Commodity Spot Prices

Definition:

Spot Price: The current price at which a particular commodity can be bought or sold at a specified time and place.

Spot prices for commodities:

Access the “Commodity” main menu by clicking on the yellow <CMDTY> key and then the green <GO> key.

Select the commodity sector.

This will direct you to the main menu for the selected commodity and access to all the information provided by Bloomberg for that commodity.

For some commodities, one section of this menu is “Prices” and generally “spot price” will be listed. Use the tabs to select the relevant index by geographic region, trading hub etc.

Use S to select the relevant index by geographic region, trading hub etc.

Right click on any column beside the commodity and hub (not the name or hub) for options. For example right click on the time, price, change etc. to see the options:

    DES - a description of the index
    GP - historical graph of the spot price (date range, periodicity, currency may be changed).
    HP – historical data for the spot price (date range, periodicity, currency may be changed).

Historical spot prices for commodities

There are several ways to obtain historical spot prices for commodities:

1. Historical spot prices using Bloomberg Professional
2. Historical spot prices using Bloomberg Excel Import Data feature

Historical spot prices using Bloomberg Professional

Access the “Commodity” main menu by clicking on the yellow <CMDTY> key and then the green <GO> key.

Select the commodity sector, for example “Oil”.

This will direct you to the main menu for the selected commodity and access to all the information provided by Bloomberg for that commodity.
This menu will indicate what type of pricing information is available. For oil and natural gas you will see the option for spot prices. For natural gas, select the geographic region to see a link to spot prices.

Click on the link to spot prices and you will have the option to select the correct spot price index based on geography and trading hub.

To find spot prices for gold, silver, etc., click on “Metals” as the industry sector and then select from the “Metal Market Monitors”.

Right click on any column beside the commodity and hub (not the name or hub) for options. For example right click on the time, price, change etc. to see the options:

- DES - a description of the index
- GP - historical graph of the spot price
- HP – historical data for the spot price

GP will provide a graph of historical price with the tabular data on subsequent pages - the date range, periodicity (daily, weekly, monthly etc.), currency etc. may be changed. To output to Excel, right click on the graph > Copy/Output options > Copy data to clipboard > Open Excel and paste the data. The “Actions” and “Edit” tabs in the red toolbar will also provide export options.

HP will provide historical price data – the date range, periodicity (daily, weekly, monthly etc.), currency etc. may be changed. To output to Excel, this data may be copied and pasted one screen at a time OR see retrieving historical spot prices using Bloomberg Import Data.

**Historical spot prices using Bloomberg Excel Import Data feature**

At the Bloomberg terminal use the start menu to open Excel

Click on the “Bloomberg” tab in the top toolbar

Look for the “Real-Time/Historical” icon on the second toolbar and use the pull-down menu to select “Historical End of Day”. This wizard will guide you through the retrieval process.

Market sector: Select Comdty

Security identifier: Enter the commodity, e.g crude oil, natural gas, coal, corn etc.

A list of possible data sets will appear. Look through this list to see if spot prices are available for that commodity. For example, enter “crude oil” as a security identifier, and one of the items in the list is WTI Cushing Crude Oil Spot Prices.

Double click on the data set to add it to the “Selected securities” area of the screen.

If you wish to compare several commodities, you may add additional commodities in the same manner.
When you have added all the items you wish to the “selected securities” list, click on “Next”.

The next screen allows you to select the data fields you would like to retrieve.

To retrieve historical spot prices, enter “Last price” in the “Search text” box and click on “Search”.

From the list of options provided, double click on “Last price (PX_LAST)” to add this data field to the “Selected fields” area of the screen. Click “Next”.

Select date range & periodicity: Specify the periodicity (daily, weekly, monthly, etc) and the date range. Click “Next”.

Examine the subsequent screens to make any further modifications to your data retrieval. Click on “Finish” to populate the spreadsheet with the requested data.

You may save the spreadsheet to a memory stick or save to the desktop and e-mail.