

# Iraq Weekly Status Report

**December 17, 2008**

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

**Unclassified**

## Special Note



Due to the holidays, the Iraq Weekly Status Report will not be published next week. Please look for the next report on January 2, 2009.



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## HIGHLIGHTS

- UNHCR Refers 50,000<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Refugee for Resettlement (**POLITICAL, page 5**).
- U.S. Forces on Track to Be Out of Iraqi Cities by Summer 2009 (**SECURITY, page 13**).
- Bush Administration Reaffirms U.S. Support for Extending Immunity for the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) (**ECONOMIC, page 20**).
- President George W. Bush Makes Unannounced Visit to Baghdad (**DIPLOMATIC, page 30**).

## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



### UNHCR Refers 50,000<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Refugee for Resettlement:

- The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) announced December 12 that it referred the 50,000<sup>th</sup> Iraqi refugee for resettlement from a host country in the Middle East to another country. UNHCR's resettlement program began in 2007 and supports Iraqi refugees currently residing in Egypt, the Gulf states, Iran, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Turkey and Yemen. Since 2007, UNHCR has received almost 51,000 requests for resettlements in third countries. Since January 2008 about 17, 400 refugees have been resettled, most of them going to the United States but also to Canada, Australia, Sweden and other European countries.

## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



### UN Requests Iraqi Government Give Detainees Fair Treatment:

- The UN Secretary General's Special Representative in Iraq Staffan de Mistura asked the Government of Iraq to treat top officials from the former Saddam Hussein regime fairly after they are transferred from U.S. military control to Iraqi detention, as required under the newly signed Security Agreement. Speaking about the convictions of Ali Hassan al-Majid ("Chemical Ali"), former defense minister Sultan Hashim al-Taie, and ex-Deputy Director of Operations for the Iraqi armed forces Hussein Rashid Mohammed, De Mistura said "The wish of the UN is that the death penalty is not applied." He asked that all detainees be allotted due process "if possible with some international observation." The U.S.-Iraq Security Agreement becomes effective January 1 and at that time, U.S. military forces will begin to transfer detainees with evidence against them to Iraqi Security Forces or release them if there is not adequate evidence to keep them in custody.

## POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



### Human Rights Watch Publishes Report on Iraqi Justice System:

- Human Rights Watch (HRW) released a report December 15 on Iraq's Central Criminal Court, which primarily adjudicates cases involving detainees in Iraqi custody. The HRW report notes that prisoners had to wait months or years before being brought to trial and were inadequately defended, even in cases where counsel was privately retained. Those accused regularly met legal counsel for the first time at their hearings, and counselors rarely had access to documents and evidence necessary for building an adequate defense. The report also found that judges depended heavily on confessions, which may have been improperly obtained, and the testimony of secret informants instead of physical evidence. HRW did remark that judges were sensitive to issues of abuse and are more likely to dismiss mismanaged cases than they had been in the past.



## POLITICAL – Governance & Legislation

### U.S. Commission Warns of Minority Safety in Iraq:

- A report released December 16 by the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom recommended that Iraq be named as “a country of particular concern.” The report stated that “although there has been a substantial reduction in violence in Iraq since the Commission reported last in May 2007, there has been continued targeted violence, as well as threats and intimidation against persons belonging to religious minorities, and other egregious religiously-motivated abuses are continuing and widespread.” The Commission said that four of nine voting members had dissented on designating Iraq a country of particular concern. In their dissenting opinion, the four stated that, to be considered a country of particular concern under the International Religious Freedom Act, the Government of Iraq must have “engaged in” violations of religious freedom that are “systematic” and “ongoing,” noting that in “Iraq at present, the aggressor that seeks to extinguish religious minorities is not the government in Baghdad, but rather, terrorist and insurgent groups.”

## POLITICAL – Governance & Legislation



### Journalist to Face Judge:

- A judge from the Central Criminal Court of Iraq, which handles security and terrorism cases, has been assigned to handle the initial proceedings in the case of Muntader al-Zeidi, the Iraqi television reporter who threw his shoes at President Bush during a news conference. The judge will review evidence and decide whether there is sufficient cause for al-Zeidi to stand trial.



# POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

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

(F) = Female

\*\*\*Formerly Iraqiya

<b>Prime Minister</b>
Nuri Kamil al-Maliki

<b>President</b>
Jalal Talabani
<b>Deputy President</b>
Tariq al-Hashimi
<b>Deputy President</b>
Adil Abd al-Mahdi

<b>Deputy Prime Minister</b>
Rafi Hiad Jiad al-Issawi

<b>Deputy Prime Minister</b>
Dr. Barham Ahmed Salih

<b>Minister of Agriculture</b>
Ali Husayn Kadhum al-Bahadili

<b>Minister of Communications</b>
Faruq Abd al-Qadir Abd al-Rahman

<b>Minister of Culture</b>
Mahir Dilli Ibrahim al-Hadithi

<b>Minister of Defense</b>
Abd al-Qadir Muhammad Jasim al-Aubaidi

<b>Minister of Displacement &amp; Migration</b>
Dr. Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan

<b>Minister of Electricity</b>
Dr. Karim Wahid al-Hasan

<b>Minister of Education</b>
Dr. Khudayr Mousa Jaffar al-Khuzai

<b>Minister of Environment</b>
Dr. Nermin Othman Hassan (F)

<b>Minister of Finance</b>
Bayan Jabr

<b>Minister of Foreign Affairs</b>
Hoshyar Mahmud Zebari

<b>Minister of Health</b>
Dr. Salih Mahdi Mutlab al-Hasnawi

<b>Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research</b>
Abid Dhiyab al-Ujayli

<b>Minister of Human Rights</b>
Eng. Wijdan Mikhail Salim (F)

