

Oil Market Monthly Report

March-2021

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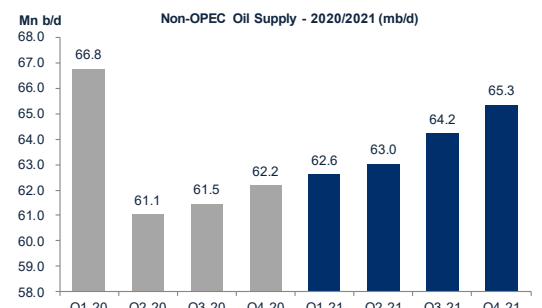
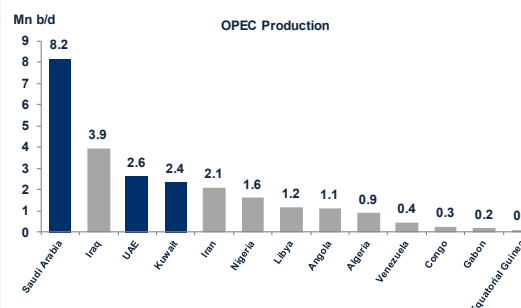
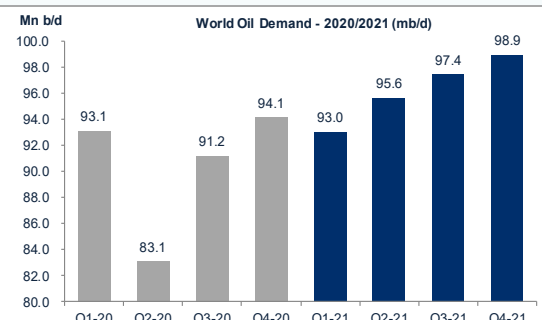
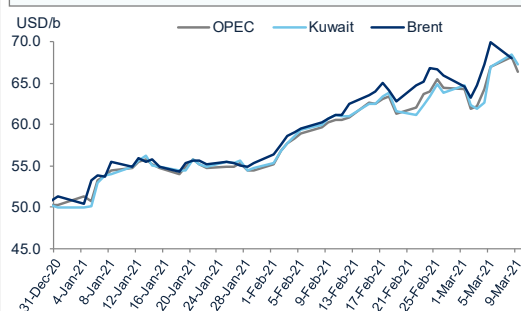
Oil price eases after touching USD 70/b led by higher supply and stronger USD...

The rally in oil prices continued during early March-2021 with prices touching 14-month high and briefly trading above the USD 70/b mark in the spot market for the first time since January-2020. An attack on Saudi oil facilities during the last week also led to a spike in global crude prices. However, prices receded soon after skeptics set in highlighting an overbought market that resulted in higher volatility. A strong USD also affected oil prices as import bills soared for importers led by the impact of higher oil prices, stronger USD as well as increasing demand for crude as Covid-19 restrictions eased in several countries.

Price gains during early March-2021 came mainly on the back of expectations of higher demand in the near term as Covid-19 vaccinations picked up across the globe and gets reflected in economic growth estimates for the year. The rally was also supported by OPEC's surprise decision to keep production cuts unchanged for another month. Favorable demand outlook was also reflected in higher demand for end products in the US, including that of gasoline, that resulted in a higher-than-expected decline in refined product inventories, although crude oil inventories increased during the week. The approval of the USD 1.9 Trillion financial package for the US economy also added to the optimism around oil demand. In addition, road transportation demand is also expected to see an increase in the coming months after a snowy February-2021 that limited travel plans.

Demand trends also remained robust in China reaching pre-Covid levels with YTD-Feb-2021 demand for Diesel up 10% from the first two months of 2019 and motor fuel demand up 3.2% during the same period, as per Bloomberg. On the other hand, record high domestic fuel prices in India affected demand that declined by 4.9% m-o-m for the second consecutive month during February-2021 and reached the lowest level since September-2020.

