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CME Group

How to Beat Inflation with Simple Futures Strategies

Tariq Dennison

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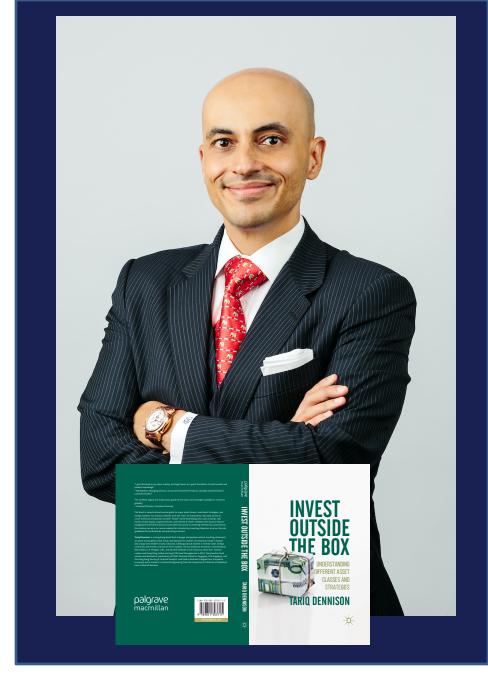
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About Tariq Dennison TEP

- Independent Advisor Managing Accounts on the IBKR platform
 - US Advisor: GFM Asset Management LLC
 - HK Advisor: GFM Group Limited
- In the market since 1998
 - Commerzbank (NY, London, Frankfurt)
 - Bear Stearns (NY)
 - J.P. Morgan (NY)
 - Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce
 - Societe Generale (HK)
- Masters in Financial Engineering
 - University of California at Berkeley
- Lecturer at ESSEC Singapore
 - Fixed Income
 - Alternative Assets
- Focus on US-Asia corridor
- Author "Invest Outside the Box"





Inflation: Past, Present, Future

- What is inflation?
- What causes (and sustains) inflation?
- How does inflation affect different markets?
- Past and projected economic growth

Trading Strategies

- Inflation & Interest Rates
- Micro Treasury Strategies
- Inflation & Commodities
- Micro Crude Oil



What is inflation?



One example: Price of a cup of coffee



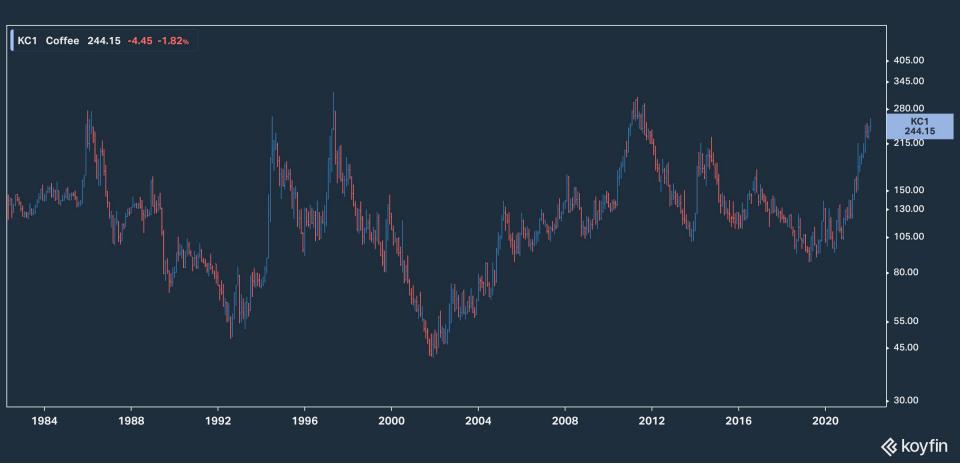
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Source: https://www.investopedia.com/terms/i/inflation.asp



Cost of a cup has risen much faster and more steadily than raw coffee prices, but that's another webinar...