<b>Minister of Industry &amp; Minerals</b>
Fawzi Fransu Hariri

<b>Minister of Interior</b>
Jawad Kadhum Eidan al-Bulani

<b>Minister of Justice</b>
*** Safa al-Din Muhammad al-Safi (Acting)

<b>Minister of Housing &amp; Construction</b>
Bayan Dizayee (F)

<b>Minister of Labor &amp; Social Affairs</b>
Eng. Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi

<b>Minister of Oil</b>
Dr. Husayn Ibrahim al-Shahristani

<b>Minister of Planning</b>
Ali Ghalib Baban

<b>Minister of Trade</b>
Dr. Abd al-Falah Hassan Hummadi al-Sudani

<b>Minister of Science &amp; Technology</b>
Dr. Raid Jahid Fahmi

<b>Minister of Municipalities &amp; Public Works</b>
Riyadh Abd al-Hamza Gharib

<b>Minister of Transportation</b>
Amir Abd al-Jabar Ismail

<b>Minister of Water Resources</b>
Dr. Abd al-Latif Jamal Rashid

<b>Minister of Youth &amp; Sports</b>
Eng. Jasim Muhammad Jaffar

<b>Minister of State for Civil Society Affairs</b>
Dr. Thamir Jafar al-Zubaidi

<b>Minister of State for National Dialogue</b>
Dr. Akram Mousa Hadi al-Hakim

<b>Minister of State for National Security</b>
Eng. Shirwan Kamil al-Waili

<b>Minister of State for Foreign Affairs</b>
Dr. Muhammad Munajid Aifan al-Dulaymi

<b>Minister of State for Provinces Affairs</b>
Dr. Khulud Sami Izzara al-Majun (F)

<b>Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities</b>
Dr. Qahtan Abbas Numanal-Jabburi

<b>Minister of State for Women's Affairs</b>
Dr. Nawal Majid Hamid (F)

<b>Minister of State for CoR Affairs</b>
Safa al-Din Muhammad al-Safi

<b>Minister of State at Large</b>
Muhammad Abbas Muhammad al-Uraybi

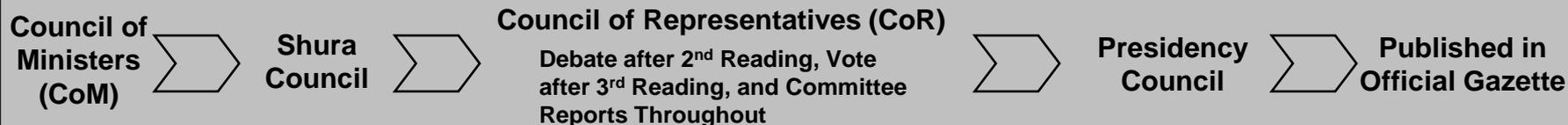
<b>Minister of State at Large</b>
Ali Muhammad Ahmad

<b>Minister of State at Large</b>
Hasan Radhi Kazim al-Sari



# POLITICAL – Key Legislation

## Legislative Process



Security Agreement / SFA	<b>PASSED:</b> CoR passed the Security Agreement and the Strategic Framework Agreement on Nov. 27; they were approved by the Presidency Council Dec. 4.
Provincial Elections	<b>PASSED:</b> passed by the CoR on September 24; signed by the Presidency Council on October 7. The law includes an article entering it into force immediately upon signing, not waiting for publication in the Official Gazette. On November 3, the CoR passed an amendment guaranteeing minority representation on certain provincial councils. The Presidency Council approved the amendment on November 8.
De-Ba'athification	<b>PASSED:</b> Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008. Reform Published in the Official Gazette in mid-February.
Amnesty Law	<b>PASSED:</b> CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was signed by the Presidency Council February 26 and came into effect March 2.
Provincial Powers Presidency provisions	<b>PASSED:</b> CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was vetoed by the Presidency Council February 26. The veto was rescinded on March 19. The provisions within the law will enter into force once Provincial Elections are held.
Pensions Amendment	<b>PASSED:</b> Published in the Official Gazette December 2007.
Hydrocarbons Package	The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws.



## POLITICAL - Refugee Update

- Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million
- Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.7 million
- The U.S. admitted 13,823 Iraqi refugees in FY08 (which ended September 30).
- The U.S. seeks to admit a minimum of 17,000 Iraqi refugees in FY09.
- In FY2008, a total of 1,142 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) were issued for Afghan and Iraqi translators and interpreters (under the Section 1059 program).
- In FY 2008, a total of 705 SIVs were issued (under the Section 1244 program).



## SECURITY - Situation Update

### U.S. Forces on Track to Be out of Iraqi Cities by Summer 2009:

- Multi-National Force-Iraq Commanding General Raymond Odierno said December 13 that U.S. Forces are on track to leave Iraqi cities by June 30 in accordance with the recently signed Security Agreement (“SOFA”). General Odierno also said the Security Agreement does not change the U.S. mission in Iraq, only its operating environment and indicated that some U.S. Forces will remain in Iraqi cities, partnering with Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) and working as trainers out of Joint Security Stations. Where the security situation permits, Coalition Forces have already moved out of cities in Anbar province and most southern Iraqi cities. General Odierno also said that he will wait until after the provincial elections in January to make a recommendation for any further troop reductions and will continue to reassess and make recommendations through the year.

### Officials Cite Progress in East Baghdad:

- U.S. Army Colonel Mark Dewhurst and leader of the local Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Conrad Tribble stated December 15 that the eastern Baghdad neighborhoods of Karada, Rusafa, and New Baghdad have experienced significant governance and economic progress in recent months. According to the two U.S. leaders, eastern Baghdad is now “beyond counterinsurgency” and moving into the development phase. As security has progressed, the local Baghdad PRT has increased its role in helping improve governance, political development, business opportunities and reconciliation efforts. Additionally, competent Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) have reduced the requirement for U.S. military involvement in the area.