On the supply front, crude prices got support from Saudi Arabia's pledge for voluntary cuts in production. OPEC crude production declined by almost 1 mb/d during February-2021 mainly on the back of a steep monthly decline in production by Saudi Arabia further supported by decline in production by Angola and Equatorial Guinea, while most of the other producers reported marginal monthly increase in production. On the other hand, oil production is set to see a growth in the US, especially from shale producers, as a response to the higher oil prices. In its Short Term Energy Outlook, the US EIA raised its forecasted production for this year and for 2022. The agency expects 2021 production to reach 11.15 mb/d as compared to its previous forecast of 11.02 mb/d, while 2022 production is expected to increase to 12.02 mb/d as compared to last month's forecast of 11.53 mb/d. OPEC, in its monthly report, also raised its estimates for non-OPEC crude production by 0.47 mb/d for 2021 mainly led by higher supply from Canada, the US, Norway and Brazil.

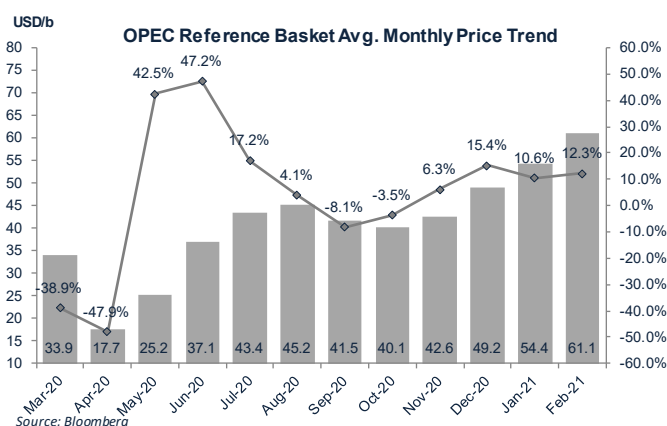


Sources : OPEC, EIA, Bloomberg

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Oil Prices

Oil market started March-2021 on a weak note with consistent declines in crude prices since the last week of February-2021 after witnessing one of the longest running positive streaks in recent months. However, a surprise stance by OPEC+ to keep the production cuts unchanged supported prices. This was further supported by the attack on Saudi oil facilities that although did not affect supplies, but threatened one of biggest oil terminals, sending oil briefly above the USD 70/b mark. This was followed by mixed news of higher crude inventories in the US and a steep drawdown in end product inventories. The US EIA reported the third consecutive week of crude inventory build for the week ended 5-Mar-2021 with a cumulative build of 36.6 million barrels. The higher inventories reflected a production rate increase in the US by 300 tb/d during the last week of Feb-2021 and 900 tb/d during the week ended 5-Mar-2021 to reach 10.9 mb/d. Rig count data from Baker Hughes showed that the number of oil rigs in the US stayed above the 300 mark after seeing declines for 2 weeks over the last 16 weeks.



Nevertheless, prices continue to stay elevated vs. 2H-2020 levels with an increase of more than 33% since the start of 2021 reflecting production discipline from the OPEC+ producers and shale producers in the US on the supply side as well as the vaccine led optimism for growth in demand in the near term. The optimism was also reflected in oil price forecast from the EIA that now expects Brent spot prices to average at USD 60.67/b in 2021 as compared to last month's forecast of USD 53.20/b. For the next year, the agency expects average Brent crude price to decline slightly to USD 58.51/b but higher as compared to its previous forecast of USD 55.19/b. Meanwhile, crude oil prices witnessed gains across grades during February-2021. OPEC reference basket increased by 12.3% m-o-m during February-2021 and averaged at USD 61.05/b during the month, the highest since January-2020. Kuwait crude grade also witnessed a similar growth of 11.8% to average at USD 61.31/b whereas Brent crude grade witnessed a bigger increase of 13.7% to average at USD 62.23/b during February-2021.