NYMEX Coffee Futures, Front Month, 1982-2022

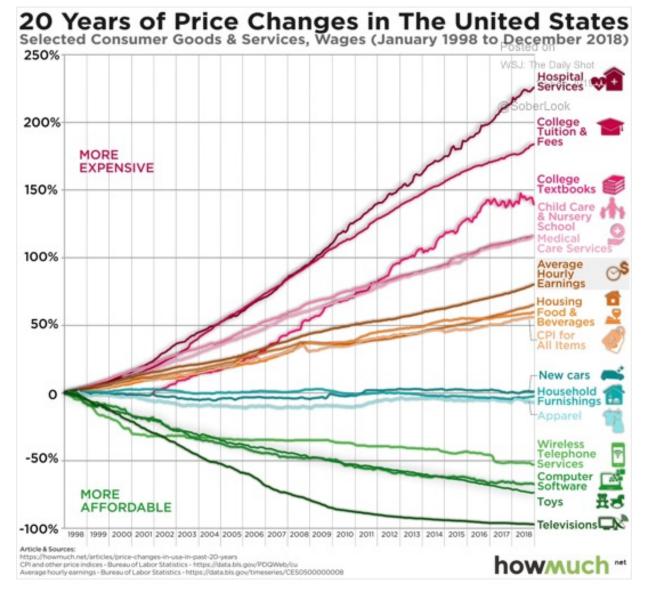


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Source: Koyfin



not all prices track coffee Of course,



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Source: https://twitter.com/RonStoeferle/status/1100073079999483905?s=20&t=k7uufO8UFfH66CTiybb2xQ

US 1-year Inflation Hits Highest Rate in 40 Years





Some, but not most, of that, is due to food & energy

Table A. Percent changes in CPI for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U): U.S. city average

		Season	ally adjusted	changes fr	om precedin	g month		Un- adjusted
	Jul. 2021	Aug. 2021	Sep. 2021	Oct. 2021	Nov. 2021	Dec. 2021	Jan. 2022	12-mos. ended Jan. 2022
All items	0.5	0.3	0.4	0.9	0.7	0.6	0.6	7.5
Food	0.7	0.4	0.9	0.9	0.8	0.5	0.9	7.0
Food at home	0.6	0.4	1.2	0.9	0.9	0.4	1.0	7.4
Food away from home ¹	0.8	0.4	0.5	8.0	0.6	0.6	0.7	6.4
Energy	1.6	1.9	1.2	3.7	2.4	0.9	0.9	27.0
Energy commodities	2.4	2.5	1.2	4.7	4.2	1.3	-0.6	39.9
Gasoline (all types)	2.5	2.5	1.1	4.6	4.5	1.3	-0.8	40.0
Fuel oil ¹	0.6	-2.1	3.9	12.3	3.5	-2.4	9.5	46.5
Energy services	0.7	1.2	1.2	2.4	0.2	0.3	2.9	13.6
Electricity	0.2	1.0	0.6	1.4	0.2	0.5	4.2	10.7
Utility (piped) gas service	2.2	1.6	2.9	5.9	0.3	-0.3	-0.5	23.9
All items less food and energy	0.3	0.2	0.3	0.6	0.5	0.6	0.6	6.0
Commodities less food and energy commodities	0.4	0.4	0.3	1.1	0.9	1.2	1.0	11.7
New vehicles.	1.5	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.2	1.2	0.0	12.2
Used cars and trucks	0.0	-1.2	-0.5	2.5	2.4	3.3	1.5	40.5
Apparel	0.1	0.3	-0.7	0.6	0.7	1.1	1.1	5.3
Medical care commodities ¹	0.2	-0.2	0.3	0.6	0.1	0.0	0.9	1.4
Services less energy services	0.3	0.1	0.2	0.4	0.4	0.3	0.4	4.1
Shelter	0.4	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.5	0.4	0.3	4.4
Transportation services	-0.9	-1.2	-1.0	0.2	0.7	0.0	1.0	5.6
Medical care services	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.4	0.3	0.3	0.6	2.7

¹ Not seasonally adjusted.

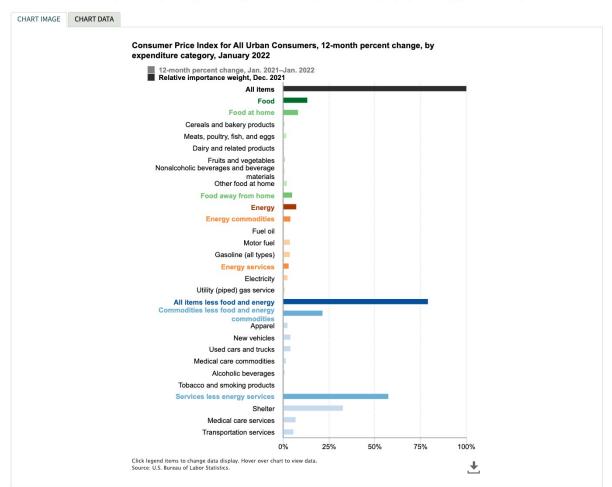


Because volatile food & energy only ~20% of CPI

Consumer prices up 7.5 percent over year ended January 2022

FEBRUARY 16, 2022

Over the 12 months from January 2021 to January 2022, the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U) rose 7.5 percent. This is the largest 12-month increase since the 12-month period ending February 1982. Food prices increased 7.0 percent over the past year, while energy prices rose 27.0 percent.



