

Iraq Weekly Status Report

April 16, 2008

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Iraq's Parliament returned to the legislative process following a month-long recess. **(POLITICAL, page 4)**
- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki gained political support at a meeting April 10 with main Iraqi political groups. **(POLITICAL, page 5)**
- Car bombs across the country killed nearly 60 April 15. **(SECURITY, page 10)**
- The GOI purged nearly 1,300 soldiers and policemen who refused to fight during the Basrah offensive from its ranks. **(SECURITY, page 12)**
- Ambassador Crocker called on Arab nations to increase their diplomatic presence in Iraq; Arab League SecGen cited security fears as the reason for low involvement. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 25-26)**
- Sweden announced April 10 that the next meeting of the ICI will be held in Stockholm on May 29. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 27)**



POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

Iraqi Parliament Continues on Legislative Agenda:

- Continuing its legislative momentum after a month-long recess, the Iraqi Council of Representatives (CoR) debated the Law of Compensation for Victims of Military and Terrorist Operations, the Law of Employees Fired for Political Reasons, a Second Amendment to the Unified Pension Law, ratification of the Agreement Regarding Iraq's Participation in an Arab Women's Organization, the Civil Service Salaries Law, the Law to Protect the Children of Iraq, the Law Regarding the Care of the Disabled, the University Services Law, and the Law of Foreign Service this week. Members also reported on women's rights, pilgrimages, and developments in the provinces.

Sadr Blames US and GOI for Death of Aide:

- Riyad al-Nuri, a top aide to Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, was killed in Iraq's holy city of Najaf April 11, inciting rage and calls for calm on the part of senior Sadrists. Nuri was the director of the Sadr movement's office in Najaf, and his sister had been married to Murtada Sadr, Muqtada al-Sadr's brother, who was killed in 1999. According to Najaf police chief Major General Abdul Karim Mustafa, Nuri was killed near his home after returning from Muslim prayers. The attack comes as Sadr's Mahdi Army militia was engaged in deadly clashes with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) in Sadr City and in Basrah. Media report Sadr blamed the US and the GOI for the death of his senior aide and brother-in-law. Sadr released a statement saying he would not "forget this precious blood," urging his followers to "be patient."

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Maliki Gains Political Support:

- Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki held a meeting April 10 with the main Iraqi political groups to discuss the Iraqi-led offensive on militias that began March 25 in Basrah. In an effort to isolate Muqtada al-Sadr and his followers, Sadrists were not invited to participate in the meeting. Maliki received support for this initiative from both Sunni and Shia political leaders. The absence of the Sadrists from the meeting demonstrated Maliki's commitment to politically isolate the movement if the Mahdi Army is not disbanded. Sadrist lawmakers stated that the government's isolation efforts may backfire, despite the fact that fighting between the militias and Coalition and ISF has largely subsided after days of severe fighting in Sadr City.



POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

Coalition Affiliation (at time of appointment)
United Iraq Alliance
Kurdistani Alliance
Iraqi Accord Front
Iraqi National List
Other / Independent

(F) = Female

*Formerly Tawafuq

**Formerly Sadrist/UIA

***Formerly Iraqiya

Prime Minister

Nuri al-Maliki

President

Jalal Talabani

Deputy President

Tariq al-Hashimi

Deputy President

'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi

Deputy Prime Minister

* Vacant

Deputy Prime Minister

Barham Salih

Minister of Agriculture

Ali al-Bahadeli

Minister of Communications

*** Vacant

Minister of Culture

* Vacant

Minister of Defense
Abdul Qadir Muhammed
Jasim al-Mufraji
Minister of Displacement & Migration
Abd al-Samad Rahman
Sultan
Minister of Electricity

Karim Wahid

Minister of Education

Khudayyir al-Khuza'i

Minister of Environment

Narmin 'Uthman (F)

Minister of Finance

Bayan Jabr

Minister of Foreign Affairs

Hoshyar Zebari

Minister of Health

Saleh al-Hasnawi

Minister of Higher Education

* Vacant

Minister of Human Rights

Wijdan Mikha'il (F)

Minister of Industry & Minerals

Fawzi al-Hariri

Minister of Interior

Jawad al-Bulani

Minister of Justice
*** (Safa al Safi
acting)
Minister of Housing & Construction

Bayan Daza'l (F)

Minister of Labor & Social Affairs
Mahmud Muhammad
Jawad al-Radi
Minister of Oil

Husayn al-Shahristani

Minister of Planning

Ali Baban

Minister of Trade

Abd al-Falah al-Sudani

Minister of Science & Technology

Ra'id Fahmi Jahid

Minister of Municipalities & Public Works

Riyad Ghurayyib

Minister of Transportation

** Vacant

Minister of Water Resources

'Abd al-Latif Rashid

Minister of Youth & Sports

Jasim Muhammad Ja'far

Minister of State for Civil Society
* (Wijdan Mikha'il
Acting) (F)
Minister of State for National Dialogue Affairs

