

Commodity News

Thursday, March 15, 2018



Gold

Technical

The \$1325 level has been important more than once in the gold markets, as it was resistance over several sessions earlier in the week. It now is offering support, but it would not surprise me to see this market reach back towards the \$1318 level. Alternately, if we can break above the \$1330 level, gold could rally again. I think that we are in an area that could be very noisy and dangerous, so I would be very cautious about putting a lot of money to work in the gold market ahead of time, as we have economic announcements coming out of the United States that could move the marketplace over the next several sessions. I believe that the "hard floor" in the market is closer to the \$1300 level, so I think that the level should attract a lot of attention. If we break down below the \$1300 level, it's likely that the market could go down to the \$1275 level underneath.

| | | |
|------------|-------|-------|
| Pivot: | 1,324 | |
| Support | 1,318 | 1,312 |
| Resistance | 1,330 | 1,336 |

Source: FX EMPIRE

Highlights

- Gold prices edged higher earlier today and hovered near one-week highs hit in the previous session
- Gold gained on concerns over trade tensions weighed on share markets
- U.S gold futures for April delivery rose 0.1 percent to \$1,327.10 per ounce
- The Dollar edged higher on Wednesday after three straight days of losses
- U.S retail sales fell for a third straight month in February as households cut back on purchases of motor vehicles

Gold - Technical Indicators

| | |
|---------|---------|
| RSI 14 | 63.56 |
| SMA 20 | 1,253.2 |
| SMA 50 | 1,246.1 |
| SMA 100 | 1,276.3 |
| SMA 200 | 1,284.8 |

Source: FX EMPIRE

Gold Daily Graph



Source: Meta Trader

Fundamentals

- Gold prices edged up today in early Asian trading session, lingering near one-week highs hit in the previous session on political tension between Britain and Russia and as worry over a potential trade war dragged on stocks and the U.S Dollar.
- Spot gold rose 0.2% to \$1,326.83/oz. US gold futures for April delivery rose 0.1% to \$1,327/oz. Gold has been supported by geopolitical factors as well as dollar weakness. Stock markets were down overnight, we've got a bit of risk-aversion coming back in.
- The US Dollar fell against the yen and pulled further away from a recent two-week high, while stock markets slipped broadly as lingering worries about global trade tensions weighed on investors appetite for risk.
- Yesterday, geopolitical tension rose after the Russian foreign ministry said it would retaliate after 23 of its diplomats were expelled by British Prime Minister Theresa May over a chemical attack on a former Russian double agent in England that May blamed on Moscow.
- Trump also spooked investors on Tuesday by firing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who was viewed as a supporter of free trade. The market continues to trade the range with Asian buyers stepping in under \$1,320 and speculator profit-taking and producer selling capping the topside around \$1,330-\$1,335.
- Gold will likely remain range-bound into next week's US Federal Reserve meeting, with the market eagerly anticipating a first rate rise for the year, given the economy's improved data.
- Spot gold was biased to retrace towards support at \$1,317/oz, as it seemed to have finished a bounce triggered by this level, said Reuters technical analyst, Wang Tao. Meanwhile, Platinum gained 0.5% to \$963.20/oz and palladium edged 0.6% higher to \$993.00/oz after hitting \$1,006.30/oz in the last session.

US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Data

| Date | Large Speculators | | | Commercial | | | Small Speculators | | | Open Interest |
|------------|-------------------|-------|---------|------------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------------|
| | Long | Short | Bullish | Long | Short | Bullish | Long | Short | Bullish | |
| 12/01/2017 | 337251 | 72353 | 82% | 120854 | 284003 | 30% | 49448 | 31277 | 61% | 384,974 |
| 12/08/2017 | 340748 | 74460 | 82% | 115571 | 287002 | 29% | 51148 | 36,819 | 61% | 450555 |
| 12/15/2017 | 291266 | 84634 | 77% | 116493 | 311865 | 27% | 53520 | 32958 | 62% | 499110 |
| 12/12/2017 | 274589 | 77454 | 77% | 118610 | 304141 | 28% | 49810 | 33791 | 60% | 493086 |
| 12/29/2017 | 295688 | 67069 | 82% | 127081 | 327075 | 28% | 51562 | 30399 | 63% | 510579 |

Source: CFTC

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Crude Oil

Technical

The WTI Crude Oil market bounce around during the day awaiting the inventories number. At this point, the technical outlook for this market is negative, until we can break above the \$63 level. Alternately, if we break down below the \$60 level it's likely that we would see this market break down from there and continue to go even lower, reaching the \$58 level initially, and then breaking down to even lower levels than that. At this point, I suspect that the crude oil markets will continue to suffer at the hands of oversupply, as the oil markets most certainly have proven to be flooded with product. Brent markets went back and forth during the trading session on Wednesday, as we continue to bang against the \$65 level as resistance. I think that the market will struggle to get above there, but even if it does, I'm not convinced until we break above the \$66 level to start buying.