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There is a substantial risk of loss in trading futures and options. Past performance is not indicative of future results. Source: https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2022/consumer-prices-up-7-5-percent-over-year-ended-january-2022.htm



Milton Friedman quote:

Inflation is always and everywhere a monetary phenomenon



M1 Money Supply Has Spiked, But Long-Term...

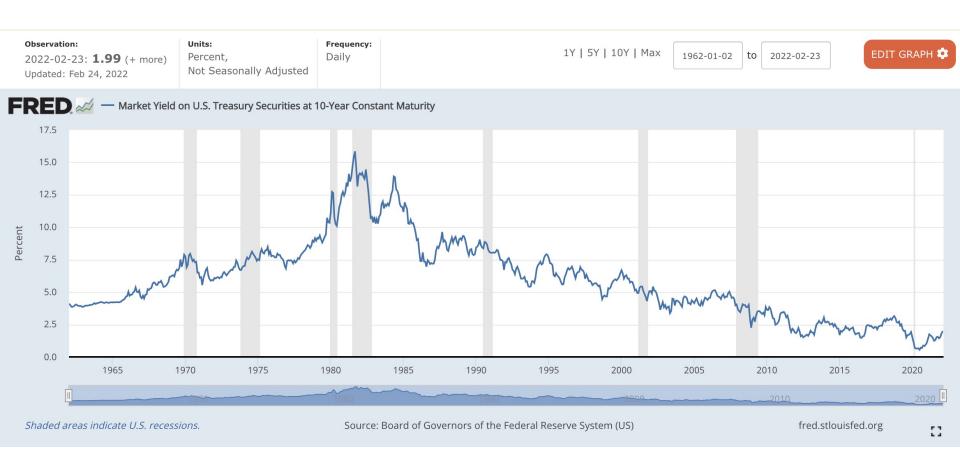


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Source: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/M1SL#0

High inflation historically meant high rates, but now?

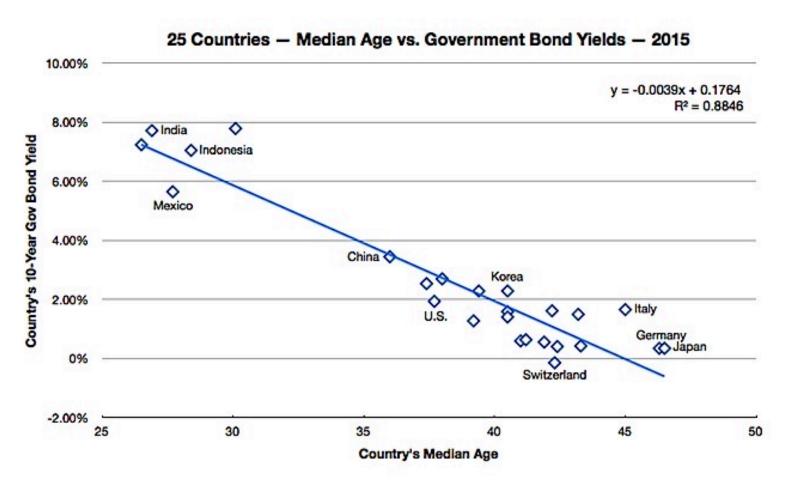


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Source: https://fred.stlouisfed.org/series/DGS10

