

Iraq Weekly Status Report

May 7, 2008

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



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Mahdi Army leaders say that while they see Iran as a threat to Iraq, they see Iran as an ally in their fight against the US. **(POLITICAL, page 4)**
- Detainees held by the US indicate that Hezbollah is training Iraqi extremists in Iran. **(SECURITY, page 8)**
- 3,500 US forces will redeploy in the next few weeks as the drawdown of surge troops continues. **(SECURITY, page 9)**
- After just four months, the GOI's 2008 oil revenue is half of the total for all of 2007, due to security in the north, infrastructure improvement in the south, and increases in market price. **(ECONOMIC, page 13)**
- Iran has said that it will not hold a fourth round of talks with the US on Iraq as long as US forces continue to target Shia militias in Baghdad. **(DIPLOMATIC, page 25)**



POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

Leaders from Mahdi Army See Dangers from Iran and the US:

- Abu Baqr, a commander of Muqtada al-Sadr's Mahdi Army, told reporters from the Los Angeles Times May 6 that he considers Iran a threat to Iraq and blames it for the bloody Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s, but still views the neighboring state as a convenient ally in his fight against the US. "I think that the Iranians are more dangerous than the Americans. I hate them and I don't trust them... [but] when somebody gives you or offers help, it's hard to say no," he said. "The first and foremost agenda is to kick out the American occupation. The Iranians are right next door. The Americans come from far away."

Tariq Aziz's Lawyers Want His Trial Moved outside Iraq:

- A member of former Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz's defense team, Badie Izzat Aref, said May 5 he wants Aziz's trial moved outside of the country. Aref said he had previously requested the trial be moved to northern Iraq for security purposes, but that the defense team now wants a transfer abroad so that travel for the lawyers will not be subject to GOI authorities. Aziz went on trial April 29 on charges linked to the execution of 42 Baghdad merchants for raising food prices when Iraq was under UN sanctions. The trial was adjourned to May 20 after Aziz demanded a new lawyer. Aziz could face the death penalty if convicted.



POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation

New GOI Committee to Investigate Iranian Support to Militias:

- Dr. Ali al-Dabbagh, a spokesman for Iraqi Prime Minister Maliki, said May 4 the GOI will create a special committee to investigate whether Iran is funneling arms to Shia militia groups in Iraq. The committee will look specifically for evidence about who in Iran is shipping the weapons. The announcement follows the visit of a delegation of five Iraqi parliament members to Tehran last week, where they discussed the issue of arms smuggling into Iraq. Al-Dabbagh indicated that he is convinced that Iranian weapons are coming into Iraq but is uncertain about the amount of complicity by the Iranian government.



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)

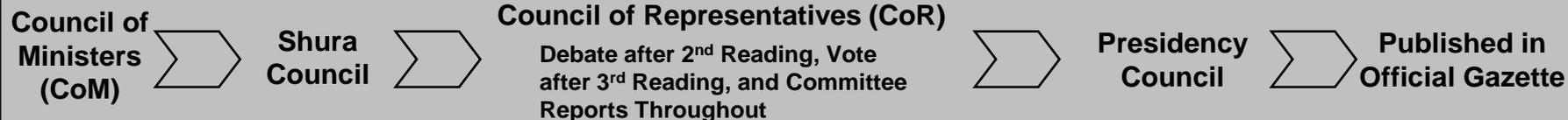
Minister of State for CoR Affairs

Safa al-Safi



POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update

Legislative Process



Provincial Elections	The CoR is currently considering 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, allowing the law to take effect.

Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.2-2.4 million

Total number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. during to date in FY07-FY08: 4,885



SECURITY - Situation Update

Iranian Involvement in Iraqi Shia Militias:

- Air Force Colonel Donald Bacon told the Associated Press May 5 that Coalition forces are holding detainees who indicated that Hezbollah, a terrorist organization, is training Iraqi extremists at Iranian Quds Force training camps outside of Tehran. These cases first appeared in early 2007, after the capture of Qais Khazali, a senior Iraqi Shia militia leader and Ali Mussa Daqduq, a Lebanese Hezbollah commander, who provided information on Hezbollah training of JAM Special Groups.
- Additionally, US forces have noticed a trend in attacks involving armor-piercing bombs, known as explosively formed penetrators (EFPs), parts for which the Pentagon says are manufactured in Iran. The GOI sent a five-member delegation to Iran to discuss Iranian actions and policies in Iraq. Iran maintains that it does not bolster or support Iraqi militias. After the visit of the Iraqi delegation, Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement in support of Prime Minister Maliki's efforts to combat "illegal" Shia militias.