## SECURITY - Situation Update



### Use of Explosively Formed Penetrators (EFPs) Diminishes:

- U.S. Army Lieutenant General Thomas Metz said December 11 that the use of armor-piercing EFPs has sharply declined over the last few months, indicating that Iran may no longer be supplying these weapons to militants in Iraq. Metz told Pentagon reporters the data suggests the Qods Force of the Iranian Revolutionary Guards may have made a conscious decision to rein in EFP use among Shi'a militias. U.S. Forces are now finding 12 to 20 EFPs each month as opposed to 60 to 80 earlier this year. Iraqi spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh agreed Iran has restrained its actions in Iraq and said Iran "should refrain from interfering not only in Iraq but in the region."



## SECURITY – Security Transition

### Mol holds First Logistics Symposium:

- In an effort to improve the self-sufficiency of Iraq's police forces, the Ministry of Interior (MOI) held its first logistics symposium December 14. Chief of Logistics for the Ministry of Interior Transition Team, Major Jonathan Sabado, said "This conference allows provincial and national units' representatives from across the country to come together to discuss logistical issues they all share." Provincial representatives from across Iraq will meet together over a six week period to address ministerial logistical issues including fuel distribution, generator maintenance, and police vehicle sustainment.

### INP Attend 7<sup>th</sup> Leadership Training Course Held by Italian Carabinieri:

- 591 Iraqi National Police (INP) attended the 7<sup>th</sup> Leadership Training Course December 13 led by the Italian Carabinieri through the NATO Training Mission – Iraq (NTM-I). The nine-week course provides specialized training in operational planning, police procedures, intelligence, and counter-insurgency as well as enhances skills learned in basic training. Twelve Iraqi National Police officers, who are previous graduates of the course, work side-by-side with the Carabinieri instructors. To date, 2,654 police officers from six battalions have graduated from the course with plans to double the capacity and throughput in 2009.



## SECURITY – Security Transition

### Unique Class of Iraqi Commandos Graduate Special Forces Training:

- A class of 109 Iraqi Special Forces soldiers graduated from the Iraqi Special Warfare Center and School Commando course December 4. This was the third class taught exclusively by Iraqi instructors with minimal oversight from Coalition advisors. A unique component to this class was the inclusion of students from the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Bureau (CTB) and its subordinate unit the Iraqi Counter-Terrorism Command (CTC). As part of the Prime Minister's National Operational Command, the staff of these agencies will ultimately be responsible for commanding Iraqi Special Forces.

### Ukraine Ends Military Presence in Iraq:

- The Government of Ukraine held an end of mission ceremony December 9 at Camp Echo marking the end of five years of support to Operation Iraqi Freedom. With over 1,700 soldiers, Ukraine was the third largest Coalition Force contingent in Iraq from 2003 to 2005. Beginning in 2006, Ukrainian Forces shifted their operational focus to peacekeeping missions and down-sized to approximately 40 soldiers, moving from al-Kut to Diwaniya and operating under the Multi-National Division-Center's Polish command. "To Iraq's benefit, and through Ukraine's efforts, you have helped ensure a higher quality of life for the people of Iraq," said deputy commanding general of Multi-National Corps -- Iraq, Major General Michael Ferriter to the Ukrainian forces at the ceremony.



## SECURITY – Security Transition

### All Female Detainees Returned to Government of Iraq:

- Multi-National Force-Iraq's Task Force 134 -- Detainee Operations officially transferred the last of its female detainees to the Government of Iraq December 15. The ten women, all of whom have either been convicted of a crime or are due to stand trial in the Central Criminal Court of Iraq, were transferred from Camp Cropper in Baghdad to an Iraqi controlled women's prison in Baghdad. The U.S. military still has approximately 15,500 detainees in custody, down from a high of 26,000 in November of 2007. Since the start of 2008, Task Force 134 -- Detainee Operations has released 18,000 detainees.



# SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of Oct. 31, 2008 <sup>a</sup>			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel <sup>b</sup>	Assigned Personnel <sup>c</sup>	Total Trained Personnel to date <sup>d</sup>
<b>Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces <sup>e</sup></b>			
Iraqi Police Service <sup>f</sup>	334,739	300,156	209,100
National Police <sup>g</sup>	46,580	41,044	52,513
Border Enforcement	45,550	40,328	36,673
<b>Total MoI</b>	<b>426,869</b>	<b>381,528</b>	<b>298,286</b>
<b>Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces <sup>h</sup></b>			
Army	174,280	196,236	235,606
Army Training and Support Forces <sup>i</sup>	15,583	23,452	22,930
Air Force	3,690	2,006	2,843
Navy	3,596	1,898	1,494
<b>Total MoD</b>	<b>197,149</b>	<b>223,592</b>	<b>262,873</b>
<b>Counter Terrorism Bureau</b>			
Special Operations <sup>j</sup>	4,733	4,160	4,564
<b>Total Iraqi Security Forces</b>	<b>628,751</b>	<b>609,280</b>	<b>565,723</b>

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 total Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.

e. MoI strength excludes other services within Ministry Of Interior (MoI), including the MoI HQ, MoI Forensics, Facility Protection Services, and contracted guards.

f. The Iraqi Police Service consists of all provincial police forces (station, patrol, traffic, and special units) assigned to all 18 Iraqi provinces.

g. Includes the national Emergency Response Unit.

h. The Ministry Of Defense (MoD) authorized numbers are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).

i. The MoD Army Training and Support Forces include logistics units and training center cadre.

j. Does not include personnel assigned to Counterterrorism Bureau (CTB) or Counterterrorism Command (CTC) headquarters.

## ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update



### Falling Oil Prices Will Impact Iraq's Budget in 2010:

- Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh said he expects 2010 to be a “difficult” year for Iraq to balance its budget due to the rapid decline in oil prices. The higher oil prices in 2007 and especially 2008 allowed Iraq to accumulate a surplus, which will cover any budget deficit for 2009. “The decline in oil prices has serious implications on the Iraqi economy,” Saleh said at a conference in Bahrain, “This has impacted our budget.” Iraq is a commodity-based economy which derives over 90% of its budget from oil revenues.



## ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

### Bush Administration Reaffirms U.S. Support for Extending Immunity for the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI):

- Upholding the terms of the Iraq-US strategic agreement that provide for the U.S. to support an extension of immunities and supporting arrangements for the DFI, President Bush has expressed his support for a follow-on UN Security Council resolution. Ninety-five percent of Iraq's oil revenues are held at the Federal Reserve Bank of New York in the Development Fund for Iraq (DFI) and overseen by the International Advisory and Monitoring Board (IAMB). The draft resolution calls for IAMB oversight to continue. The current UN Security Council resolution provision, which protects the DFI from legal attachment, is set to expire December 31. The Government of Iraq has urged the UNSC to extend the DFI arrangements. "With oil revenues generating more than 95% of the government's resources, these claims could affect reconstruction and economic transformation taking place in Iraq, and consequently constitute a grave threat to Iraq's stability and security, and therefore to international peace and security," PM Maliki wrote to the Security Council in a letter obtained by the New York Times. The DFI is protected in the United States by an Executive Order which will expire in May 2009.



## ECONOMIC – Oil

### Crude Oil Update:

*Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:*

Basrah Light at \$38.20/barrel

Dated Brent at \$43.88/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$44.71/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$41.80/barrel

*Revenue estimates:*

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$60.9 Billion (ytd)

### Former Oil Minister Expects Movement on Oil Legislation:

- Japanese firm Nippon Oil Exploration announced that it is in talks with the Government of Iraq to build an oil refinery worth \$5-10 billion, matched by an investment of the same amount for oil exploration. Ryunosuke Onogi, an executive and general manager said, "We submitted a proposal and still discussion is ongoing."



## ECONOMIC – Essential Services

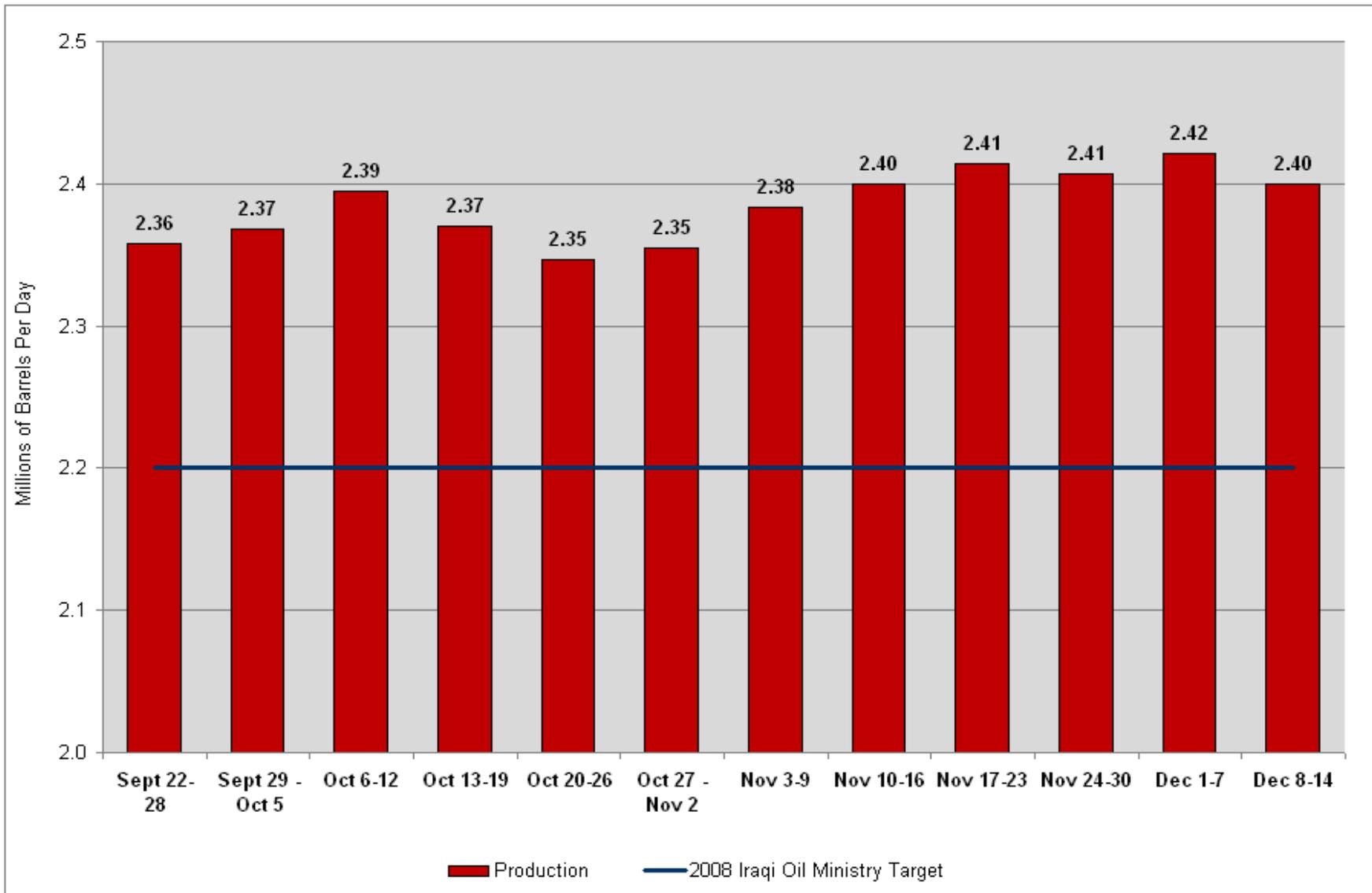
### Airport to Be Built in Karbala:

- Karbala's local government has set aside 100,000 square meters to build a regional airport in the al-Husaininiya area, north of Karbala. The project's cost has not yet been disclosed and no schedule for tendering has been set. The new airport will aid the region's religious tourism and agricultural sectors.



# ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production

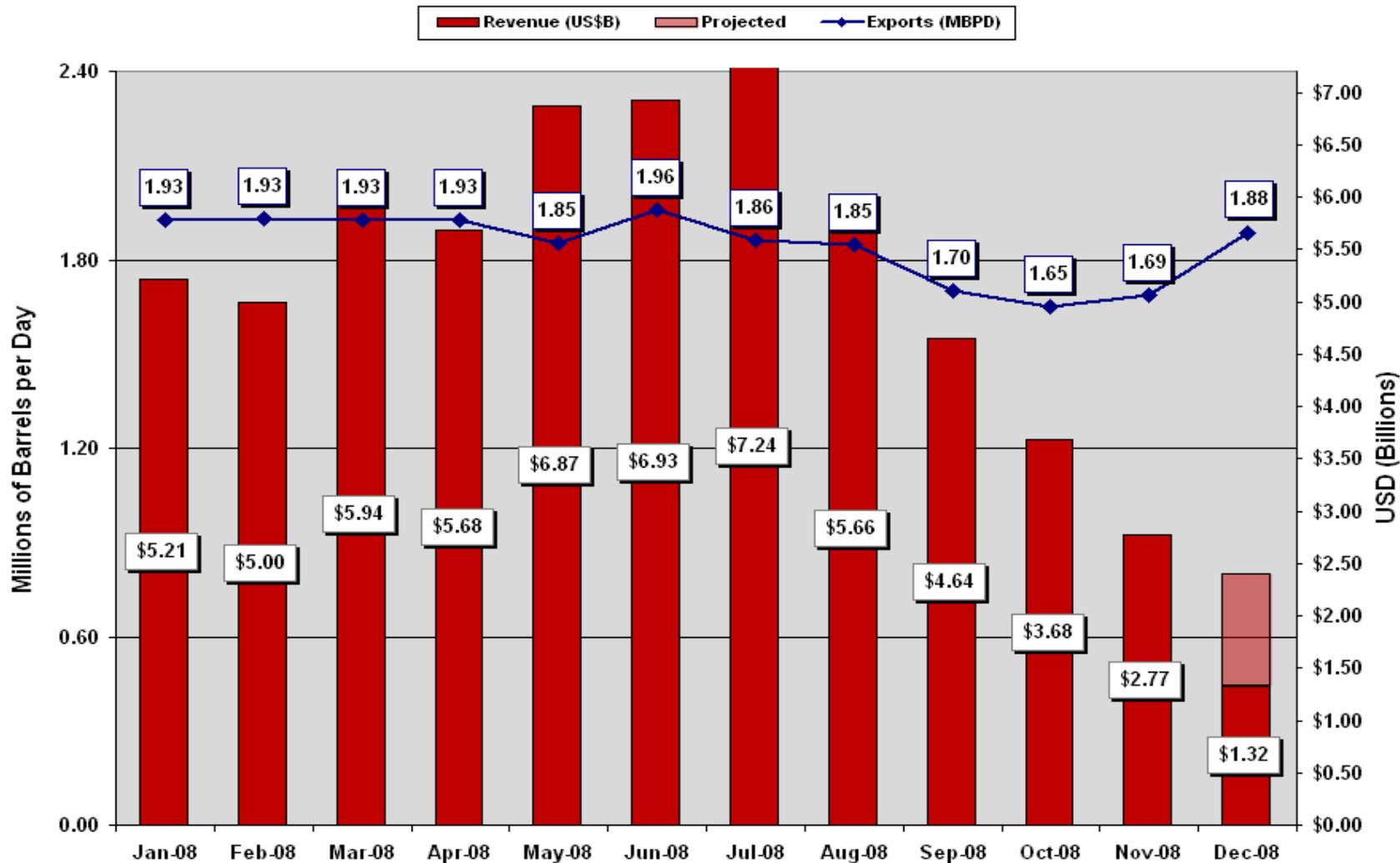
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# ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export

