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Oil prices trading lower on supply-demand mismatch Gold to trade in a range of \$1,930-\$1,950, ahead of NFP data Copper near its support zone

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OIL PRICES TRADING LOWER ON SUPPLY-DEMAND MISMATCH

- Oil prices fell this week, following a demand and supply mismatch. OPEC Aug crude production rose 550,000 bpd to a 3-month high of 23.940 million bpd.
- One of the prominent oil producers from OPEC, Iraq, is unable to cut production to 3.40 million BPD by the end of September, and wants an extenuation till November. Iraq's August crude oil production of 3.72 million BPD was down 70,000 BPD from July, but was still well above the 3.40 million BPD level, which it promised.
- Oil prices were also under pressure from a sell-off in global equities, and may get further direction from monthly NFP data, which will be released later today.
- Meanwhile, on the demand side, US Energy Information Administration (EIA) data showed that domestic gasoline demand, last week, fell to 8.78 million barrels per day (BPD), from 9.16 million BPD, a week earlier. Consumption of other oil products has also fallen.
- Weak fuel demand in India, the world's third-largest crude consumer, is bearish for oil prices. Data on Tuesday showed that diesel sales at India's three biggest fuel retailers, fell -12% m/and -22% y/y in August, to 4.3 MMT. The ongoing COVID pandemic has reduced global growth and energy demand, and is bearish for crude prices. Infections have risen above 26.214 million around the world, with deaths exceeding 868,000.

Outlook

■ Supply worries from OPEC+ members, rising US oil exports, and weakness in the oil demand, due to the coronavirus pandemic, will keep a lid on oil prices. WTI Crude oil on Nymex is likely to find key resistance levels around \$42.70 and \$43.60 levels; meanwhile, strong support is seen around the 50-days EMA at \$40.36.

GOLD TO TRADE IN A RANGE OF \$1,930-\$1,950 AHEAD OF NFP DATA

- Gold prices are up, due to a sell-off in equities, and a drop in the US treasury yield. Safe-haven demand is helping gold prices, after a continuous second day of sell-off in global equities, in the early Asian trading session today. However, gold prices are likely to remain range bound, ahead of monthly NFP data, which are scheduled to be released later today.
- ▲ According to Reuters, the data is expected to show a payroll growth of 1.4 million in August, compared to the 1.763 million jobs, created in the previous month.

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- On the economic data front, US weekly initial unemployment claims fell -130,000 to a 5-1/4 month low of 881,000, showing a stronger labor market, compared to expectations of a decline to 950,000. Also, the Eurozone Aug Markit composite PMI was revised upward to 51.9, from the previously reported 51.6. Conversely, the U.S. Aug ISM Services index declined by -1.2 to 56.9, slightly weaker than expectations of a decline to 57.0. Also, Eurozone July retail sales unexpectedly fell -1.3% m/m, weaker than expectations of +1.0% m/m.
- Meanwhile, Chicago Fed President, Charles Evans, called on Congress to deliver additional fiscal aid, and signalled a more dovish stance on the policy front. The US monetary policy would be eased further, and interest rates kept at ultra-low levels for years, to help the economy recover from the Covid-19 damages. An easy monetary policy is supportive for gold.

Outlook

■ Gold may trade in a range of \$1,930-1,950, ahead of the monthly US NFP data; it may find support near the 50-days EMA at 1,918, while an important resistance is seen around 1,969 and 1,983 levels.

COPPER NEAR A SUPPORT ZONE

- In the past three trading sessions, copper has corrected, due to the strength in the dollar. The news flow has also been contradictory, thus making us believe that the strength in the Dollar Index has pushed the base metals lower.
- Codelco's (Chile's state-owned miner) copper output for July declined 4.4% YoY to 133,300 tonnes, but production rose 3.8% to 100,900 tonnes at the Escondido mine, while production from the Collahuasi mine, which is owned by Anglo American and Glencore, rose by 22.8% in July, to 58,100 tonnes.
- On the inventory side, on warrant inventory at SHFE declined by 73%, from 216,414 mt, on 1st April 2020, to 58,981 mt, on 3rd August 2020, while at the LME, the inventory declined by 77%, from 177,250 mt, to 44,300 mt, during the same time period. A drawdown in the inventory in both exchanges indicates that consumption has picked up in the ongoing Covid-19 unlock and that the demand is rising.

Outlook

■ Copper medium term trend remains positive, and currently it is trading above the 20-days SMA, and is likely to find support near the current levels. The metal could rise towards \$6,700 & \$6,800 levels, and can find support at \$6,525 & \$6,425 levels in the near term.

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Prepared by:

Mr. Kamlesh Jogi | Market Research Analyst

email: kamlesh.jogi@abans.co.in
Phone: +91 22 68354176 (Direct)

Abans Broking Services (P) Limited

36, 37, 38A, 3rd Floor, 227 Nariman Bhavan, Backbay Reclamation, Nariman Point, Mumbai-400 021

Phone +91 22 61790000 | Fax +91 22 61790000

Email: info@abans.co.in | Website: www.abans.co.in

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