One big difference: populations are older now



Source: https://www.bogleheads.org/forum/viewtopic.php?t=158040

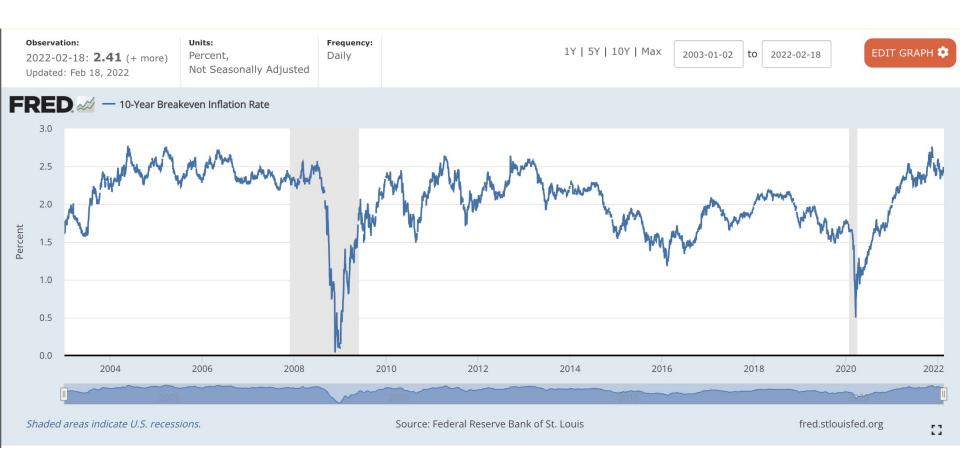


Key metric to watch: *Real* (ex-inflation) yields





For now, the inflation bond market says "transitory"...





Expected Fed hikes have flattened the curve





Strategies with Micro Treasury Futures



What Drives 2Y Yields

- FED POLICY

 - Exp cuts \(\frac{1}{2} \) Yields
- Fed hikes when:
 - Inflation worrying, AND
 - Employment robust
- Fed cuts when employment is weak, and investment can stimulate
- Powell isn't Volker

¹ Exp = Expected

What Drives 10-30Y Yields

- Longer-term nominal growth expectations
- Demographics Older populations mean:
 - More pension assets
 - Less demand to borrow
 - Slower growth
 - Resistance to inflation
- Compare US vs Japan



Introducing Micro Yield Futures

Note: These are VERY different from the bigger treasury futures



MARKETS

DATA

SERVICES

INSIGHTS

EDUCATION





CLEARING ≎	GLOBEX \$	FLOOR \$	CLEARPORT ≎	PRODUCT NAME ^	ехсн ≎	ASSET CLASS \$	PRODUCT GROUP \$		SUB- CATEGORY \$	CLEARED AS \$	VOLUME \$	OPEN INTEREST
10Y	10Y	-	10Y	Micro 10-Year Yield Futures	CBOT	Interest Rate	US Treasury	-	-	Futures	7,815	1,051
2YY	2YY	-	2YY	Micro 2-Year Yield Futures	CBOT	Interest Rate	US Treasury	-	-	Futures	402	913
30Y	30Y	-	30Y	Micro 30-Year Yield Futures	CBOT	Interest Rate	US Treasury	-	-	Futures	1,119	2,325
5YY	5YY	-	5YY	Micro 5-Year Yield Futures	СВОТ	Interest Rate	US Treasury	-	-	Futures	113	728

Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/products.html#assetClass=sg-39&sortAsc=true&sortField=name



What Micro 10yr Yield Futures Quotes Look Like



MARKETS

DATA

SERVICES

INSIGHTS

EDUCATION





QUOTES

SETTLEMENTS

VOLUME & OI

TIME & SALES

SPECS

MARGINS

CALENDAR

MICRO 10-YEAR YIELD FUTURES - QUOTES

VENUE: GLOBEX



AUTO-REFRESH IS OFF

Last Updated 24 Feb 2022 08:10:31 AM CT. Market data is delayed by at least 10 minutes.

MONTH	CHART	LAST	CHANGE	PRIOR SETTLE	OPEN	нібн	LOW	VOLUME	UPDATED
FEB 2022 10YG2	al	1.870	-0.109 (-5.51%)	1.979	1.978	1.978	1.853	609	07:59:56 CT 24 Feb 2022
MAR 2022 10YH2	al	1.923	-0.121 (-5.92%)	2.044	2.040	2.040	1.920	124	07:45:34 CT 24 Feb 2022
APR 2022 10YJ2	ul	-	-	2.044	-	-	-	0	18:12:45 CT 23 Feb 2022

Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/interest-rates/us-treasury/micro-10-year-yield.quotes.html 24 Feb 2022



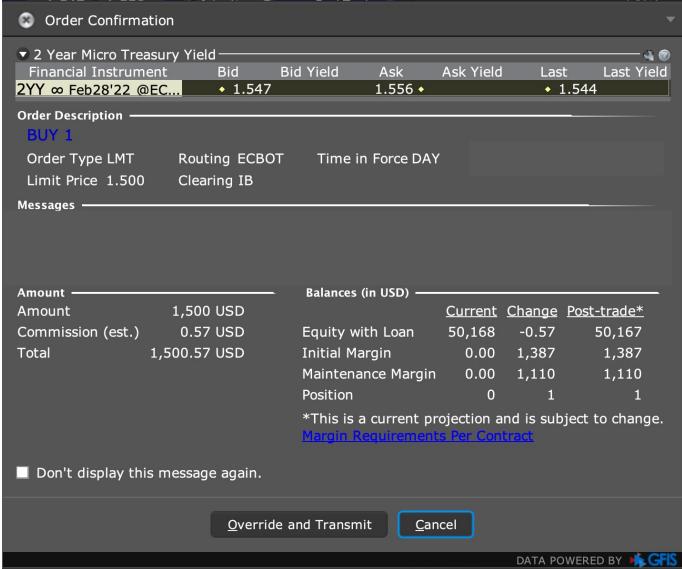
Right Click > Financial Instrument Info > Description