Average Crude Oil Prices, USD/b	Jan-2021	Feb-2021	Change (USD)	Avg 2019	Avg 2020
OPEC Reference Basket	54.4	61.1	6.7	60.5	57.7
Arab Light	54.8	61.5	6.7	61.9	58.1
Basrah Light	54.7	61.4	6.7	59.6	58.1
Bonny Light	55.0	62.2	7.2	62.0	58.6
Djeno	47.3	54.8	7.5	58.9	51.0
Es Sider	53.1	60.8	7.8	59.9	57.0
Girassol	55.8	63.0	7.2	61.5	59.4
Iran Heavy	54.4	60.7	6.3	58.0	57.5
Kuwait Export	54.8	61.3	6.5	60.9	58.1
Merey	37.4	42.9	5.5	46.6	40.1
Murban	54.9	61.0	6.1	61.8	58.0
Rabi	54.3	61.8	7.5	57.2	58.0
Saharan Blend	55.1	62.4	7.3	61.8	58.7
Zafiro	55.1	62.5	7.4	61.2	58.8
Other Crudes					
Brent	54.7	62.2	7.5	59.6	58.5
Dubai	54.8	60.8	6.1	59.4	57.8
Isthmus	52.1	58.9	6.8	51.9	55.5
LLS	54.2	61.2	7.0	57.9	57.7
Mars	53.1	59.4	6.3	55.4	56.2
Minas	53.0	59.8	6.8	58.0	56.4
Urals	54.9	61.5	6.6	59.2	58.2
WTI	52.1	59.1	7.0	54.3	55.6
Differentials					
Brent/WTI	2.6	3.2	0.5	5.4	2.9
Brent/LLS	0.5	1.0	0.5	1.7	0.8
Brent/Dubai	(0.0)	1.4	1.4	0.2	0.7

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - Mar-2021

World Oil Demand

World oil demand estimates for 2020 was raised higher by 0.03 mb/d by the OPEC in its latest monthly report. Demand last year is estimated to have averaged at 90.4 mb/d with a contraction of 9.6 mb/d. The upward revision mainly reflected better-than-expected demand data for OECD Europe and Asia Pacific during 2H-2020 as the decline in demand from transportation and the industrial fuels segments was less than expected that was largely offset by lower-than-expected data from weaker-than-expected transportation trend in OECD Americas. For the non-OECD region, demand was revised upwards by 0.1 mb/d led by better-than-expected demand across the region and particularly in the Middle East and in terms of product category, industry fuel witnessed higher-than-expected demand. For 2021, oil demand forecast was raised by 0.22 mb/d and is now expected to average at 96.27 mb/d with an increase of 5.89 mb/d as compared to last year. The revision came after 1H-21

World Oil Demand - 2019/2020, mb/d	2019	Q1-20	Q2-20	Q3-20	Q4-20	2020	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	25.65	24.35	20.01	22.72	23.04	22.53	(3.12)	(12.17)
of which US	20.86	19.67	16.38	18.67	18.83	18.39	(2.47)	(11.86)
Europe	14.25	13.35	11.03	12.85	12.50	12.44	(1.82)	(12.74)
Asia Pacific	7.79	7.75	6.54	6.69	7.42	7.10	(0.69)	(8.83)
Total OECD	47.69	45.44	37.58	42.26	42.97	42.07	(5.63)	(11.80)
China	13.48	10.94	13.25	13.87	14.28	13.09	(0.39)	(2.92)
India	4.91	4.84	3.58	4.01	5.15	4.40	(0.52)	(10.54)
Other Asia	9.04	8.30	7.79	8.11	8.33	8.13	(0.91)	(10.06)
Latin America	6.59	6.11	5.61	6.20	6.12	6.01	(0.58)	(8.83)
Middle East	8.20	7.88	6.91	7.94	7.65	7.60	(0.60)	(7.37)
Africa	4.45	4.37	3.77	3.95	4.28	4.09	(0.35)	(7.94)
Eurasia	5.61	5.21	4.58	4.85	5.35	5.00	(0.61)	(10.88)
of which Russia	3.61	3.44	3.04	3.20	3.43	3.28	(0.33)	(9.20)
of which other Eurasia	2.00	1.78	1.54	1.65	1.92	1.72	(0.28)	(13.92)
Total Non-OECD	52.29	47.65	45.49	48.94	51.16	48.32	(3.97)	(7.59)
Total World	99.98	93.10	83.07	91.20	94.13	90.39	(9.60)	(9.60)