Iraqi Security Forces Detain Iraqi Police:

- The Iraqi Security Forces detained dozens of Iraqi Police (IP) in the Shula district of Baghdad May 6. The 42 detained IP are suspected of collaborating with Shia militants. Additionally, a hospital in Shula was shut down May 6 on suspicion of treating Mahdi Army fighters. Thirty five hospital workers were arrested on suspicion of treating wounded Mahdi Army militants.



SECURITY – Security Transition

Surge Brigade to Redeploy:

- Approximately 3,500 soldiers from the 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team (HBCT), 3rd Infantry Division will redeploy to Fort Benning, Georgia in the next several weeks. The 3rd HBCT was stationed in Madain Qada, in Baghdad province. Its presence helped improve security, capture criminals, locate and destroy weapons caches, and lower attacks on the area. The improved security allowed merchants to reopen businesses and the local government to make political progress through rule of law and employment programs.
- The 3rd HBCT is the third of five brigades deployed during the surge to return home. The remaining two brigades are set to redeploy by the end of July.

Diyala Police Training Center Opens:

- The Iraqi Police Regional Training Center celebrated its grand opening in Diyala province May 1. The center will make possible the training of thousands of Iraqi Police and place additional forces throughout Diyala. The center is also a sign of inter-provincial cooperation, with supplies obtained from Salah ad Din Provincial Police and the Iraqi Ministry of Interior. The first class will graduate May 15 with an estimated 500 IP reporting for duty.



SECURITY – Security Transition

Work Continues on National Information and Investigation Agency:

- Construction continues on the National Information and Investigation Agency, Iraq's lead intelligence apparatus. The agency's work supports police operations across the Ministry of Interior and currently has 4,700 of 7,000 authorized personnel on hand. Agency effectiveness is increasing but remains hampered by logistics processes and a primitive training base. The installation of the Iraqi Intelligence Network throughout the agency by the end of 2008 will provide secure intelligence dissemination. The headquarters and the Baghdad bureau complex should be completed in June 2008.



SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of March 31, 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	291,497	171,312
National Police ^g	33,670	37,685	45,019
Border Enforcement	38,205	40,329	28,978
Total MoI	359,876	369,511	245,309
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces ^h			
Army	154,757	165,437	193,159
Support Forces	15,583	18,275	20,569
Air Force	2,907	1,409	1,501
Navy	1,893	1,288	1,415
Total MoD	175,140	186,409	216,644
Counter Terrorism Bureau			
Special Operations	4,733	3,477	3,709
Total Iraqi Security Forces	539,749	559,397	465,662

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

Iraq Makes Aircraft Purchase:

- Finance Minister Bayan Jabr signed deals with Boeing and Bombardier to purchase a total of 50 aircraft. Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki and the CEO of Boeing Commercial Airplanes, Scott Carson, attended the signing ceremony. The deals total \$5 billion and include 40 airplanes from Boeing and 10 from Bombardier, a Canadian manufacturer. The airplanes will be used to upgrade Iraqi Airways. Boeing will initially supply 30 737-800s with an option for up to 10 more at a cost of \$2.2 billion. The first Boeing plane will arrive in 2013.

Some Project Contractors Exempt from Reconstruction Tax:

- The 2008 Iraq Reconstruction Tax will not apply to investment budget project contractors. The GOI Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation (MoPDC) announced this decision as part of an attempt to facilitate increased project implementation of budget-related projects. Article 21 of the Investment Budget Law deals specifically with accelerating the work of contractors on these types of projects. The Minister of Finance supplied the MoPDC with instructions for this exemption.



ECONOMIC – Oil

Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$104.974/ barrel

Dated Brent at \$112.774/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$115.22/ barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$107.72/barrel

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$22.3 Billion (ytd)

2008 Iraq Oil Sales:

- After just four months, the GOI's 2008 oil revenue is half of the total for all of 2007. Increased security in the north and improvements to southern infrastructure have had a positive effect on the country's oil production. Additionally, increases in market oil prices have allowed increases in Iraqi oil prices. For the past two years, Iraq's total oil sales averaged a little over \$36 billion. The GOI has been producing approximately 2.4 million barrels per day in 2008 and exporting some 88% of that total.



