

Fundamentals:

Oil prices rallied more than 1% on Wednesday after U.S. President Donald Trump ordered a complete blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela, raising global political tensions at a time of concern over demand.

Brent crude futures were up 81 cents, or 1.37%, at \$59.73 a barrel at 1414 GMT, while U.S. West Texas Intermediate crude was up 74 cents, or 1.34%, to \$56.01 a barrel.

Oil prices settled near five-year lows in the previous session on progress in Russia-Ukraine peace talks, as a deal may see Western sanctions on Moscow eased, freeing up supply as the market grapples with fragile global demand.

Trump on Tuesday ordered a blockade of all sanctioned oil tankers entering and leaving Venezuela, adding that he regarded the nation's rulers as a foreign terrorist organisation.

"Russian risks are well telegraphed, but there are clear risks to the Venezuelan oil supply," ING analyst Warren Patterson said.

Trump's comments came a week after the U.S. seized a sanctioned oil tanker off the coast of Venezuela.

It is unclear how many tankers will be affected and how the U.S. will impose the blockade, and whether Trump will turn to the Coast Guard to intercept vessels as he did last week. In recent months, the U.S. has moved warships into the region.

While many vessels picking up oil in Venezuela are under sanctions, others transporting the country's oil and crude from Iran and Russia have not been sanctioned. Tankers chartered by Chevron are also carrying Venezuelan crude to the

U.S. under an authorisation previously granted by Washington.

"Venezuelan oil production accounts for around 1% of global output, but supplies are concentrated among a small group of buyers, mainly Chinese teaport refiners, the U.S., and Cuba," said Muyu Xu, senior oil analyst at Kpler.

China is the biggest buyer of Venezuelan crude, which accounts for roughly 4% of its imports.

A large drop in U.S. inventories also supported prices.

Crude stocks fell by 9.3 million barrels last week, market sources said, citing American Petroleum Institute figures on Tuesday. The fall, if confirmed by Energy Information Administration data later on Wednesday, is much higher than the 1.1 million-barrel drop analysts polled by Reuters had predicted.

U.S. natural gas futures slid about 3% on Tuesday to a six-week low, on milder weather forecasts for the next two weeks, the shutdown of a liquefaction train at Freeport LNG, and ample amounts of gas in storage.

(Source: Reuters)

Energy Table

Contract	Sett	Chg	High	Low
Nymex Crude Oil	JAN 26 56.94	1.67	56.97	55.20
Natural Gas	JAN 26 4.024	0.221	4.110	3.920
RB Gasoline	JAN 26 169.43	3.25	171.40	168.11
Heating Oil	JAN 26 214.95	4.62	217.55	212.21
Brent Fin Last Day	FEB 26 60.63	1.71	60.64	58.91
US Dollar Index		0.263	98.639	98.175

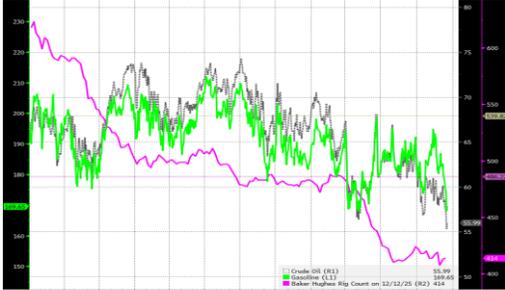
Bloomberg Survey on U.S. Total Change in Inventories

Date	Crude Oil		Gasoline		Crude Oil	
	Actual	Survey	Actual	Survey	Production	Inventory
5/12/2025	-1812	-1300	6397	2043	13853	425691
28/11/2025	574	-2000	4518	1000	13815	427503
21/11/2025	2774	-2363	2513	1163	13814	426929
14/11/2025	-3426	-1700	2327	60	13834	424155
7/11/2025	6413	1500	-945	-2459	13862	427581
31/10/2025	5202	-286	-4729	-1847	13651	421168
24/10/2025	-6858	1203	-5941	-1917	13644	419966
17/10/2025	-961	2181	-2147	-1653	13629	422824
10/10/2025	3524	-1200	-267	-1000	13636	423785
3/10/2025	3715	350	-1601	-1382	13629	420261
26/9/2025	1792	-50	4125	-80	13505	416546
19/9/2025	-607	500	-1081	-1000	13501	414754

