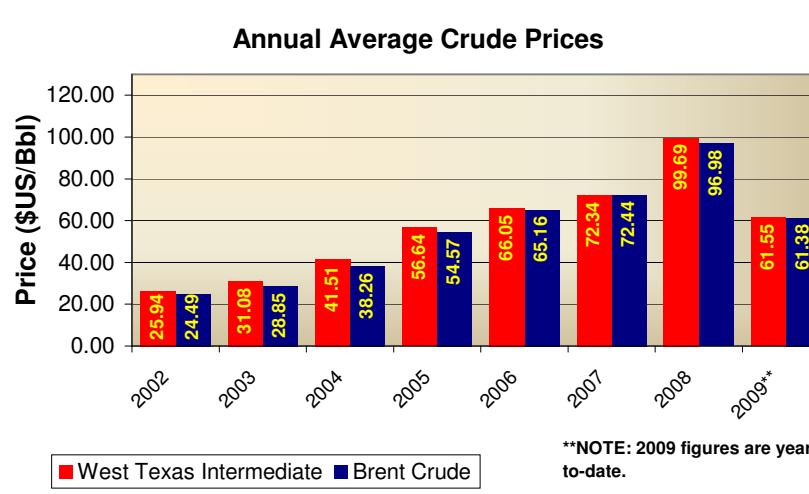
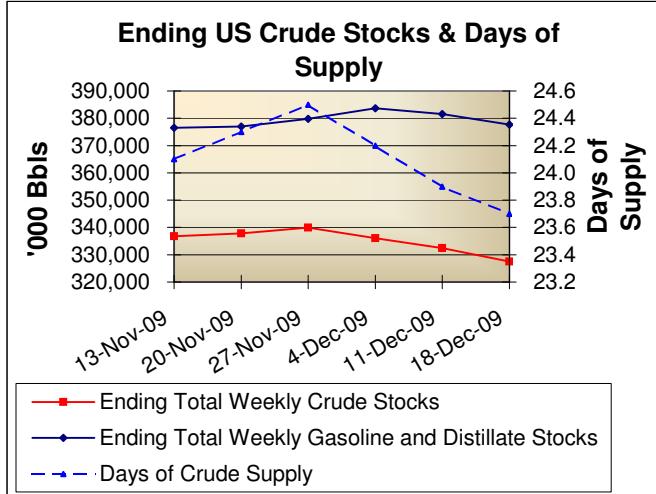
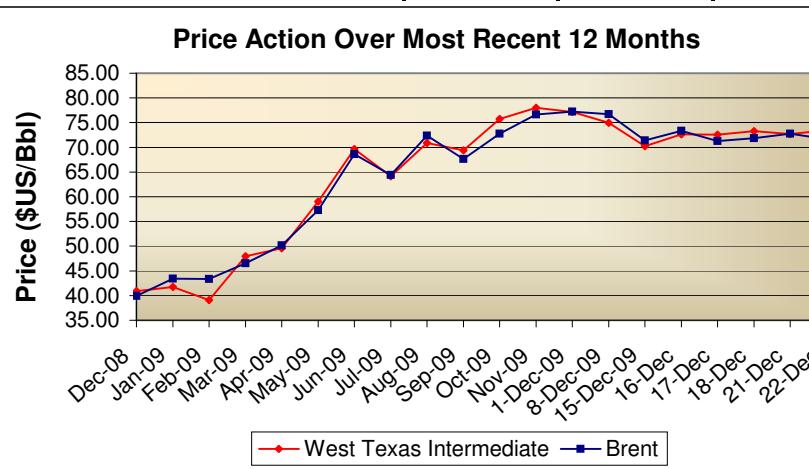
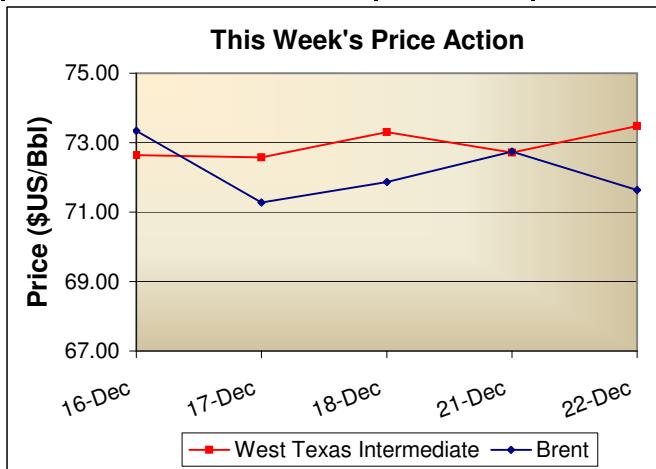


Weekly Crude Price Report - For the Week Ending December 22, 2009

Benchmark Crudes (US\$/bbl)	December 9 - December 15 Average	Current Week					December 16 - December 22 Average	December Month-to-Date	2009 Year-to-Date
		16-Dec	17-Dec	18-Dec	21-Dec	22-Dec			
- West Texas Intermediate	70.23	72.64	72.58	73.30	72.71	73.48	72.94	73.08	61.55
- Brent Crude	71.43	73.34	71.28	71.87	72.74	71.64	72.17	73.77	61.38



COMMENTARY:

- For the December 16 - December 22 period, the average price for West Texas Intermediate was higher by \$2.71 week-over-week, at \$72.94. Brent prices were higher by \$0.75 week-over-week, averaging \$72.17.
- US crude stocks decreased by 4.841 million bbls this week. At the same time, days of crude supply decreased by 0.2 from the previous week at 23.7 days of supply. US gasoline and distillate stocks decreased by 3.910 million bbls.
- On December 22, 2009 OPEC held its 155th meeting in Luanda, Angola. OPEC agreed to keep supply curbs unchanged, extending the current production limit of 24.845 million barrels a day. According to media sources, OPEC has expressed concern at the decline in adherence with quota restrictions in some member countries that has pushed up inventories in industrialised consumer nations to 60 days worth of demand. Media sources report that compliance peaked in February at about 80 percent, but has since slipped to 60 percent. Estimates show that Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the UAE are at or near full compliance with output cuts while Angola, Nigeria and Iran have made little or no contribution. OPEC's next scheduled meeting is March 17, 2010 in Vienna, Austria.

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 2002 to 2009 are simple averages calculated from daily prices as reported by EIA.

Government of Newfoundland and Labrador
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Energy Branch
Energy Economics Division