Akram al-Hakim

Minister of State for National Security Affairs

Shirwan al-Waili

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs

* Vacant

Minister of State for Governorates Affairs

Sa'd Hashim

Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities

** Vacant

Minister of State for Women's Affairs

** (Narmeen Othman Acting)

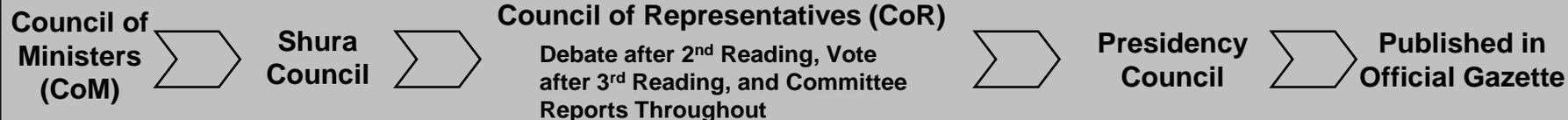
Minister of State for CoR Affairs

Safa al-Safi



POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update

Legislative Process



Provincial Elections	The CoR is currently reviewing the law, which will set the legal basis and structure of provincial elections.
Hydrocarbons Package	The level of control allocated to the central government in the July 2007 draft version of the Framework Law (currently in CoR Committee) is the key point of disagreement; there may be more progress on the Revenue Management Law, currently with the Shura Council, in the coming months.
Amnesty Law	PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was signed by the Presidency Council February 26 and was implemented March 2.
Pensions Amendment	PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette December 2007.
De-Ba'athification Reform	PASSED: Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008. Published in the Official Gazette in mid-February.
Provincial Powers	PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was vetoed by the Presidency Council February 26. The veto was rescinded on March 19.

Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.4-2.7 million

Total number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. during to date in FY07-FY08: 4,655



POLITICAL - Provincial

UN to Propose Model for Kirkuk:

- The United Nations Special Representative for Iraq, Staffan de Mistura, issued a statement indicating that the UN will propose a template for resolving conflicts in several disputed areas in Iraq that could serve as a model for the future of Kirkuk. By May 15, the UN will propose options for deciding under which authority to put four disputed locations, not including Kirkuk. De Mistura indicated that “this could show how Kirkuk could be handled” and could be used as “a template for similar and other bigger problems.” De Mistura expressed his belief that Iraqi and Kurdish leaders made a wise decision in postponing a referendum on Kirkuk's status, as a referendum that did not address the necessary criteria could incite sectarian conflict.

At “State of Babil” Conference, A Pledge of Improved Cooperation:

- Governor Salam Salah Mahdi al-Muslimawi and Provincial Council Chairman Muhammed Ali Hussain Al-Massudi held a conference April 10 with district and sub-district leaders on the “State of Babil.” The conference was the first of its kind and was a strong first step forward in developing a province-wide dialogue. The PCC agreed to improve strategic planning with districts; to move ahead on projects in North Babil, where security has been an impediment; and to hold another conference in the future for further discussion of concerns.

POLITICAL - Provincial



Baghdad Hosts Conflict Mitigation Program:

- USAID's Iraqi Community-Based Conflict Mitigation Program completed two introductory five-day workshops for 56 Iraqis. Participants learned fundamental concepts and skills needed to conduct community conflict assessments. Additionally, over 100 district council officials and staff members from Baghdad province received training in project management, institutional development, leadership, and computer skills.



SECURITY - Situation Update

Car Bombs Kill Dozens:

- On April 15, a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device (VBIED) parked outside a restaurant killed 35 Iraqi civilians and wounded 66 in Baqubah, Diyala Province. It was the first such attack in Baqubah in almost three months. Another parked car exploded in Anbar Province's capital of Ramadi, killing at least 13 and wounding 20. Two car bombs in Mosul targeted an Iraqi police patrol accompanied by US personnel. Finally, a car bomb in the Karrada district of Baghdad killed one and wounded six, including four Iraqi police officers.

Operation Charge of the Knights Continues in Basrah:

- Operation Charge of the Knights entered a new phase in Basrah April 12. ISF are now working to clear strongholds previously controlled by militias. CF involvement in the Basrah operation has been minimal, reflecting the ability of the ISF to enforce rule of law. However, CF are continuing to support ISF operations with airborne surveillance. Charge of the Knights recently uncovered an improvised explosive device factory and two large caches in the southwestern Basrah district of al-Qiblah. The ISF presence has also encouraged locals to continue handing in weapons.



SECURITY – Situation Update

Iraqi, Coalition Forces Discover Large Weapons Caches:

- Iraqi soldiers discovered a weapons cache in Kirkuk April 12, the fourth large cache found in the area in 10 days. The most recent, and the largest of the four, contained over 600 munitions of various sizes. The four caches were believed to stockpile munitions for distribution to smaller cache sites.

Coalition Forces Release Detained AP Photographer:

- Coalition Forces (CF) released detained AP photographer Bilal Hussein from custody April 16 after confirming that the main charges he faced were covered under Iraq's new Amnesty Law. Hussein was charged with terrorism for allegedly possessing bomb-making materials, conspiring with insurgents to photograph explosions targeting Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and CF, and offering to forge an identification card for a wanted terrorist being pursued by CF. An Iraqi judge dismissed the terrorism charge based on the Amnesty Law, which states that acts of terrorism that do not result in killing or permanent disability are subject to amnesty. The second charge against Hussein, kidnapping, was dropped April 13.



SECURITY – Security Transition

Sons of Iraq Gather for ISF Screening:

- Over 300 Sons of Iraq (Sol) gathered in Muellha in northern Babil Province for screening April 7. The screening, conducted by ISF, CF, and local leadership, helped gauge which Sol are eligible to continue the transition process to join ISF. The prospective candidates filled out applications, had fingerprints and photos taken, and completed a basic reading and writing test. More than 60% were approved to continue the process.

