

Energy Situation Analysis Report

Last Updated: April 7, 2003

Next Update: April 8, 2003

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Latest World Oil Market Developments

- As of 7:45 am Monday, the near-month WTI futures contract was at \$27.65 per barrel in overnight ACCESS trading, down \$0.97 per barrel from Friday's closing price, as the market anticipates an end to the war soon with coalition forces moving into Baghdad over the weekend.
- The near-month (May) West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures contract settled at \$28.62 per barrel on Friday (4/4), down 35 cents per barrel from Thursday's close, as the announced restart of lost production in Nigeria is expected to bolster supply. A combination of increased production from Venezuela (which had suffered a crippling strike), increased production from other OPEC members, particularly Saudi Arabia, traditionally lower second-quarter demand, and some signs that the U.S. economy is not exhibiting strong growth present a relatively bearish price atmosphere, given the halt in Iraqi exports since the start of the war there. [more...](#)

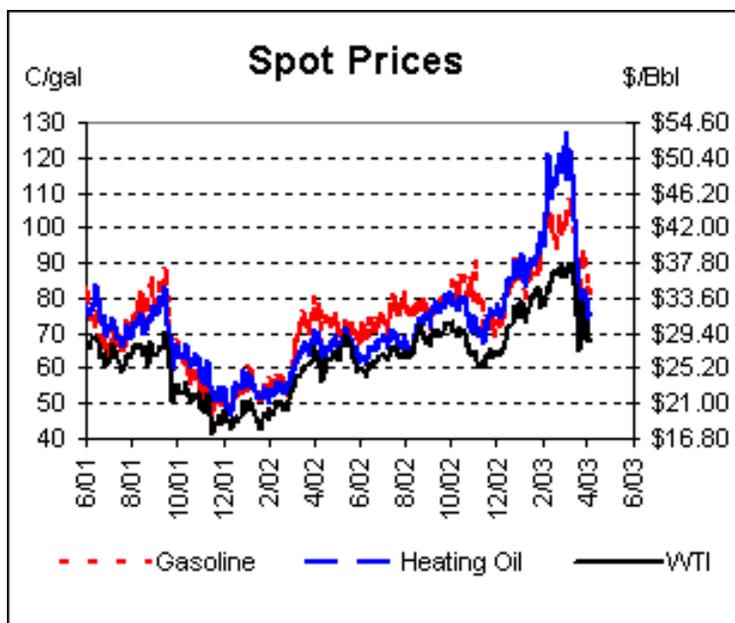
Production/Export/Infrastructure Developments

IRAQ: Firefighters resumed efforts to put out the two remaining fires in the Rumaila oil field in southern Iraq on Friday. After firefighters ran out of trucked water earlier in the week, man-made lagoons were created to store water near the affected wellheads, and these lagoons continue to be filled. Preliminary reports indicate one fire may already be extinguished.

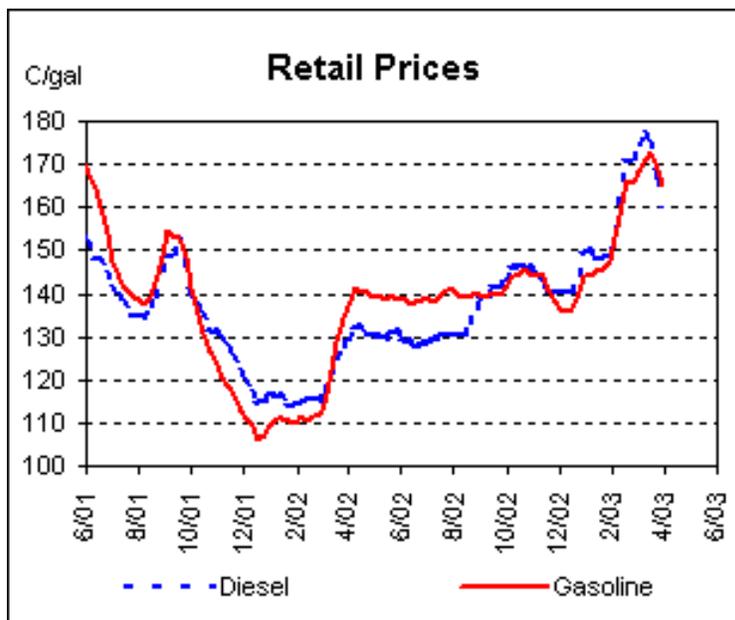
Energy Prices*

NYMEX Futures	4/4/03	4/3/03	Change	3/12/03
WTI (\$/Bbl)	28.62	28.97	-0.35	37.83
Gasoline (C/gal)	87.03	87.16	-0.13	111.39
Heating Oil (C/gal)	72.60	73.17	-0.57	103.52
Natural Gas (\$/MMBtu)	4.94	4.92	+0.02	5.87
Spot Prices				
WTI (Cushing, OK)	28.41	29.05	-0.64	37.87
Gasoline (NYH)	81.35	81.83	-0.48	105.08
Heating Oil (NYH)	74.90	75.30	-0.40	115.45
Jet Fuel (NYH)	75.40	75.55	-0.15	112.45
Natural Gas (Henry Hub)	4.86	4.91	-0.05	5.80

*Definitions



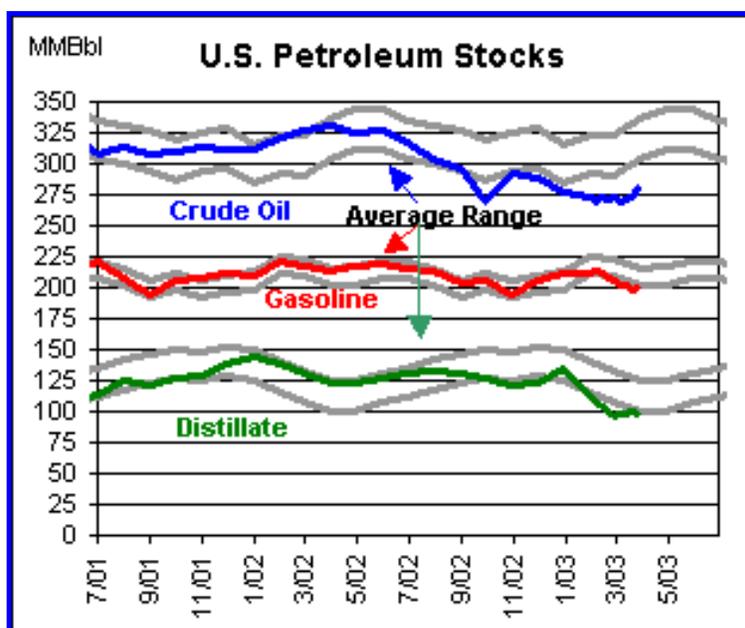
- At the Turkish port of Ceyhan, 8.3 million barrels of Iraqi oil worth nearly \$200 million are in storage waiting to be sold. UN diplomats and officials say employees of the Iraq oil company stationed in Turkey have been unable to contact their counterparts in Baghdad to gain the paperwork needed for the approval. With the storage tanks almost full, current flow through the pipeline is an insignificant amount.
- Oil is not leaving Iraq's Persian Gulf port of Mina al-Bakr, although the tanker loading facility reportedly has not been damaged.
- Iraqi oil exports through the U.N. "Oil-for-Food" program are halted, with the last ship having loaded oil from storage tanks at Turkey's port of Ceyhan March 20.



PERSIAN GULF COUNTRIES:

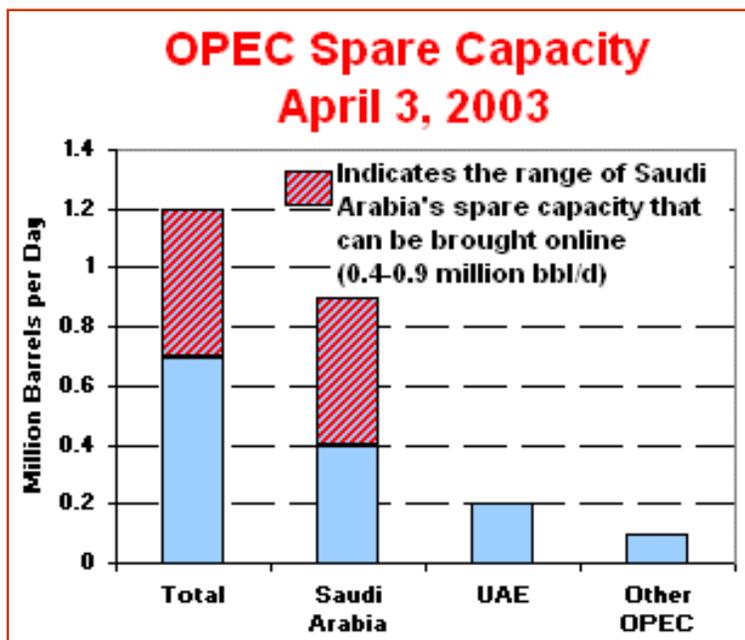
Oil operations in Kuwait have not been disrupted, with no damage having been reported despite several Iraqi missile attacks on Kuwaiti territory.