ECONOMIC – Essential Services

GOI Begins Crop Protection Aid:

- The GOI Ministries of Defense and Agriculture are working together on a major pest-control project. Dates are Iraq's chief agricultural export, and efforts are underway to protect the date crop throughout the country. Coordinated operations are taking place in Babil, Najaf, and Diyala. Iraqi Security Forces and Coalition Forces have been securing air and ground space to facilitate spraying by the Ministry of Agriculture. In Babil province alone, 54,100 acres have been covered. The program is expected to be completed by the end of May and will cover a total of 166,500 acres.

Babil PRT Hosts NGO Conference:

- The Babil PRT's Team Governance hosted a Women's NGO Conference April 17 for 15 non-governmental organizations (NGO) whose main focuses are women's and children's issues. The goal of the meeting was to increase cooperation on programs and pool resources. Additionally, it was hoped that through cooperation, opportunities to qualify for international funding could be maximized. The group formed a steering committee and has decided to submit a proposal for Targeted Development Program funding. The group will focus on three areas: health care, employment generation, and education.



ECONOMIC – Essential Services

PRT Muthanna Holds Medical Training:

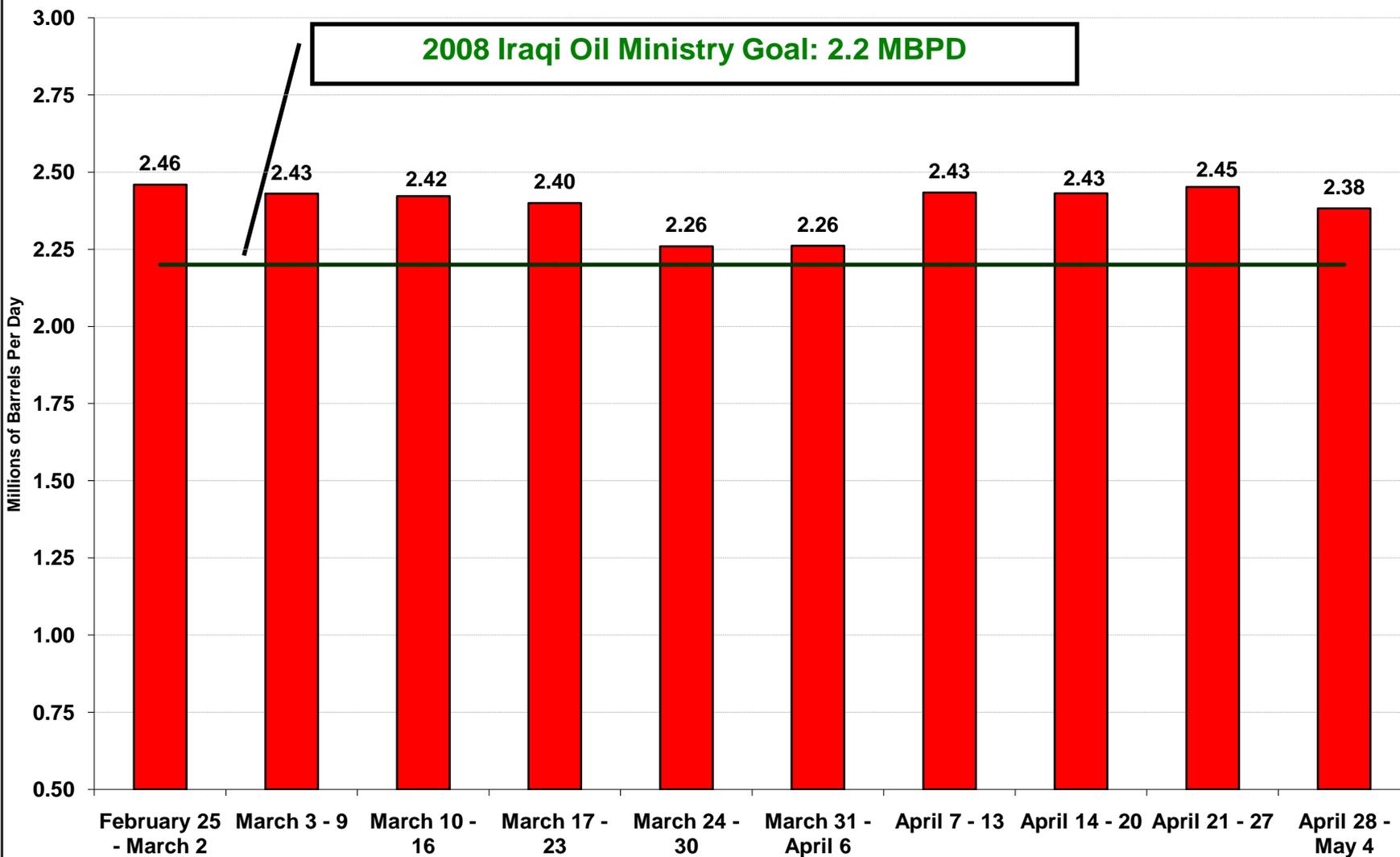
- PRT Muthanna hosted a day-long medical training event in Talil for 22 medical residents, the majority of whom were from the Samawah General Hospital. An advanced cardiac life support seminar was part of the training. One resident noted that the training will help them save lives and keep pace with the latest medical developments.

