DAILY ANALYSIS REPORT Tuesday, October 26, 2021	ABANS
Winter heating demand and export numbers are expected to keep natural gas prices bullish	



# WINTER HEATING DEMAND AND EXPORT NUMBERS ARE EXPECTED TO KEEP NATURAL GAS PRICES BULLISH

- On the back of rising US exports and a rally in European gas prices, natural gas prices rallied to \$6.231 in the early session today, continuing a bullish trend from the previous five trading sessions. Natural gas futures were bought by funds on Monday as forecasts for below-normal US temperatures in the first week of November sparked speculation. When the temperature drops below normal, natural gas is used to heat the house.
- According to Bloomberg data, gas flows to US LNG export terminals reached 11.3 billion cubic feet on Monday, up more than 10% from Friday and the highest in five months.
- On Monday, European gas prices rose after European natural gas supplies fell to their lowest level in over ten years.
- Increased electricity output in the United States is good news for natural gas demand. Last Wednesday, the Edison Electric Institute reported that total U.S. electricity output increased by 4.6 percent year over year to 73,017 GWh in the week ending October 16. (gigawatt hours).
- Domestic natural gas demand in the United States, on the other hand, has slowed. Natural gas consumption on Friday was 63.8 billion cubic feet, down 1.6 percent year over year, according to Bloomberg data.
- According to Bloomberg data, US natural gas production was 92.116 bcf on Monday, up +2.7 percent year over year, likely putting a stop to the price rally.
- On the inventory front, the latest Weekly EIA report showed that natural gas inventories in the United States increased by +92 billion cubic feet to 3,461 billion cubic feet in the week ended October 15, beating expectations of +87 billion cubic feet and exceeding the 5-year average of +69 billion cubic feet. Inventories, on the other hand, are still down -11.8 percent year over year and -4.2 percent below their 5-year average.
- ▲ Last Friday, Baker Hughes reported that the number of active U.S. natural gas drilling rigs increased by one rig to 99 rigs in the week ending October 22. This is just below the 1-1/4 year high of 104 rigs set on July 23. A rise in gas drilling rig is an early indication of increase in future production.
- The net short for natural gas increased by 168 contracts to 131070 contracts, according to the CFTC Commitments of Traders report for the week ended October 19. Long speculative positions fell by 4075 contracts, while short speculative positions fell by 3907 contracts.

## Outlook

After six consecutive daily pullbacks, open interest in natural gas futures markets rose for the first time on Monday, this time by around 15.2K contracts. Following suit, volume increased by around 150.5K contracts after five days of declines. The sharp rise in natural gas prices on Monday was accompanied by increased open interest and volume, indicating that more gains are likely in the near term. While prices remain above key support level of \$5.789-\$5.5570, we may see further positive movement towards \$6.33 and \$6.662 in the near term.

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