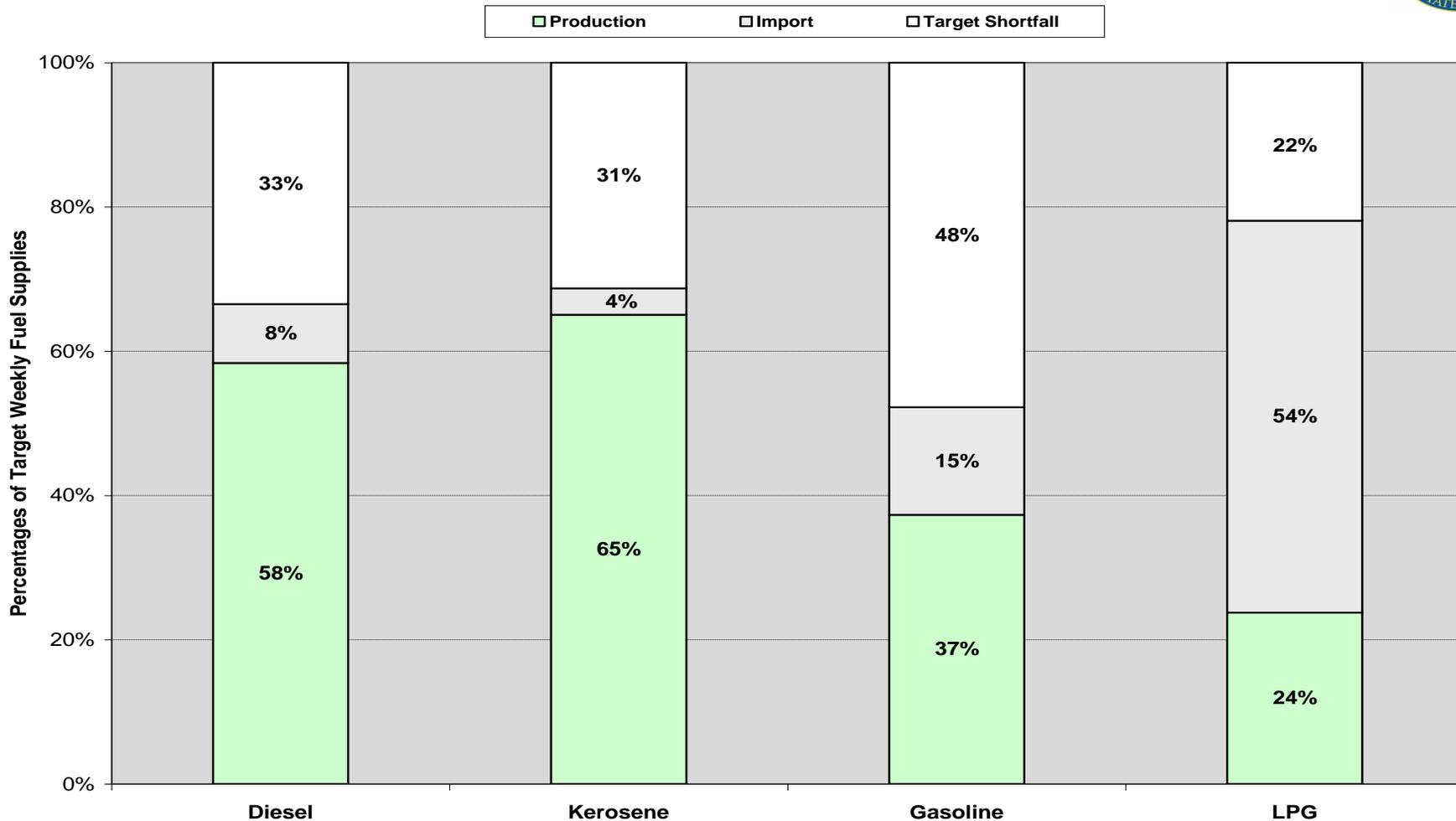
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- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion
- 2008 Revenue Estimate: \$60.9 Billion (ytd)



# ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies



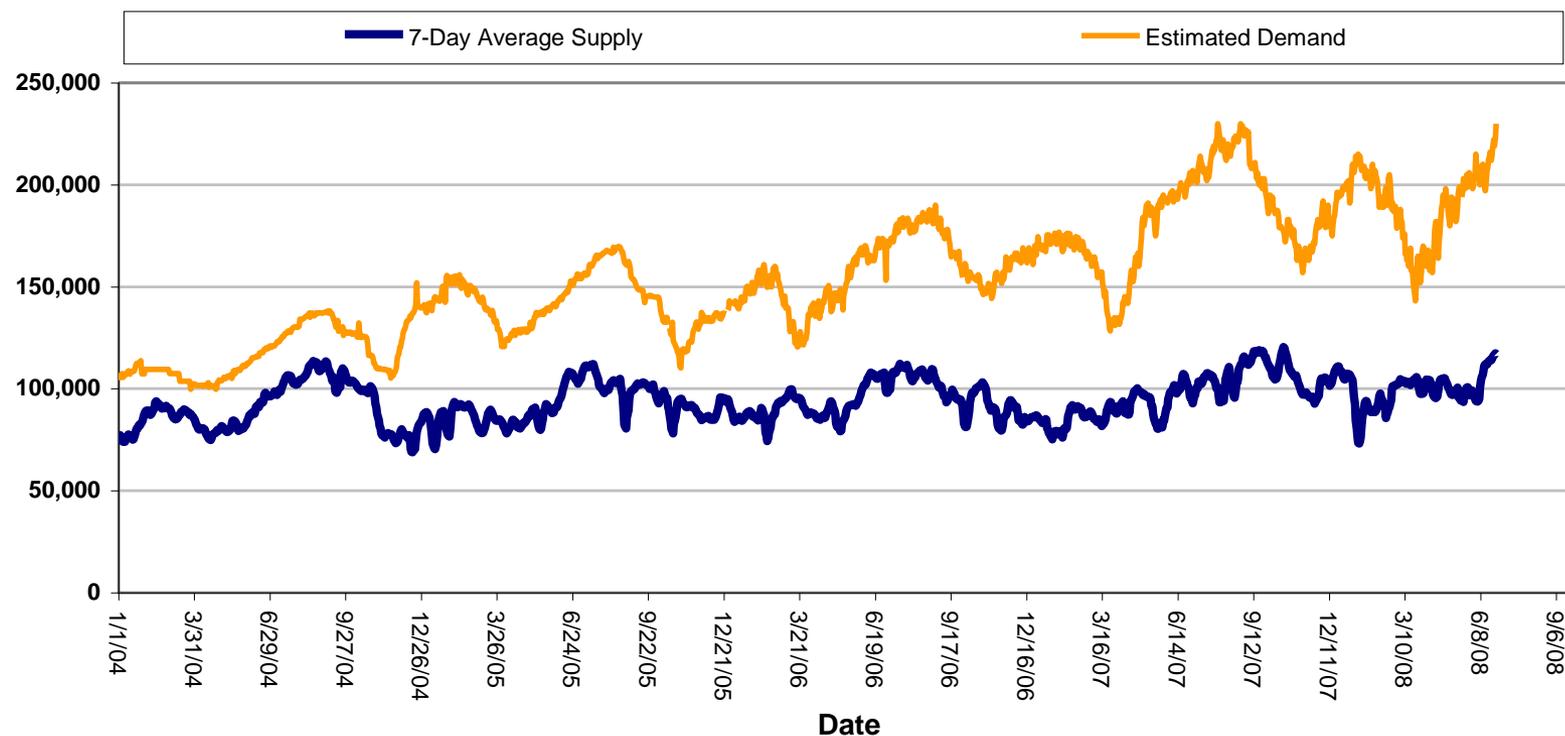
Note: This is a daily average for December 8 - 14

