

## **KAMCO** Research

## Oil Market Monthly Report

March - 2019

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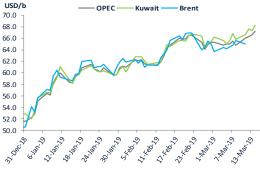
Oil at 4-month high on lower inventory and supply cuts...

A wave of newsflow supporting oil prices pushed crude benchmarks to a four month high during mid-March-19. The consistent gains came on the back of continued supply cuts by OPEC+ countries in addition to an unexpected drop in oil inventories in the US that had recently reached a 17-month high level. In addition, prices also got support from a recent drop in US crude production estimates, albeit marginally by 100 tb/d w-o-w, to 12 mb/d for the week ended 8-March-19, as per IEA data. This was the first time in six months where US production forecast was lowered by the agency in its latest Short Term Energy Outlook. According to reports, smaller drillers are facing difficulties in adding capex to keep pumping oil while bigger players continue unabated. Furthermore, Canada faces a peculiar situation of delay in pipeline construction in addition to production curbs by provincial governments.

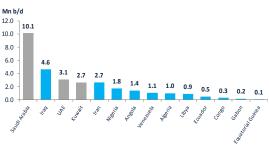
Elsewhere, supply from UK has also remained weak for the third consecutive month in February-19 owing to lower production. Meanwhile, supplies from Venezuela continued to dwindle in March-19 following a nation-wide power cut that crippled the country's oil production facilities. A monthly update from IEA said that the decline in global oil production led by Venezuela and Iran coupled with strong demand could push the oil market into deficits during Q2-19.

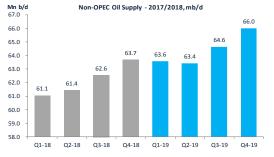
Supply from OPEC continued to decline in February-19 sliding by more than 0.5 mb/d to reach a 4-year low level of 30.5 mb/d, according to data from Bloomberg. The decline came primarily on the back of continued cuts from Saudi Arabia as per the OPEC+ agreement. Almost all the OPEC producers reported a decline in production during the month while non-OPEC members, including Russia, also lowered production. This led to a compliance level of 94% during February-19 for the OPEC countries while non-OPEC producers increased their compliance gradually to 51%, according to IEA. Furthermore, a statement from Saudi Arabia's energy minister that the production policy is not expected to change until June-19 further added to a situation of tightening supplies and reducing glut.

On the demand side, although OPEC slashed its forecast for global oil requirements in 2019, recent trends have proven otherwise. Demand remained robust during the first two months led by higher consumption from China with record refinery throughput since the start of the year. In addition, any progress on the US-China trade deal should provide further clarity on oil demand in the near term. Nevertheless, economic growth continues to show weakening signs in China which recently reported its lowest industrial growth in 17 years. Also, in its latest forecast, the OECD lowered world economic growth expectations while slashing growth rates for major European economies. The confusion over Brexit further added to the uncertain environment while some estimates suggesting a peak in US growth rates with reported decline in personal income and consumer spending.









Source for the above charts: OPEC and Bloombera

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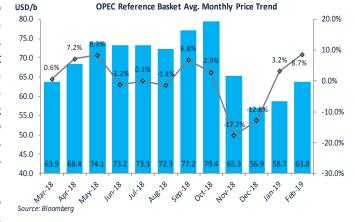
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## Oil Prices

Oil price trend continued to remain upward during March-19 showing consistent gains since the start of the year and closing little short of the USD 70/b mark. However, prices are yet to see the peaks seen during October-18. After almost 7% gains in February-19, OPEC spot price was up 2% by mid-March-19. As a result, average crude prices for almost all the crude grades were positive as compared to January-19. Average OPEC crude prices gained 8.7% m-o-m during February-19, the biggest growth since November-17, to reach USD 63.83/b. Kuwait crude average price gains were even stronger at 9% and averaged at USD 64.0/b, while average Brent crude gained 7.7% to reach USD 64.0/b.