GOI Purge of Mutinous Iraqi Security Forces:

- In an effort to restore discipline within its security forces, the Government of Iraq (GOI) fired more than 1,300 soldiers and policemen April 13 who refused to fight during recent combat with Shia militias in Basrah. Over 1,000 security troops, including a full infantry battalion, either refused to fight or chose to fight with militias, to whom they surrendered weapons and vehicles. Sadr responded April 14 by demanding the GOI reinstate the fired soldiers and policemen, saying they were obeying their religious leaders and "driven by their religious duties."

GOI Purchases 74 US Military 5-ton Trucks:

- The Iraqi Army took possession of 74 cargo trucks in Baghdad April 15. The vehicles were valued at over \$9.8 million and were financed through the Foreign Military Sales program. These vehicles, a portion of some 342 ordered in two contracts, will provide a crucial lift component to the Iraqi Army in the transportation of personnel and equipment.



SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of March 19, 2008 ^a			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel ^b	Assigned Personnel ^c	Total Trained Personnel to date ^d
Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces ^e			
Iraqi Police Service ^f	288,001	279,870	166,037
National Police ^g	33,670	33,531	44,156
Border Enforcement	38,205	40,852	28,023
Total MoI	359,876	354,253	238,216
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces ^h			
Army	186,352	160,248	180,263
Support Forces	17,369	18,087	19,750
Air Force	2,907	1,344	1,370
Navy	1,483	1,123	1,194
Total MoD	208,111	180,802	202,577
Counter Terrorism Bureau			
Special Operations	4,857	3,144	3,709
Total Iraqi Security Forces	572,844	538,199	444,502

a Numbers do not include ministry staffs.

b Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.

c Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.

d Numbers reflect assigned personnel that have received training.

e Numbers reflect total ISF personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.

f MoI strength does not reflect investigative and administrative forces, the MoI HQ, MoI Forensics, Dignitary Protection, or contracted guards.

g MoI Police Support Unit, Provincial Security Force, and Emergency Response Unit personnel are part of the Iraqi Police Service and does not include other Ministry FPS.

h MoD strength is derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

Inflation Rates Decrease in March:

- According to the GOI's March Consumer Price Index, year-on-year core inflation (excluding 'fuel and electricity' and 'transport and communications') decreased to 12.1 percent, down from 13.8 percent in February. This continues the trend of declining inflation that began in early 2007.

Request for Investment Bank in Najaf:

- During a recent economic seminar held by the Najaf Chamber of Commerce, Dr. Abdul Ameer Zahid, a seminar lecturer, called for the creation of an investment bank in Najaf. Other economists and academics in attendance agreed that establishing a large investment bank would aid Iraqi and non-Iraqi companies interested in investing in Najaf but in need of financing. Dr. Zahid noted that Iraqi capital is held in several banks both inside and outside of Iraq. If brought together under one central bank, Najaf could use these funds to attract investment, especially from Gulf neighbors. Dr. Zahid has asked the College of Management and Economics at the University of Kufa to study private sector growth in Najaf in concert with his support for an investment bank.

KRG Ministry of Interior Complex Reopens:

- A truck bomb nearly a year ago damaged the KRG's Ministry of Interior (MOI) complex. The US Army Corps of Engineers helped to reopen that complex with substantial aid from the KRG. The reopening of the complex will allow the KRG to once again manage policing, security, and intelligence activities in one location.



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

Ninewa PRT Provides Agricultural Assistance:

- The Ninewa PRT's Economics Section distributed nine tractors to existing Ninewa Farmer Unions and facilitated the registration of 36 new farmer associations in western Ninewa Province. The Ninewa PRT also facilitated financing and credit meetings between agricultural processors and the Northern Agriculture Bank Director.

Anbar Assesses Enterprise Formation:

- The Anbar Provincial Council Economic Committee met March 24 and created six sub-committees, which will conduct meetings with district councils in Fallujah, Anah, and Ramadi to assess small- to medium-sized enterprise formation.

Basrah Budget Execution Support Project Launched:

- The UK-funded UN Development Programme Basrah Budget Execution Support Project was formally launched March 24-26 in Istanbul, Turkey. A 30 member delegation from the Basrah Provincial Administration Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation and the Ministry of Finance attended as well as representatives from US REO, UN Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and UN Office for Project Services. The three day workshop discussed both legal and management issues related to the disbursement of Regional Development Funds. Several key issues identified as a result of the conference include insufficient planning capacity at the provincial level, weak inter-governmental coordination, budget delays, and weak supervision during project execution.



ECONOMIC – Oil

Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$100.484/ barrel

Dated Brent at \$107.472/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$109.742/ barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$100.868/barrel

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$18.2 Billion (ytd)