- Kuwait reportedly is producing above its maximum sustainable capacity as a result of a decision to "surge" its oil production temporarily.
- Shell reportedly restarted production at Iran's 60,000-barrel-per-day Soroosh field in the northern Gulf on Monday 3/31. It had been shut down for safety reasons at the start of the war in Iraq.
- No other problems in the Persian Gulf have been reported.



Non-GULF SUPPLY: Production in Nigeria remains constrained due to ethnic unrest in the Niger Delta. Thus far, the total amount of production disrupted is about 800,000 barrels per day, reducing production to 1.4 million barrels per day (MMBD).

- On Friday, Shell indicated that it had restarted 18,000 barrels per day of crude oil production of approximately 320,000 barrels per day linked to the company's Forcados terminal that had been shut-in because of that same violence.
- According to press reports, Shell expects to have about 100,000 barrels per day restarted by the middle of this week.
- On Thursday, ChevronTexaco announced that it was gradually restarting 310,000 barrels per day of



approximately 440,000 barrels per day of crude oil production that normally flows to the company's Escravos export terminal.

- TotalFinaElf has shut down some operations.
- [Venezuelan](#) production is widely believed -- by striking workers and independent analysts -- to be around 2.4-2.6 MMBD. State oil company PdVSA, on the other hand, estimates current production at around 3 MMBD, close to pre-strike output levels.

- [Latest OPEC Production Table](#)

Oil Supply Disruption Summary

- EIA is assuming that the flow of Iraqi oil exports has been stopped for the most part, resulting in a gross supply disruption of around 1.9 MMBD from Iraq.
- Approximately 800,000 barrels per day of Nigerian production currently is shut in due to civil unrest.
- The gross oil supply disruption for these countries is estimated at 2.7 MMBD. Venezuela also continues to produce at levels below its November 2002 output, prior to strikes and unrest in that country.

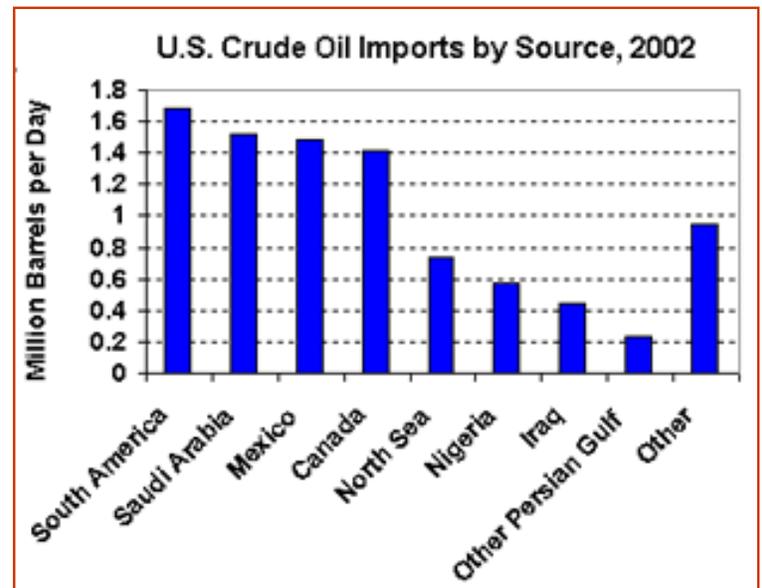
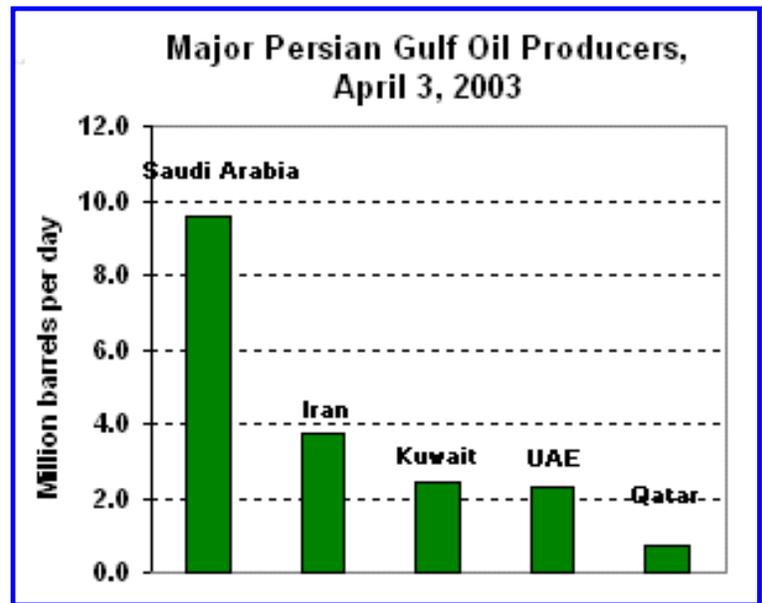
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Latest U.S. Petroleum Information

- With the high level of imports the week before last, U.S. commercial crude oil inventories increased by 6.8 million barrels. Over the last two weeks, crude oil inventories have increased by 10.5 million barrels. Motor gasoline inventories rose by 1.7 million barrels the week before last but remain below the low end of the normal range. U.S. crude oil imports averaged nearly 10.4 million barrels per day the week before last, the largest average ever recorded on our weekly survey.
- The U.S. average retail price for regular gasoline fell the week before last for the second week in a row. Prices dropped by 4.1 cents per gallon as of March 31 to hit 164.9 cents per gallon, which is still 27.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. This is the largest one-week price decrease since prices fell by 4.4 cents on October 22, 2001. The decline reflects, in part, the reduction in crude oil prices recently.

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Latest Oil Market Developments

(updated April 7, 2003)

The near-month (May) West Texas Intermediate (WTI) crude oil futures contract settled at \$28.62 per barrel on Friday (4/4), down 35 cents per barrel from Thursday's close, as the announced restart of lost production in Nigeria is expected to bolster supply. Near-month prices are about 24 percent below a 12-year settlement high of \$37.83 per barrel reached on March 12, as a combination of increased production from Venezuela (which had suffered a crippling strike), increased production from other OPEC members, particularly Saudi Arabia, traditionally lower second-quarter demand, and some signs that the U.S. economy is not exhibiting strong growth present a relatively bearish price atmosphere, given the halt in Iraqi exports since the start of the war there. In addition, the U.S.-led coalition in Iraq appears to have made good progress toward its objectives in recent days, enhancing expectations of a shorter rather than a longer war.

As of 7:45 am Monday, the near-month WTI futures contract was at \$27.65 per barrel in overnight ACCESS trading, down \$0.97 per barrel from Friday's closing price, as the market anticipates an end to the war soon with coalition forces moving into Baghdad over the weekend.

In US product markets overnight, as of 7:45 am Monday, the near-month gasoline futures contract was at 84.30 cents per gallon, down 2.73 cents per gallon from Friday's closing price, while the near-month heating oil futures contract was at 70.12 cents per gallon, down 2.48 cents per gallon from Friday's closing price. Both product prices are down in conjunction with the decline in the WTI price.

Estimates of current Venezuelan oil production by dissident workers and industry sources range widely, with 2.4-2.6 million barrels per day most likely. This is significantly less than the 3 million barrels per day of production claimed by the Venezuelan government. According to the manager of Venezuela's gigantic Paraguana refining complex, the refinery has "normalized gasoline exports" as of Friday (4/4) and has plans to ship 2.14 million barrels of gasoline to the United States in the month of April.

Other issues related to **world oil markets** include:

- On Thursday, ChevronTexaco announced that it was gradually restarting 310,000 barrels per day of approximately 440,000 barrels per day of crude oil production that had been shut in over two weeks ago because of violence in the Niger Delta region of Nigeria, where production flows to the company's Escravos export terminal. On Friday, Shell indicated that it had restarted 18,000 barrels per day of crude oil production of approximately 320,000 barrels per day linked to the company's Forcados terminal that had been shut-in because of that same violence. According to press reports, Shell expects to have about 100,000 barrels per day restarted by the middle of this week. Also, ChevronTexaco announced on Friday that the company will soon resume crude supply to the 125,000 barrel-per-day Warri refinery, though this will now be delayed because of an explosion at part of the pipeline that appears to be an act of sabotage (see below). TotalFinaElf has not yet announced any changes to their approximately 50,000 barrels per day shut-in.