According to the latest EIA weekly report, crude inventories in the US saw an unexpected decline of 3.9 million barrels during the week

ended 8-March-19 indicating a decline in production as refineries continued to run at their previous week's capacity. In its Short Term Energy Outlook, the EIA lowered US crude oil production forecast which is now expected to grow at a slightly lower pace as compared to previous projections (1.35 mb/d vs. 1.45 mb/d) and average at 12.30 mb/d this year as compared to previous expectation of 12.41 mb/d. Production estimate for 2020 was also trimmed and is now expected to reach 13.03 mb/d as compared to last month's 13.2 mb/d with growth being lowered from 0.79 mb/d to 0.73 mb/d. On the other hand, US oil demand is expected to rise by 0.36 mb/d in 2019 to reach 20.81 mb/d, a slight upgrade from previous projections. The weekly rig count data also suggested a slowdown in production in the US. According to the latest report from Baker Hughes, US active rigs reached a 10-month low during the week ended 8-March-19 at 833 active rigs. This was the fourth consecutive week of decline in rig count as independent exploration and production companies focus reduce their capital expenditure to focus on near term earnings instead of higher output. A number of estimates have suggested a declining trend in capital expenditure of oil companies in 2019.

Average Crude Oil Prices, USD/b	Jan-19	Feb-19	Change (USD)	YTD Avg 2018	YTD Avg 2019
OPEC Reference Basket	58.7	63.8	5.1	65.3	61.2
Arab Light	59.6	64.9	5.2	65.8	62.1
Basrah Light	58.2	63.3	5.1	64.3	60.6
Bonny Light	60.5	65.2	4.7	68.1	62.7
Djeno	56.8	61.4	4.6	65.3	59.0
Es Sider	58.3	63.2	4.9	66.4	60.6
Girassol	60.0	65.3	5.3	68.0	62.5
Iran Heavy	56.3	61.4	5.1	64.1	58.7
Kuwait Export	58.7	63.9	5.3	64.0	61.2
Merey	50.9	55.9	5.0	58.5	53.3
Murban	60.8	65.6	4.8	67.4	63.1
Oriente	55.1	60.4	5.3	62.0	57.6
Rabi	58.6	63.3	4.6	66.3	60.8
Saharan Blend	59.3	64.3	5.0	68.1	61.7
Zafiro	60.1	64.9	4.8	67.3	62.4
Other Crudes					
Brent	59.4	64.0	4.6	67.2	61.6
Dubai	59.1	64.4	5.4	64.5	61.6
Isthmus	58.1	63.8	5.7	66.3	60.8
LLS	58.5	63.2	4.7	66.2	60.8
Mars	56.7	61.9	5.2	62.6	59.2
Minas	51.7	56.9	5.2	59.6	54.2
Urals	60.3	64.1	3.8	66.0	62.1
WTI	51.6	55.0	3.4	63.0	53.2
Differentials					
Brent/WTI	7.7	9.0	1.3	4.3	8.4
Brent/LLS	0.9	0.8	(0.1)	1.0	0.8
Brent/Dubai	0.3	(0.4)	(0.7)	2.7	(0.0)

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March-19

## World Oil Demand

In 2018, world oil demand is estimated to have grown by 1.43 mb/d, down by 0.04 mb/d from the previous estimate amid downward revisions in both OECD and non-OECD regions. Demand estimates for the OECD countries was revised down by 0.03 mb/d due to lower-than-expected demand growth in OECD Europe and Asia Pacific during the last quarter of 2018. Countries like Germany, France and Turkey slower economic activity coupled with warmer weather conditions that led to lower oil requirements. Demand growth for the OECD Asia Pacific region was also revised downward by 0.01 mb/d due to lower-than-expected demand from the petrochemical sector in South Korea during Q4-18. These downward revisions were partially offset by an upward adjustment of 0.01 mb/d to demand estimates for OECD Americas owing to continued strong demand from the US. According to preliminary data, oil demand was robust during the first

