor, Inc. reported a 13% decline in its second-quarter attributable net profit, falling to P2.1 billion from P2.41 billion a year earlier amid market challenges.

Second-quarter revenue reached P15.5 billion, up by 18.3% compared to the previous quarter, Emperor said in a regulatory filing on Tuesday.

Emperor noted that its second-quarter net profit was 19% higher compared to the previous quarter.

For the first half, Emperor saw a 19.2% decline in its attributable net profit to P3.8 billion from P4.7 billion last year.

January-to-June revenue fell by 8% to P28.6 billion from P31.11 billion in 2023.

“The Philippine market remains challenging, reflecting the global situation. The market is inundated with cheap products as consumers seek value. The company is pivoting towards a more competitive stance. However, we believe that in the long term, the premiumization strategy remains compelling,” the company said.

“Results are improving quarter on quarter as the year progresses, with improving markets in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. There are signs that consumer confidence is returning globally, evidenced by higher revenues versus the previous quarter amidst challenges of high interest rates, inflation, and geopolitical uncertainty,” it added.



EMPERADORBRANDY.COM

The company said its whiskey segment performed better than the industry across various markets, with its single malt portfolio being one of the few growing categories.

Meanwhile, Emperor is confident in its growth prospects with the expansion of The Dalmore distillery to be completed before year-end, which will double the current capacity.

The company is also expanding its warehouses to accommodate the aging of liquids from the expanded Dalmore distillery.

“The fundamentals of the company are intact and the long-term trajectory is still on track. Once global economies improve

and consumer demand for premium and luxury products returns, our performance will see new heights. The company continues to strategically invest in the business for the future,” Emperor President Winston S. Co said.

Emperor’s brand portfolio consists of brands such as Fundador Brandy, The Dalmore, Fettercairn, Jura, and Tamnavulin single malt Scotch whiskeys. The products are available in over 100 countries.

On Tuesday, Emperor shares fell by 0.11% or two centavos to P18.58 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**

Cityland board approves P1-B commercial papers

CITYLAND Development Corp.’s board has approved an application to the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) for issuing P1 billion in commercial papers to support its fundraising efforts.

The company’s board approved the filing of the application with the SEC during a special meeting on Aug. 5, Cityland said in a stock exchange disclosure on Tuesday.

The proceeds from the commercial papers will be used to finance the company’s funding requirements.

Cityland’s board also approved the filing of the registration statement with the SEC for the planned commercial paper issuance.

In March, Cityland launched its 50-storey City North Tower condominium project along North Avenue in Quezon City. The project

Gold slips over 1% as wider market rout spills over

GOLD fell more than 1% on Monday, caught in the slipstream of a global, wider market sell-off driven by mounting economic concerns, although analysts said this would be a temporary correction for the safe haven.

After dropping as much as 3.2% earlier in the session, spot gold pared some losses to trade 1.6% lower at \$2,404.53 an ounce by 14 p.m. ET (1800 GMT).

US gold futures settled 1% lower at \$2,444.40. Spot silver was down 5.1% at \$27.10.

Wall Street tumbled, as fears of the United States tipping into recession following weak economic data last week rippled through global markets.

“Investors are spooked and they’re selling what they can, and that includes gold and silver,” said Jim Wycoff, senior analyst at Kitco Metals.

The sell-off in autocatalysts platinum and palladium also reflected deepening concerns over industrial demand.

Platinum fell 4.9% to \$911.10, and palladium lost 5.7% to \$839.50 after hitting its lowest since August 2018. The two metals are used in engine exhausts to reduce emissions.

While gold is considered a safe refuge during such uncertainties, it was not immune to Monday’s sell-off as investors dumped assets across the board.

Treasury bonds, meanwhile, were in demand, with US 10-year yields touching the lowest since mid-2023 as fears of a recession worsened after a bleak July payrolls report.