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - Mar-2021

demand data was adjusted lower on the back of extended restrictions in many parts of Europe aimed at controlling the spread of Covid-19. This was more than offset by higher demand forecast for 2H-2021 led by stronger economic recovery backed by favorable impact of vaccinations. Demand forecasts for the OECD Europe region was raised marginally for Q1-2021 reflecting better-than-expected preliminary demand data for January-2021 coupled with higher demand for heating oil led by the colder-than-expected weather conditions. The increase in vaccinations and the easing of Covid-19 restrictions is also expected to support demand for the road transportation sector and industrial segment. In the Asia Pacific region, demand trends in China continued to remain strong during the first two months of the year. Crude oil imports increased by 4.1% y-o-y to 11.08 mb/d during the period, also supported by increase in refining capacity, although the higher prices recently are expected to affect overall demand during Q1-2021. On the other hand, oil demand in India softened due to record high domestic prices that resulted in a second consecutive month of decline during February-2021 to the lowest since September-2020. Petroleum product consumption declined by 4.9% during the month.

World Oil Demand - 2020/2021, mb/d	2020	Q1-21	Q2-21	Q3-21	Q4-21	2021	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	22.53	23.85	24.55	24.34	24.12	24.22	1.69	7.51
of which US	18.39	19.40	19.96	19.94	19.77	19.77	1.38	7.52
Europe	12.44	12.15	13.01	13.55	13.63	13.09	0.66	5.29
Asia Pacific	7.10	7.30	7.18	7.17	7.64	7.32	0.22	3.13
Total OECD	42.07	43.30	44.74	45.07	45.39	44.64	2.57	6.11
China	13.09	12.55	14.27	14.93	15.05	14.20	1.11	8.49
India	4.40	4.96	4.56	4.83	5.61	4.99	0.60	13.60
Other Asia	8.13	8.35	8.96	8.57	8.47	8.59	0.46	5.60
Latin America	6.01	6.13	6.27	6.46	6.40	6.32	0.31	5.08
Middle East	7.60	7.89	7.64	8.28	7.93	7.94	0.34	4.50
Africa	4.09	4.41	3.99	4.16	4.47	4.26	0.16	3.98
Eurasia	5.00	5.43	5.17	5.14	5.60	5.34	0.34	6.77
of which Russia	3.28	3.57	3.37	3.37	3.58	3.47	0.19	5.93
of which other Eurasia	1.72	1.86	1.81	1.77	2.02	1.87	0.14	8.37
Total "Other Regions"	48.32	49.74	50.87	52.36	53.52	51.63	3.31	6.86
Total World	90.39	93.04	95.61	97.43	98.91	96.27	5.89	6.51

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - Mar-2021

World Oil Supply

World liquids production showed a steep decline during February-2021 after showing consistent growth for the previous four months. Total production witnessed a monthly decline of 1.31 mb/d to reach an average of 92.28 mb/d. The decline reflected a fall in production by both OPEC and non-OPEC producers. OPEC producers lowered output by 0.65 mb/d, according to OPEC secondary sources during February-2021 mainly led by a steep decline in production by Saudi Arabia. On the other hand, non-OPEC producers also lowered production during the month by 0.67 mb/d to an average of 67.43 mb/d led by a fall in US production by 0.6 mb/d led by the freezing temperatures in the region. The steeper decline in production by OPEC producers resulted in a 0.3% decline in the group's market share to 26.9%.