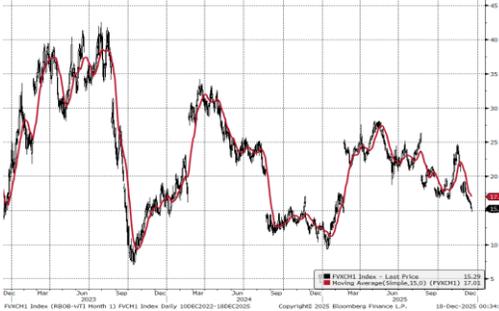
Fundamental Data:

Event	Period	Avg Survey	Actual	Prior	
12/13/2025 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rig Count	Dec-25	--	548	549
12/13/2025 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Gas Rigs	Dec-25	--	127	129
12/13/2025 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	Dec-25	--	414	413
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE U.S. Crude Oil Inventories	12-Dec	-2050K	-1274K	-1812K
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE Cushing OK Crude Inventory	12-Dec	--	-742K	308K
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE U.S. Gasoline Inventories	12-Dec	1950K	4808K	6397K
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE U.S. Distillate Inventory	12-Dec	900K	1712K	2502K
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE U.S. Refinery Utilization	12-Dec	-0.10%	0.30%	0.40%
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE Crude Oil Implied Demand	12-Dec	--	20550	20701
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE Gasoline Implied Demand	12-Dec	--	10069.4	9541.3
12/17/2025 23:30	DOE Distillate Implied Demand	12-Dec	--	5226.4	5254.6
12/18/2025 23:30	EIA Natural Gas Storage Change	12-Dec	-176	--	-177
12/18/2025 23:30	EIA Working Natural Gas Implied Flow	12-Dec	-176	--	-177
12/20/2025 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rig Count	19-Dec	--	--	548
12/20/2025 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Gas Rigs	19-Dec	--	--	127
12/20/2025 02:00	Baker Hughes U.S. Rotary Oil Rigs	19-Dec	--	--	414

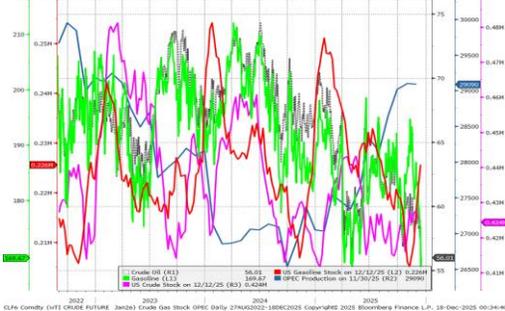
U.S. Oil Rig Count vs Nymex Crude Oil & Gasoline Price



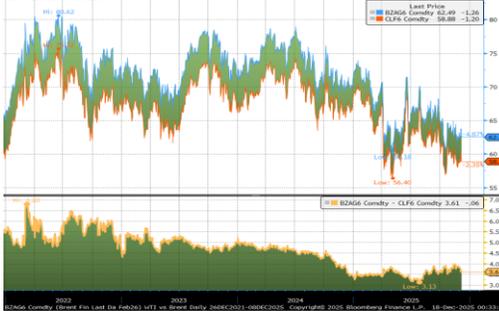
Normalized RBOB Gasoline minus Nymex Crude Oil Price



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



WTI-Brent Spread



Source: Bloomberg



Technical Analysis

Crude Oil	1st Resistance: 56.78	2nd Resistance: 57.62	Natural Gas	1st Resistance: 4.084	2nd Resistance: 4.145	Gasoline	1st Resistance: 171.97	2nd Resistance: 174.51
	1st Support: 55.10	2nd Support: 54.26		1st Support: 3.964	2nd Support: 3.903		1st Support: 168.89	2nd Support: 164.35
	MACD: -0.535			MACD: -0.055			MACD: -2.622	
	MACD DIFF: -0.187			MACD DIFF: -0.111			MACD DIFF: -1.120	
	RSI: 37.437			RSI: 35.443			RSI: 32.722	
Heating Oil	1st Resistance: 218.17	2nd Resistance: 221.40	Brent Fin Last Day	1st Resistance: 61.54	2nd Resistance: 62.45			
	1st Support: 211.73	2nd Support: 208.50		1st Support: 59.72	2nd Support: 58.61			
	MACD: -4.275			MACD: -0.562				
	MACD DIFF: -2.047			MACD DIFF: -0.199				
	RSI: 35.254			RSI: 37.184				

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