# RBN U.S. Propane Billboard U.S. Propane Market Update & Outlook

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## WEEKLY PROPANE MARKET UPDATE

Figure 1

June 7, 2023

#### **HIGHLIGHTS**

- The EIA reported that total U.S. propane/propylene inventories increased by 1.7 MMbbl for the week ended June
  The build was below industry expectations for an increase of 2.8 MMbbl and the 2.8 MMbbl average build for the week.
  Total U.S. propane stocks are now at 72.3 MMbbl, which is
  17.7 MMbbl, or 32%, above the 5-year average.
- » Crude oil prices moved higher during the week, supported by Saudi Arabia's announcement that it was cutting production by 1 MMbbl/d in July. WTI settled at \$71.74/bbl on June 6, up \$3.65/bbl from May 31. Propane prices were also stronger, with Mont Belvieu non-TET up by 4.9 c/gal to 59.8 c/gal on June 6. As a result, the propane-to-WTI ratio increased by 1 percentage point from last week to 35%.
- » Weekly exports of propane reported by the EIA were stronger at 1.51 MMbbl/d, up 168 Mbbl/d from last week and in line with the year-to-date average of 1.55 MMbbl/d.
- » Total U.S. production of propane/propylene increased by 44 Mbbl/d to 2,563 Mbbl/d as higher PADD 2 and PADD 3 supplies were partially offset by a decline in PADD 1 production.

#### **MARKET OVERVIEW**

Mont Belvieu propane prices moved higher during the past week, settling at 59.8 c/gal on June 6. WTI prices were also stronger, increasing by \$3.65/bbl, or 5.4%, to \$71.74/bbl over the same period, which pushed the propane-to-WTI ratio up 1 percentage point to 35%. The current ratio is below the 45% average recorded in June 2022. The forward propane-to-WTI ratio for July-September 2023 was unchanged from last week at 36%.

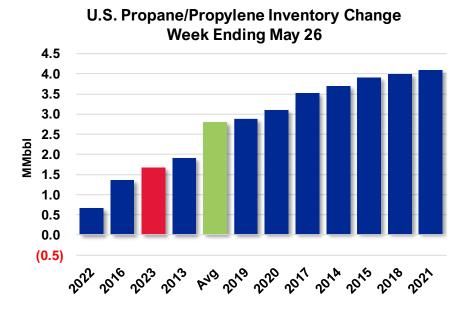
110 100 90 80 70 IddMM 60 50 40 30 Jan Jun AUG Jul **Previous 5 Year Range** 2023 5 Year Average 2022

Total U.S. Weekly EIA Propane/Propylene Inventories

### **ANALYSIS & INSIGHTS**

According to OPIS, the average of industry expectations called for an inventory build of 2.8 MMbbl. In today's EIA report, U.S. propane inventories increased by 1.7 MMbbl for the week ended June 2. Total U.S. propane stocks are now 72.3 MMbbl. Inventories are 22 MMbbl, or 44%, above the same week in 2022 and 5 MMbbl above the 5-year maximum. Regional changes were mixed with PADD 2 having the largest build while PADD 1 had the only decline.

PADD 3 (Gulf Coast) propane inventories had a build of 570 Mbbl. Total inventories for the region are now 45.2 MMbbl, putting them at 15.3 MMbbl, or 51%, above 2022 and 2.1 Mbbl above the 5-year maximum. Inventories are 11.6 MMbbl, or 35%, above the 5-year average.



#### **ANALYSIS & INSIGHTS (continued)**

PADD 2 (Midwest) inventories grew by 903 Mbbl, bringing the total to 17.7 MMbbl. Inventories are 4.6 MMbbl, or 35%, over 2022 and 2.1 Mbbl, or 15%, above the 5-year maximum.

PADD 1 (East Coast) stocks fell slightly by 149 Mbbl. Total inventories for the region are at 5.6 MMbbl, which is 1.7 MMbbl, or 43%, over 2022 and 66 Mbbl, or 1.5 %, above the 5-year maximum. Inventories are 1.3 Mbbl, or 31%, above the 5-year average.

