



# December 2018

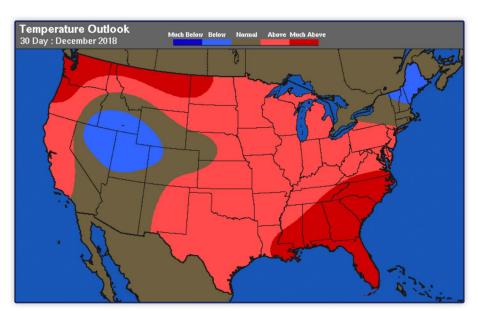
**Market Update** 

#### **Market Summary**

A perfect storm of 15-year low inventories and cold temperatures have created price rallies that hit four-year highs – all while production records continue to be hit.

### Weather

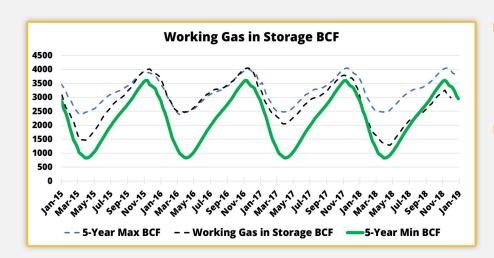




- Early November saw prices hit two-year highs as cold weather lingered and boosted demand.
- Mid-November cold weather and low inventories pushed gas prices to four-year highs.

#### **Storage**

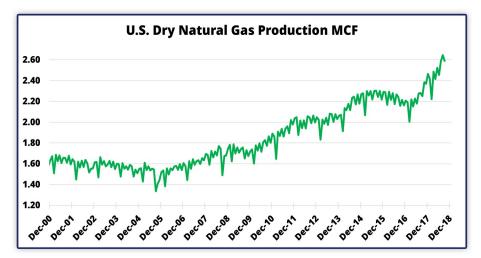




- Early November saw extended cold snaps cause the lowest early season supply in 15 years. Inventories were 16% below the five-year average and the lowest level to start the winter heating season in 15 years shooting prices to two-year highs.
- Mid-November saw futures prices hit the largest daily percentage gain in 14 years (up 18%). Spikes were due largely to 15-year low storage levels. This was followed the next day by the biggest one-day percent drop in more than 15 years mitigated by the weekly rise in U.S. supplies of natural gas.

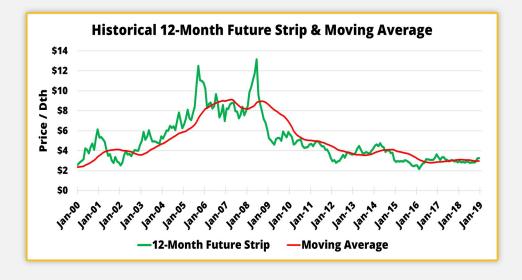
## **Production**





- September production in North Dakota had three consecutive months of record-breaking oil and gas production.
- U.S. LNG exports in November set a new record with 31 loaded cargoes, exceeding the previous record set in July with 29 exported cargoes.

#### **Pricing**



### **Bidweek**

Month	12-Month Strip	NYMEX
Jan. '18 Feb. '18 Mar. '18 Apr. '18 May '18	\$2.765 \$2.864 \$2.870 \$2.851 \$2.765	\$2.738 \$3.631 \$2.639 \$2.691 \$2.821
Jun. '18 Jul. '18 Aug. '18 Sep. '18 Oct. '18 Nov. '18 Dec. '18	\$2.885 \$2.818 \$2.791 \$2.722 \$2.898 \$2.953 \$3.240	\$2.875 \$2.996 \$2.822 \$2.900 \$3.020 \$3.190 <b>\$4.714</b>

Wholesale Prices per Mmbtu

# **Noteworthy**

- Poland has signed a 24-year deal to buy LNG from the United States as it aims to lessen its dependence on Russian natural gas.
- China overtakes Japan to become top natural gas importer, expecting to become the world's largest natural gas buyer by 2040.
- Natural gas is set to overtake coal as the world's second largest energy source by 2030 (behind renewables).
- Current "truce deal" with China includes offer to buy more U.S. natural gas along with higher intellectual property protection.
- Qatar is set to withdraw from OPEC in January 2019, focused solely on its gas industry.