World Oil Demand - 2017/2018, mb/d	2017	Q1-18	Q2-18	Q3-18	Q4-18	2018	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	25.06	25.20	25.40	25.78	25.74	25.53	0.48	1.90
of which US	20.27	20.57	20.64	20.93	20.78	20.73	0.46	2.26
Europe	14.30	13.95	14.19	14.68	14.32	14.29	(0.01)	(0.09)
Asia Pacific	8.06	8.54	7.65	7.70	8.16	8.01	(0.05)	(0.61)
Total OECD	47.42	47.69	47.24	48.16	48.22	47.83	0.41	0.87
Other Asia	13.24	13.55	13.84	13.38	13.87	13.66	0.42	3.14
of which India	4.53	4.83	4.74	4.40	4.96	4.73	0.20	4.43
Latin America	6.51	6.35	6.48	6.81	6.47	6.53	0.02	0.31
Middle East	8.17	8.19	7.96	8.40	7.82	8.09	(0.08)	(0.98)
Africa	4.20	4.35	4.32	4.27	4.40	4.33	0.13	3.13
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	32.13	32.44	32.60	32.86	32.56	32.61	0.49	1.52
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.70	4.66	4.65	4.94	5.01	4.82	0.12	2.45
Other Europe	0.72	0.73	0.69	0.73	0.82	0.74	0.03	3.48
China	12.32	12.28	12.84	12.65	13.07	12.71	0.39	3.18
Total "Other Regions"	17.74	17.68	18.18	18.32	18.9	18.27	0.53	2.99
Total World	97.29	97.80	98.02	99.35	99.68	98.72	1.43	1.47

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March-19

two months of the year led by higher demand in most petroleum categories especially LPG, jet fuel and diesel. On the other hand, Mexico and Canada reported a decline in demand based on available data for January-19 and December-18, respectively. In the non-OECD group, demand was lowered by 0.02 mb/d to reflect declining demand in the Other Asia and Middle East regions. Demand for Diesel oil in India was slow in November-18 while Saudi Arabia witnessed slower-than-expected oil demand during Q4-18. Nevertheless, January-19 data for India showed healthy growth in diesel requirements followed by LPG and gasoline. China started the year with strong demand for oil with refineries processing crude at a record rate. Crude imports by the country has remained above the 10 mb/d mark for the past four consecutive months.

Oil demand growth for 2019 was kept unchanged at 1.24 mb/d with total demand expected to reach 99.96 mb/d during the year. Preliminary data for January-19 for Germany, France, Italy and the UK showed higher oil demand as compared to previous year led by substantially colder weather conditions coupled with a low base effect. Nevertheless, economic data related to industrial production which declined and falling car sales is expected to have a negative impact on oil demand in the region.

World Oil Demand - 2018/2019, mb/d	2018	Q1-19	Q2-19	Q3-19	Q4-19	2019	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	25.53	25.43	25.64	26.06	26.00	25.79	0.25	1.00
of which US	20.73	20.79	20.85	21.19	21.02	20.96	0.23	1.11
Europe	14.29	13.97	14.18	14.69	14.32	14.29	0.01	0.06
Asia Pacific	8.01	8.53	7.61	7.68	8.13	7.99	(0.03)	(0.34)
Total OECD	47.83	47.94	47.43	48.43	48.46	48.07	0.24	0.49
Other Asia	13.66	13.91	14.21	13.75	14.25	14.03	0.37	2.71
of which India	4.73	5.03	4.93	4.58	5.15	4.92	0.19	4.05
Latin America	6.53	6.38	6.52	6.86	6.51	6.57	0.04	0.66
Middle East	8.09	8.23	7.99	8.45	7.86	8.13	0.04	0.49
Africa	4.33	4.45	4.42	4.36	4.50	4.43	0.10	2.31
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	32.61	32.98	33.15	33.42	33.12	33.17	0.55	1.69
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.82	4.75	4.74	5.03	5.11	4.91	0.09	1.87
Other Europe	0.74	0.75	0.71	0.75	0.84	0.76	0.02	2.69
China	12.71	12.61	13.18	12.99	13.42	13.05	0.34	2.67
Total "Other Regions"	18.27	18.11	18.63	18.77	19.37	18.72	0.45	2.46
Total World	98.72	99.02	99.21	100.62	100.95	99.96	1.24	1.25