- According to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), this Saturday (4/5) "The NNPC's major Escravos crude oil pipeline has been vandalized...with tools suspected to be explosives." This is the only pipeline that carries crude oil from ChevronTexaco's main Escravos Terminal to two refineries in northern and southern Nigeria. Ijaw militants had threatened to destroy oil infrastructure if the Nigerian military did not withdraw from their area (which it has not). Political analysts posit that relations between the Nigerian government and ethnic groups in the Niger Delta area, as well as inter-ethnic rivalries, are a long way from being resolved, despite the start-up of some shut-in production in the area in the past few days. Two Itsekeri villages were destroyed this weekend by Ijaw militants, according to press reports.
- Firefighters resumed efforts to put out the two remaining fires in the Rumaila oil field in southern Iraq on Friday. After firefighters ran out of trucked water earlier in the week, man-made lagoons were created to store water near the affected wellheads, and continue to be filled as a large amount of water is needed to extinguish these last two large fires. According to very recent reports, one of the two fires may already be put out.
- According to Thursday's US Central Command (CENTCOM) press briefing, U.S. military officers have begun contacts with Iraqi staff employed in the southern oilfields about arrangements for returning to work.
- At the Turkish port of Ceyhan, 8.3 million barrels of Iraqi oil worth nearly \$200 million are in storage waiting to be sold. Potential buyers have been driven away because they are unable to buy the oil legally without approval of UN-authorized monitors. UN diplomats and officials say employees of the Iraq oil company stationed in Turkey have been unable to contact their counterparts in Baghdad to gain the paperwork needed for the approval. With the storage tanks only having space for an additional 11,000 barrels, current flow through the pipeline (currently running only an hour per day) will soon come to an end.
- According to press reports, Kuwait and Saudi Arabia are to supply Jordan with 75,000 barrels per day of oil, to replace Iraqi shipments halted because of the war.
- As of April 4, 2003, the [US Strategic Petroleum Reserve \(SPR\)](#) contained 599.3 million barrels of oil. The SPR has a maximum drawdown capability of 4.3 million bbl/d for 90 days, with oil beginning to arrive in the marketplace 15 days after a presidential decision to initiate a drawdown. The SPR drawdown rate declines to 3.2 million bbl/d from days 91-120, to 2.2 million bbl/d for days 121-150, and to 1.3 million bbl/d for days 151-180.

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Definitions

Petroleum

WTI – West Texas Intermediate (for the purposes of this table, prices provided are near month futures price) Cushing OK.

Bbl – Barrel (42 gallons).

C's – cents.

Natural Gas

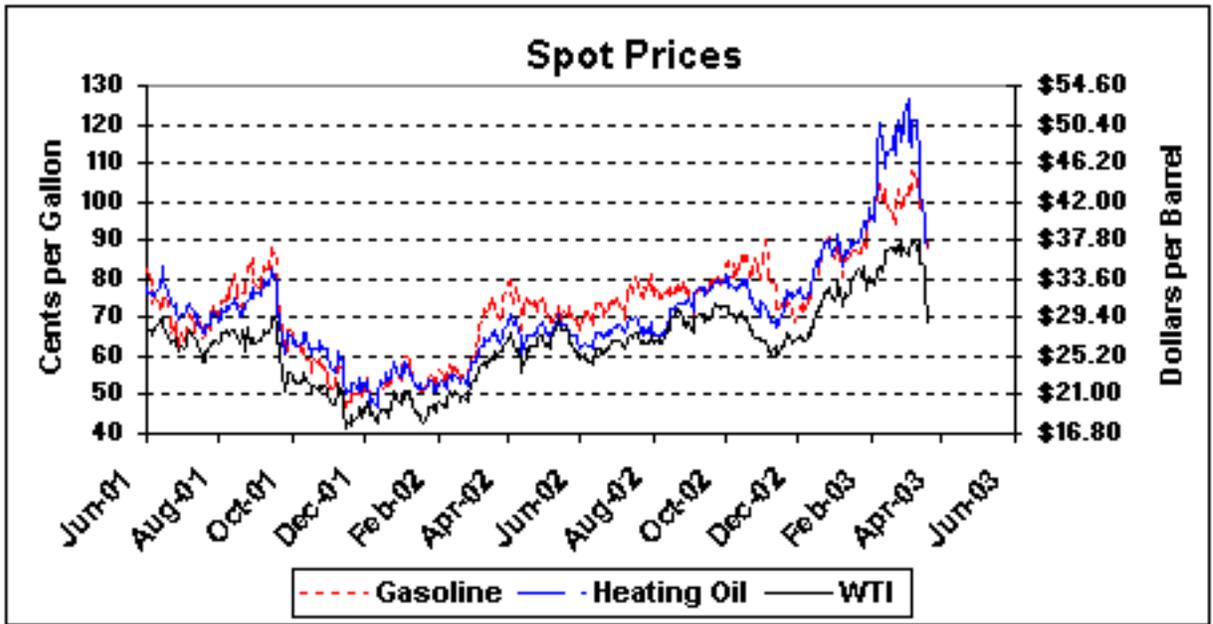
Henry Hub – A pipeline hub on the Louisiana Gulf coast. It is the delivery point for the natural gas futures contract on the New York Mercantile Exchange (NYMEX).

Electricity

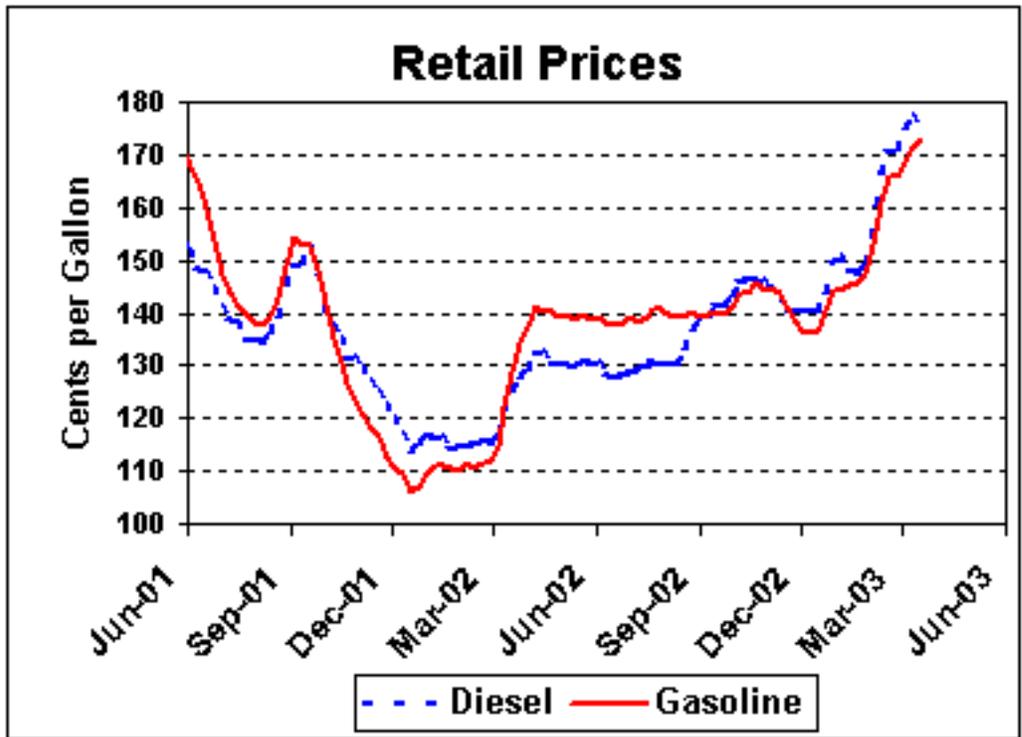
COB – average price of electricity traded at the California-Oregon and Nevada-Oregon border.

Palo Verde - average price of electricity traded at Palo Verde and West Wing Arizona.

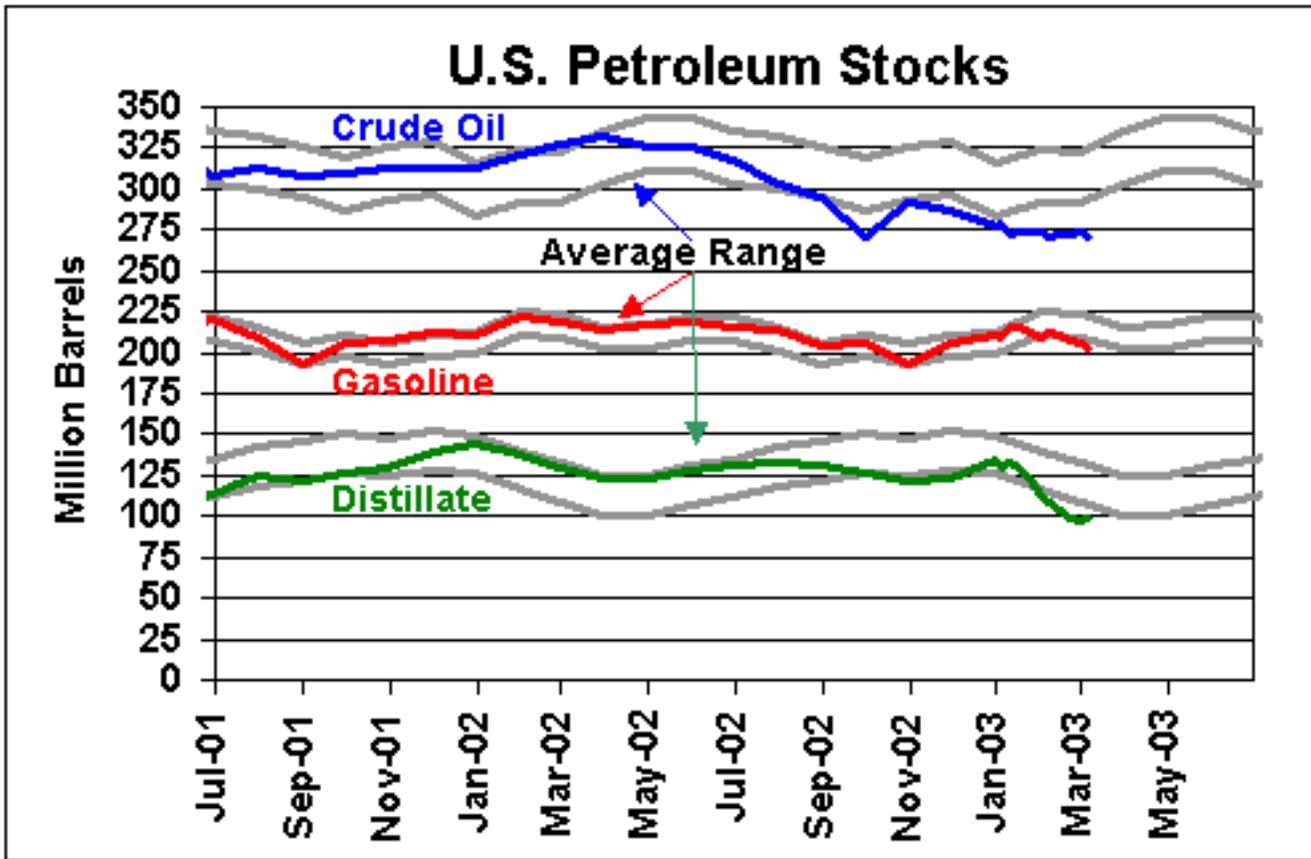
Average - average price of electricity traded at all locations.