Source: Interactive Brokers, 22 Feb 2022

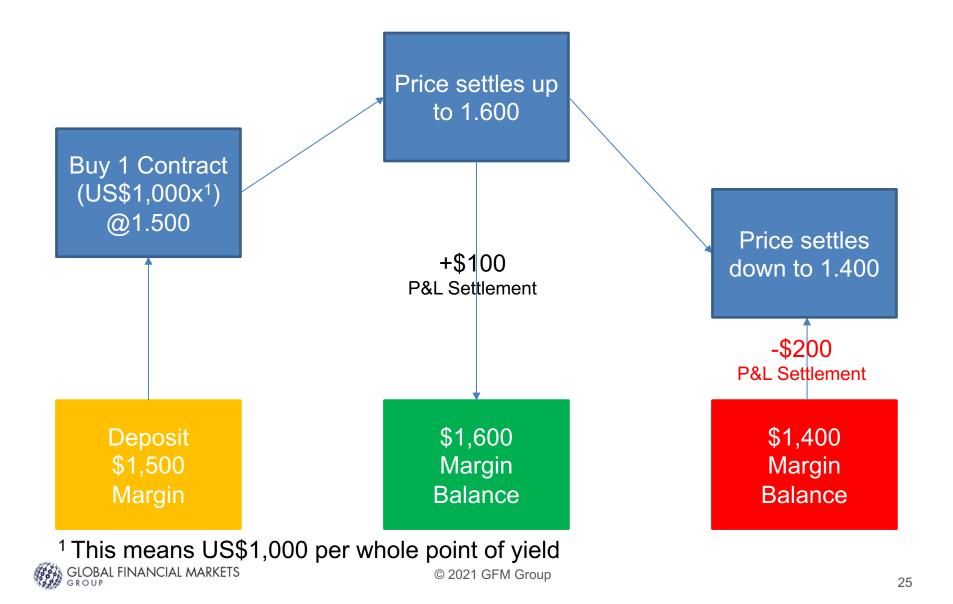


Sample Micro 2-Year Yield Futures Trade





How a 2Y Yield Cash-Settled Futures Trade Works



Outright Yield Trade

- Need to be right about direction, means having a view on absolute:
 - Inflation
 - Economic growth, and/or
 - Fed policy
- Experienced bond & bond futures traders will find micro yield trading notably different

Spread Trade

- Example: Micro 2Y vs 10Y
 Yield spread trade on flattening or steepening
- P&L precise on basis point moves in the spread, no need to "duration match"
- Leverage means even small errors can wipe you out.



Sample P&L of buy 1x 2YY @1.5, sell 1x 10YY @1.9

End 2YY / 10YY		1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	2	2.1	2.2
1.2	\$	(0.00)	\$ (100.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (300.00)	\$ (400.00)	\$ (500.00)	\$ (600.00)
1.3	\$	100.00	\$ (0.00)	\$ (100.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (300.00)	\$ (400.00)	\$ (500.00)
1.4	\$	200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (0.00)	\$ (100.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (300.00)	\$ (400.00)
1.5	\$	300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (0.00)	\$ (100.00)	\$ (200.00)	\$ (300.00)
1.6	\$	400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (0.00)	\$ (100.00)	\$ (200.00)
1.7	\$	500.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (0.00)	\$ (100.00)
1.8	\$	600.00	\$ 500.00	\$ 400.00	\$ 300.00	\$ 200.00	\$ 100.00	\$ (0.00)



Strategies with Micro Crude Oil Futures



Micro WTI vs "big" contract volume...