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March-19

# World Oil Supply

According to preliminary data, global oil supply declined for the third consecutive month during February-19. Supply continued to remain below the 100 mb/d mark and was estimated at 99.15 mb/d in February-19, a m-o-m decline of 0.16 mb/d. During the month no-OPEC supply increased by 65 tb/d led by higher supply mainly from the US, Uk and Brazil. However, this increase was more than offset by a steep decline in OPEC production. Non-OPEC supply growth projections for 2018 was once again revised upward by 25 tb/d and is now expected to grow by 2.74 mb/d during the year to average at 62.19 mb/d. The revision mainly reflected higher output from Canada, the US and Australia to the tune of 46 tb/d that was partially offset by downward revisions to supply estimates from OECD Europe, other

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2017/2018, mb/d	2017	Q1-18	Q2-18	Q3-18	Q4-18	2018	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	21.49	22.93	23.36	24.51	25.05	23.97	2.48	11.53
of which US	14.40	15.53	16.22	17.17	17.64	16.65	2.25	15.59
Europe	3.83	3.92	3.73	3.63	3.79	3.77	(0.06)	(1.60)
Asia Pacific	0.39	0.41	0.38	0.42	0.44	0.41	0.02	4.87
Total OECD	25.71	27.25	27.47	28.57	29.28	28.15	2.44	9.47
Other Asia	3.61	3.6	3.55	3.47	3.49	3.53	(0.08)	-2.34
Latin America	5.15	5.15	5.20	5.10	5.23	5.17	0.02	0.32
Middle East	3.13	3.16	3.21	3.22	3.24	3.21	0.07	2.29
Africa	1.48	1.50	1.52	1.55	1.49	1.51	0.03	2.30
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	13.38	13.40	13.47	13.34	13.45	13.41	0.04	0.28
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	14.05	14.1	14.14	14.33	14.57	14.29	0.24	1.67
of which Russia	11.17	11.14	11.18	11.44	11.61	11.35	0.17	1.56
Other Europe	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	(0.01)	(4.58)
China	3.97	3.94	4.00	3.94	4.02	3.97	0.00	0.07
Total "Other regions"	18.15	18.17	18.25	18.39	18.71	18.38	0.23	1.28
Total Non-OPEC Production	57.24	58.81	59.2	60.3	61.44	59.94	2.71	4.73
Processing gains	2.21	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	2.25	0.04	1.67
Total Non-OPEC Supply	59.45	61.06	61.44	62.55	63.69	62.19	2.74	4.61
OPEC NGLs and non-conventionals	4.94	4.92	4.96	4.98	5.06	4.98	0.04	0.81
OPEC Crude Oil Production	32.01	31.80	31.61	31.96	32.08	31.86	(0.15)	(0.47)
Total World Supply	96.40	97.78	98.01	99.49	100.83	99.03	2.63	2.73

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March-19

OECD Asia Pacific, Malaysia, The Sudans and South Africa by 21 tb/d during Q4-18.

Non-OPEC supply growth forecasts for 2019 was also revised upwards by 0.06 mb/d to 2.24 mb/d and supply is now expected to average at 64.43 mb/d. The upward revision primarily reflected a reassessment of production data for Canada with the country expected to add 0.1 mb/d in production in April-19 coming from Alberta to replenish draws from the storage. Production from Sudan is also expected to be higher as compared to previous expectations. Supplies from Mexico was lowered by 16 tb/d following weaker-than-expected output during Q1-19. In the OECD Europe region supplies from the North Sea is expected to increase gradually from Q4-19 following startup of Johan Sverdrup oil field on the Norwegian continental shelf.