Source: Closing quote as reported by Reuters News Service



Source: Energy Information Administration (EIA)



Source: Energy Information Administration, Weekly Petroleum Status Report, Petroleum Supply Monthly.

Latest Oil Supply Disruption Information

(updated April 7, 2003)

For the time being, EIA is assuming that the flow of Iraqi oil exports has been stopped for the most part, resulting in a gross Middle Eastern oil supply disruption of around 1.9 million barrels per day (bbl/d). Meanwhile, Nigeria is experiencing a gross oil supply disruption of about 800,000 barrels per day. In total, around 2.7 million bbl/d of oil production from Iraq and Nigeria is currently offline, with remaining OPEC spare production capacity estimated at 0.7-1.2 million bbl/d. However, the return of some shut-in Nigerian production is expected sometime this week.

Major Gross Oil Supply Disruptions (million barrels per day)		
	3/19/03	Latest (4/3/03)
Middle East*	1.8	1.9
Nigeria	0.0	0.8
TOTAL	1.8	2.7

*The Middle Eastern gross oil supply disruption is based on the loss of Iraqi exports from the UN "oil-for-food" program, which averaged 1.73 million bbl/d in February 2003, plus around 200,000 bbl/d of "illegal" oil exports through Syria and Jordan. As of March 31, Shell has restarted the 60,000-bbl/d Soroosh oil field in Iran's northern Gulf, reducing the gross oil supply disruption by that amount. Soroosh had been closed since just prior to the outbreak of war with Iraq.

World Oil Supply (million bbl/d)		
	Prior to Disruption March 2003 (Base Case)	Latest Estimate
OPEC-10 Production	25.3	26.4
Iraqi Production	2.3	N.A.
Surplus Capacity	1.5-2.0	0.7-1.2

Note: For a more detailed analysis of OPEC production prior to disruption, see EIA's [OPEC Fact Sheet](#). For an overview of the Iraqi oil sector, see EIA's [Iraq Country Analysis Brief](#).

Price Movements			
Daily Price Information	Week Prior (3/12)	Day #1 (3/19)	Latest (4/4)
WTI Futures Price (\$/bbl)	37.83	29.88	28.62
U.S. Weekly Price Survey	Monday Prior (3/17)	Week #1 (Monday 3/24)	Latest (Monday 3/31)
Retail Regular Gasoline (cents/gallon)	172.8	169.0	164.9

Note: EIA collects a national survey of regular retail gasoline prices every Monday. The current oil supply disruption is not the only factor affecting prices. For more information concerning EIA price statistics and analysis, see: [This Week in Petroleum](#).

OPEC Crude Oil Production ¹ (Thousand barrels per day)					
LAST UPDATED 4/03/03	November 2002 Production	March 2003 Production	Current Production	Current Production Capacity ²	Current Surplus Capacity
Algeria	938	1,100	1,200	1,200	0
Indonesia	1,100	1,060	1,050	1,050	0
Iran	3,500	3,690	3,750	3,750	0
Kuwait ⁴	1,940	2,400	2,450 ³	2,450 ³	0
Libya	1,350	1,400	1,400	1,400	0
Nigeria	2,000	1,800	1,400	1,400	0
Qatar	695	750	750	850	100
Saudi Arabia ⁴	8,100	9,500	9,600	10,000-10,500 ⁵	400-900 ⁵
UAE	2,000	2,300	2,300	2,500	200
Venezuela ⁴	2,922	2,300	2,500	2,500	0
OPEC 10 Crude Oil Total	24,545	26,300	26,400	27,100-27,600⁵	700-1,200⁵
Iraq	2,390	1,350	N.A.	N.A.	0
OPEC Crude Oil Total	26,935	27,650	26,400	27,100-27,600⁵	700-1,200⁵

NA: Not Available

¹Crude oil does not include lease condensate or natural gas liquids.

²Maximum sustainable production capacity, defined as the maximum amount of production that: 1) could be brought online within a period of 30 days; and 2) sustained for at least 90 days.

³Current Kuwaiti production includes surge production in excess of maximum sustainable levels. The Kuwaiti capacity number reflects this surge production.

⁴ Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabian figures each include half of the production from the Neutral Zone between the two countries. Saudi Arabian production also includes oil produced from its offshore Abu Safa field on behalf of Bahrain.

⁵ The amount of Saudi Arabia's spare capacity that can be brought online is shown as a range between 0.4 and 0.9 million bbl/d.

⁶ Venezuelan capacity and production numbers exclude extra heavy crude oil used to produce Orimulsion.

Top World Oil Net Exporters, 2002*		
	Country	Net Exports (million barrels per day)
1)	Saudi Arabia	6.76
2)	Russia	5.03
3)	Norway	3.14
4)	Iran	2.30
5)	Venezuela	2.26
6)	United Arab Emirates	1.95
7)	Nigeria	1.85
8)	Kuwait	1.73
9)	Mexico	1.69
10)	Iraq	1.58
11)	Algeria	1.27
12)	Libya	1.16

*Table includes all countries with net exports exceeding 1 million barrels per day in 2002.

During 2002, roughly half of U.S. crude oil imports came from the Western Hemisphere (18% from Canada, 16% from South America, 12% from Mexico, 1% from the Caribbean), while approximately one-fifth came from the Persian Gulf region (15% from Saudi Arabia, 4% from Iraq, 2% from Kuwait).

In general, OECD Europe depends far more heavily on the Persian Gulf and North Africa for oil imports than does the United States. Japan receives over three-quarters of its oil supplies from the Persian Gulf (mainly the UAE, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Iran, and Qatar) with the remainder coming from

Indonesia, China, and other sources.

Major Sources of U.S. Net Petroleum Imports, 2002*			
(all volumes in million barrels per day)			
	Total Net Oil Imports	Net Crude Oil Imports	Net Petroleum Product Imports
Canada	1.83	1.42	0.41
Saudi Arabia	1.55	1.52	0.03
Venezuela	1.37	1.20	0.17
Mexico	1.28	1.49	-0.21
Nigeria	0.60	0.57	0.03
United Kingdom	0.47	0.41	0.06
Iraq	0.44	0.44	0.00
Norway	0.38	0.34	0.04
Angola	0.33	0.32	0.01
Net Imports	10.38	9.04	1.34

* Table includes all countries from which the U.S. imported more than 300,000 barrels per day of total oil in 2002.

Having provided this information, it is important to stress that oil is a "fungible" (interchangeable, traded on a world market) commodity, that a disruption of oil flows anywhere will affect the price of oil everywhere, and that the specific suppliers of oil to a particular country or region are not of enormous significance, at least from an economic point of view.

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Latest U.S. Weekly EIA Petroleum Information

(last complete update: April 3, 2003)

Click [here](#) for the latest U.S. weekly data on petroleum supply and demand.

Petroleum Inventories

With the high level of imports, U.S. commercial crude oil inventories increased by 6.8 million barrels. Over the last two weeks, crude oil inventories have increased by 10.5 million barrels. Motor gasoline inventories rose by 1.7 million barrels last week but remain below the low end of the normal range. Distillate fuel inventories, however, decreased by 1.6 million barrels, with a decrease in low-sulfur distillate fuel (diesel fuel) of 2.8 million barrels more than compensating for an increase in high-sulfur distillate fuel (heating oil) of 1.2 million barrels. As of March 28, total commercial petroleum inventories are 117.8 million barrels less than last year at this time.

