| Benchmark Crudes (US\$/bbl) | October 8 October 14 Average | Current Week |  |  |  |  | October 15 - <br> October 21 <br> Average | October <br> Month-toDate | $\begin{gathered} \text { 2008 Year } \\ \text { to-Date } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 15-Oct | 16-Oct | 17-Oct | 20-Oct | 21-Oct |  |  |  |
| - West Texas Intermediate | 82.54 | 74.38 | 69.81 | 71.90 | 74.08 | 71.29 | 72.29 | 82.57 | 111.27 |
| - Brent Crude | 77.27 | 66.86 | 64.14 | 66.05 | 67.45 | 65.99 | 66.10 | 76.98 | 108.61 |




## Ending US Crude Stocks \& Days of Supply




## COMMENTARY:

- For the October 15-October 21 period, the average price for West Texas Intermediate was lower by $\$ 10.25$ week-over-week, at $\$ 72.29$. Brent prices lost $\$ 11.17$ week-over-week, averaging \$66.10.
- US Crude stocks increased by 3.81 million bbls this week. At the same time, days of crude supply was lower by 1.1 at 22.6 days of supply. US gasoline and distillate stocks increased by 4.87 million bbls
- Prices have continued to decline with further large drops of more than $\$ 10$ in the average price of WTI and Brent this week. WTI is now down more than $\$ 69$ or nearly $49 \%$ since midJuly. Brent has declined by more than $\$ 73$ or nearly $53 \%$ over the same period. Some $\$ 21$ of declines in both WTI and Brent were experienced in the last two weeks alone. Many of the same factors at play in recent weeks continue to influence prices - namely weak global economic conditions, tightness in global credit markets, a continuing gradual return to operation of closed in production and refining facilities in the US Gulf Coast region, and weakening demand for both crude and refined products. OPEC has called an emergency meeting for Friday, October 24 in Vienna and OPEC president Chakib Khelil has indicated that a production cut will be announced at that time. Media reports suggest that OPEC members will cut up to one million barrels per day (or possibly more) from current production quotas.
**NOTE: 2008 figures are year-to-date


## Sources/Notes:

## 1. West Texas Inte

 Energy (DOE) in the United States2. 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

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