PADD 4 (Rocky Mountain) plus PADD 5 (West Coast) stocks rose by 347 Mbbl. Total stocks are now at 3.7 MMbbl, which is 517 Mbbl, or 16%, over 2022 and 357 Mbbl, or 10.5%, above the 5-year maximum. Inventories are 1 MMbbl, or 37%, above the 5-year average.

Total U.S. production increased by 44 Mbbl/d to 2,563 Mbbl/d as production in PADD 2, PADD 3 and PADD 4/5 increased by a combined 81 Mbbl/d while PADD 1 fell by 37 Mbbl/d. Exports grew by 168 Mbbl/d to 1,507 Mbbl/d, which is above the 4-week average of 1,442 Mbbl/d. Imports went up by 30 Mbbl/d to 102 Mbbl/d as volumes into PADD 2 increased by 19 Mbbl/d, while PADD 1 and PADD 4/5 rose by a combined 11 Mbbl/d. Product supplied increased by 233 Mbbl/d to 920 Mbbl/d.

#### **Propane Inventory Change**

The build in propane stocks for the week ended June 2 (red bar, Figure 2) of 1.7 MMbbl was about 1.1 MMbbl less than the average increase of 2.8 MMbbl (green bar).

#### **MB Non-TET vs Conway Price**

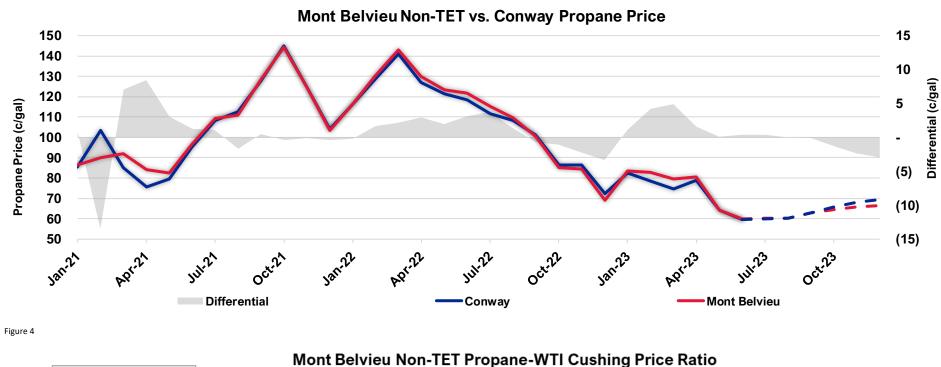
The Conway propane OPIS spot price relative to Mont Belvieu non-TET widened from last week, trading at a 1 c/gal discount as of June 6. The forward-price differential between Mont Belvieu and Conway was relatively unchanged from last week, with Mont Belvieu trading at a 0.4 c/gal premium to Conway for July 2023.

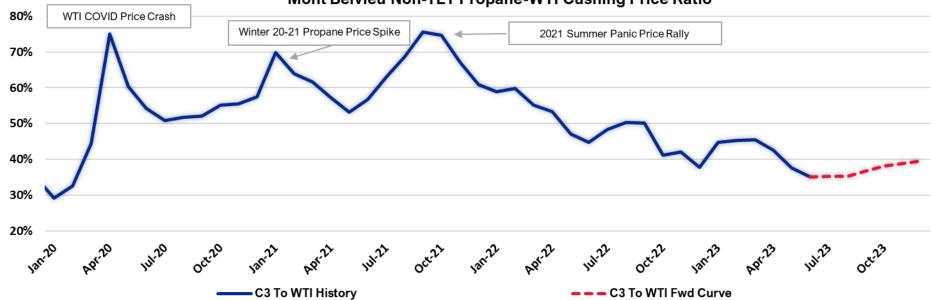
### **Days of Supply**

Figure 13 shows days of supply using the EIA's methodology, dividing the level of stocks by the four-week average of "product supplied," a surrogate statistic representing domestic demand. On that basis, supply is at about 95 days, 41 days higher than the same week in 2022 and two days above the 5-year high.

