

**Fundamentals:**

Oil prices settled more than 1% higher on Friday and recorded a weekly gain in low trading volume ahead of year-end, buoyed by a larger-than-expected drawdown from U.S. crude inventories last week.

Brent crude futures rose 91 cents, or 1.2%, to settle at \$74.17 per barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude futures rose 98 cents, or 1.4%, to \$70.60 per barrel.

On a weekly basis, both Brent and WTI crude gained about 1.4%.

U.S. crude oil inventories fell by 4.2 million barrels in the week ended Dec. 20 as refiners ramped up activity and the holiday season boosted fuel demand, data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration showed on Friday.

Analysts polled by Reuters had expected a 1.9 million-barrel drawdown, whereas figures from the American Petroleum Institute released earlier in the week estimated a 3.2 million-barrel draw, according to market sources.

Optimism over Chinese economic growth has also sparked hopes of higher demand next year from the top oil importing nation.

The World Bank on Thursday raised its forecast for Chinese economic growth in 2024 and 2025. Meanwhile, Chinese authorities have agreed to issue special treasury bonds worth 3 trillion yuan (\$411 billion) next year, sources told Reuters this week, as Beijing acts to revive the sluggish economy.

The war between Russia and Ukraine, which had become an afterthought in energy markets due to stagnant global oil demand, seems to be returning to the forefront after numerous events this week that could impact supplies next year, fuel distributor TA Cenergy's trading desk wrote on Friday.

NATO said on Friday it would boost its presence in the Baltic Sea, a day after Finland seized a ship carrying Russian oil on suspicion of causing internet and power cable outages. Meanwhile, Dutch and British wholesale natural gas prices rose amid fading hopes for a new deal to transit Russian gas through Ukraine.

Tensions have flared in the Middle East too, after Israel raided a north Gaza hospital on Friday and struck targets linked to the Houthi movement in Yemen on Thursday, but these events are unlikely to affect oil prices much heading into next year, StoneX analyst Alex Hodess said.

Instead, the largest risk in the Middle East is from sanctions enforcement that will likely occur with the incoming Donald Trump administration in the U.S., he said.

U.S. natural gas futures fell over 5% on Friday, hitting its lowest level in over a week, as a weekly federal report showed a slightly smaller-than-expected storage withdrawal, and as traders booked some profits after prices rose as much as 3% earlier in the session on increasing amounts of gas flowing to liquefied natural gas export plants.

(Source: Reuters)

**Energy Table**

Contract	Sett	Chg	High	Low
Nymex Crude Oil	FEB 25 70.60	0.59	70.75	69.44
Natural Gas	JAN 25 3.514	-0.201	3.887	3.370
RB Gasoline	JAN 25 195.62	0.15	196.67	194.13
Heating Oil	JAN 25 224.48	2.99	225.64	219.90
Brent Fin Last Day	MAR 25 73.39	0.54	73.92	72.64
US Dollar Index	108.03	-0.103	108.202	107.866

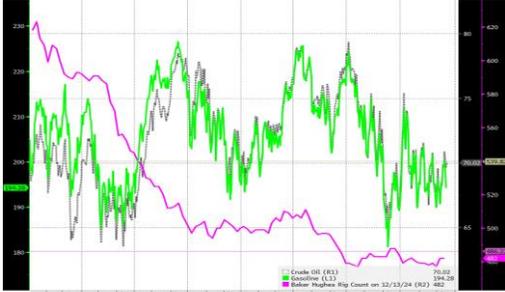
**Bloomberg Survey on U.S. Total Change in Inventories**