Wasit Engineers Complete Training:

- Iraqi engineers of the Wasit Engineers Union completed two professional development courses. The two courses covered the installation and maintenance of high voltage electrical networks and the installation, operation, and maintenance of electrical generators. Professors from the Engineering College of Wasit University instructed the 20 engineers as part of a larger Engineer Development Program. The program's goal is to improve Iraqi engineering capacity on specific projects in the 2008 Wasit Provincial Council Budget. It is hoped that this will have a positive effect on the overall budget execution rate. The course was made possible through PRT Wasit QRF funds.



ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production

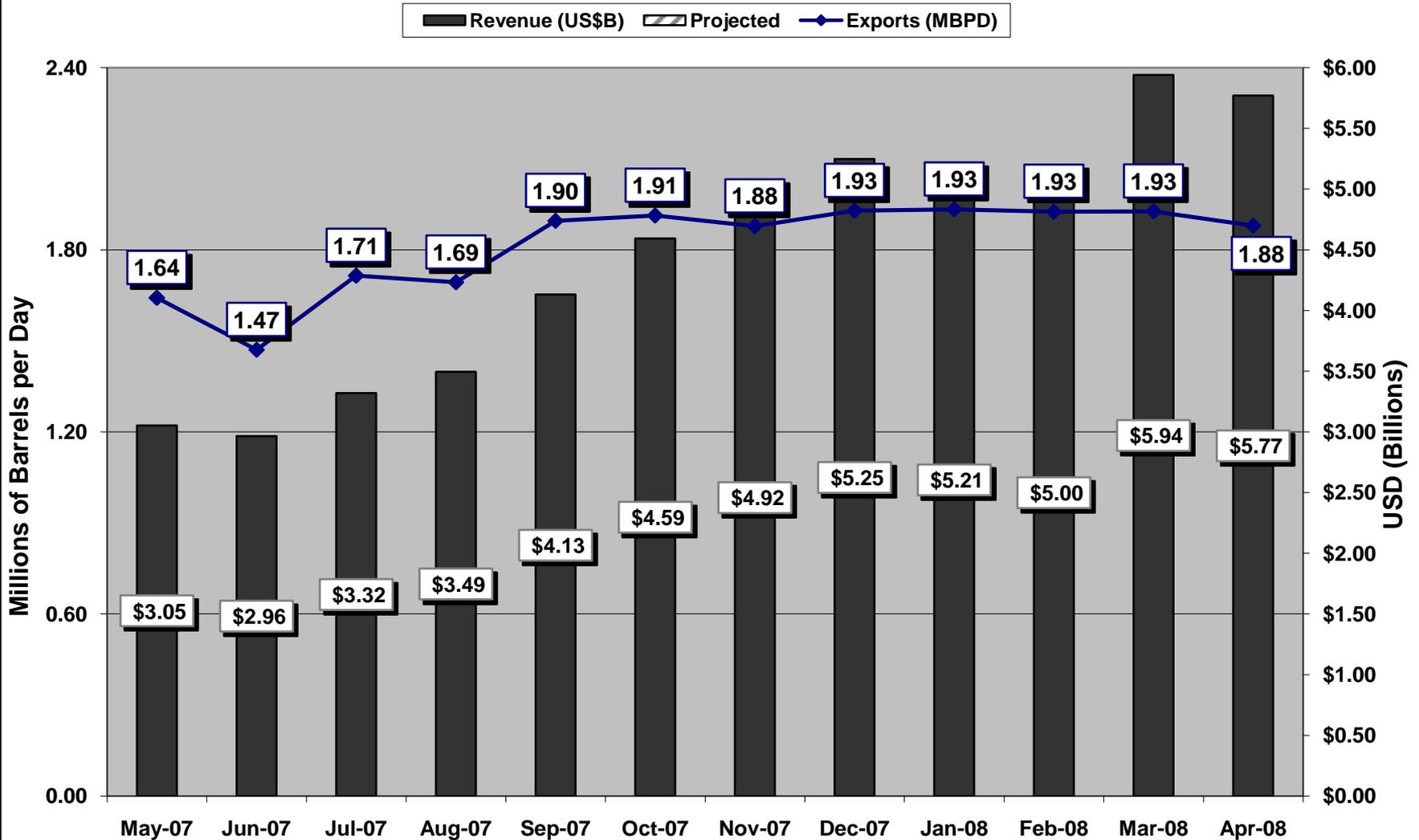


Note: Updated data received for April 2008.

■ Production — Target



ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



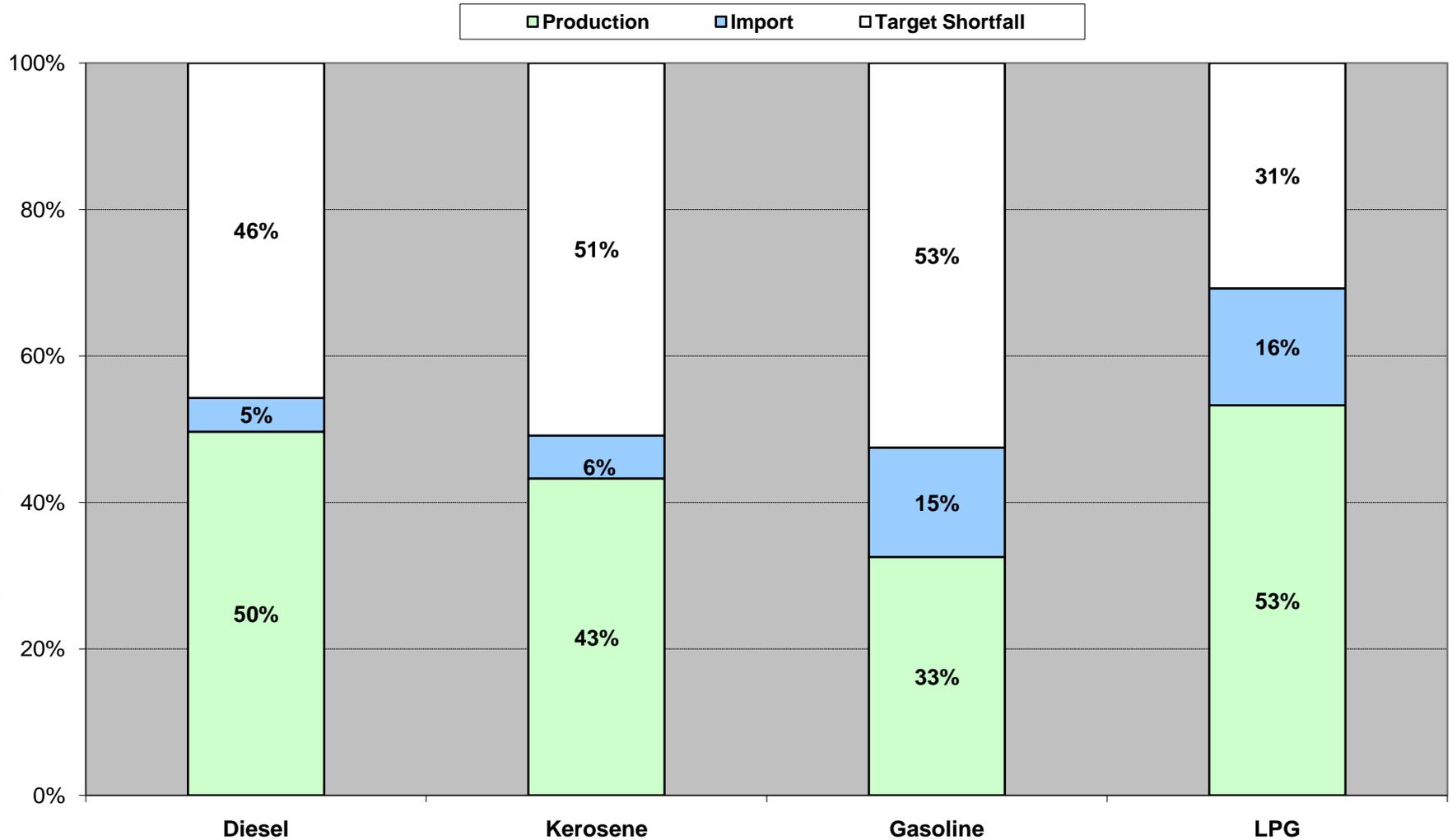
- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion
- 2008 Revenue Estimate: \$22.3 Billion (ytd)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Percentages of Target Weekly Fuel Supplies