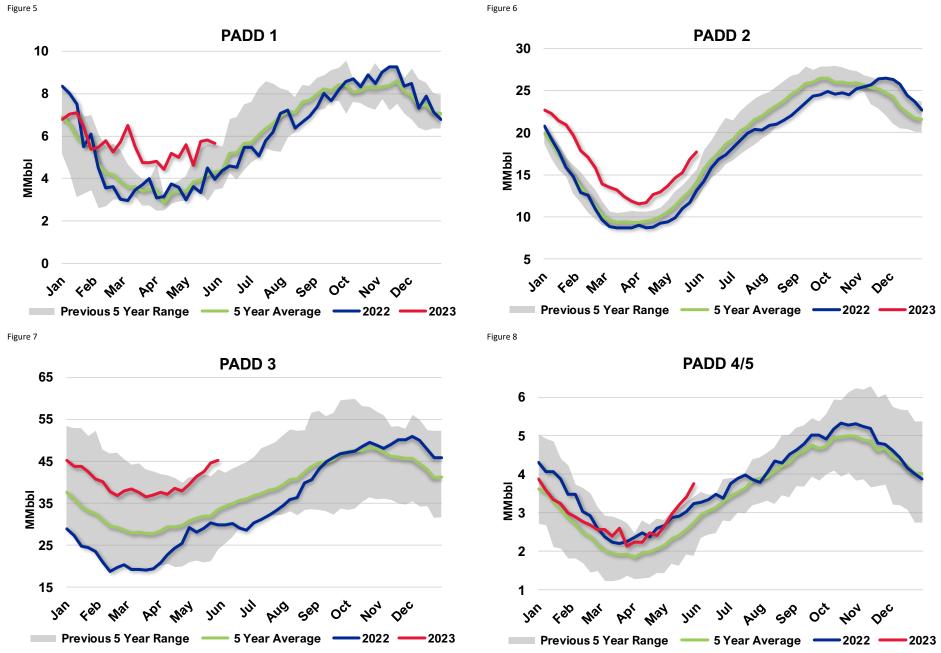
Figure 14 is an alternative calculation that divides stocks by product supplied plus exports and indicates only 30 days of inventory, which is nine days more than 2022 and 12 days less than the 5-year high for this metric. Including exports clearly makes a significant difference in the days-of-supply calculation.