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2019/2020, mb/d	2019	Q1-20	Q2-20	Q3-20	Q4-20	2020	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	25.77	26.59	23.55	24.10	24.63	24.72	(1.06)	(4.10)
of which US	18.43	19.05	16.81	17.34	17.27	17.61	(0.81)	(4.40)
Europe	3.71	4.03	3.88	3.77	3.87	3.89	0.18	4.83
Asia Pacific	0.52	0.53	0.54	0.54	0.52	0.53	0.01	1.61
Total OECD	30.01	31.16	27.97	28.41	29.02	29.14	(0.87)	(2.90)
China	4.04	4.13	4.12	4.13	4.08	4.12	0.07	1.76
India	0.82	0.79	0.76	0.76	0.75	0.77	(0.06)	(6.89)
Other Asia	2.69	2.61	2.47	2.46	2.46	2.5	(0.19)	(7.09)
Latin America	6.09	6.35	5.83	6.14	5.91	6.06	(0.03)	(0.51)
Middle East	3.20	3.19	3.20	3.15	3.17	3.17	(0.03)	(0.83)
Africa	1.50	1.44	1.44	1.40	1.37	1.41	(0.08)	(5.46)
Eurasia	14.8	14.95	13.41	12.85	13.27	13.62	(1.19)	(8.02)
of which Russia	11.61	11.68	10.38	10.01	10.31	10.59	(1.02)	(8.78)
of which other Eurasia	3.19	3.28	3.03	2.84	2.96	3.03	(0.17)	(5.23)
Total Non-OECD	33.14	33.46	31.22	30.89	31.01	31.64	(1.50)	(4.53)
Total Non-OPEC Production	63.15	64.61	59.2	59.3	60.03	60.78	(2.37)	(3.76)
Processing gains	2.26	2.15	1.85	2.15	2.15	2.07	(0.19)	(8.47)
Total Non-OPEC Supply	65.41	66.76	61.05	61.45	62.17	62.85	(2.56)	(3.92)
OPEC NGLs and non-conventionals	5.26	-	-	-	-	5.13	(0.13)	(2.47)
OPEC Crude Oil Production	29.34	28.25	25.58	23.86	24.95	25.65		
Total World Supply	100.01	-	-	-	-	93.63		

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - Mar-2021

Non-OPEC liquids production estimates for 2020 was revised higher by 0.19 mb/d to an average of 62.85 mb/d resulting in a y-o-y decline of 2.56 mb/d. The revision reflected higher supply from Norway and Brazil as against a downward revision in supply mainly from Russia, US, Canada, Colombia and Kazakhstan. For 2021, non-OPEC supply was also raised higher to 63.8 mb/d, an upward revision of 0.47 mb/d to show a y-o-y growth of 0.95 mb/d. The upward revision reflected higher supply from Canada, the US, Norway and Brazil. Nevertheless, OPEC highlighted the expected decline in capital spending in 2021 by oil producers and that would impact overall supply. In addition, the response of US shale to the increase in oil price has not been what was seen during the previous price rallies, indicating a shift in focus to cost cutting and shareholder returns.

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2020/2021, mb/d	2020	Q1-21	Q2-21	Q3-21	Q4-21	2021	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.72	24.52	24.51	25.50	26.13	25.17	0.45	1.83
of which US	17.61	17.14	17.49	17.93	18.51	17.77	0.16	0.89
Europe	3.89	4.01	3.95	3.97	4.17	4.03	0.14	3.53
Asia Pacific	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.54	0.53	0.53	0.00	(0.20)
Total OECD	29.14	29.07	28.99	30.01	30.82	29.73	0.59	2.02
China	4.12	4.16	4.13	4.13	4.18	4.15	0.03	0.82
India	0.77	0.76	0.75	0.74	0.73	0.75	(0.02)	(2.46)
Other Asia	2.5	2.47	2.46	2.46	2.45	2.46	(0.04)	(1.49)
Latin America	6.06	6.03	6.31	6.32	6.51	6.30	0.24	3.97
Middle East	3.17	3.17	3.21	3.23	3.24	3.22	0.04	1.27
Africa	1.41	1.34	1.35	1.33	1.32	1.34	(0.08)	(5.50)
Eurasia	13.62	13.4	13.62	13.78	13.87	13.67	0.05	0.39
of which Russia	10.59	10.43	10.61	10.74	10.84	10.66	0.07	0.64
of which other Eurasia	3.03	2.97	3.01	3.03	3.03	3.01	(0.01)	(0.48)
Total "Other regions"	31.64	31.35	31.83	32.00	32.31	31.88	0.23	0.74
Total Non-OPEC Production	60.78	60.42	60.82	62.01	63.13	61.6	0.82	1.35
Processing gains	2.07	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	2.20	0.13	6.17
Total Non-OPEC Supply	62.85	62.62	63.02	64.21	65.33	63.8	0.95	1.51