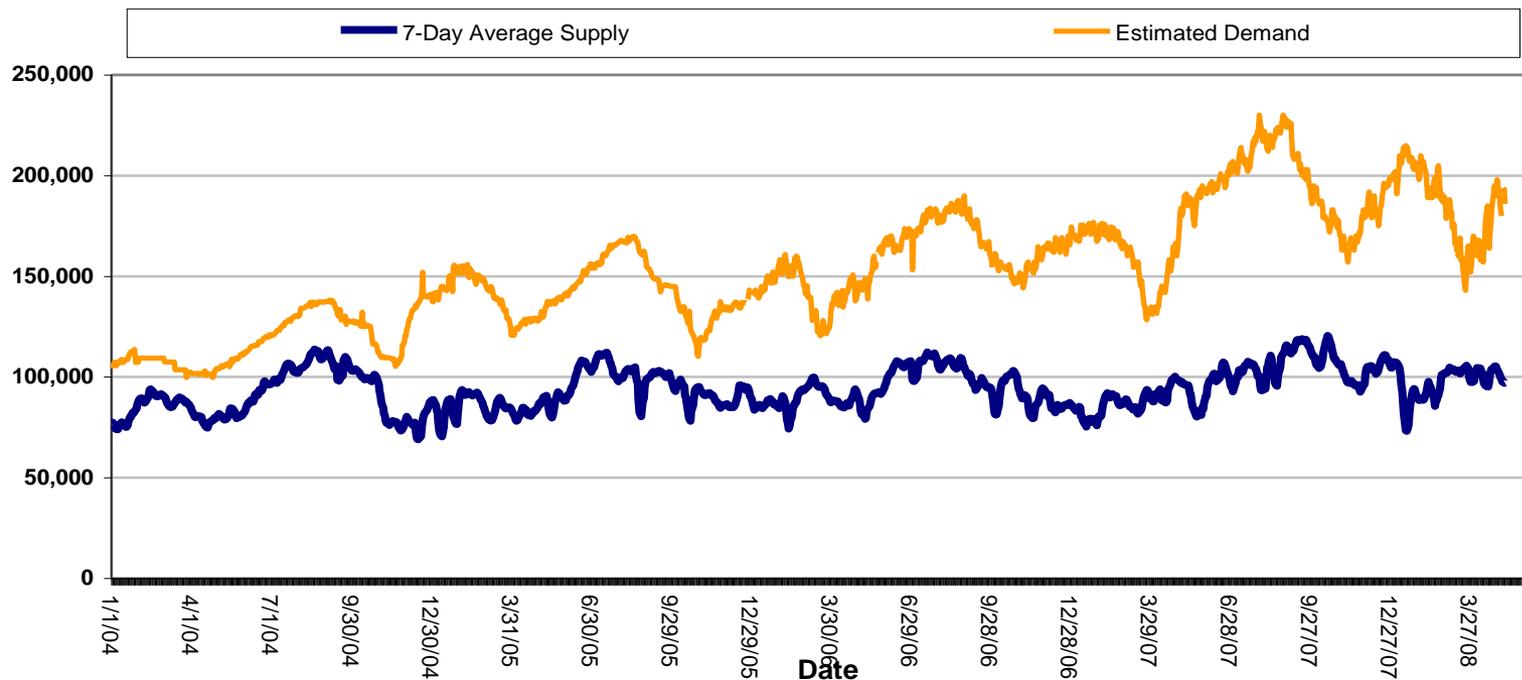
Note: This is a daily average for April 28 – May 4

- Diesel: 13.3 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 7.2 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 12.7 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 3,531 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

