

**Fundamentals:**

Oil prices fell about 2% on Friday and were set to end the week around the same levels as last, with Brent crude just below \$80 a barrel, as investors tempered expectations of demand growth from top oil importer China.

Brent crude futures fell by \$1.06, or 1.3%, to \$79.98 per barrel by 2:15 p.m. ET (1815 GMT), while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures fell \$1.22, or 1.6%, to \$76.84.

Brent futures ended last week at \$79.66 a barrel, while WTI futures had closed at \$76.84.

Data from China on Thursday showed its economy lost momentum in July, with new home prices falling at the fastest pace in nine years, industrial output slowing, and unemployment rising.

That has raised fresh concerns about a slump in demand from the top oil importer, while refineries in the country sharply cut crude processing rates last month on tepid fuel demand.

"It has been a volatile week in oil markets: on one hand you had fears of supply disruptions from a wider Middle East war, but on the other, slowing growth in China forced revisions of demand forecasts," said Andrew Lipow, president of energy consultancy Lipow Oil Associates.

The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries on Monday cut its forecast for this year's oil demand growth, citing softness in China. The Paris-based International Energy Agency also cited weak demand in China when it slashed its 2025 forecasts on Tuesday.

Low liquidity likely triggered some of the large price swings seen this week as many European and North American investors were likely still on holiday. UBS analyst Giovanni Staunovo said.

Oil futures rallied at the start of the week as traders braced for retaliation by Iran against Israel over the slaying of a Hamas leader in Tehran last month. But some of that risk premium was priced out because Iran has not struck yet, analysts at Commerzbank Research wrote on Friday.

A fresh round of Gaza ceasefire talks began on Thursday in Qatar but it has been paused until next week, with involved parties sending mixed signals on progress.

"Provided the situation in the Middle East does not escalate further, the oil price is likely to tread water," the Commerzbank analysts said.

A string of data releases from the U.S. kept a floor under oil prices: retail sales beat analysts' expectations, and fewer Americans filed new jobless claims last week, sparking renewed optimism around economic growth in the biggest oil market.

U.S. natural gas futures dropped more than 3% to a one-week low on Friday on forecasts for less hot weather than previously expected and oversupply of gas in storage, even though a federal weekly report showed a surprise draw in inventories this week.

(Source: Reuters)

**Energy Table**

Contract	Sett	Chg	High	Low	
Nymex Crude Oil	SEP 24	76.65	-1.43	78.16	75.54
Natural Gas	SEP 24	2.123	-0.079	2.216	2.111
RB Gasoline	SEP 24	231.02	-4.30	236.56	230.71
Heating Oil	SEP 24	232.87	-4.38	237.73	231.29
Brent Fin Last Day	OCT 24	79.82	-1.22	81.00	78.64
US Dollar Index		102.45	-0.523	103.051	102.451

**Bloomberg Survey on U.S. Total Change in Inventories**

Date	Crude Oil		Gasoline		Crude Oil	
	Actual	Survey	Actual	Survey	Production	Inventory
20/10/2023	1372	-450	156	-1266	13200	421120
13/10/2023	-4491	-550	-2370	-100	13200	419748
6/10/2023	10176	-1400	-1313	-1000	13200	424239
29/9/2023	-2224	50	6481	-300	12900	414063
22/9/2023	-2169	-900	1027	-500	12900	416287
15/9/2023	-2136	-1700	-831	1100	12900	418456
8/9/2023	3955	-2481	5561	-850	12900	420592
1/9/2023	-2666	-2000	-2666	-1000	12800	416637
25/8/2023	-10584	-2191	-214	-1250	12800	422944
18/8/2023	-6134	-3000	1468	-481	12800	433528
11/8/2023	-5960	-2500	-262	-1100	12700	439662
4/8/2023	5851	2300	-2661	-200	12600	445622

