

Oil prices to get fresh direction from OPEC+ meeting and Inventory report later today

### DAILY ANALYSIS REPORT

Wednesday, February 2, 2022



# Oil prices to get fresh direction from OPEC+ meeting and Inventory report later today

- WTI Crude oil prices traded firm today after API inventory report, now trading near \$88.58 which is sharply higher from last week low of \$81.90. However market is still cautious ahead of OPEC+ meeting later today.
- Goldman Sachs warned Tuesday that OPEC+ might announce a bigger-than-expected increase in its March crude production levels due to the recent surge in prices. OPEC+ technical panel meeting on Tuesday did not discuss a hike of more than the expected 40,000 barrels per day from March.
- OPEC crude output increased by 50,000 barrels per day in January, reaching a three-and-a-half-year high of 28.14 million barrels per day. Due to a militant blockade of Libya's oilfields, petroleum production plummeted by -140,000 bpd in January. Russia Jan crude production rose +0.6% m/m to 10.99 million bpd, above its OPEC+ quota of 10.122 million bpd.
- Reduced fear of the omicron version spreading may allow travel restrictions to be relaxed, which is good news for gasoline demand and crude prices. The US now has a seven-day average of almost 450,000 new cases each day, down 36% from the previous two weeks. The number of Covid patients in U.S. hospitals is currently at 140,000, down from a high of 159,400 on Jan. 20.
- The consensus is for Wednesday's weekly EIA crude inventories to climb +1.8 million bbl meanwhile the API reported U.S. crude supplies fell -1.645 million bbl last week. The EIA report due later today is expected to provide fresh direction for oil prices. According to last week's report, US crude oil inventories as of January 21 were -7.9 percent lower than the seasonal 5-year average, gasoline inventories were -1.8 percent lower, and distillate inventories were -17.8 percent lower.
- According to the CFTC Commitments of Traders report for the week ended January 25, net long of crude oil futures sank by 12366 contracts to 373415. Speculative longs dropped by 10868 contracts while shorts added 1498 contracts. However prices rally this week is likely to increase in net long position for upcoming data.
- Baker Hughes reported last Friday that US energy companies added oil and natural gas rigs for the 18th month in a row, as oil prices surged to their highest since 2014 last week, prompting more drillers to return to the wellpad. US oil rigs increased by +4 rigs in the week ending January 28 to a 1-3/4 year high of 495 rigs. The number of active oil rigs in the United States has increased dramatically since a 15-year low of 172 rigs in August 2022. An increase in the number of rigs indicates an increase in US crude oil production capacity.

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■ Global economic data was mixed for energy demand on Tuesday. U.S. Dec JOLTS job openings unexpectedly rose +150,000 to 10.925 million, against expectations of a decline to 10.300 million. Also, the Eurozone Dec unemployment rate fell -0.1 to a record low 7.0% (data from 1999), against expectations of 7.1%. The Japan Jan Jibun Bank manufacturing PMI was revised upward to a record high of 55.4 from the previously reported 54.6. However, US Dec construction spending rose +0.2% m/m, against expectations of +0.6% m/m. German Dec retail sales fell -5.5% m/m, against expectations of -1.4% m/m and the biggest decline in 8 months.

### Outlook

■ Crude oil prices are likely to trade firm while above key support level of \$85.55-\$84.55 meanwhile key resistance level could be seen around \$90.20-\$91.51

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