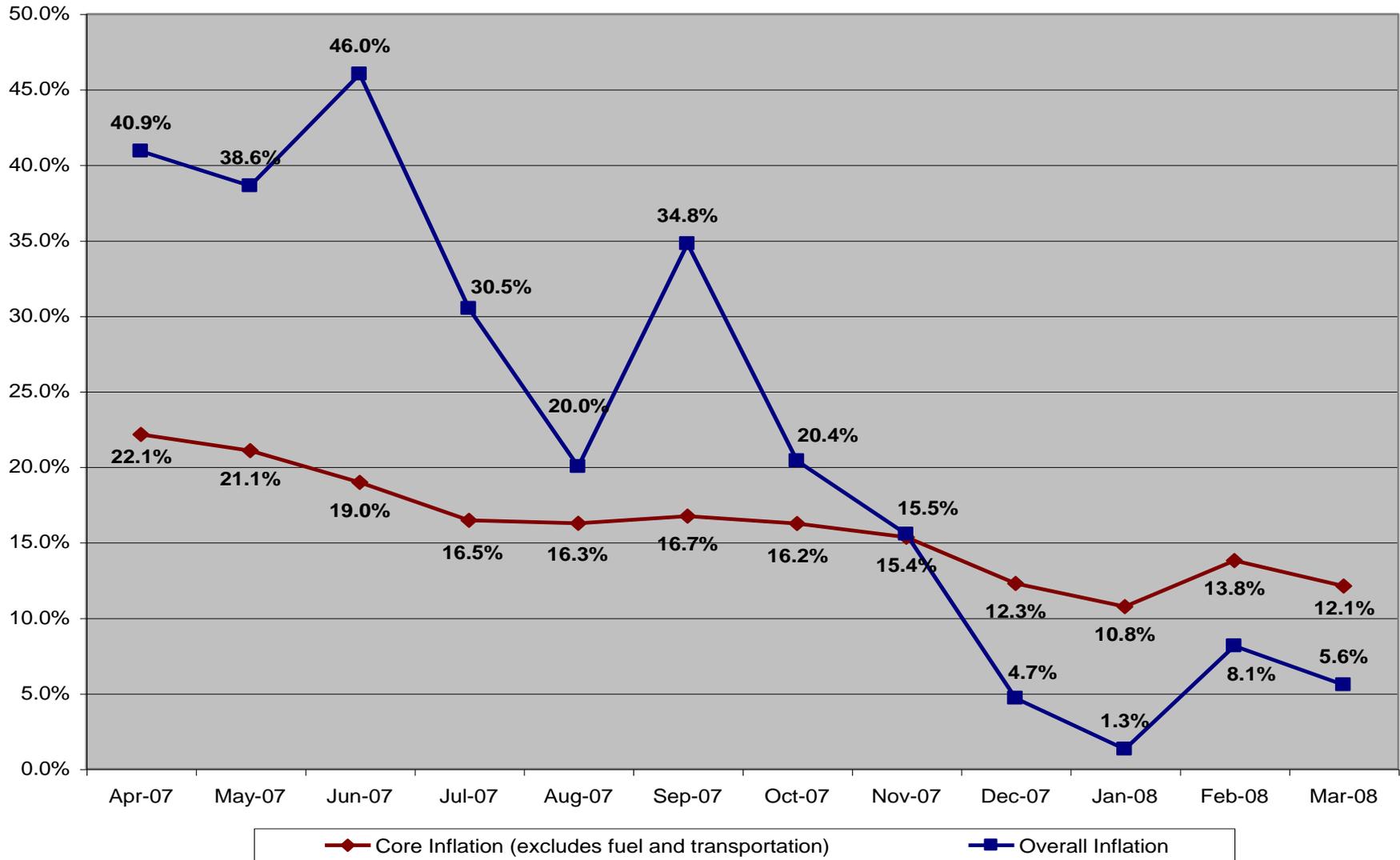


- Daily electricity demand April 30-May 6 was 2% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 1% above the year-earlier period and met 52% of demand, compared with 54% for the year-earlier period.
- Data on average hours of power after meeting demand from essential services was unavailable for this reporting period.



ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Year-on-Year Inflation



DEPARTMENT OF STATE



ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$70.04	\$70.09	\$70.44	\$62.82
Yield	9.10%	9.09%	9.04%	10.16%
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction				
USD Sold	\$86,976,250	\$83,251,000	\$100,056,190	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,202	\$1,202	\$1,204	\$1,254.00
Total Employed by USG Programs				
	115,826	117,699	94,815	N/A