- Diesel: 16.3 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Gasoline: 14.0 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- Kerosene: 10.0 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- LPG: 3,982 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



# ECONOMIC – Electricity

## Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

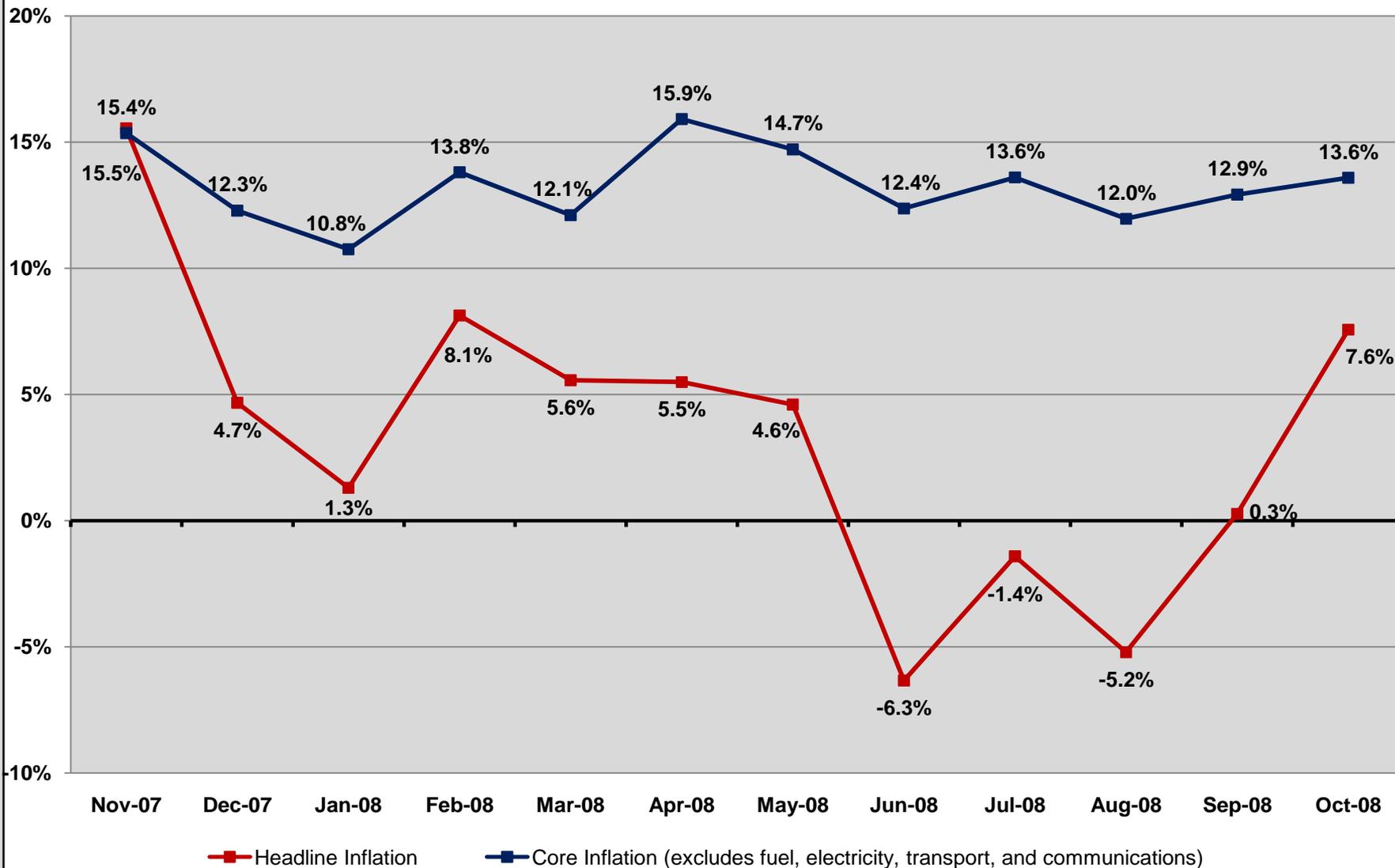


- Daily electricity demand December 10-16 was 15% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 20% above the year-earlier period and met 62% of demand, compared with 60% for the year-earlier period.
- Hours of power data are not available for this week.



# ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

## Year-on-Year Inflation



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## ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
<b>Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales</b>				
Price (USD)	\$40.97	\$41.33	\$49.22	\$62.82
Yield	15.52%	15.46%	13.11%	10.16%
<b>Central Bank's USD Currency Auction</b>				
USD Sold	***	***	\$87,039	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	***	***	\$1,180	\$1,254
<b>Total Employed by USG Programs</b>				
	101,841	102,523	122,788	N/A

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

Sector\Status (Millions of USD)	Allocated		Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	Allocated	Un-allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law	\$4,960	\$17	\$4,937	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,937	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,871	\$4,871	\$0
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,299	\$20	\$2,263	\$2,263	\$0	\$2,262	\$2,262	\$0	\$2,181	\$2,182	\$1
Electricity Sector	\$4,178	\$36	\$4,066	\$4,064	-\$2	\$4,065	\$4,063	-\$3	\$3,940	\$3,952	\$12
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,717	\$7	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$0	\$1,608	\$1,608	\$0	\$1,581	\$1,582	\$1
Water and Sanitation	\$2,054	\$21	\$1,983	\$1,983	\$0	\$1,980	\$1,979	-\$1	\$1,849	\$1,859	\$9
Transportation and Comm\	\$462	\$2	\$459	\$458	-\$1	\$459	\$458	-\$1	\$421	\$423	\$1
Roads, Bridges and Const\	\$320	\$8	\$282	\$282	\$0	\$282	\$282	\$0	\$258	\$258	\$0
Health Care	\$810	\$9	\$793	\$793	\$0	\$793	\$793	\$0	\$744	\$745	\$1
Private Sector Development	\$838	\$1	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$814	\$814	\$0
Edu\, Refugees, Human Rights	\$470	\$0	\$436	\$436	\$0	\$435	\$435	\$0	\$409	\$409	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID,DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$208	\$208	\$0
Rescission	\$0	-\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
<b>Total IRRF II</b>	<b>\$18,328</b>	<b>\$71</b>	<b>\$17,864</b>	<b>\$17,862</b>	<b>-\$3</b>	<b>\$17,859</b>	<b>\$17,855</b>	<b>-\$4</b>	<b>\$17,278</b>	<b>\$17,303</b>	<b>\$25</b>
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,972	\$7,970	-\$2	\$7,970	\$7,968	-\$2	\$7,773	\$7,779	\$6
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,373	\$9,372	-\$1	\$9,369	\$9,367	-\$2	\$8,988	\$9,007	\$19
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$517	\$517	\$0
<b>Total IRRF I</b>	<b>\$2,475</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$2,291</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,232</b>	<b>\$2,232</b>	<b>\$0</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$2,139</b>	<b>\$0</b>
<b>Grand Total IRRF I &amp; II</b>	<b>\$20,803</b>	<b>\$71</b>	<b>\$20,155</b>	<b>\$20,153</b>	<b>-\$3</b>	<b>\$20,092</b>	<b>\$20,087</b>	<b>-\$4</b>	<b>\$19,417</b>	<b>\$19,442</b>	<b>\$25</b>

Data as of 20 November, 2008

Apportion amounts reflect those of the latest Executive Office of the President Report, published by the Office of Management and Budget. Committed, obligated and disbursed amounts reflect last numbers reported by each agency.



## DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

### Bush Visits Baghdad:

- On December 14, during what is expected to be his last visit to Iraq, President George W. Bush reemphasized that the war in Iraq was “not over ... [but] it is decisively on its way to being won”. He added, “We are leaving the next (U.S.) president with a stable foundation.”

### FM Zebari Meets Russian FM in New York:

- Foreign Minister Hoshyar Zebari met Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov in New York December 15. According to the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, discussion focused on the draft resolution extending immunities for Iraqi assets and the Development Fund for Iraq, which is currently being debated at the UN. The ministers also agreed to activate a Joint Ministerial Commission.

### British Troops to Leave by July 31, 2009:

- During a visit to Baghdad on December 17, Gordon Brown British Prime Minister, and Nuri al-Maliki, Iraqi Prime Minister, announced that UK combat troops would leave Iraq by the end of July 2009. At a press conference Brown said: “We have agreed today that the [British combat] mission will end no later than 31 May next year ... Our troops will be coming home within the next two months [after that]”. While there is scope for the Iraqis to ask for an extension of this timetable, they are not expected to do so. Some 200-300 British advisers will remain in Iraq.



## DIPLOMATIC – Economic Engagement

### Iraq Urges Debt Reduction at Regional Summit:

- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Salih participated in the fifth Regional Security Summit, known as The Manama Dialogue on December 14. During the summit Salih urged Iraq's creditors to forgive the nation's debt and asserted that the "time has come to relieve Iraq from the burden of the debt inherited from Saddam Hussein's regime."

### Iraq Urges China to Forgive Debt:

- December 12, the Iraqi Finance Ministry released a statement urging China to forgive all Saddam-era debts, which are estimated to be worth \$8.5 billion. According to the ministry, Finance Minister Jabr al-Zubaidi held a meeting with the Chinese ambassador to Iraq, where the two discussed Iraqi debt relief. During the meeting Zubaidi urged China to "play a positive role" in helping Iraq gain protection from United Nations Security Council for its assets deposited in the Development Fund for Iraq. Zubaidi signed a Memorandum of Understanding during his last visit to China, which will eliminate 80% of Iraqi debt to China; however, the Government of Iraq hopes to have all debt eliminated.



## DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

### Other Countries with forces in Iraq

Albania	Denmark	Lithuania	Ukraine
Australia	El Salvador	Moldova	United Kingdom
Czech Republic**	Estonia	Romania	

**TOTAL ~ 6,130 Forces**

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

\*18 includes the US, the 11 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey as part of The NATO Training Mission in Iraq. Fiji and New Zealand, part of the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.

\*\*Note: Czech Republic has announced their end of participation and are in the process of redeploying.



## 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](mailto:NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov)



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