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2018/2019, mb/d	2018	Q1-19	Q2-19	Q3-19	Q4-19	2019	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	23.97	24.80	25.04	25.95	26.68	25.63	1.66	6.91
of which US	16.65	17.74	17.99	18.64	19.41	18.45	1.80	10.83
Europe	3.77	3.79	3.62	3.71	3.94	3.77	0.00	(0.04)
Asia Pacific	0.41	0.45	0.46	0.47	0.49	0.47	0.06	13.83
Total OECD	28.15	29.04	29.12	30.14	31.11	29.86	1.71	6.08
Other Asia	3.53	3.46	3.44	3.46	3.46	3.45	-0.07	-2.04
Latin America	5.17	5.41	5.42	5.51	5.73	5.52	0.35	6.74
Middle East	3.21	3.20	3.22	3.24	3.24	3.22	0.02	0.59
Africa	1.51	1.55	1.56	1.59	1.62	1.58	0.07	4.47
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	13.41	13.62	13.64	13.80	14.05	13.78	0.36	2.71
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	14.29	14.55	14.35	14.37	14.5	14.45	0.16	1.11
of which Russia	11.35	11.55	11.40	11.50	11.50	11.49	0.14	1.25
Other Europe	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.12	0.00	(1.08)
China	3.97	3.99	3.94	3.93	3.95	3.95	(0.02)	(0.60)
Total "Other regions"	18.38	18.66	18.41	18.42	18.58	18.52	0.13	0.73
Total Non-OPEC Production	59.94	61.32	61.17	62.36	63.74	62.15	2.21	3.68
Processing gains	2.25	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	2.28	0.03	1.25
Total Non-OPEC Supply	62.19	63.59	63.44	64.64	66.01	64.43	2.24	3.59

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - March-19

# **OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity**

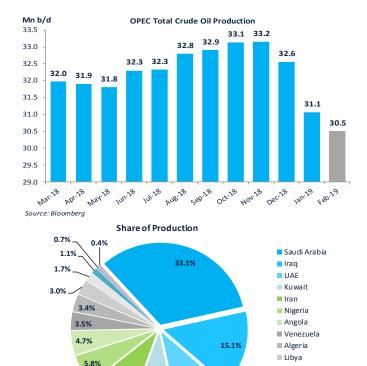
OPEC crude production reached a new 4-year low of 30.5 mb/d during February-19 led by m-o-m decline in production from almost all the producers in the group. Supplies from Venezuela took the biggest hit during the month as the country faces economic crisis amid sanctions from the US. In addition, the recent blackouts have severely affected oil production facilities in the country. According to some estimates, the country's production more than halved temporarily to as low as 0.5 mb/d following the blackouts as drillers struggled to operate wells and other facilities. This, coupled with the ongoing sanctions of Iran with the country struggling to find replacement to its aging oil tankers, pushed down oil production from OPEC to a new low. The decline in production from Iran stood at 90 tb/d during February-19 and recent reports have suggested that although US will most likely extend the waivers it granted to eight countries

Production ('000 b/d)	Jan-19	Feb-19	Cha	ange	Capacity	Spare Capacity
Total OPEC-14	31,060	30,500	-560	-1.80%	35,255	4,755
Saudi Arabia	10,200	10,100	-100	-1.0%	11,500	1,400
Iraq	4,690	4,620	-70	-1.5%	4,700	80
UAE	3,090	3,070	-20	-0.6%	3,400	330
Kuwait	2,750	2,690	-60	-2.2%	3,000	310
Iran	2,740	2,650	-90	-3.3%	4,000	1,350
Nigeria	1,790	1,760	-30	-1.7%	1,900	140
Angola	1,450	1,440	-10	-0.7%	1,710	270
Venezuela	1,230	1,070	-160	-13.0%	1,440	370
Algeria	1,050	1,030	-20	-1.9%	1,150	120
Libya	900	900	0	0.0%	1,200	300
Ecuador	520	530	10	1.9%	555	25
Congo	330	330	0	0.0%	330	0
Gabon	210	200	-10	-4.8%	220	20
Equatorial Guinea	110	110	0	0.0%	150	40
Total OPEC-13	26,370	25,880	-490	-1.86%	30,555	4,675

Source: Bloomberg, OPEC

importing oil from Iran, it would continue to build pressure on these countries to reduce buying. Saudi Arabia produced at a 9-month low level of 10.1 mb/d and is said to be planning to slash oil exports during April-19 while keeping its output well below 10 mb/d.