U.S. inventories of propane rose for the second consecutive week with a nearly 0.6 million-barrel increase that brought inventories to an estimated 19.5 million barrels for the week ending March 28, 2003. Warmer-than-normal temperatures in all regions of the nation during March dramatically diminished recent intense pressure on inventories during January and February when severe weather pushed inventories to historical lows. Furthermore, preliminary data show the March stockdraw, measuring 1.4 million barrels, was well below the 5-year average of more than 3.0 million barrels. Regionally, Gulf Coast inventories accounted for nearly the entire weekly gain, while East Coast and Midwest inventories remained essentially flat over this period.

Petroleum Imports

U.S. crude oil imports averaged nearly 10.4 million barrels per day last week, the largest average ever recorded on our weekly survey. Imports into PADD I (East Coast) averaged over 2 million barrels per day. Crude oil imports have averaged 9.1 million barrels per day over the last four weeks, which is more than 400,000 barrels per day more than averaged over the same period last year. Although the origins of weekly crude oil imports are very preliminary and thus not published, imports from Venezuela last week seemed to average close to normal levels. Crude oil imports from Saudi Arabia increased sharply, an apparent reflection of much higher production that began in February. Total motor gasoline imports (including both finished gasoline and gasoline blending components) averaged 900,000 barrels per day last week, while distillate fuel imports averaged nearly 400,000 barrels per day.

Monthly data on the origins of U.S. crude oil imports in January 2003 has been released and it shows that three countries each exported more than 1.5 million barrels per day of crude oil to the United States (see table below). The top sources of U.S. crude oil imports in January 2003 were: Saudi Arabia (1.820 million barrels per day), Canada (1.621 million barrels per day), and Mexico (1.566 million barrels per day). This is the largest monthly amount of crude oil imported from Saudi Arabia since August 2001. Rounding out the top ten sources, in order, were Nigeria (0.798 million barrels per day), Iraq (0.600 million barrels per day), United Kingdom (0.411 million barrels per day), Venezuela (0.399 million barrels per day), Angola (0.245 million barrels per day), Kuwait (0.134 million barrels per day), and Colombia (0.120 million barrels per day). Imports from Venezuela were at their lowest level since February 1989, as Venezuelan exports were severely curtailed for much of the month following the general strike in that country. Total crude oil imports averaged 8.547 million barrels per day in January, a decline of nearly 100,000 barrels per day from December, and represents the lowest level since February 2000. The top three origins accounted for nearly 59 percent of these U.S. crude oil imports in January, while the top ten sources accounted for 90 percent of all U.S. crude oil imports.

Refinery Inputs and Production

U.S. crude oil refinery inputs increased to 15.1 million barrels per day during the week ending March 28, the highest average since the week ending December 6, 2002. However, despite this increase in crude oil input to refineries, refinery production of jet fuel and motor gasoline remained relatively flat, while distillate fuel production fell by about 100,000 barrels per day.

Petroleum Demand

Total product supplied over the last four-week period averaged over 20.0 million barrels per day, or about 2.7 percent more than the same period last year. Over the last four weeks, motor gasoline demand is down 0.1 percent, while distillate fuel demand is up 10.1 percent compared to the same period last year. Kerosene-type jet fuel demand is 2.9 percent greater than last year over the latest four-week period.

U.S. Retail Gasoline Price Decreases by Almost 4 Cents (updated April 1, 2003)

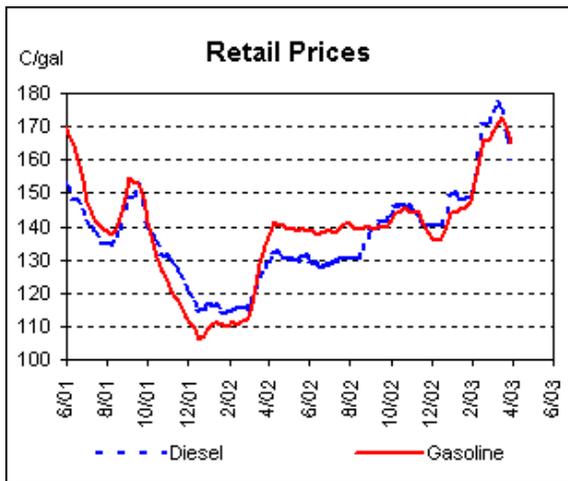
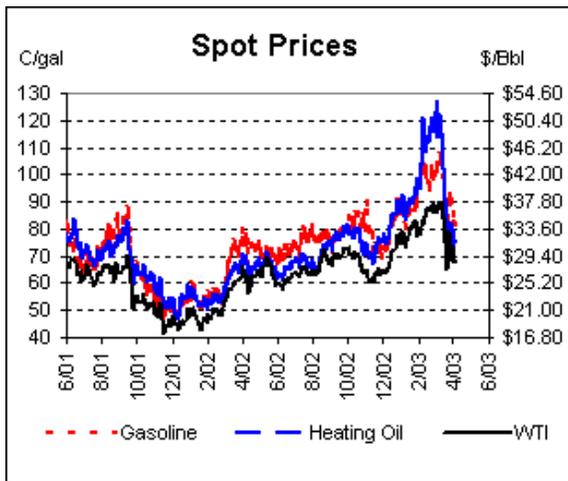
The U.S. average retail price for regular gasoline fell last week for the second week in a row. Prices dropped by 4.1 cents per gallon as of March 31 to hit 164.9 cents per gallon, which is still 27.8 cents per gallon higher than a year ago. This is the largest one-week price decrease since prices fell by 4.4 cents on October 22, 2001. The decline reflects, in part, the reduction in crude oil prices recently. Prices were down throughout the country, with the largest decrease occurring in the Midwest, where prices fell 7.4 cents to end at 152.4 cents per gallon. California prices remained above \$2 per gallon for the fifth week in a row, decreasing to 213.0 cents per gallon.

Average prices for the West Coast also stayed above the \$2 per gallon mark, at 202.1 cents per gallon on March 31. Retail diesel fuel prices decreased for the third consecutive week, falling 6.0 cents per gallon to a national average of 160.2 cents per gallon as of March 31. Recent price decreases can be

largely attributed to increases in supply that have exceeded demand for diesel. Retail diesel prices were down throughout the country, with the largest price decrease occurring in the Midwest, where prices fell 7.0 cents per gallon to end at 152.6 cents per gallon. Prices in New England remained the highest in the nation, although they declined by 6.9 cents to 182.3 cents per gallon.

U.S. Petroleum Prices

(updated April 7, 2003)



Crude Oil and Oil Products Price Table

Date	WTI Crude Oil		Gasoline		Heating Oil		Kerojet	Propane		EIA Weekly Retail	
	Spot	Futures	Spot	Futures	Spot	Futures	Spot	Spot	Spot	US Average	
	Cushing		NYH		NYH		NYH	Mt. Belvieu	Conway	Gasoline	Diesel
	\$/bbl	\$/bbl	cents per gallon		cents per gallon		c/gal	cents per gallon		cents per gallon	
2/17/2003	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	#N/A	166.0	170.4
2/18/2003	\$36.88	\$36.96	96.78	99.45	113.24	106.54	114.54	64.69	62.75		
2/19/2003	\$37.02	\$37.16	97.00	100.22	116.73	109.93	117.93	67.13	64.13		
2/20/2003	\$36.45	\$36.79	94.08	96.58	112.40	105.87	115.90	68.75	68.00		
2/21/2003	\$36.76	\$35.58	98.75	101.28	117.00	110.85	120.50	72.00	69.25		
2/24/2003	\$37.29	\$36.48	102.93	104.75	120.73	114.67	123.60	81.00	73.25	165.8	170.9
2/25/2003	\$36.06	\$36.06	98.48	100.78	115.50	112.26	119.25	94.50	81.50		
2/26/2003	\$37.96	\$37.70	99.63	101.83	119.00	115.49	122.75	105.00	87.50		
2/27/2003	\$36.83	\$37.20	99.40	101.80	117.90	115.43	120.40	110.50	101.00		
2/28/2003	\$36.76	\$36.60	101.20	103.77	122.25	125.59	124.50	127.50	89.50		
3/3/2003	\$36.10	\$35.88	102.05	109.48	126.88	103.60	127.75	77.44	70.25	168.6	175.3
3/4/2003	\$36.95	\$36.89	103.61	111.22	118.35	104.86	121.35	75.75	66.75		
3/5/2003	\$36.86	\$36.69	102.10	110.09	117.13	104.39	112.26	72.25	62.38		
3/6/2003	\$37.21	\$37.00	103.03	110.60	114.03	105.56	114.03	70.50	61.75		
3/7/2003	\$37.76	\$37.78	107.80	115.67	121.00	110.85	119.63	70.44	63.00		
3/10/2003	\$37.18	\$37.27	106.20	112.82	120.75	108.57	117.88	68.00	60.50	171.2	177.1
3/11/2003	\$36.81	\$36.72	103.70	109.87	116.60	103.02	114.10	65.38	58.25		
3/12/2003	\$37.87	\$37.83	105.08	111.39	115.45	103.52	112.45	64.50	57.38		
3/13/2003	\$36.05	\$36.01	99.38	105.77	106.84	96.71	103.84	62.50	54.94		
3/14/2003	\$35.41	\$35.38	98.75	104.04	102.30	94.07	98.55	60.13	53.25		
3/17/2003	\$34.92	\$34.93	95.97	102.71	95.70	91.57	92.95	61.63	56.50	172.8	175.2
3/18/2003	\$31.55	\$31.67	91.10	96.19	90.45	85.78	90.20	59.38	52.38		
3/19/2003	\$30.01	\$29.88	89.39	94.25	88.55	83.61	88.30	58.38	53.19		
3/20/2003	\$28.62	\$28.61	85.85	90.99	88.00	82.44	87.50	57.88	53.50		
3/21/2003	\$27.18	\$26.91	80.10	85.25	78.75	75.56	79.75	55.25	53.69		
3/24/2003	\$29.51	\$28.66	84.58	89.79	80.45	78.37	82.70	56.63	54.75	169.0	166.2
3/25/2003	\$33.42	\$27.97	83.25	88.49	75.85	73.49	76.85	57.00	54.75		
3/26/2003	\$28.71	\$28.63	88.75	92.42	75.55	74.41	76.05	55.38	53.25		
3/27/2003	\$30.31	\$30.37	92.75	97.47	81.00	81.15	81.75	54.75	52.07		
3/28/2003	\$30.21	\$30.16	91.05	95.39	82.08	83.25	83.70	52.63	51.82		
3/31/2003	\$31.14	\$31.04	90.92	94.44	79.62	79.24	80.12	51.82	49.94	164.9	160.2
4/1/2003	\$29.48	\$29.78	86.24	91.42	75.78	74.09	76.65	50.38	49.63		
4/2/2003	\$28.55	\$28.56	81.90	86.39	73.90	71.86	74.15	48.50	48.50		
4/3/2003	\$29.05	\$28.97	81.83	87.16	75.30	73.17	75.55	48.38	48.38		
4/4/2003	\$28.41	\$28.62	81.35	87.03	74.90	72.60	75.40	47.88	48.00		

