



# PROPHETIC TIMES

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## U.S. oil prices top \$90 a barrel for the first time since 2014

*February 3, 2022* **cnbc.com** reported: “U.S. oil crossed above \$90 on Thursday for the first time since 2014 as demand for petroleum products surges while supply remains constrained.

West Texas Intermediate crude futures, the U.S. oil benchmark, gained more than 2% to trade as high as \$90.23 per barrel. The last time prices were above the \$90 mark was October 2014. International benchmark Brent crude rose 1.7% to trade at \$91. Brent topped \$90 on Jan. 26.

Oil had a blistering rally since falling to record lows in April 2020 — WTI briefly traded in negative territory — as demand has returned but producers have kept supply in check. Geopolitical tensions between Russia and Ukraine as well as in the Middle East have also sent jitters through the market.

WTI is up nearly 20% for the year, building on 2021's more than 50% gain. As oil prices push higher, a number of Wall Street analysts have forecasted \$100 oil.

Oanda's Ed Moya added that part of Thursday's push higher is due to cold temperatures and a potential drop in production.

“The oil market is so tight that any shock to production is going to send prices soaring. OPEC+ production is on cruise control with their gradual increase strategy, which means oil seems like it's going to make a run towards \$100 oil pretty soon,” he said.”

## As world looks to Ukraine, did Russia just take Belarus?

*February 3, 2022* **euobserver.com** reported: “Russia has de facto ‘occupied’ its neighbor Belarus, MEPs have warned, even as the world's attention focuses on Ukraine.

“The recent deployment of Russian troops in Belarus poses a threat to Ukraine, Poland, Lithuania, Latvia, and the whole of Europe. It may also be a part of the ultimate plan to subjugate and occupy Belarus,” the MEPs said in an open letter to the heads of other EU institutions on Tuesday (1 February).

“The continued presence of Russian military forces at the request of the illegitimate [Belarus president Alexander] Lukashenko regime should be treated as an occupation of Belarus. This must be made absolutely clear during the ongoing US and EU talks with Russia,” they added.

“Any diplomatic decision to deter possible Russian aggression against Ukraine must envisage an independent and democratic future for Belarus, not at its expense,” they said...

## US military officer included in training to strike Iran

*February 2, 2022* **Arutz Sheva** 7 reported: “In a precedent-setting move, Israel allowed an American military officer to participate in an Air Force exercise simulating an air-strike on long-range targets, including targets in Iran, *Kan News* reported.

The exercise was conducted about two weeks ago against the background of the ongoing nuclear talks in Vienna and included dozens of aircraft...

The inclusion of an American officer in an exercise which foreigners are not normally allowed to see is significant. In doing so, the IDF demonstrated its capabilities to strike Iran to the US military...”

## Ukraine to bolster military as Russia tensions soar

*February 2, 2022* **spacewar.com** reported: “Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky on Tuesday announced plans to add 100,000 personnel to the armed forces over three years and end obligatory service, as tensions soar with Russia.

But Zelensky insisted the move — part of a drive to modernize the 250,000-strong military — did not mean a large-scale invasion by Moscow was imminent amid fears over a massive buildup of Russia troops at Ukraine's borders.



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Ukraine's armed forces have undergone major improvements since Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula without a fight in 2014 and began fueling a separatist conflict that has cost more than 13,000 lives.

Zelensky signed a decree to add 100,000 personnel over the next three years, create 20 new brigades and improve the pay and living conditions for servicemen..."

### **Laser defense system will be ready to intercept missiles in a year**

*February 2, 2022 jpost.com* reported: "Israel will surround itself with a defensive 'laser wall,' with new missile interception technology to be ready within a year, Prime Minister Naftali Bennett announced in a speech at the Institute for National Security Studies in Tel Aviv on Tuesday.

The IDF will begin using the laser interception system in the next year, first experimentally and later operationally, starting in the South.

'This will allow us, in the medium- to long-term, to surround Israel with a laser wall that will defend us from missiles, rockets, UAVs and other threats that will essentially take away the strongest card our enemies have against us,' Bennett said.

The Defense Ministry successfully intercepted drones with the powerful airborne laser system installed on light aircraft in June. The system downed several UAVs at a range of one kilometer with a 100% success rate. The ministry intends to build a laser with a power of 100 kilowatts that will have an effective range of 20 km..."

### **Syria claims: Israel carried out air strike in Damascus**

*February 1, 2022 Arutz Sheva* 7 reported: "Syrian media reported early Monday morning that Israel had carried out an air strike in the Damascus area.

A Syrian military official said the air strike occurred around 3:05 a.m. He added that the country's air defense systems intercepted some of the missiles and that material damage was caused.

Last month, Syrian media reported that the Syrian air defenses had thwarted an Israeli air strike on the port of Latakia. There were no reports of injuries, but a fire reportedly broke out in the area of the port where the containers are stored.

Two weeks before that, Syrian media reported that Israel launched an air strike in the Damascus area..."

### **Israel to participate in large scale naval exercise led by the US 5th fleet**

*February 1, 2022 jpost.com* reported: "The Israeli Navy is for the first time ever, taking part in one of the largest American-led naval drills alongside dozens of other countries in the Red Sea.

'The Israeli Navy will join 60 naval fleets for the US Navy-led 'IMX' International Naval Exercise,' the IDF said. 'For the first time, our Flotilla 3 & Underwater Warfare Unit will train with US 5th Fleet in the Red Sea. We look forward to strengthening security & global cooperation.'

Known as the International Maritime Exercise (or IMX), more than 9,000 personnel and up to 50 ships from more than 60 militaries and international organizations will take part in the exercise that will focus on unmanned naval systems and the use of artificial intelligence..."

### **UK to offer NATO 'major military deployment' in Europe**

*January 31, 2022 spacewar.com* reported: "Britain is preparing to offer NATO a 'major' deployment of troops, weapons, warships and jets in Europe, Prime Minister Boris Johnson announced Saturday, to respond to rising 'Russian hostility' towards Ukraine.

The offer, set to be made to NATO military chiefs next week, could see London double the approximately 1,150 UK troops currently in eastern European countries and 'defensive weapons' sent to Estonia, his office said.

'This package would send a clear message to the Kremlin — we will not tolerate their destabilising activity, and we will always stand with our NATO allies in the face Russian hostility,' Johnson said in a statement late Saturday.

'I have ordered our Armed Forces to prepare to deploy across Europe next week, ensuring we are able to support our NATO allies on land, at sea and in the air,' he added..."



*Prime Minister Boris Johnson*