DAILY ANALYSIS REPORT Monday, October 19, 2020



Gold is trading firm

Copper prices are likely to trade firm

OPEC+ Joint Technical Committee reported a gloomier fuel demand outlook



GOLD IS TRADING FIRM

- Gold prices are holding firm above \$1,900, on US stimulus hopes. U.S. House Speaker, Nancy Pelosi, raised hopes for a coronavirus relief package before the presidential election. However, Pelosi acknowledged an agreement would have to come within 48 hours for that to happen.
- Meanwhile, according to the CFTC Commitments of Traders report for the week ended October 13, Gold futures' NET LENGTH slumped -7,916 contracts to 240,671, as short positions rose rapidly by +13,980 contracts.
- On the economic data front, U.S. September retail sales rose +1.9% m/m, stronger than expectations of +0.8% m/m. Also, September retail sales (ex-autos) rose +1.5% m/m, stronger than expectations of +0.4% m/m. In addition, the preliminary-October University of Michigan U.S. Consumer Sentiment Index rose +0.8, to a 7-month high of 81.2, stronger than expectations of +0.1, to 80.5. September manufacturing production unexpectedly fell -0.3% m/m, weaker than expectations of +0.6% m/m, and the first decline in 5 months.
- Dovish comments on Friday from the ECB Governing Council member, Rehn, were supportive for bullion prices. He said that "inflation risks are on the downside," and adding ample monetary stimulus remains necessary.

Outlook

■ Safe-haven demand and dovish central bank expectations are likely to provide support to gold prices. However, strength in the Dollar Index from current levels is likely to keep a lid on prices. Gold prices are likely to find support near the 100-days EMA at \$1,880. Meanwhile, key resistance is seen around \$1,949-\$1,973 levels.

COPPER PRICES LIKELY TO TRADE FIRM

- Copper prices are holding near \$6,737 per ton on positive demand outlook.
- China's GDP data missed forecasts. China's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) grew 4.9% in July-September from a year earlier, slower than the median forecast of 5.2%. Meanwhile China's central bank Governor, Yi Gang, said on Sunday that the Chinese economy will likely expand by about 2% this year.
- However China's monthly indicators beat forecasts industrial output accelerated 6.9% in September, from a year earlier, against market forecast of a 5.8% gain. It was a rise of 5.6% in August. Retail sales also edged up 3.3% last month, from a year earlier, against expectations of a 1.8% growth.
- Meanwhile, the union of supervisors at BHP's Escondida mine in Chile has reached an agreement on a labour deal, averting the threat of a strike at the world's largest copper deposit. It is negative for copper prices.
- Copper prices are also trading firm on hopes of a U.S fiscal package before the U.S. presidential elections next month, and expectations of a coronavirus vaccine by the end of this year.

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■ Copper inventory at LME monitored warehouses increased by 15,975 mt, as on October 16th. In the last one month, LME copper inventory has increased by 105,950 mt, which is 86% of the total LME-registered stocks at 184,850 mt on October 16.

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Outlook

■ Copper prices are likely to trade firm on positive Chinese demand, and stimulus hopes in the USA. LME 3 month contract is likely to find support around the 50-days EMA at \$6,584, and the 100-days EMA at \$6,378. Meanwhile, an immediate resistance level could be seen around \$6,990-\$7,208 levels.

OPEC+ JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE REPORTED A GLOOMIER FUEL DEMAND OUTLOOK

- ✓ Crude oil prices are near \$40.92 per barrel. Prices are likely to remain under pressure, as last week's meeting of the OPEC+ Joint Technical Committee, reported a gloomier fuel demand outlook, because of fears that a prolonged second wave of the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The JMMC may decide whether it will delay plans to reduce its current supply cuts of 7.7 million barrels per day (bpd), by 2 million bpd, starting in January.
- Furthermore, a jump in Libyan output could also push the oil market into surplus next year. Libya's National Oil Corp. lifted force majeure on its Sharara crude field, the country's biggest, and increased its daily output to 110,000 bpd, which has helped push total Libyan crude production to around 500,000 bpd.
- Meanwhile crude oil supply is likely to remain higher in the US as well. Energy firms in the U.S. last week added the most oil and natural gas rigs since January. Baker Hughes reported on Friday that the number of oil rigs in the United States rose by 12, to 205.
- ▲ According to the CFTC Commitments of Traders report for the week ended October 13, net long for crude oil futures added +1,261 contracts to 472,797 for the week. Speculative long positions declined -7,854 contracts, while shorts also fell -9,115 contracts.

Outlook

■ We expect that demand concerns due to covid pandemic, and increasing supply from OPEC nations is likely to keep oil prices under pressure. WTI crude oil prices are likely to find support around \$38.45-37.80 per barrel. Meanwhile, stiff resistance could be seen around \$41.97-43.08 per barrel.

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