CLEARING \$	GLOBEX 🌣	FLOOR \$	CLEARPORT \$	PRODUCT NAME ≎		ASSET CLASS \$	PRODUCT GROUP ≎	CATEGORY \$	SUB- CATEGORY \$	CLEARED AS \$		OPEN INTEREST \$
CL	CL	-	CL	Crude Oil Futures	NYMEX	Energy	Crude Oil	-	Outrights	Futures	946,537	2,060,522
BZ	BZ	-	BZ	Brent Last Day Financial Futures	NYMEX	Energy	Crude Oil	-	Outrights	Futures	119,499	211,843
LO	LO	-	LO	Crude Oil Option	NYMEX	Energy	Crude Oil	-	Outrights	Options	119,146	2,152,929
MCL	MCL	-	MCL	Micro WTI Crude Oil Futures	NYMEX	Energy	Crude Oil	North American	Outrights	Futures	87,358	9,233
QM	QM	-	QM	E-mini Crude Oil Futures	NYMEX	Energy	Crude Oil	-	Outrights	Futures	30,272	4,083

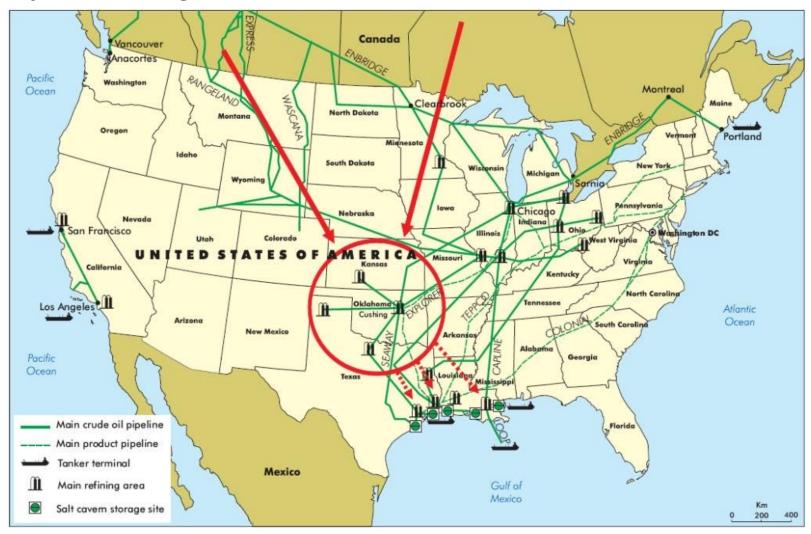
Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/products.html#assetClass=sg-10&sortAsc&sortField=vol, 24 Feb 2022

What is WTI?

- WTI = "West Texas Intermediate"
- WTI is a "light, sweet" crude oil standard
 - Light = Low in density and viscosity, smooth flow at room temp
 - Sweet = Low sulfur content, 0.5% by weight
 - Oil sands produce "heavy, sour" crude, valued at a discount to WTI
- WTI is also a North American standard
 - Physical delivery priced to Cushing, Oklahoma
 - Often compared to "Brent Crude", delivered at Sullom Voe, an island between Scotland and Norway



Why Cushing's Location Matters...

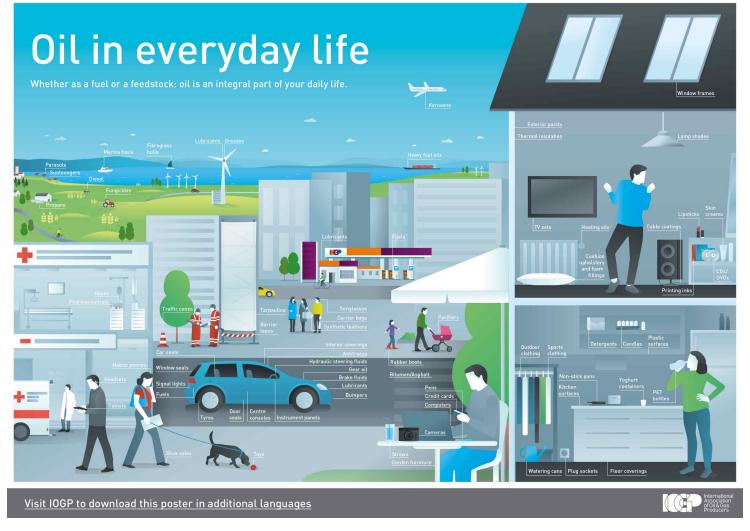


Source: https://www.businessinsider.com/cushing-oklahoma-is-the-center-of-the-oil-universe-2016-3?r=US&IR=T

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Oil's impact is on FAR more than energy