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Pivot: | 61.12 | | |
| Support | 61.60 | 60.30 | 59.95 |
| Resistance | 61.35 | 61.70 | 61.95 |

Source: FX EMPIRE

Highlights

- Oil reversed two days of declines as signs of stronger fuel demand were balanced by surging U.S supply
- Oil prices fell after OPEC underlined the strength in U.S production and a government report showed larger crude inventory
- The OPEC acknowledged the scale of the shale boom
- WTI for April rose 25 cents to settle at \$60.96 a barrel on the New York Mercantile Exchange
- Rising U.S production continues to stoke market fears

Crude - Technical Indicators

| | |
|---------|-------|
| RSI 14 | 57.06 |
| SMA 20 | 44.65 |
| SMA 50 | 46.23 |
| SMA 100 | 47.56 |
| SMA 200 | 53.27 |

Source: FX EMPIRE

Crude Oil Daily Graph



Fundamentals

- Oil prices gained 0.4 percent in choppy trade yesterday, after a report showing a bigger-than-expected U.S crude stock build was offset by large distillate and gasoline inventory draws.
- U.S crude stocks rose by 5 million barrels, the biggest jump since late January, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) said. Expectations had been for a 2 million barrel build. But there was a larger-than-expected draw on fuel stocks.
- Brent crude oil futures were up 25 cents, or 0.4 percent, to settle at \$64.89 per barrel. U.S. West Texas Intermediate (WTI) futures also gained 25 cents, to settle at \$60.96 per barrel.
- Prices were pressured after The Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries said in its monthly report that supply from non-members is likely to grow by 1.66 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2018, almost double the growth it predicted in November, largely due to rising U.S supply.
- OPEC also said oil inventories across the most industrialized countries rose in January for the first time in eight months, a sign the impact of its output cuts may be waning. OPEC trimmed its 2018 demand forecast for its own crude by 250,000 bpd to 32.61 million bpd, a fourth consecutive decline.
- "According to the OPEC report, demand for OPEC's oil must be 33 million barrels per day for the rest of the year to get rid of any remaining oversupply," Commerzbank strategist Carsten Fritsch said.
- Oil prices got a boost early in the session from a broader investor push into commodities after Chinese data showed industrial production in the world's largest importer of raw materials grew more than expected over the first two months of the year.

US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Data

| Date | Large Speculators | | | Commercial | | | Small Speculators | | | Open Interest |
|------------|-------------------|---------|---------|------------|---------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------------|
| | Long | Short | Bullish | Long | Short | Bullish | Long | Short | Bullish | |
| 12/01/2017 | 458,206 | 105,441 | 81% | 560,983 | 925,531 | 38% | 82,700 | 70,917 | 54% | 1,598,935 |
| 12/08/2017 | 462,028 | 106,739 | 81% | 557,217 | 927,085 | 38% | 85,279 | 70,700 | 55% | 1,615,844 |
| 12/15/2017 | 454,829 | 123,816 | 79% | 571,328 | 916,651 | 38% | 87,594 | 73,282 | 54% | 1,619,796 |
| 12/12/2017 | 463,186 | 135,835 | 77% | 560,029 | 897,400 | 38% | 87,590 | 77,633 | 53% | 1,623,027 |
| 12/29/2017 | 473,506 | 133,457 | 78% | 558,910 | 898,363 | 38% | 79,121 | 79,717 | 50% | 1,613,293 |

Source: CFTC

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Silver

Technical

The Silver markets have been very noisy initially tried to rally, but then ran into a significant amount of resistance at the \$16.65 level. However, we have rolled over and reached towards the \$16.50 level underneath. There is plenty of support down to the 16.40 level in the short term, and quite frankly as we are roughly in the middle of the larger consolidation area that goes back months, I think that trading this market might be a bit difficult. Overall, I think that the volatility should continue to be an issue with this market, so I would be very careful about putting a large position on. I have been looking at pullbacks as opportunities to pick up value in silver, buying physical coins, but I also recognize that longer-term traders may be able to jump into the CFD market. Short-term traders will continue to struggle, unless of course you are able to take a lot of positions on that could be dangerous.

| | | | |
|------------|-------|-------|-------|
| Pivot: | 16.52 | | |
| Support | 16.43 | 16.33 | 16.24 |
| Resistance | 16.63 | 16.70 | 16.78 |