Source: Spot and futures closing quotes as reported by Reuters News Service, retail prices reported by EIA

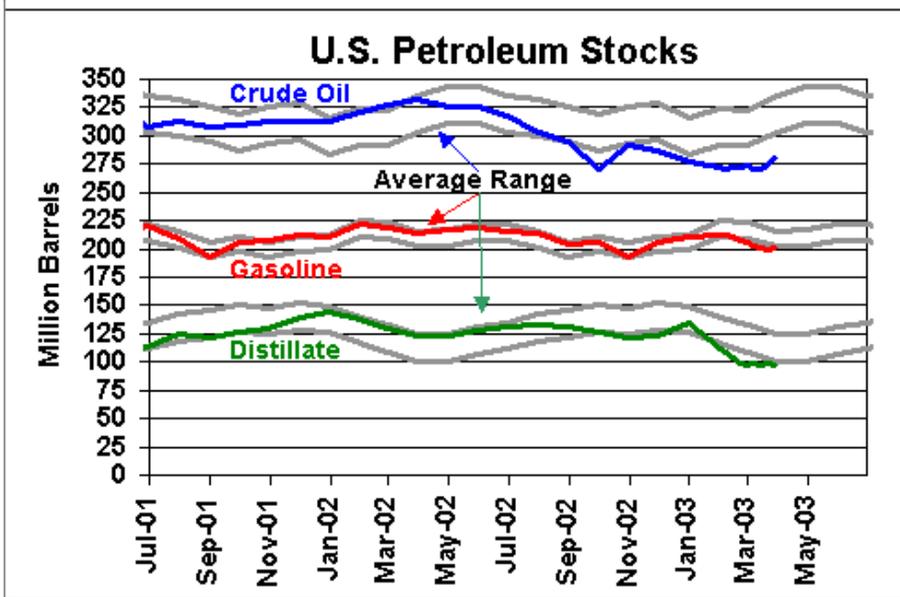
Energy Situation Analysis Report

U.S. Petroleum Supply

(Thousand Barrels per Day)	Four Weeks Ending		vs. Year Ago	
	3/28/2003	3/28/2002	Diff.	% Diff.
Refinery Activity				
Crude Oil Input	14,802	14,446	356	2.5%
Operable Capacity	16,800	16,785	15	0.1%
Operable Capacity Utilization (%)	89.0%	87.5%	1.5%	
Production				
Motor Gasoline	8,007	8,075	-68	-0.8%
Jet Fuel	1,407	1,499	-92	-6.2%
Distillate Fuel Oil	3,745	3,350	395	11.8%
Imports				
Crude Oil (incl. SPR)	9,083	8,650	433	5.0%
Motor Gasoline	914	790	124	15.6%
Jet Fuel	96	94	2	1.9%
Distillate Fuel Oil	484	239	245	102.8%
Total	11,809	10,950	859	7.8%
Exports				
Crude Oil	10	8	2	27.3%
Products	972	855	117	13.7%
Total	982	863	119	13.8%
Products Supplied				
Motor Gasoline	8,642	8,654	-12	-0.1%
Jet Fuel	1,607	1,561	46	2.9%
Distillate Fuel Oil	4,440	3,740	700	18.7%

Jet Fuel	1,607	1,561	46	2.9%
Distillate Fuel Oil	4,118	3,740	378	10.1%
Total	20,046	19,515	531	2.7%

Stocks (Million Barrels)	vs. Year Ago			
	3/28/2003	3/28/2002	Diff.	% Diff.
Crude Oil (excl. SPR)	280.7	330.9	-50.2	-15.2%
Motor Gasoline	200.7	214.0	-13.3	-6.2%
Jet Fuel	35.8	41.7	-5.9	-14.1%
Distillate Fuel Oil	97.9	123.9	-26.0	-21.0%
Total (excl. SPR)	892.3	1,010.1	-117.8	-11.7%



Source: Energy Information Administration, Weekly Petroleum Status Report, Petroleum Supply Monthly.

File last modified: April 7, 2003

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● [Key Iraqi Oil Infrastructure Information](#) (*March 24, 2003*)

A summary of the most important information related to Iraq's oil reserves, oil fields, wells, production capacity, export infrastructure, refining sector, and post-war development plans.

● [Oil Market Status Prior to Iraq Disruption](#) (*March 20, 2003*)

An overview of the world oil situation prior to the current warfare in Iraq. Attempts to answer the question: "how did we get to this point, and what may happen next?"

● [Past Oil Supply Disruptions](#) (*March 18, 2003*)

A historical review of major past oil supply disruptions, including the 1973 Arab oil embargo, the 1979 Iranian Revolution, the 1980 outbreak of the Iran-Iraq War, and the 1990-1991 Gulf War.

● [Basic Facts on Venezuela](#) (*December 17, 2002*)

A fact sheet on Venezuela, providing historical oil production and export information, as well as a table showing US dependency on Venezuelan oil imports.

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[Historical Comparison: Gulf War Outbreak \(8/90\)](#)

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Special Topics: The War's Impact on Gasoline Prices (March 25, 2003)

As of Monday, March 24, EIA's weekly survey of retail gasoline prices showed the U.S. average price for regular grade at \$1.690 per gallon, down from \$1.728 per gallon the previous week, the highest nominal (not inflation-adjusted) national average price on record. With prices this high, and months to go before the summer driving season (traditionally the time of highest gasoline demand and prices), many people are understandably concerned about the potential impact on gasoline prices of the war in Iraq. Some also note the wide variations in crude oil and wholesale gasoline prices from week to week, or even day to day, and wonder how quickly increases (or reductions) can be expected to show up at the pump.

The effect of the war on prices for crude oil and petroleum products, including gasoline, is likely to depend mostly on how events unfold, particularly in terms of the scope and duration of any interruption to world oil supplies. The commencement of military action has to date affected oil production only in and near the combat region. For the time being, EIA is assuming that the flow of legal Iraqi oil exports has been effectively stopped. Kuwait has reportedly reduced production at certain northern oil facilities, but offset this with increases elsewhere, yielding no net change. Iran has reportedly shut in production from its offshore Soroosh field in the Persian Gulf. In total, the gross Middle Eastern oil supply disruption is estimated at 1.8 million barrels per day (MMBD). (This estimate is prior to excess production capacity being brought online by other countries). At present, promises of increased supplies from OPEC, especially Saudi Arabia, appear to be perceived by markets as sufficient to offset the temporary loss of Iraqi (and some Kuwaiti and Iranian) production, as evidenced by price movements to date. In fact, after rising nearly 50 percent since mid-November 2002, reflecting both tight global supplies and uncertainty over the possibility of war, prices fell as much as \$10 per barrel in just over a week leading up to, and including, the first few days of battle.