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	\$4,946	-\$8	\$4,953	\$4,946	-\$8	\$4,867	\$4,863	-\$4
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,288	\$13	\$2,239	\$2,262	\$23	\$2,234	\$2,257	\$22	\$2,158	\$2,170	\$13
Electricity Sector	\$4,203	\$22	\$4,063	\$4,063	\$0	\$4,050	\$4,056	\$7	\$3,817	\$3,828	\$11
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,722	\$3	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,573	\$1,575	\$2
Water and Sanitation	\$2,065	\$37	\$1,969	\$1,970	\$1	\$1,950	\$1,950	\$0	\$1,797	\$1,806	\$9
Transportation and Comm.	\$462	\$1	\$456	\$458	\$2	\$455	\$458	\$2	\$410	\$412	\$1
Roads, Bridges and Constr.	\$327	\$7	\$317	\$317	\$0	\$317	\$317	\$0	\$250	\$250	\$0
Health Care	\$813	\$10	\$783	\$783	\$0	\$776	\$777	\$0	\$730	\$730	\$0
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$821	\$820	\$0	\$821	\$820	\$0	\$813	\$814	\$1
Edu., Refugees, Human Rights	\$436	\$0	\$423	\$435	\$12	\$423	\$434	\$12	\$398	\$407	\$9
Admin Expense (USAID,DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$210	\$218	\$8	\$210	\$218	\$8	\$210	\$208	-\$2
Total IRRF II	\$18,330	\$119	\$17,832	\$17,870	\$38	\$17,786	\$17,830	\$43	\$17,023	\$17,065	\$42
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,929	\$7,959	\$31	\$7,912	\$7,948	\$36	\$7,703	\$7,723	\$20
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,383	\$9,391	\$8	\$9,355	\$9,362	\$7	\$8,803	\$8,825	\$22
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	\$20,123	\$20,161	\$38	\$20,019	\$20,062	\$43	\$19,162	\$19,204	\$42



DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement

UN Says Iraq Must Focus on Basic Needs:

- Following a six-day visit to Iraq, the UN Secretary-General's Special Representative for Children and Armed Conflict, Radhika Coomaraswamy, said that the GOI must begin to use its budget surplus to address neglected issues, including the provision of basic services to its population, especially children. Coomaraswamy said that the "situation is quite intolerable for children, especially in central and south Iraq." Citing figures from UNICEF, she emphasized that only half the children in Iraq attend school and argued that Iraq needs to undertake "diplomatic and political initiatives to secure humanitarian access for the major humanitarian actors. Supplying them with US military security is just not enough. There is a need to actually do the work, to try and get humanitarian access."



DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement

Project Rebuild Iraq 2008:

- Project Rebuild Iraq 2008, organized by the IFP Group, kicked off in Jordan May 5. Ambassadors from participating countries, Iraqi and Jordanian business leaders, and managers of the exhibiting companies all attended the opening ceremony. IFP Group Chairman Albert Aoun indicated that 31 countries were represented at the fair, including:
France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Jordan, Pakistan, the Netherlands, China, Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates. Project Rebuild Iraq provides opportunities for growth in the building and construction, electricity, telecommunications, water and sanitation, health, agriculture, security and information technology and general products and goods sectors.
- Aoun said: “Project Rebuild Iraq is a great opportunity for Jordanian, Iraqi and other Arab contractors, businessmen, traders, consultants and decision makers to connect with the international and Jordanian exhibitors offering the latest solutions, products and services to serve the region’s market needs. Vast opportunities for new agency and distribution agreements are there to grab.”



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Iran Not Interested in Talks with US:

- Iran has said that it would not hold a fourth round of talks with the US on Iraq as long as US forces continue to target Shia militias in Baghdad. The spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry said, “We are witnessing indiscriminate bombardment of Iraqi residential areas by the US occupying forces.” The US has responded recently to attacks from Shia militias in the Amel, New Baghdad and Sadr City districts of Baghdad. The US believes Iran is supplying weapons and training to Shia militias. According to State Department spokesman Tom Casey, “The fact remains, though, that the Iranian government continues, despite their public statements of support for the Iraqi government, to play this negative role, to provide this kind of assistance to militant groups and to militia groups.”

Visas Required for Iraqis Entering Jordan:

- Beginning May 1, all Iraqis entering Jordan must have a visa. At present, there are an estimated 500,000 to 750,000 Iraqi refugees living in Jordan. It is estimated that 360,000 Iraqi refugees are residing in Jordan illegally.



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 ~ 9,907 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 2)

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- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- Slide 16:
- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- Slide 17:
- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- Slide 18:
- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- Slide 19:
- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
 - The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.
- Slide 20:
- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
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