### **U.S. PROPANE INVENTORIES BY PADD**



#### Figure 9

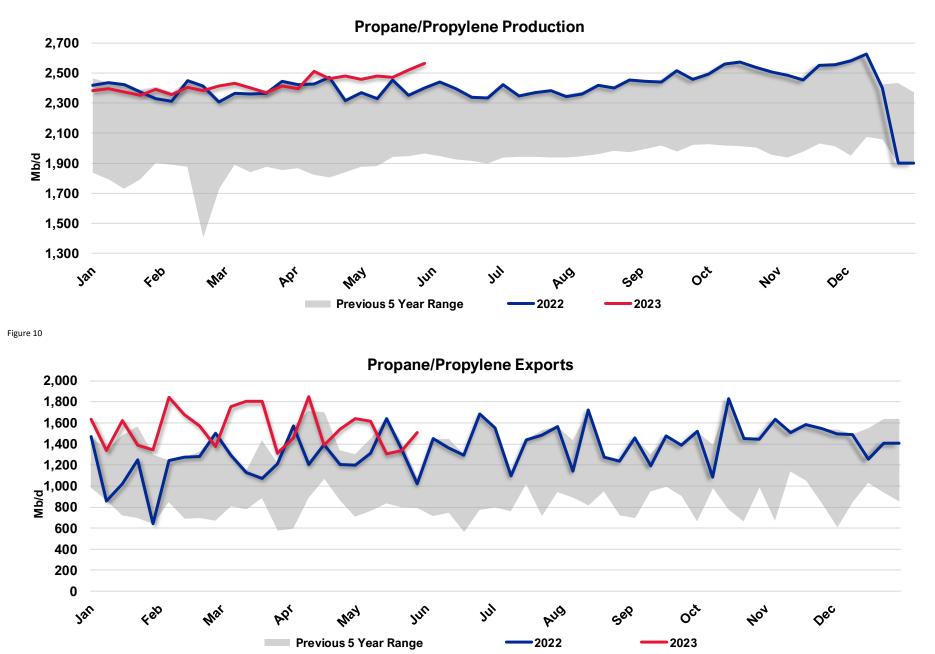


Figure 11

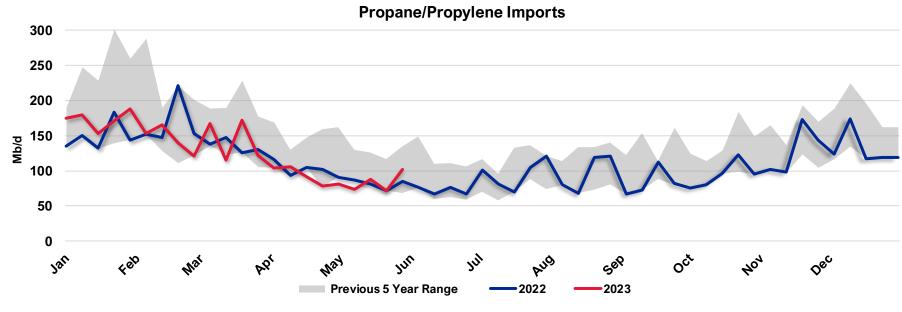


Figure 12

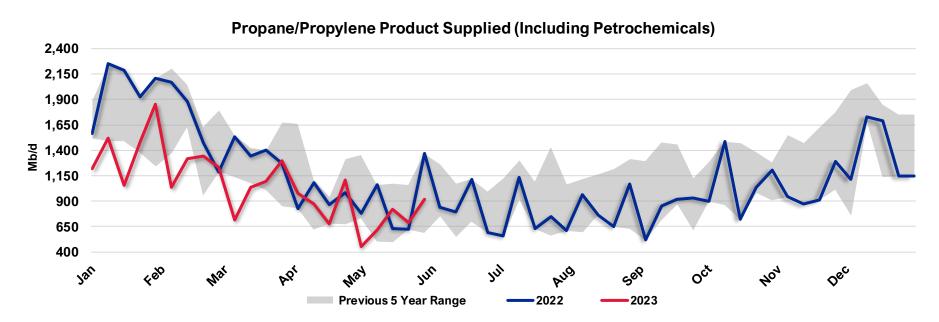
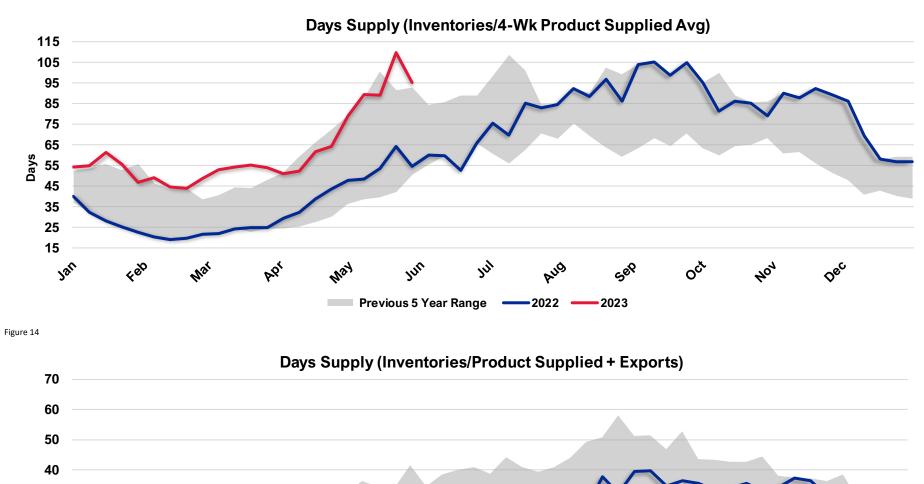


Figure 13



Jun

Previous 5 Year Range

AUG

2022

Jul

feb

Mar

POL

May

08 Days

20

10

0

Jan

404

0<sup>c\*-</sup>

Ser

2023

Dec

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