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - Mar-2021

OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity

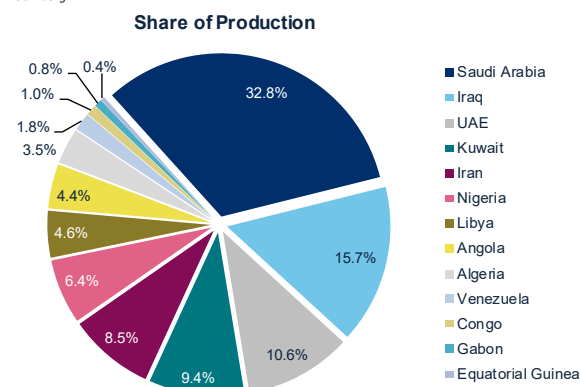
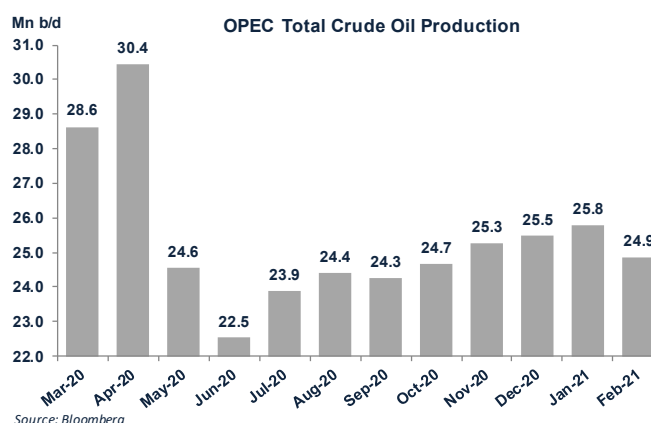
OPEC crude oil production witnessed a steep decline during February-2021 mainly led by the voluntary cuts undertaken by Saudi Arabia. Monthly production rate reached 24.87 mb/d for the group, a four month low, with a m-o-m decline of 0.92 mb/d, according to data from Bloomberg. OPEC's secondary sources showed a similar production level of 24.85 mb/d but a much smaller monthly decline of 0.65 mb/d. During the month, Saudi Arabia lowered production by almost 1 mb/d to 8.15 mb/d, the lowest production rate since June-2020. Angola and Equatorial Guinea also lowered production by 50 tb/d and 13 tb/d, respectively, while most of the remaining producers showed marginally higher production during the month. Nigeria and Iraq reported the biggest production growth during the month by 161 tb/d and 59 tb/d, respectively, while Venezuela and Iran added around 70 tb/d in total.

Production ('000 b/d)	Jan-21	Feb-21	Change		Capacity	Spare Capacity
Total OPEC-13	25,790	24,870	-920	-3.57%	34,535	9,665
Saudi Arabia	9,120	8,150	-970	-10.6%	11,500	3,350
Iraq	3,870	3,910	40	1.0%	4,800	890
UAE	2,610	2,630	20	0.8%	4,200	1,570
Kuwait	2,330	2,350	20	0.9%	3,075	725
Iran	2,140	2,110	-30	-1.4%	3,830	1,720
Nigeria	1,470	1,600	130	8.8%	2,000	400
Libya	1,160	1,150	-10	-0.9%	1,300	150
Angola	1,180	1,100	-80	-6.8%	1,450	350
Algeria	880	880	0	0.0%	1,080	200
Venezuela	460	440	-20	-4.3%	600	160
Congo	270	260	-10	-3.7%	330	70
Gabon	170	190	20	11.8%	220	30
Equatorial Guinea	130	100	-30	-23.1%	150	50
Total OPEC-12	21,920	20,960	-960	-4.38%	29,735	8,775