Although OPEC oil production has plummeted to new lows, KAMCO Research continues to see the current surge in oil prices backed by a number of fragile factors that are hard to sustain in the long-term. We see gradual increase in oil demand as the only sustainable factor, while on the other hand, the increase in supplies have been capped by a temporary agreement and/or due to sanctions on two large producers in OPEC. Spare capacity in the OPEC went above 3 mb/d (excluding Iran and Venezuela) with Saudi Arabia, UAE and Kuwait accounting for two thirds of this, sufficient to replace the decline in supplies from Iran and Venezuela. In addition, capacity is being added simultaneously by most of the producers in the OPEC as well as elsewhere that would add to the supply in the coming years. Recent statements from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait shows that the production from Neutral Zone is likely to start this year. Based on the above factors, we see sustainable price at around USD 70/b and a rally beyond this price would be followed by higher production from US shale, private oil companies in Russia coupled with lower demand due to price surge stretching the oil glut.



8.8%

■ Ecuador■ Congo

Gabon

Equatorial Guinea

Source: Bloomberg

# Brent Crude Oil Price Forecast by Various Research Houses

Firm	As Of	Q1 19	Q2 19	Q3 19	Q4 19
Societe Generale SA	15/Mar/19	63.2	67.0	70.0	70.0
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	14/Ma r/19	64.0	70.0	73.5	72.4
Capital Economics Ltd	11/Mar/19	57.0	57.5	53.5	51.0
Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg	7/Mar/19	64.0	70.0	70.0	70.0
Emirates NBD PJSC	14/Feb/19	61.0	67.5	67.5	63.0
Westpac Banking Corp	12/Feb/19	61.1	62.0	61.3	60.3
Commerzbank AG	12/Feb/19	60.0	63.0	67.0	70.0
BNP Paribas SA	5/Feb/19	63.0	69.0	73.0	67.0
Rabobank International	30/Jan/19	67.5	67.4	67.2	67.1
MPS Capital Services Banca per le Imprese SpA	24/Jan/19	62.0	67.0	70.0	65.0
BBVA Research SA	23/Jan/19	64.5	63.7	62.6	61.8
Natixis SA	22/Jan/19	62.0	68.0	73.0	77.0
Lloyds Bank PLC	16/Jan/19	66.0	70.0	75.0	80.0
Raymond James Financial Inc	14/Jan/19	62.0	66.0	75.0	85.0
Itau Unibanco Holding SA	14/Jan/19	58.3	58.8	59.3	59.8
Raiffeisen Bank International AG	11/Jan/19	67.0	74.0	75.0	70.0
CIBC	9/Jan/19	63.0	68.0		
Market Risk Advisory Co Ltd	7/Jan/19	60.0	62.0	60.0	60.0
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd/The	27/Dec/18	62.4	57.2	64.6	66.5
CIMB	20/Dec/18	63.0	66.0	70.0	71.0
ABN AMRO Bank NV	18/Dec/18	68.0	70.0	70.0	70.0
Banco Santander SA	14/Dec/18	62.0	64.0	63.0	63.0
Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd	13/Dec/18	70.5	77.0	78.5	76.5
Wells Fargo Securities LLC	10/Dec/18	62.0	64.0	68.0	70.0
Incrementum AG	10/Dec/18	63.0	65.0	71.0	78.0
Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale	7/Dec/18	59.0	58.0	58.0	62.0
Oxford Economics Ltd	6/Dec/18	60.0	63.0	64.3	64.9
Bank of Nova Scotia/The	4/Dec/18	64.0	69.0	68.0	67.0
Guggenheim Securities LLC	4/Dec/18	74.0	76.0	78.0	76.0
Barclays PLC	20/Nov/18	75.0	71.0	70.0	73.0
Toronto-Dominion Bank/Toronto	19/Nov/18	78.0	80.0	80.0	80.0
DZ Bank AG	16/Oct/18	80.0	77.5	75.0	72.5
Deutsche Bank AG	2/Oct/18	80.0	78.0	78.0	76.0
Median		63.0	67.4	70.0	70.0
Mean		65.0	67.5	69.0	69.2
High		80.0	80.0	80.0	85.0
Low		57.0	57.2	53.5	51.0
Current Fwd		65.0	67.0	66.6	66.2
Difference (Median - Current)		-2.0	0.4	3.4	3.8

Source: Bloomberg

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