In addition to the war in Iraq, other events continue to have substantial impact on world oil markets. Oil exports from Venezuela, a major exporter and OPEC member, remain at reduced levels as that country continues to recover from a general strike that began in early December 2002. Though official and unofficial estimates vary, Venezuelan production continues to run as much as 600,000 barrels per day lower than pre-strike levels. More recently, civil unrest in portions of Nigeria has reduced crude oil production from that OPEC member country by about 900,000 barrels per day. Problems in both of these countries have disproportionate effects on the United States, because they are among the relatively "short-haul" Atlantic Basin crude oil sources favored by refiners on the U.S. East and Gulf Coasts.

Higher crude oil prices exert upward influence on gasoline prices in two ways: a direct pass-through to all

petroleum products, because crude oil is the primary feedstock to refineries; and inflation of refinery margins, because of the secondary effects of crude oil prices on refinery economics. Increases or decreases in crude oil prices, which are dependent on global supply and demand, translate almost instantly into changes in wholesale petroleum product prices, particularly in the spot and futures markets. (Each \$1-per-barrel change in crude oil prices equates to a change in product prices of about 2.4 cents per gallon).

The other major component of gasoline price changes impacted by crude oil is refining margins, the difference between product prices and crude oil prices. When the supply/demand balance for a product is tighter than that for crude oil, refining margins are pushed higher. The balance can tighten because of rising demand, reduced production or imports, or a combination of these. This has recently been the case due to low U.S. crude oil inventories, which have begun to constrain refinery runs, in addition to reduced gasoline imports related to the Venezuelan strike. Additionally, high crude oil prices are often accompanied by “backwardation” in futures markets, where prices for commodities to be delivered in later months are lower than those for immediate delivery. Such a situation provides a disincentive for refiners to purchase and refine high-priced crude oil now, to be delivered as lower-priced products later.

The two components discussed above, crude oil prices and refining margins, add up to the spot market price of gasoline. Changes in spot prices are passed through to retail prices over a period of weeks, with about two-thirds of the impact of spot price changes arriving at the retail level within two weeks. Thus, unless counteracted by other influences more specific to gasoline, changes in crude oil prices can be expected to show up in retail gasoline prices, at the rate of about 2½ cents per gallon of gasoline for each \$1 per barrel in crude oil price, within a matter of weeks. Because this “pass-through” of price changes from crude oil to wholesale and then retail gasoline markets is relatively consistent, EIA has found that near-term retail gasoline prices can be predicted with accuracy using recent spot price data.

When will last week’s \$10-per-barrel drop in crude oil prices show up at the gasoline pump? The answer lies in the lagging nature of price pass-through, and is not as simple as it may sound. Because the impact of a sudden change in spot prices is passed through to retail markets over a period of weeks, there can often be conflicting influences being passed through at the same time, especially when wholesale prices have quickly reversed direction. The current situation is a perfect case in point: gasoline spot prices had only peaked two weeks ago, so a portion of last week’s sharp spot price decline, along with a lagging part of the previous increase, were both contributing to retail price movements this week. As a result, the downward movement was partially offset by the upward, yielding a net retail price decline of 3.8 cents per gallon for the week (note: this refers to the national average retail price for regular gasoline; prices can vary considerably on a regional basis because of differing logistical costs and product specifications).

Although it is impossible to predict spot market behavior over the coming weeks, it is likely that we will continue to see some conflicting influences on retail gasoline prices as the spring proceeds.

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Special Topics: Key Iraqi Oil Infrastructure Information (March 23, 2003)



Iraq's Oil Reserves, Fields, Wells

Iraq contains 112 billion barrels of proven oil reserves, the second largest in the world (behind Saudi Arabia). Iraq's true resource potential may be far greater than this, however, as the country is largely (90% or so) unexplored due to years of war and sanctions. Deep oil-bearing formations located mainly in the vast Western Desert region, for instance, could yield large additional oil resources (possibly another 100 billion barrels), but have not been explored. Iraq's oil production costs are amongst the lowest in the world, making it a highly attractive oil prospect. However, only 15 of 73 discovered fields have been developed, while few deep wells have been drilled compared to Iraq's neighbors.

Overall, only about 2,000 wells reportedly have been drilled in Iraq (of which about 1,500-1,700 are actually producing oil), compared to around 1 million wells in Texas for instance. In addition, Iraq generally has not had access to the latest, state-of-the-art oil industry technology (i.e., 3D seismic), sufficient spare parts, and investment in general throughout most of the 1990s, but has instead reportedly been utilizing questionable engineering techniques (i.e., overpumping, water injection/"flooding") and old technology to maintain production.

Iraqi oil reserves vary widely in quality, with API gravities in the 22° to 35° range. Iraq's main export crudes come from the country's two largest active fields: Rumaila and Kirkuk. The southern Rumaila field, which extends a short distance into Kuwaiti territory, has around 663 wells and produces three streams: Basra Regular; Basra Medium (normally 30° API, 2.6% sulfur); and Basra Heavy (normally 22°-24° API, 3.4% sulfur). Basra Blend normally averages around 32° API, 1.95% sulfur, but reportedly is worse currently at around 29-30° API

and 2%+ sulfur content. As of March 23, 2003, around 9 oil wells at Rumaila reportedly were on fire, with firefighters reportedly dispatched to deal with the problem, and outside analysts describing the problem as "minor" in nature.

The northern Kirkuk field, first discovered in 1927, has around 337 wells and normally produces 35° API, 1.97% sulfur crude, although the API gravity and sulfur content both are reported to have deteriorated sharply in recent months. Kirkuk's gravity, for instance, has declined to around 32-33° API, while sulfur content has risen above 2%. Declining crude oil qualities -- and an increased "water cut" as well -- could be the result of overpumping as Iraq attempts to sell as much oil as possible. An additional export crude, known as "Fao Blend," is heavier and more sour, with a 27° API and 2.9% sulfur. As of March 23, 2003, no oil well fires or other damage had been reported at Kirkuk.

Iraq's Pre-War Production and Export Capacity

Oil industry experts generally assess Iraq's sustainable production capacity at no higher than about 2.8-2.9 million bbl/d, with net export potential of around 2.3-2.5 million bbl/d (including smuggled oil). In comparison, Iraq produced 3.5 million bbl/d in July 1990. Approximately 2 million bbl/d of Iraq's production capacity comes from oil fields in the southern part of the country, particularly North and South Rumaylah (1.3 million bbl/d), West Qurnah (225,000 bbl/d), Az Zubair (220,000 bbl/d), Majnoon (50,000 bbl/d), Jabal Fauqi (50,000 bbl/d), Abu Ghurab (40,000 bbl/d), Buzurgan (40,000 bbl/d) and Luhais (30,000 bbl/d). Iraq's remaining oil production capacity is located in the northern and central fields of Kirkuk (720,000 bbl/d), Bai Hassan (100,000 bbl/d), Jambur (50,000 bbl/d), Khabbaz (40,000 bbl/d), Saddam (30,000 bbl/d), East Baghdad (20,000 bbl/d), and 'Ayn Zalah (10,000 bbl/d).

Iraq's Oil Export Pipelines/Terminals

Iraq's oil export infrastructure (pipelines, ports, pumping stations, etc.) were damaged in both the Iran-Iraq War as well as Operation Desert Storm (1991). Currently, the 600-mile, 40-inch Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline is Iraq's largest operable crude export pipeline. This Iraq-Turkey link consists has a fully-operational capacity of 1.1 million bbl/d, but reportedly can handle only around 900,000 bbl/d currently. A second, parallel, 46-inch line has an optimal capacity of 500,000 bbl/d and was designed to carry Basra Regular exports, but at last report was inoperable. Combined, the two parallel lines have an optimal capacity of 1.5-1.6 million bbl/d. According to *Reuters*, as of March 23, 2003, the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline was operational and still pumping oil, but storage tanks at Ceyhan were nearly full and no tankers were scheduled to load.

On August 20, 1998, Iraq and Syria (which reopened their border in June 1997 -- after a 17-year closure -- for trade and official visits) signed a memorandum of

understanding for the possible reopening of the 50-year-old, rusting Baniyas oil pipeline from Iraq's northern Kirkuk oil fields to Syria's Mediterranean port of Baniyas (and Tripoli, Lebanon). As of October 2002, the pipeline reportedly was being used (see above), and there also was talk of building a new, parallel pipeline as a replacement.

In order to optimize export capabilities (i.e., to allow oil shipments to the north or south), Iraq constructed a reversible, 1.4-million bbl/d "Strategic Pipeline" in 1975. This pipeline consists of two parallel 700,000-bbl/d lines. The North-South system allows for export of northern Kirkuk crude from the Persian Gulf and for southern Rumaila crudes to be shipped through Turkey. During the Gulf War, the Strategic Pipeline was disabled after the K-3 pumping station at Haditha as well as four additional southern pumping stations were destroyed.