Source: Bloomberg, OPEC

The higher production in Nigeria at an average of 1.5 mb/d was led by the lifting of the month-long force majeure by ExxonMobil on the Qua Iboe export terminal. Meanwhile, Libya gradually raised production to 1.2 mb/d by February-2021 and expects to keep production steady led by the formation of the new unity government. The country has plans to raise production to 1.45 mb/d by year end as stated by the Chairman of Libya's NOC with plans to increase output by 150 tb/d. Near term targets are also ambitious with an aim to reach 1.6 mb/d in two years and to 2.1 mb/d in four years.

At the monthly meeting of OPEC+ producers, the decision to retain production cuts came as a surprise for oil watchers, especially given elevated oil prices. The move also shows that producers remain cautious of the oil price rally and near term demand trends. Under the agreement, the bulk of the producers in the group agreed to keep production cuts unchanged, with the exception of Russia and Kazakhstan that were allowed to increase production by 130 tb/d and 20 tb/d, respectively. As a result, overall cuts by the group now stands at 6.9 mb/d. At the meeting, Saudi Arabia pledged to continue with the additional 1 mb/d of voluntary cuts until April-2021 as against its previous guidance to implement these cuts until March-2021. Consequently, the overall OPEC+ compliance to the agreed quotas stood at 113.5% during February-2021, according to a survey from S&P Platts.



Source: Bloomberg

Brent Crude Oil Price Forecast

Firm	As Of	Q1 21	Q2 21	Q3 21	Q4 21
ABN AMRO Bank NV	5/Mar/21	62.0	65.0	63.0	61.0
Santander UK PLC	4/Mar/21	60.0	57.0	55.0	54.0
MPS Capital Services Banca per le Imprese SpA	26/Feb/21	60.0	61.0	62.0	64.0
Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg	25/Feb/21	61.0	65.0	60.0	60.0
Commerzbank AG	23/Feb/21	54.0	45.0	48.0	50.0
Emirates NBD PJSC	23/Feb/21	47.5	50.0	50.0	52.5
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	22/Feb/21	60.0	70.0	72.0	73.0
MUFG Bank	17/Feb/21	61.0	73.7	71.8	65.4
Rabobank International	16/Feb/21	60.0	60.2	60.3	60.7
Capital Economics Ltd	15/Feb/21	55.0	59.0	63.5	68.5
Banco Santander SA	8/Feb/21	58.0	57.0	55.0	54.0
Westpac Banking Corp	5/Feb/21	56.0	56.0	55.0	54.0
Natixis SA	26/Jan/21	53.0	55.0	53.0	57.0
Deutsche Bank AG	20/Jan/21	55.0	60.0	60.0	65.0
Market Risk Advisory Co Ltd	6/Jan/21	52.0	53.0	54.0	54.0
Prestige Economics LLC	29/Dec/20	53.5	55.5	57.0	60.0
CIMB	9/Dec/20	55.0	53.0	52.0	50.0
BNP Paribas SA	23/Nov/20	56.0	54.0	55.0	59.0
Bank of Nova Scotia/The	13/Oct/20	46.0	49.0	51.0	54.0
Median		56.0	57.0	55.0	59.0
Mean		56.1	57.8	57.8	58.7
High		62.0	73.7	72.0	73.0
Low		46.0	45.0	48.0	50.0
Current Fwd		63.5	66.4	64.6	63.1
Difference (Median - Current)		-7.5	-9.4	-9.6	-4.1

Source: Bloomberg

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