However, analysts said gold, which has risen more than 16% thus far this year, could regain its footing looking ahead, given the persistent economic and political uncertainties and also on expectations of interest rate cuts from the US Federal Reserve, which should bode well for the zero-yield bullion. — *Reuters*

JOB HIRING

Name of Company	INTELUCK CORPORATION
Place of Assignment	9th floor 107 Aguirre Building, Aguirre Street, Legazpi Village, Makati City
Position	Distributor Sales Manager
Quantity of Workers Needed	1

Brief Description of Functions:

- Build and maintain strong relationships with key customers.
- Keep close contact with customers, understand their needs, and provide timely solutions and support.
- Explore new sales channels, seek new partners and distributors to expand the company's market share and sales performance.
- Develop sales plans and strategies to achieve company sales goals.
- Analyze market trends and competitors, identify sales priorities and target customer groups.
- Build and manage the sales team, set clear sales targets for team members, and provide training and guidance to ensure the team achieves sales objectives.
- Continuously improve sales strategies and processes to enhance sales efficiency and customer satisfaction.
- Adjust sales strategies and plans promptly based on market changes and customer needs.
- Responsible for regularly submitting sales reports, tracking sales data and performance indicators, and conducting analysis and evaluation.
- Provide market feedback and recommendations to support company decision-making.

Brief Description of the Qualification

- Bachelor's degree or above, with at least 5 years of work experience.
- With previous experience as a sales manager in a large distributor company or fast-moving consumer goods company, with a successful sales track record.
- Possess rich sales channels and customer resources, able to leverage existing resources to expand the market and establish long-term partnerships.
- Strong leadership skills and the ability to motivate team members to drive sales objectives.
- Good communication skills and negotiation skills to build strong relationships with customers and partners, facilitating sales transactions.
- Strong data analysis skills to adjust sales strategies and make decisions based on data.

Interested applicants may send their resume to:
jessa-mae@inteluck.com

Del Monte Pacific’s US unit secures \$240-M financing

CAMPOS-LED Del Monte Pacific Ltd. (DMPL) said its United States unit, Del Monte Foods, Inc. (DMFI), secured a new financing arrangement of up to \$240 million on Aug. 2 to fund short-term obligations and support growth plans.

The arrangement involves a new term loan facility among the applicable lenders and DMFI’s subsidiary, Del Monte Foods Corporation II, Inc. (DMFC). DMPL said in a statement to the stock exchange on Tuesday.

The loan facility provides DMFC with \$210 million of first-out new money financing, with the potential for future borrowings worth \$30 million under certain circumstances where a parent contribution is not made.

Under the transaction, an asset-based facility was put in place at DMFC similar

to DMFI’s prior asset-based facility. The loan will mature in August 2028.

“The new term facility will enhance DMFI’s liquidity by injecting additional capital into the company, thereby improving its ability to meet short-term obligations and fund operational needs more effectively. The increased liquidity will also provide it with the necessary financial flexibility to pursue growth plans and capitalize on strategic opportunities as they arise,” DMPL said.

“Overall, the new term facility will ensure that the US business has adequate financing in place to seize growth opportunities, navigate potential challenges effectively, and drive future profitability, especially as market conditions in the US are anticipated to improve,” it added.

According to DMPL, the loan facility provides for additional restrictions on assets and operations, including the ability of the restricted group to incur indebtedness, grant liens, consummate acquisitions and asset dispositions, and make dividends and other restricted payments.

The company added that the loan facility does not include any financial covenants. However, certain financial requirements must be met, including a minimum earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization (EBITDA) test for January 2025 and a parent contribution of at least \$30 million to DMFC before January 31, 2025.

“If certain financial milestones are not met, DMFC and Del Monte Foods Holdings Ltd., which is an intermedi-

ate parent company of DMFI, will be required to implement certain governance changes, including such boards being required to form special committees comprised of independent directors vested with full authority to explore and implement strategic alternatives,” DMPL said.

“The requirements and implications of such milestones may cease to be effective upon the satisfaction of certain conditions involving a qualifying refinancing, and if applicable, satisfaction of a maximum leverage ratio requirement and compliance with certain budget milestone tests,” it added.

On Tuesday, DMPL shares dropped by 3.06% or 13 centavos to P4.12 per share. — **Revin Mikhael D. Ochave**