

# Weekly Crude Price Report - For the Week Ending December 16, 2008

Benchmark Crudes (US\$/bbl)	December 3 December 9 Average	Current Week					December 10 - December 16 Average	December Month-to- Date	2008 Year to-Date
		10-Dec	11-Dec	12-Dec	15-Dec	16-Dec			
- West Texas Intermediate	43.46	43.10	47.77	46.27	44.61	43.84	45.12	44.94	102.30
- Brent Crude	41.01	39.34	43.54	42.38	45.02	42.00	42.46	42.55	99.44

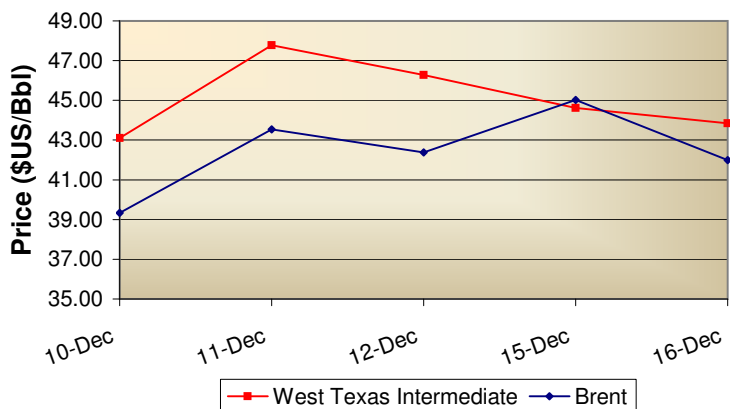
## COMMENTARY:

► For the December 10 - December 16 period, the average price for West Texas Intermediate was higher by \$1.66 week-over-week, at \$45.12. Brent prices increased by \$1.45 week-over-week, averaging \$42.46.

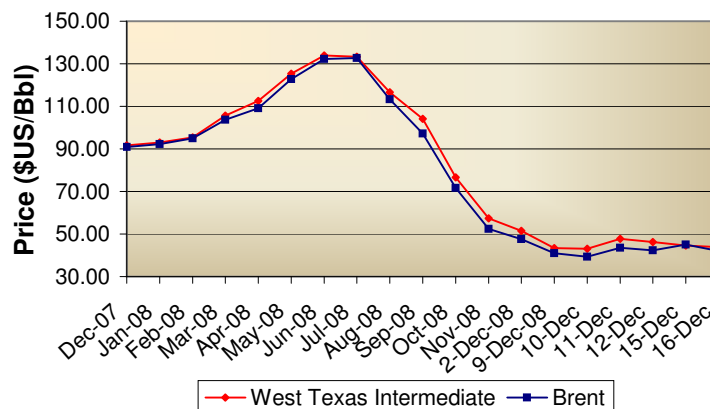
► US Crude stocks increased by 0.53 million bbls this week. At the same time, days of crude supply was unchanged at 21.8 days of supply. US gasoline and distillate stocks increased by 4.23 million bbls.

► Although prices were somewhat higher this week, WTI is still down some 68% since highs in July. Brent is down approximately 70% over the same time frame. Stocks in major markets such as the US and Europe continue to build and US crude stocks in particular have increased in 11 of the last 12 weeks. The glut of crude in many global markets has led to extremely tight storage conditions and there are anecdotal reports that crude is actually being held in tankers in the absence of available storage space. At the time of writing, the OPEC meeting in Algeria on December 17th has concluded with member nations announcing that it would cut 2.2 million barrels per day of crude from production effective January 1, 2009. Russia, Kazakhstan and Azerbaijan are also said to be joining in with OPEC to cut production. Markets did not initially respond to the announcement and, in fact, traded lower overnight and this morning.

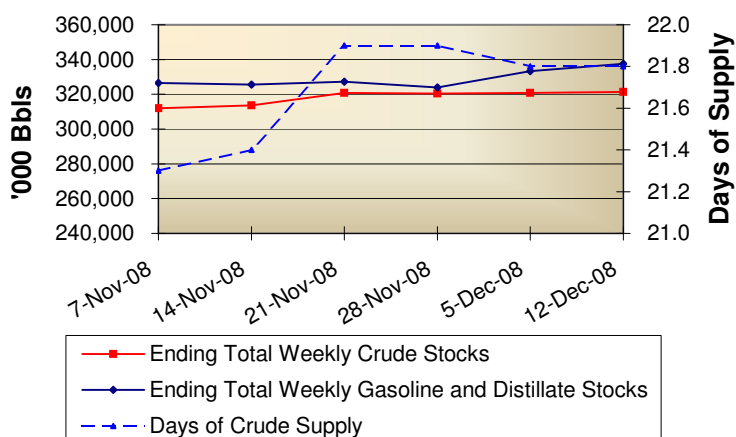
### This Week's Price Action



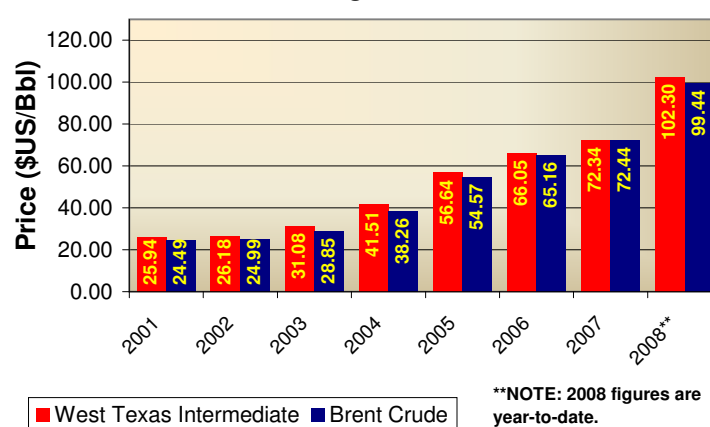
### Price Action Over Most Recent 12 Months



### Ending US Crude Stocks & Days of Supply



### Annual Average Crude Prices



## Sources/Notes:

1. West Texas Intermediate and Brent Crude prices are spot prices as reported weekly by the Energy Information Administration (EIA) of the Department of Energy (DOE) in the United States.
2. Inventory stocks are reported weekly by the EIA and include all inventories held with "primary" enterprises such as refiners and wholesalers of crude. Secondary and tertiary inventories held by retailers or end users are not included. Crude stocks include all unrefined crude; gasoline stocks include all grades of gasoline; and distillate stocks include all grades of distillates (including home heating fuel and diesel fuel).
3. Annual and monthly average prices for spot WTI and Brent crude from 2001 to 2008 are simple averages calculated from daily prices as reported by EIA.