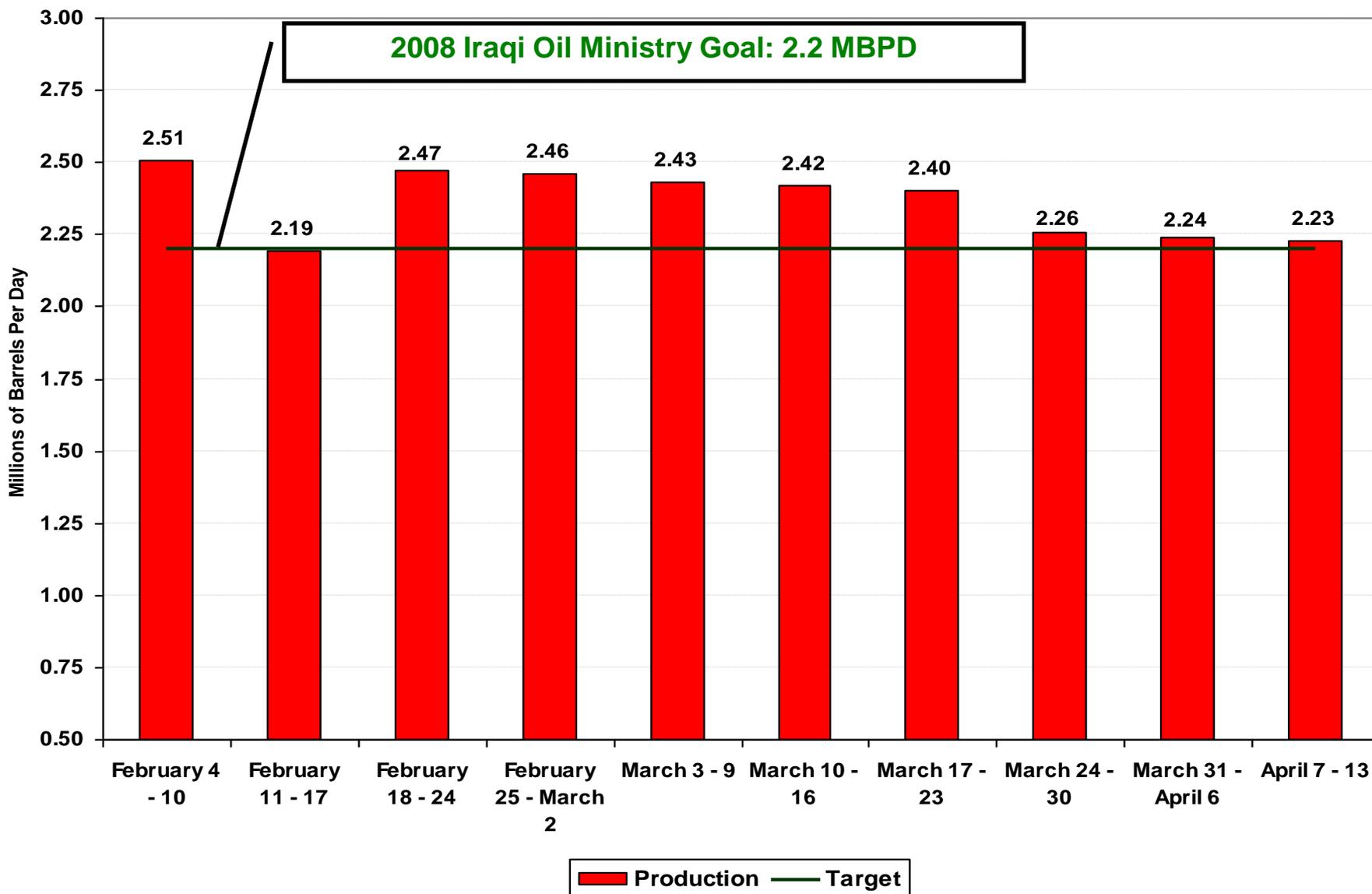
GOI Ministry of Oil Lists Pre-Qualified Oil Companies:

- On April 14, the Ministry of Oil's Contracting and Licensing Directorate released a list of 35 oil companies, seven of which are American, pre-qualified to bid on the first licensing round for oil and gas contracts. Companies that did not qualify for the initial round will be able to bid in later rounds. The 35 pre-qualified companies were chosen from an initial group of 120 companies. None of the companies holding current deals with the KRG were pre-qualified. The no-bid, two-year technical service agreement negotiations are ongoing, and all of the participating companies were selected as pre-qualified.



ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production

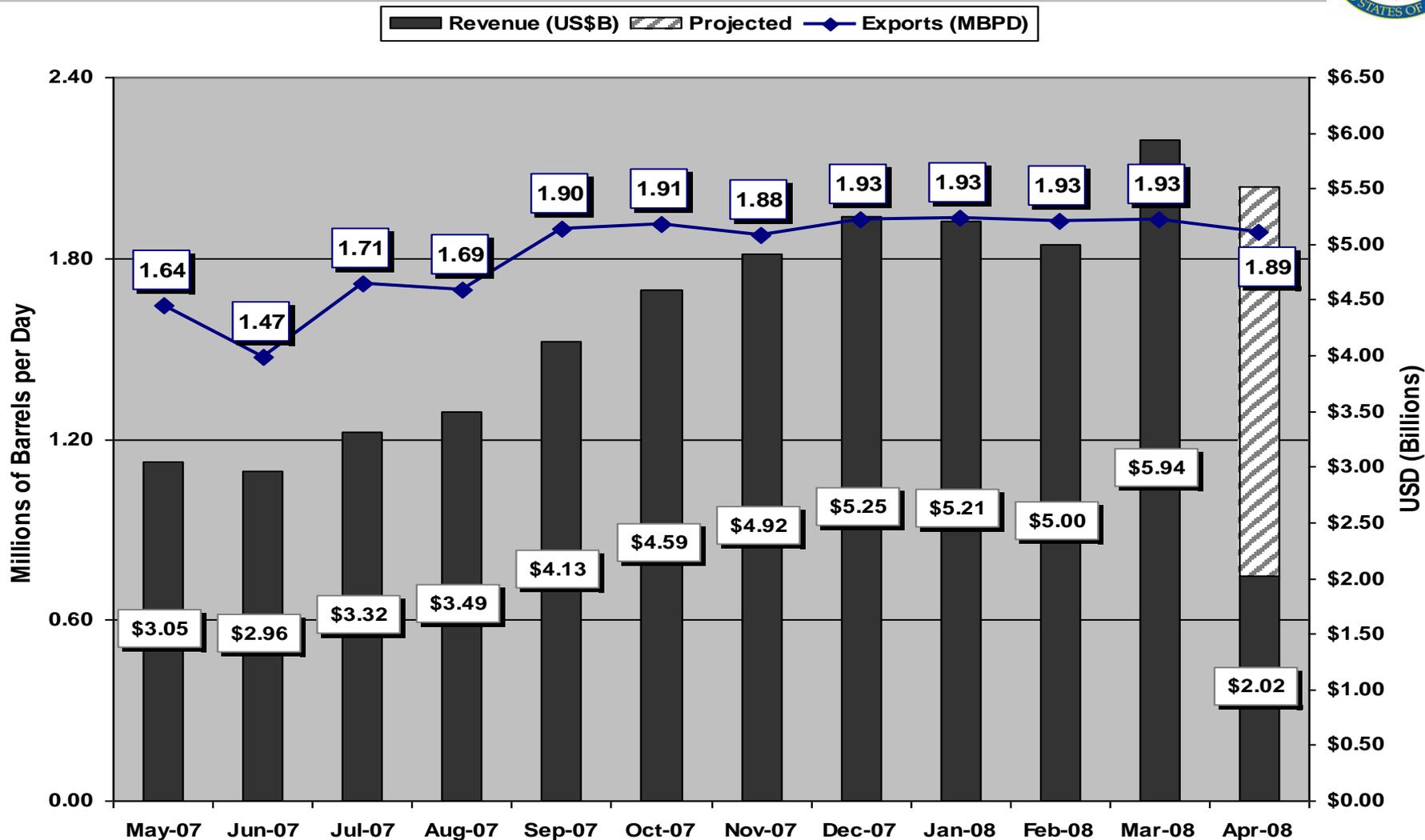
DEPARTMENT OF STATE





ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

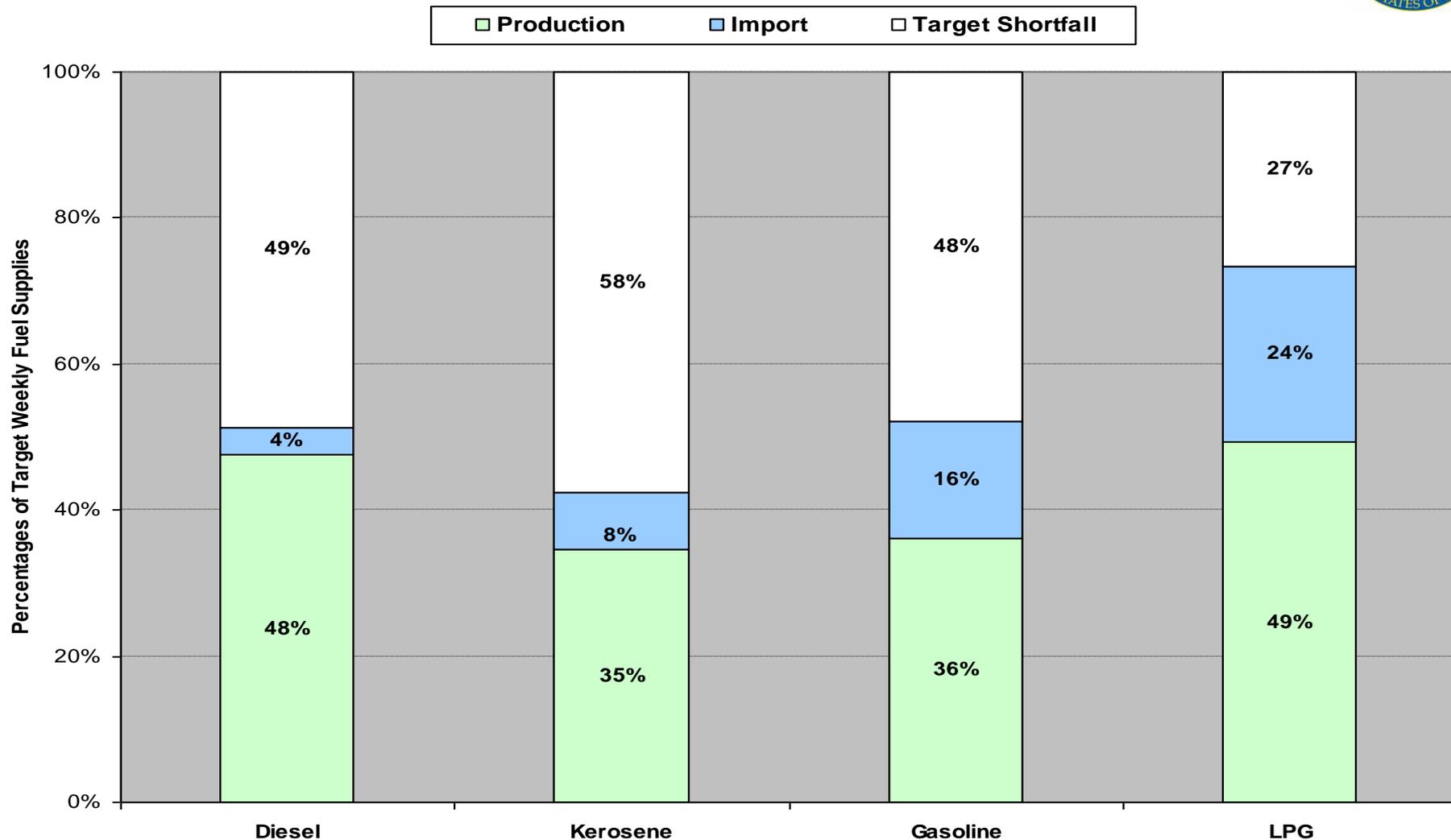


- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion
- 2008 Revenue Estimate: \$18.2 Billion (ytd)



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



Note: This is a daily average for April 7 – April 13

- Diesel: 12.6 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 6.2 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 14.0 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 3,743 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



ECONOMIC – Essential Services

Parts of Iraq Power Grid Suffer Attacks:

- Iraqi press reported an attack on a power plant in Baghdad's Sadr City neighborhood April 9. An unnamed source from the Iraqi Police told Al Mashriq newspaper that a number of mortar shells struck the power station, causing a fire. Separately, attacks in Ninewa Province in northern Iraq damaged transmission