In the Persian Gulf, Iraq has three tanker terminals: at Mina al-Bakr; Khor al-Amaya; and Khor az-Zubair (which mainly handles dry goods and minimal oil volumes). All of these ports, as well as other oil infrastructure (tanks, pipelines, etc.) in the area, reportedly were undamaged and under the control of coalition forces within the first few days of war in late March 2003. Mina al-Bakr is Iraq's largest oil terminal, with four 400,000-bbl/d-capacity, offshore berths capable of handling very large crude carriers (VLCCs). Gulf War damage to Mina al-Bakr appears to have been repaired in large part and the terminal currently can handle up to 1.2-1.3 million bbl/d. A full return to Mina al-Bakr's nameplate capacity apparently would require extensive infrastructure repairs. Mina al-Bakr also is constrained by a shortage of storage and oil processing facilities, most of which were destroyed in the Gulf War.

Iraq's Khor al-Amaya terminal was heavily damaged during the Iran-Iraq War (and completely destroyed during Operation Desert Storm in 1991) and has been out of commission since then. As of March 2001, reports indicated that Iraq had largely completed repairing two berths at Khor al-Amaya. Upon full completion of repairs, Iraq projects Khor al-Amaya's capacity will rise to 1.2 million bbl/d, and will help prevent delays at Mina al-Bakr while repairs are conducted there.

Post-War Oil Development Plans, Pre-War Oil Deals with International Oil Companies

In December 2002, the Council of Foreign Relations and the Baker Institute released a report on Iraq's oil sector. Among other things, the report concluded that: 1) Iraq's oil sector infrastructure is in bad shape at the moment, being held together by "band-aids," and with a production decline rate of 100,000 bbl/d per year; 2) increasing Iraqi oil production will require "massive repairs and reconstruction...costing several billions of dollars and taking months if not years;" 3) costs of repairing existing oil export installations alone would be around \$5 billion, while restoring Iraqi oil production to pre-1990 levels would cost an additional \$5 billion, plus \$3 billion per year in annual operating costs; 4) outside funds and large-scale investment by international oil companies will be needed; 5) existing oil contracts will need to be clarified and resolved in order to rebuild Iraq's oil industry, with any "prolonged legal conflicts over contracts" possibly "delay[ing] the development of important fields in Iraq;" and 6) any "sudden or prolonged shut-down" of Iraq's oil industry could result in long-term reservoir damage; 7) Iraq's oil facilities could easily be damaged during any domestic unrest or military operations (in early February 2003, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan claimed that Iraqi soldiers were mining oil wells in the north of the country in anticipation of war); and 8) given all this, a "bonanza" of oil is not expected in the near future.

According to the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES), problems at Iraqi oil fields include: years of poor oil reservoir management; corrosion problems at various oil facilities; deterioration of water injection facilities; lack of spare parts, materials, equipment, etc.; damage to oil storage and pumping facilities; and more. MEES estimates that Iraq could reach production capacity of 4.2 million bbl/d within three years at a cost of \$3.5 billion, and 4.5-6.0 million bbl/d within seven years.

As of October 2002, Iraq reportedly had signed several multi-billion dollar deals with international oil companies (IOCs), mainly from China, France, and Russia. Deutsche Bank estimates \$38 billion total on new fields -- "greenfield" development -- with potential production capacity of 4.7 million bbl/d if all the deals come to fruition (which Deutsche Bank believes is highly unlikely). Iraq reportedly has become increasingly frustrated at the failure of these companies actually to begin work on the ground, and has threatened to no longer sign deals unless firms agreed to do so without delay. Iraqi upstream oil contracts generally require that companies start work immediately, but U.N. sanctions overwhelmingly have dissuaded companies from doing so. In 1992, Iraq announced plans to increase its oil production capacity to over 6.3 million bbl/d following the lifting of U.N. sanctions. This plan, which was to be accomplished in three phases over a five-year period, assumed billions of dollars worth of foreign investment. Much of the production was to come from giant fields in the south (Halfaya, Majnoon, Bin Umar, West Qurna), plus the Mishrif reservoir (Luhais, North and South Rumaila, Zubair, etc.), East Baghdad, and others.

Russia, which is owed billions of dollars by Iraq for past arms deliveries, has a strong interest in Iraqi oil development. This includes a \$3.7 billion, 23-year deal to rehabilitate Iraqi oilfields, particularly the 11-15 billion barrel West Qurna field (located west of Basra near the Rumaila field). West Qurna is believed to have production potential of 800,000-1 million bbl/d. In a surprising and somewhat puzzling development, in mid-December 2002 the Iraqi Oil Ministry announced that it was severing its contract with the Lukoil consortium on West Qurna due to "fail[ure] to comply" with contract stipulations. Specifically, the Iraqis cited Lukoil's failure to invest a required \$200 million over three years. Two other, smaller, stakes in West Qurna by Russian companies Zarubezhneft and Mashinoimport reportedly were left intact. In addition, three exploration and production deals were signed between Iraq and Russian companies (Soyuzneftegaz, Stroytransgas-Oil, and Tatneft, to develop the 100,000-bbl/d Rafidain field, the Western Desert's Block 4, and the Western Desert's Block 9, respectively). Despite all this, Russia's Foreign Ministry said that it viewed the Iraqi decision on Lukoil and West Qurna "with regret." In mid-February 2003, following a month of talks between the two sides aimed at reversing Iraq's decision, the Iraqis announced that its decision to cancel the Lukoil deal was "finished and the contract has been scrapped."

In October 2001, a joint Russian-Belarus oil company, Slavneft, signed a \$52 million service contract with Iraq on the 2-billion-barrel, Suba-Luhais field in southern Iraq. Full development of Suba-Luhais could result in production of 100,000 bbl/d (35° API) at a cost of \$300 million over three years. As of March 2002, Slavneft reportedly was awaiting approval from the United Nations to drill 25 wells as Luhais.

The Saddam field contains 3 billion barrels of oil and 5 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) of associated gas. Iraq is seeking foreign assistance for a second-phase Saddam development, which would raise oil production capacity to 50,000 bbl/d, as well as 300 Mmcfd of gas. In early April 2001, Russia's Zarubezhneft received U.N. approval to drill 45 wells in the Saddam field, plus Kirkuk and Bai Hassan, as part of an effort to reduce water incursion into the fields.

The largest of Iraq's oilfields slated for post-sanctions development is Majnoon, with reserves of 12-30 billion barrels of 28-35° API oil, and located 30 miles north of Basra on the Iranian border. The oil major Total reportedly has a deal with Iraq on development rights for Majnoon. Majnoon was reportedly brought onstream (under a "national effort" program begun in 1999) in May 2002 at 50,000 bbl/d, with output originally projected to reach 100,000 bbl/d by the end of 2002 (according to Oil Minister Rashid). Future development on Majnoon ultimately could lead to production of 450,000 bbl/d within two years or so at an estimated

(according to Deutsche Bank) cost of \$4 billion. Eventually, Majnoon could produce significantly more oil than that, possibly well above 1 million bbl/d.

In July 2001, angered by France's perceived support for the U.S. "smart sanctions" plan, Iraq announced that it would no longer give French companies priority in awarding oil contracts, and would reconsider existing contracts as well. Iraq also announced that it was inclined to favor Russia, which has been supporting Iraq at the U.N. Security Council, on awarding rights to Majnoon and another large southern oil field, Bin Umar. As of February 2003, Russian company Zarubezhneft reportedly was negotiating a contract to develop Bin Umar. The status of TotalFinaElf, which had previously expressed interest in the field, was not clear. In February 2003, TotalFinaElf said that it was confident regarding its Majnoon contract, regardless of the Iraqi government in power.

The 2.5-5 billion-barrel Halfaya project is the final large field development in southern Iraq. Several companies (BHP, CNPC, Agip) reportedly have shown interest in Halfaya, which ultimately could yield 200,000-300,000 bbl/d in output at a possible cost of \$2 billion.

Smaller fields with under 2 billion barrels in reserves also are receiving interest from foreign oil companies. These fields include Nasiriya (Eni, Repsol), Tuba (ONGC, Sonatrach, Pertamina), Ratawi (Shell, Petronas, CanOxy), Gharaf (Mashinoimport, Rosneftgasexport), Amara (PetroVietnam), Noor (Syria), and more. Italy's Eni and Spain's Repsol appear to be strong possibilities to develop Nassiriya

Iraq's Refining Sector

Iraq's refining capacity as of January 2003 was believed to be over 417,000 bbl/d, compared to a pre-Gulf War, nameplate capacity of 700,000 bbl/d. Iraq has 10 refineries and topping units. The largest are the 150,000-bbl/d Baiji North, 140,000-bbl/d (or higher) Basra, and 100,000-bbl/d Daura plants. During the Gulf War, both Baiji in northern Iraq as well as the refineries at Basra, Daura, and Nasiriyah were severely damaged. Today, a lack of light-end products, low quality gasoline, and rising pollution levels because of a lack of water treatment facilities are some problems faced by Iraq's refining sector. Post-sanction plans had included attracting hundreds of millions of dollars worth of foreign investment in order to upgrade dozens of downstream (refining, pipelines, natural gas processing) facilities. Also, Iraq had planned to build a new \$1 billion, 290,000-bbl/d "Central" refinery near Babylon.

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