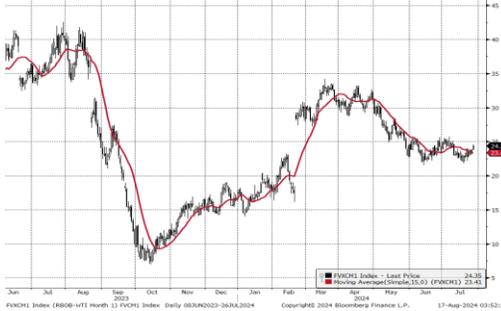
**Fundamental Data:**

Event	Period	Avg Survey	Actual	Prior
08/17/2024 01:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rig Count	Aug-16	--	586
08/17/2024 01:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Gas Rigs	Aug-16	--	98
08/17/2024 01:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	Aug-16	--	483
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE U.S. Crude Oil Inventories	Aug-16	--	1357k
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE Cushing OK Crude Inventory	Aug-16	--	-1665k
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE U.S. Gasoline Inventories	Aug-16	--	-2894k
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE U.S. Distillate Inventory	Aug-16	--	-1673k
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE U.S. Refinery Utilization	Aug-16	--	1.00%
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE Crude Oil Implied Demand	Aug-16	--	19.391
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE Gasoline Implied Demand	Aug-16	--	9,918.90
08/21/2024 22:30	DOE Distillate Implied Demand	Aug-16	--	5,089.00
08/22/2024 22:30	EIA Natural Gas Storage Change	Aug-16	--	-6
08/22/2024 22:30	EIA Working Natural Gas Implied Flow	Aug-16	--	-6
08/24/2024 01:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rig Count	Aug-23	--	586
08/24/2024 01:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Gas Rigs	Aug-23	--	98
08/24/2024 01:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	Aug-23	--	483

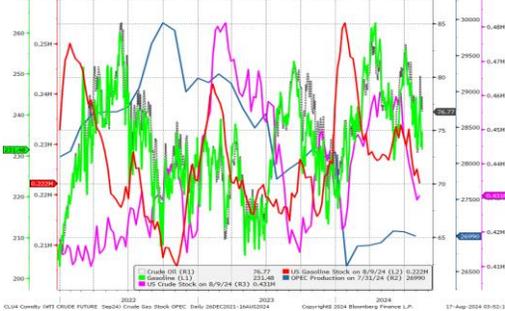
**U.S. Oil Rig Count vs Nymex Crude Oil & Gasoline Price**



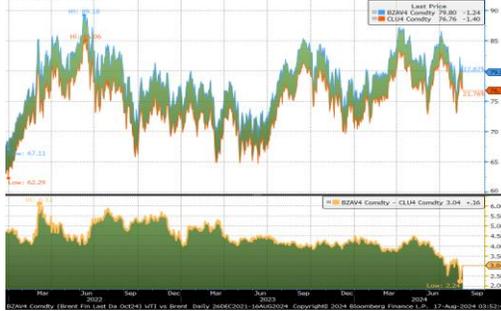
**Normalized RBOB Gasoline minus Nymex Crude Oil Price**



**Total OPEC Crude Oil Production vs Nymex Crude Oil & Gasoline Price & Inventory**



**WTI-Brent Spread**



Source: Bloomberg

**Nymex Crude Daily Chart**



**Nymex RBOB Gasoline Daily Chart**



**Nymex Natural Gas Daily Chart**



**Nymex Heating Oil Daily Chart**



**Nymex Brent Last Day Daily Chart**



**Technical Analysis**

Crude Oil		Natural Gas		Gasoline	
1st Resistance:	77.80	1st Resistance:	2.155	1st Resistance:	234.49
2nd Resistance:	78.95	2nd Resistance:	2.187	2nd Resistance:	237.95
1st Support:	75.50	1st Support:	2.091	1st Support:	227.55
2nd Support:	74.35	2nd Support:	2.059	2nd Support:	224.09
MACD:	-0.377	MACD:	-0.051	MACD:	-2.373
MACD DIFF:	0.306	MACD DIFF:	0.034	MACD DIFF:	-0.313
RSI:	47.890	RSI:	44.966	RSI:	42.064

Heating Oil		Brent Fin Last Day	
1st Resistance:	236.36	1st Resistance:	81.02
2nd Resistance:	239.86	2nd Resistance:	82.21
1st Support:	229.38	1st Support:	78.62
2nd Support:	225.88	2nd Support:	77.43
MACD:	-3.480	MACD:	-0.519
MACD DIFF:	0.331	MACD DIFF:	0.310
RSI:	40.885	RSI:	47.754

Kenanga Futures Sdn Bhd (353603-X)

Dealing Desk: (603) 2172 3820 Fax: (603) 2172 2729 Email: futures@kenanga.com.my

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