Source: https://www.iogp.org/oil-in-everyday-life/

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"Big" Oil Futures

- 1,000 barrels/contract
- Physically deliverable

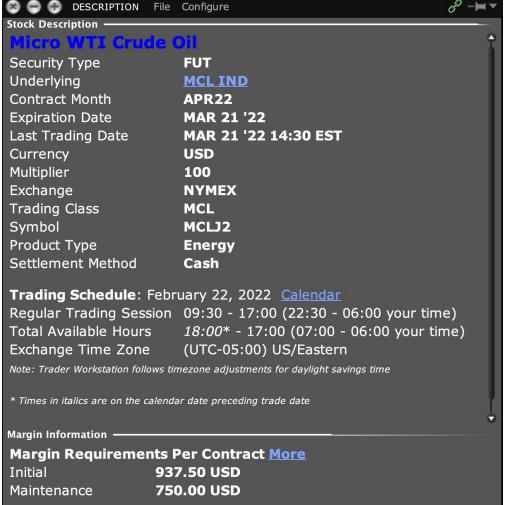
 Deliverable any time in delivery month, so financial traders get out the month before contract expiry

Micro Crude Oil Futures

- 100 barrels/contract
- Financially settled, based on prices of the big contract
- Settlement price automatically calculated "4 business days prior to the 25th calendar day of the month prior to the contract month"



Right Click > Financial Instrur







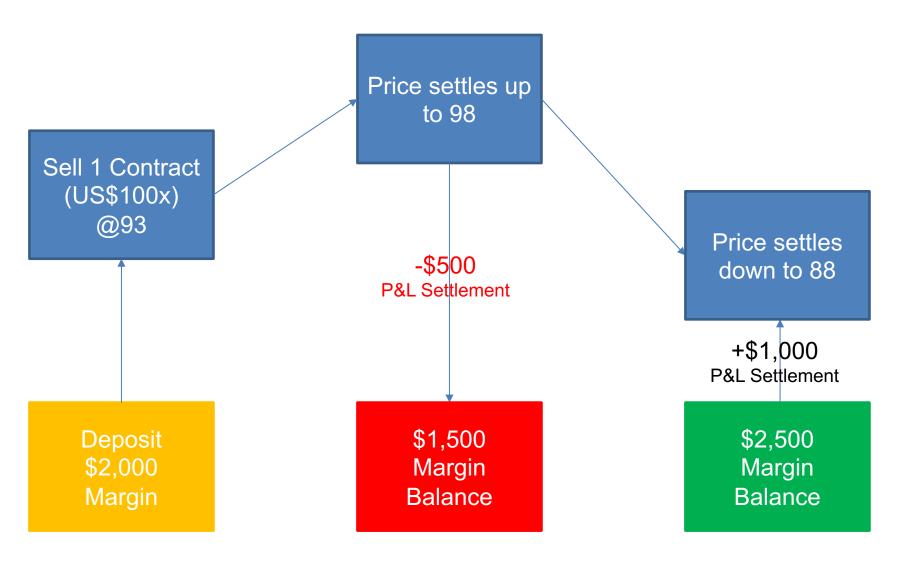
	LAST
MCL Mar'22 @NYMEX	• c93.91
MCL Apr'22 @NYMEX	92.91
MCL May'22 @NYMEX	• 91.33
MCL Jun'22 @NYMEX	89.69
MCL Jul'22 @NYMEX	• 88.09
MCL Aug01'22 @NYMEX	87.18
MCL Sep01'22 @NYMEX	85.40
MCL Oct01'22 @NYMEX	• 85.00
MCL Nov01'22 @NYMEX	• c81.47
MCL Dec01'22 @NYMEX	83.07
MCL Jan01'23 @NYMEX	83.10
MCL Feb01'23 @NYMEX	82.50
MCL Mar01'23 @NYMEX	• c78.74



Sample Micro WTI Trade



How This Cash-Settled Futures Trade Works





A few words on "roll yield"

MICRO WTI CRUDE OIL FUTURES - QUOTES

VENUE: GLOBEX

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AUTO-REFRESH IS OFF Last Updated 25 Feb 2022 05:42:02 AM CT. Market data is delayed by at least 10 minut		AUTO-REFRESH IS OFF	Last Updated 25 Feb 2022 05:42:02 AM CT.	Market data is delayed by at least 10 minute
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монтн	CHART	LAST	CHANGE	PRIOR SETTLE	OPEN	нібн	LOW	VOLUME	UPDATED
APR 2022 MCLJ2	al	92.12	-0.69 (-0.74%)	92.81	92.82	95.64	91.86	45,106	05:31:58 CT 25 Feb 2022
MAY 2022 MCLK2	al	90.46	-0.48 (-0.53%)	90.94	91.71	93.68	90.17	2,794	05:31:41 CT 25 Feb 2022
JUN 2022 MCLM2	al	88.50	-0.34 (-0.38%)	88.84	89.52	91.45	88.50	383	05:24:20 CT 25 Feb 2022
JUL 2022 MCLN2	al	86.47	-0.52 (-0.60%)	86.99	88.04	89.39	86.47	57	05:27:46 CT 25 Feb 2022
AUG 2022 MCLQ2	all	85.38	-0.11 (-0.13%)	85.49	87.03	87.03	85.38	29	05:02:24 CT 25 Feb 2022
SEP 2022 MCLU2	al	85.10	+0.81 (+0.96%)	84.29	85.40	85.40	85.10	2	02:50:03 CT 25 Feb 2022

Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/energy/crude-oil/micro-wti-crude-oil.quotes.html

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Can also look at the "roll yield curve" on "big" WTI

CRUDE OIL FUTURES - QUOTES

AUTO-REFRESH IS OFF Last Updated 25 Feb 2022 05:36:32 AM CT. Market data is delayed by at least 10 minutes

VENUE:	GLOBEX
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монтн	OPTIONS	CHART	LAST	CHANGE	PRIOR SETTLE	OPEN		LOW	VOLUME	UPDATED
APR 2022 CLJ2	ОРТ	all	92.26	-0.55 (-0.59%)	92.81	93.32	95.64	92.15	128,155	05:26:31 CT 25 Feb 2022
MAY 2822 CLK2	ОРТ	all	90.54	-0.40 (-0.44%)	90.94	91.48	93.73	90.44	32,205	05:26:15 CT 25 Feb 2022
JUN 2022 CLM2	ОРТ	al	88.50	-0.34 (-0.38%)	88.84	89.29	91.50	88.42	24,335	05:26:31 CT 25 Feb 2022
JUL 2022 CLN2	ОРТ	all	86.71	-0.28 (-0.32%)	86.99	87.47	89.46	86.63	7,653	05:26:15 CT 25 Feb 2022
AUG 2022 CLQ2	ОРТ	all	85.27	-0.22 (-0.26%)	85.49	87.47	87.72	85.18	6,847	05:25:41 CT 25 Feb 2022
SEP 2022 CLU2	ОРТ	all	84.30	+0.01 (+0.01%)	84.29	85.90	86.50	84.24	8,182	05:25:40 CT 25 Feb 2022
OCT 2022 CLV2	ОРТ	all	83.36	+0.06 (+0.07%)	83.30	84.76	85.12	83.36	2,693	05:25:34 CT 25 Feb 2022
NOV 2022 CLX2	ОРТ	all	82.70	+0.25 (+0.30%)	82.45	83.85	84.02	82.26	3,445	05:25:18 CT 25 Feb 2022
DEC 2022 CLZ2	ОРТ	all	81.43	-0.25 (-0.31%)	81.68	82.04	83.74	81.37	16,738	05:26:11 CT 25 Feb 2022
JAN 2023 CLF3	ОРТ	all	80.88	-0.04 (-0.05%)	80.92	82.08	82.73	80.88	2,601	05:24:58 CT 25 Feb 2022
FEB 2023 CLG3	ОРТ	al	80.47	+0.28 (+0.35%)	80.19	81.55	81.55	80.47	1,092	05:24:58 CT 25 Feb 2022
MAR 2023 CLH3	ОРТ	all	80.73	+1.21 (+1.52%)	79.52	80.73	80.73	80.73	3,403	05:25:34 CT 25 Feb 2022
APR 2023 CLJ3	ОРТ	all	79.91	+1.01 (+1.28%)	78.90	79.91	79.91	79.91	1,521	05:24:21 CT 25 Feb 2022
MAY 2023 CLK3	ОРТ	al	-	-	78.32	-	-	-	1,227	05:24:21 CT 25 Feb 2022
JUN 2023 CLM3	ОРТ	all	77.51	-0.28 (-0.36%)	77.79	78.23	79.32	77.39	3,296	05:25:43 CT 25 Feb 2022

Source: https://www.cmegroup.com/markets/energy/crude-oil/light-sweet-crude.quotes.html

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Example of "roll yield" over the past decade

Crude Oil Roll Yield, 2012-2022



Source: Koyfin

Some Historic CL Curve Snapshots



Source: Bloomberg

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Outright Micro WTI

 Directional view on oil prices at a specific delivery date

 Need to consider roll yields for positions beyond contract expiry

(Calendar) Spread Trade

- Exposure to changes in the oil curve, not the absolute level of oil prices
- Like 2Y-10Y, front end is more event driven, back end more tied to longterm fundamentals

Questions?

GFM Contact

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