lines, causing generating stations near Mosul Dam to shut down following the attacks. A source from the Electricity Ministry stated that engineers are working to repair the damage and reopen the stations in the coming days. The attacks, however, did not seriously damage electricity output.

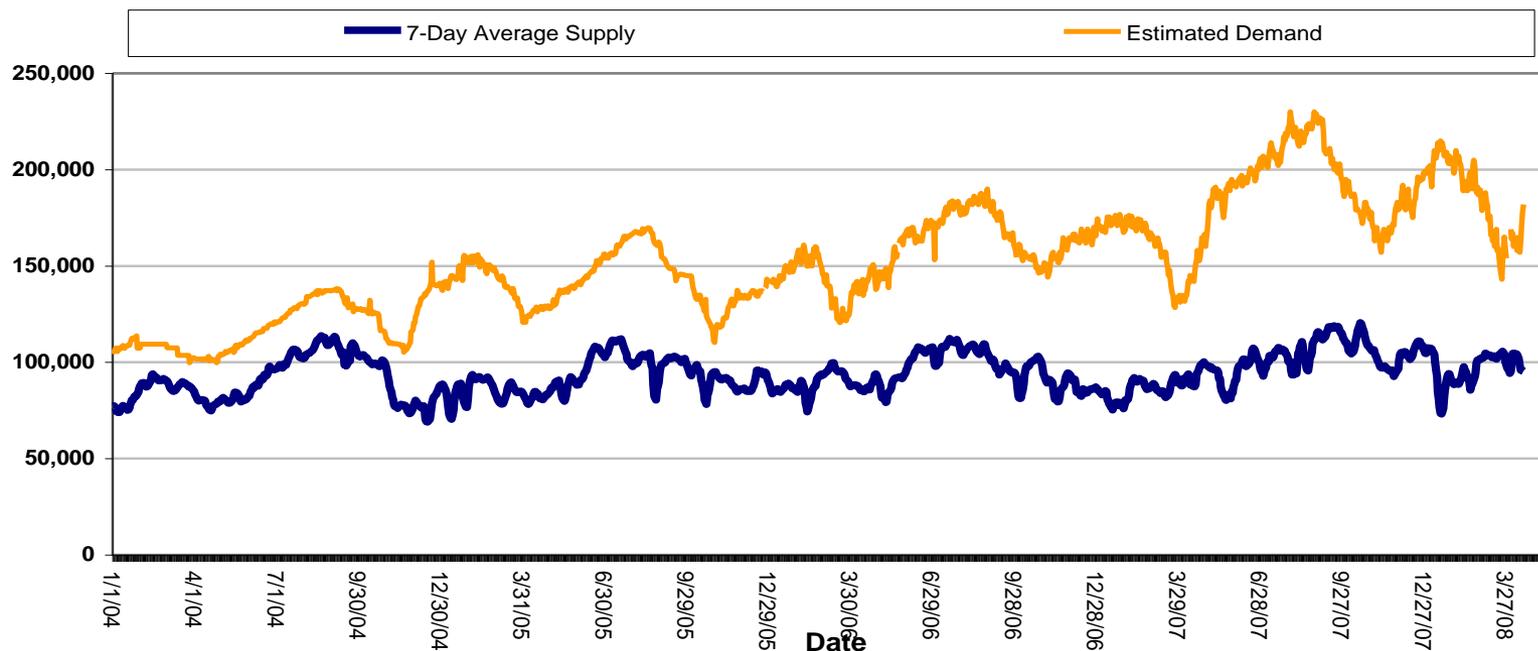
Access to Some Essential Services Remains Poor:

- UN Under-Secretary General for Humanitarian Affairs John Holmes recently said in an interview with Reuters that the damage to essential services in Iraq has yet to be repaired or reversed. While malnutrition is not a wide-spread phenomenon, it is prevalent among children. Holmes estimated four to nine percent of children under five suffer from acute malnutrition. Holmes went on to say that less than half of the population has access to potable water, while four million do not have adequate nutrition. He pointed out that the public distribution system, which distributes food stuffs to qualifying Iraqis, could work better. The system is being aided by the World Food Programme.



ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

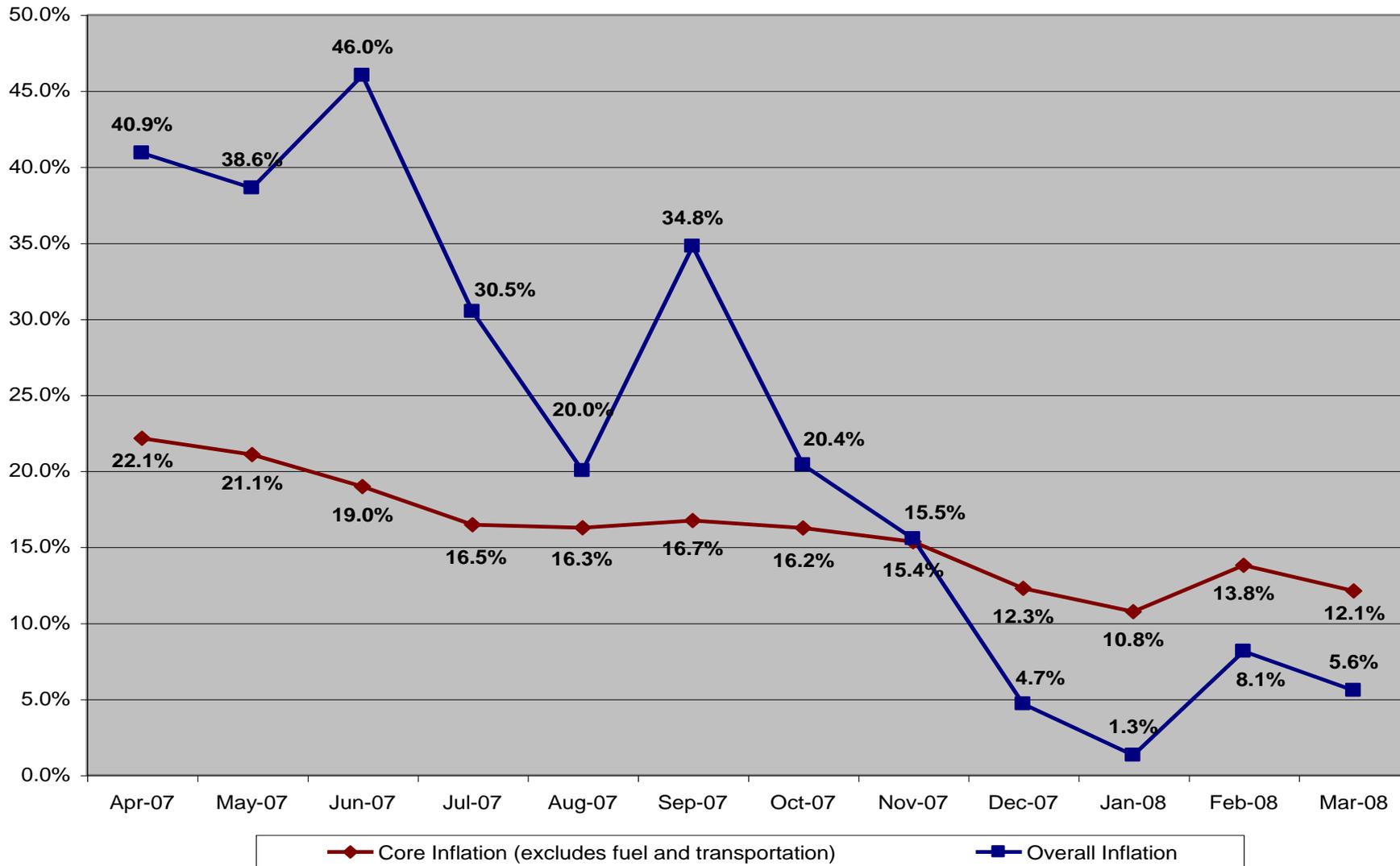


- Daily electricity demand April 9-15 was 17% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 9% above the year-earlier period and met 57% of demand, compared with 61% for the year-earlier period.
- Data on average hours of power after meeting demand from essential services was unavailable for this reporting period.



ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Year-on-Year Inflation





ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$70.68	\$70.52	\$73.07	\$62.82
Yield	9.00%	9.02%	8.67%	10.16%
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction				
USD Sold	\$116,082,500	\$75,930,000	\$88, 525, 850	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	1,205	\$1,205	\$1,208	\$1,254.00
Total Employed by USG Programs				
		94,815	94,494	N/A

- Note: USG Program Employment data as of April 9, 2008.



ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2

Sector\Status			Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	Allocated	Un-allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
(Millions of USD)											
Security and Law	\$4,975	\$23	\$4,954	\$4,954	\$0	\$4,953	\$4,953	\$0	\$4,867	\$4,867	\$0
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,288	\$13	\$2,239	\$2,239	\$0	\$2,234	\$2,234	\$0	\$2,153	\$2,157	\$5
Electricity Sector	\$4,203	\$22	\$4,056	\$4,056	\$0	\$4,049	\$4,049	\$0	\$3,797	\$3,801	\$5
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,722	\$3	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,570	\$1,570	\$0
Water and Sanitation	\$2,067	\$37	\$1,957	\$1,964	\$7	\$1,943	\$1,944	\$1	\$1,788	\$1,790	\$2
Transportation and Comm\	\$462	\$1	\$456	\$456	\$0	\$449	\$449	\$0	\$409	\$410	\$1
Roads, Bridges and Const\	\$327	\$7	\$317	\$317	\$0	\$317	\$317	\$0	\$249	\$250	\$1
Health Care	\$813	\$10	\$783	\$783	\$0	\$776	\$776	\$0	\$728	\$728	\$1
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$813	\$813	\$0
Edu\, Refugees, Human Rights	\$436	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$398	\$398	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID,DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0
Total IRRF II	\$18,330	\$119	\$17,812	\$17,819	\$7	\$17,773	\$17,774	\$1	\$16,981	\$16,995	\$14
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,923	\$7,923	\$0	\$7,913	\$7,913	\$0	\$7,697	\$7,700	\$3
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,370	\$9,377	\$7	\$9,340	\$9,341	\$1	\$8,767	\$8,778	\$11
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$517	\$517	\$0
Total IRRF I	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,805	\$119	\$20,103	\$20,110	\$7	\$20,005	\$20,006	\$1	\$19,120	\$19,134	\$14

• Note: IRRF data as of April 9, 2008.



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Border Security Working Group Meets in Damascus:

- The Neighbors Border Security Working Group issued its final communiqué April 14, which called for adopting international standards to combat terrorism and increase the exchange of information. It also welcomed the positive cooperation that had already led to an improvement in security. Six of Iraq's neighbors – Syria, Egypt, Iran, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Turkey – plus representatives from Russia, France, the EU, UN and Arab League attended. The US chargé in Damascus led a delegation that attended as an observer. The Working Group's resolutions will be submitted to the upcoming Expanded Neighbors Ministerial meeting in Kuwait April 22.

US Calls for Increased Arab Engagement in Iraq:

- US Ambassador to Iraq Ryan Crocker chided Arab nations April 11 for their lack of engagement in and assistance to Iraq. Pointing to the absence of Arab ambassadors in Baghdad and the lack of high-level visits, Ambassador Crocker said “you can't beat something with nothing.” He noted that Arab engagement would help in stemming Iran's influence in the country. Ambassador Crocker stated that there is a need for Arab countries to be involved in Iraq both diplomatically and economically, not just as a way of keeping Iranian influence in check, but also as a signal to the people of Iraq that the Arab world cares about them. On April 13, Iraqi Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari said Iraq will press Arab states during the Expanded Neighbors Ministerial in Kuwait to “stop sitting on the fence.”



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Arab League SecGen: Arab States Will Not Send Ambassadors to Iraq:

- In a press conference April 15, Arab League Secretary General Amre Moussa stated that Arab countries fear sending their diplomats to Iraq because of security concerns exacerbated by recent attacks on the Green Zone. According to Moussa, while they worry about Iraq's unity and stability, they are not ready to enter a war or sectarian struggle.

EU Extends Mandate of Iraq Rule of Law Mission:

- On April 14, the EU Council extended and amended the mandate of the EU integrated rule of law mission for Iraq – EUJUST LEX. Funding provided for the mission has been increased accordingly, taking the total amount that will have been spent from March 2005 to June 30, 2008 to EUR 21.2 million. EUJUST LEX provides professional development opportunities to senior Iraqi officials from the criminal justice system. The aim is to foster confidence, mutual respect and operational cooperation between the different branches of the criminal justice system (i.e., police, judiciary, and prisons).

PM Maliki Visits Brussels:

- On April 16, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki told lawmakers at the European Parliament that Iraq's leaders were "determined to achieve victory against terrorism," adding that "we are today more confident than any time before that we are close to the point where we can declare victory against al-Qaida ... and its allies." Maliki is also reported to have warned Iraq's neighbors not to interfere in Iraqi internal politics. As part of his visit to Brussels, Maliki was also scheduled to meet Javier Solana, EU High Representative for the Common Foreign and Security Policy.

DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement



Iraq-UN Conference Scheduled for May 29:

- Sweden announced April 10 that the next meeting of the International Compact with Iraq (ICI) will be held in Stockholm May 29. UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon and Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki are expected to be in attendance. The conference is a follow-up to the ICI meeting held in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt in May 2007. High-level representation is expected from other countries, including the US and UK.



DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

25 Countries with forces in Iraq (including US)

Albania	Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Poland
Armenia	Denmark	Korea	Romania
Australia	El Salvador	Latvia	Singapore
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Lithuania	Tonga
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Georgia	Macedonia	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Japan	Mongolia	United Kingdom

TOTAL ~ 9,891 Forces

31 Countries and NATO*
 (including the US)
Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*31 includes the US, the 25 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey

Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.



CONTACT INFORMATION

- This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.
- Please forward all questions and/or comments to:
NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 3)

Slide 4:

- **Government of Iraq, CoR Record, April 10-14**
- Miami Herald, April 11: <http://www.miamiherald.com/news/world/story/492955.html>

Slide 5:

- Washington Times, April 11: http://www.bulletinnews.com/state/index_main.aspx?d=080411&doctype=2&s=72

Slide 6:

- NEA/I Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 7:

- NEA/I Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 8:

- Reuters, April 11: <http://www.alertnet.org/thenews/newsdesk/L11747426.htm>
- US Embassy Baghdad

Slide 9:

- PRT Weekly Summary – 31 MAR – 5 APR 08

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