**Commodity Futures Prices**  
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**Definition:**

*Futures contract*: Contracts or agreements between buyers and sellers of physical commodities or financial instruments for a predetermined price at a predetermined date. As a buyer you are agreeing to buy something that a seller has not yet produced for a set price.

**Commodity tickers:**

CLA <CMDTY> Crude Oil  
NGA <CMDTY> Natural Gas  
GCA <CMDTY> Gold  
SIA <CMDTY> Silver  
HOA <CMDTY> Heating Oil  
HGA <CMDTY> Copper  
W A <CMDTY> Wheat  
C A <CMDTY> Corn

**Delivery Month Codes:**

F – January  
G – February  
H – March  
J – April  
K – May  
M – June  
N – July  
Q – August  
U – September  
V – October  
X – November  
Z – December

**Commodity Futures Tickers – Examples:**

NGA <CMDTY> Natural Gas active contract  
NGM9 (CMDTY> Natural Gas June 2019 contract  
NGF8 <CMDTY> Natural Gas January 2018 contract  
NG1 <CMDTY> Natural Gas Generic 1\textsuperscript{st} contract (based on a 1-month natural gas contract)  
NG36 <CMDTY> Natural Gas Generic 36\textsuperscript{th} contract (based on a 36-month contract)

**Commodity Futures Data:**

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

Click on SECF (Securities Finder) to identify the commodity you are researching. Note the tabs that allow you to display commodities by major sector such as Energy, Agriculture etc.

Click on the active contract for a commodity and a list of futures contracts will be displayed.

Right click on any contract description for options to retrieve data and information on that contract.
DES - a description of the contract
GP - historical prices for that contract (date range, periodicity, currency may be changed).
OMON – option monitor

Alternatively:
Click on the yellow CMDTY key and then the green <GO> key

Click on GLCO (Global Commodities)

Click on a commodity for a pop-up list of options for that commodity.

CT (Contract Table) will direct you to the list of futures contracts.

**Contract Tables:**

To view a list of active contracts for any commodity:

At the blue cursor on any Bloomberg screen, enter the commodity ticker, hit the yellow CMDTY key and enter CT and then hit the green <GO> button.

e.g. CLA <CMDTY> CT <GO> (WTI Crude futures contracts)
    NGA <CMDTY> CT <GO> (Natural Gas futures contracts – Henry Hub)
    C A <CMDTY> CT <GO> (Corn futures contracts)
    GCA <CMDTY> CT <GO> (Gold 100 oz futures contracts)

A list of active contracts for the commodity will be displayed.

Right click on the contract description for options to retrieve data and information on that contract.

    DES - a description of the contract
    GP - graph of historical price with tabular data on subsequent pages (date range, periodicity, currency may be changed).

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

**Historical futures prices for commodities using Bloomberg Excel Import Data feature**

Open Excel

Click on the “Bloomberg” tab in the top toolbar

Look for the “Import Data” icon and use the pull-down menu to select “Real-Time/Historical” and then “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 any futures contracts are available for that commodity. For example, enter “natural gas” as a security identifier, and you will see several options for natural gas contracts, e.g. NGA Cmdty (natural gas active contract); NG1 Cmdty (natural gas generic 1st contract which is based on a 1-month contract).

For generic contracts enter the ticker and number of the contract in the generic series. e.g. enter NG5 and the first option will be natural gas generic 5th contract (based on a 5-month contract).

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

If you wish to compare several contracts, different commodities etc., you may add additional contracts/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.