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:**

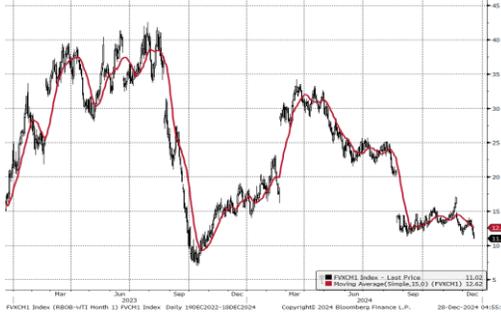
Event	Period	Avg Survey	Actual	Prior
12/21/2024 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rig Count	Dec-20	--	589
12/21/2024 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Gas Rigs	Dec-20	--	102
12/21/2024 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	Dec-20	--	483
12/27/2024 23:30	EIA Natural Gas Storage Change	Dec-20	-99.83	-93
12/27/2024 23:30	EIA Working Natural Gas Implied Flow	Dec-20	-99.83	-93
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE U.S. Crude Oil Inventories	Dec-20	-740.00k	-934k
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE Cushing OK Crude Inventory	Dec-20	--	108k
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE U.S. Gasoline Inventories	Dec-20	-628.00k	-2348k
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE U.S. Distillate Inventory	Dec-20	-348.00k	-3180k
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE U.S. Refinery Utilization	Dec-20	-0.02%	-0.60%
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE Crude Oil Implied Demand	Dec-20	--	20386
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE Gasoline Implied Demand	Dec-20	--	9939.9
12/28/2024 02:00	DOE Distillate Implied Demand	Dec-20	--	5712.3
12/28/2024 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rig Count	Dec-27	--	589.0
12/28/2024 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Gas Rigs	Dec-27	--	102
12/28/2024 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	Dec-27	--	483

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



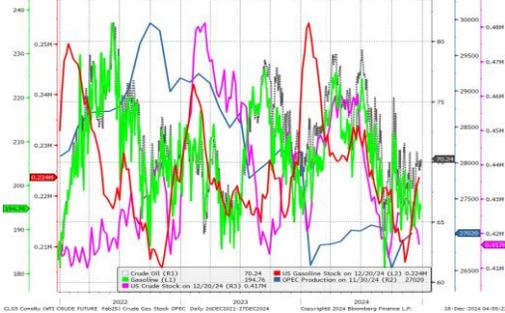
CLG5 Comdty (WTI CRUDE FUTURE: FB25) Crude Gas Rig Count. Daily 03/02/2023-18DEC2024 Copyright 2024 Bloomberg Finance L.P. 28-Dec-2024 04:54:50

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



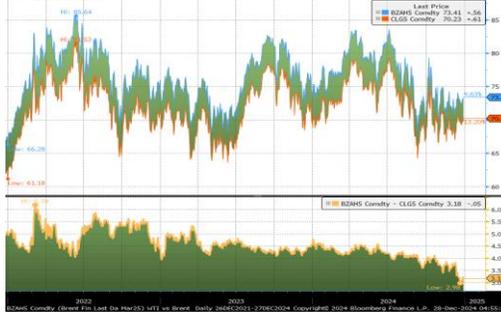
FNCH1 Index (RBOB-WTI) Month 13 FNCH1 Index. Daily 19DEC2022-18DEC2024 Copyright 2024 Bloomberg Finance L.P. 28-Dec-2024 04:55:08

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



CLG5 Comdty (WTI CRUDE FUTURE: FB25) Crude Gas Stock OPEC. Daily 18DEC2022-18DEC2024 Copyright 2024 Bloomberg Finance L.P. 28-Dec-2024 04:55:23

**WTI-Brent Spread**



CLG5 Comdty (Brent Fin Last Day: FB25) WTI vs Brent. Daily 28DEC2021-18DEC2024 Copyright 2024 Bloomberg Finance L.P. 28-Dec-2024 04:55:30

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:	71.66	1st Resistance:	3.567	1st Resistance:	196.76
1st Support:	69.54	1st Support:	3.461	1st Support:	192.88
MACD:	0.261	MACD:	0.127	MACD:	-0.437
MACD DIFF:	0.092	MACD DIFF:	0.038	MACD DIFF:	-0.021
RSI:	54.691	RSI:	53.217	RSI:	48.506

Heating Oil		Brent Fin Last Day	
1st Resistance:	227.85	1st Resistance:	74.49
1st Support:	221.11	1st Support:	72.29
MACD:	0.069	MACD:	0.107
MACD DIFF:	0.118	MACD DIFF:	0.080
RSI:	51.672	RSI:	53.946

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