Source: FX EMPIRE

Highlights

- Silver prices were down 0.8 percent at \$16.46 an ounce
- The U.S Dollar edged higher yesterday after three straight days of losses
- U.S retail sales fell for a third straight month in February as households cut back on purchases of motor vehicles
- The European Central Bank needs further evidence that inflation is rising towards its target
- Stock markets sagged broadly in today's session while government bonds attracted safe-haven demand

Silver - Technical Indicators

| | |
|---------|-------|
| RSI 14 | 19.80 |
| SMA 20 | 17.27 |
| SMA 50 | 16.72 |
| SMA 100 | 16.85 |
| SMA 200 | 16.87 |

Source: FX EMPIRE

Silver Daily Graph



Fundamentals

- Silver futures end lower yesterday, giving up a small portion of what they gained a day earlier. Some strength in the dollar pressured prices, even as data showed that wholesale inflation prices rose by a mild 0.2% in February, and retail sales fell in February for a third month in a row.
- Silver rose on Tuesday then as the U.S dollar softened and the high-profile departure of Secretary of State Rex Tillerson boosted haven demand for the yellow metal. The contract has been volatile, trading within a relatively tight range.
- Yesterday, geopolitical tensions rose after the Russian Foreign Ministry said it would retaliate after 23 of its diplomats were expelled by British Prime Minister Theresa May over a chemical attack on a former Russian double agent in England that May blamed on Moscow.
- Trump also spooked investors on Tuesday by firing Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, who was viewed as a supporter of free trade. Precious metals will likely remain range-bound into next week's U.S. Federal Reserve meeting, with the market eagerly anticipating a first rate rise for the year, given the economy's improved data.
- Silver rose 0.3 percent to \$16.54 per ounce and platinum gained 0.2 percent to \$960.30 per ounce. Palladium edged 0.2 percent higher to \$989.30 per ounce after hitting \$1,006.30 an ounce in the previous session, its highest since March 1.
- The European Central Bank needs further evidence that inflation is rising towards its target and will end asset buys only when it is satisfied that price growth is on a sustained path towards its objective, two of the ECB's top officials said yesterday.

US Commodity Futures Trading Commission (CFTC) Data

| Date | Large Speculators | | | Commercial | | | Small Speculators | | | Open Interest |
|------------|-------------------|--------|---------|------------|--------|---------|-------------------|--------|---------|---------------|
| | Long | Short | Bullish | Long | Short | Bullish | Long | Short | Bullish | |
| 12/01/2017 | 42,097 | 29,999 | 58% | 56,157 | 75,843 | 43% | 23,121 | 15,533 | 60% | 132,501 |
| 12/08/2017 | 42,083 | 27,402 | 61% | 54,280 | 79,052 | 41% | 24,963 | 14,872 | 63% | 132,475 |
| 12/15/2017 | 41,285 | 23,950 | 63% | 53,875 | 79,404 | 40% | 23,378 | 15,184 | 61% | 131,294 |
| 12/12/2017 | 41,287 | 24,798 | 62% | 58,869 | 83,678 | 41% | 21,523 | 13,203 | 62% | 136,158 |
| 12/29/2017 | 41,334 | 26,466 | 62% | 60,600 | 84,551 | 42% | 21,666 | 13,583 | 61% | 139,468 |

Source: CFTC

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Data Calendar

Economic Data

| Date | Time | Event | Importance | Actual | Forecast | Previous |
|------------|-------|---|------------|--------|----------|----------|
| Thu Mar 15 | 02:45 | NZD Gross Domestic Product (YoY) (4Q) | High | 2.9% | 3.1% | 2.7% |
| Thu Mar 15 | 13:30 | CHF SNB 3-Month Libor Lower Target Range (Mar 15) | High | -1.25% | -1.25% | -1.25% |
| Thu Mar 15 | 13:30 | CHF SNB 3-Month Libor Upper Target Range (Mar 15) | High | -0.25% | -0.25% | -0.25% |
| Thu Mar 15 | 17:30 | USD Import Price Index ex Petroleum (MoM) (Feb) | Medium | | 0.3% | 0.5% |
| Thu Mar 15 | 17:30 | USD Export Price Index (YoY) (Feb) | Medium | | | 3.4% |
| Thu Mar 15 | 17:30 | USD Initial Jobless Claims (Mar 10) | Medium | | 228k | 231k |
| Thu Mar 15 | 17:30 | USD Philadelphia Fed Business Outlook (Mar) | Medium | | 23 | 25.8 |
| Thu Mar 15 | 18:00 | CAD Existing Home Sales (MoM) (Feb) | Medium | | | -14.5% |
| Thu Mar 15 | 19:00 | USD NAHB Housing Market Index (Mar) | Medium | | 72 | 72 |

Source: Forex Factory, DailyFX

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