

UNCLASSIFIED

Iraq

Status Report

January 6, 2010



Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
U.S. Department of State

UNCLASSIFIED



TABLE OF CONTENTS

HIGHLIGHTS	3
POLITICAL	
• Governance & Legislation	4
SECURITY	
• Situation Update	9
ECONOMIC	
• Oil	11
• Fiscal and Monetary Affairs	13
• Private Sector	15
• Public Services – Electricity	16
DIPLOMATIC	
• Political Engagement	17
BEYOND BAGHDAD	18
Contact Information, Notes and Source Citations	19

HIGHLIGHTS



U.S. Federal Judge Dismissed Charges Against Five Blackwater Guards (*POLITICAL*, page 4)

- **Militant Cleric Released; Likely Release of Fifth British Hostage's Remains (*SECURITY*, page 9)**
- **Four Oil Field Contracts Ratified by the Iraqi Cabinet (*ECONOMIC*, page 12)**
- **IHEC Announces Coordination Efforts with Foreign Governments (*DIPLOMATIC*, page 17)**

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Iraqi lawmakers conduct probe into the December 8 attacks

Judiciary Dismisses Indictment Against Blackwater:

- A U.S. federal judge dismissed charges against five guards accused of killing 14 Iraqi civilians at a Baghdad traffic circle in September 2007. The judge concluded that defendants' statements had been mishandled and inappropriately used. While visiting Iraq, Senator McCain said "We regret the decision that was made by the federal judge in the United States. However we do respect the rule of law... Our sympathy goes out to the families of those who were killed and injured in this very unfortunate and unnecessary incident."



POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

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

(F) = Female
 ***Formerly Iraqiya

Prime Minister
 Nuri Kamil al-Maliki

President
 Jalal Talabani
Deputy President
 Tariq al-Hashimi
Deputy President
 Adil Abd al-Mahdi

Deputy Prime Minister
 Rafi Hiad Jiad al-Issawi

Deputy Prime Minister
 Vacant

Minister of Agriculture
 Vacant

Minister of Communications
 Faruq Abd al-Qadir Abd al-Rahman

Minister of Culture
 Mahir Dilli Ibrahim al-Hadithi

Minister of Defense
 Abd al-Qadr al-Mufriji

Minister of Displacement & Migration
 Dr. Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan

Minister of Electricity
 Dr. Karim Wahid al-Hasan

Minister of Education
 Dr. Khudayr Mousa Jaffar al-Khuzai

Minister of Environment
 Dr. Nermin Othman Hassan (F)

Minister of Finance
 Bayan Jabr

Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Hoshiyar Mahmud Zebari

Minister of Health
 Dr. Salih Mahdi Mutlab al-Hasnawi

Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research
 Abid Dhiyab al-Ujayli

Minister of Human Rights
 Eng. Wijdan Mikhail Salim (F)

Minister of Industry & Minerals
 Fawzi Fransu Hariri

Minister of Interior
 Jawad Kadhum Eidan al-Bulani

Minister of Justice
 Dara Nur al-Din

Minister of Housing & Construction
 Bayan Dizayee (F)

Minister of Labor & Social Affairs
 Eng. Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi

Minister of Oil
 Dr. Husayn Ibrahim al-Shahrastani

Minister of Planning
 Ali Ghalib Baban

Minister of Trade
 Vacant

Minister of Science & Technology
 Dr. Raid Jahid Fahmi

Minister of Municipalities & Public Works
 Riyadh Abd al-Hamza Gharib

Minister of Transportation
 Amir Abd al-Jabar Ismail

Minister of Water Resources
 Dr. Abd al-Latif Jamal Rashid

Minister of Youth & Sports
 Eng. Jasim Muhammad Jaffar

Minister of State for Civil Society Affairs
 Dr. Thamir Jafar al-Zubaidi

Minister of State for National Dialogue
 Dr. Akram Mousa Hadi al-Hakim

Minister of State for National Security
 Eng. Shirwan Kamil al-Waili

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
 Dr. Muhammad Munajjid Aifan al-Dulaymi

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

Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities
 Dr. Qahtan Abbas Numanal-Jabburi

Minister of State for Women's Affairs
 Dr. Khulud Sami Izzara al-Majun (F), Acting

Minister of State for CoR Affairs
 Safa al-Din Muhammad al-Safi

Minister of State at Large
 Muhammad Abbas Muhammad al-Uraybi

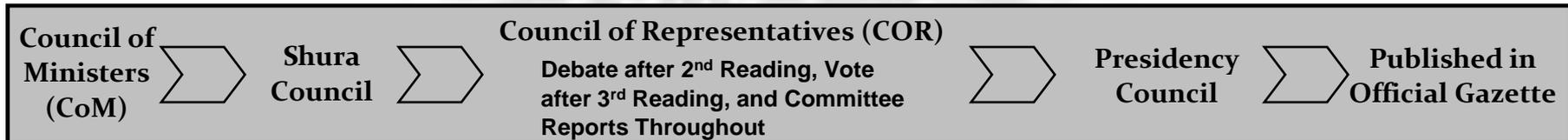
Minister of State at Large
 Ali Muhammad Ahmad

Minister of State at Large
 Hasan Radhi Kazim al-Sari

POLITICAL – Key Legislative Issues



Legislative Process



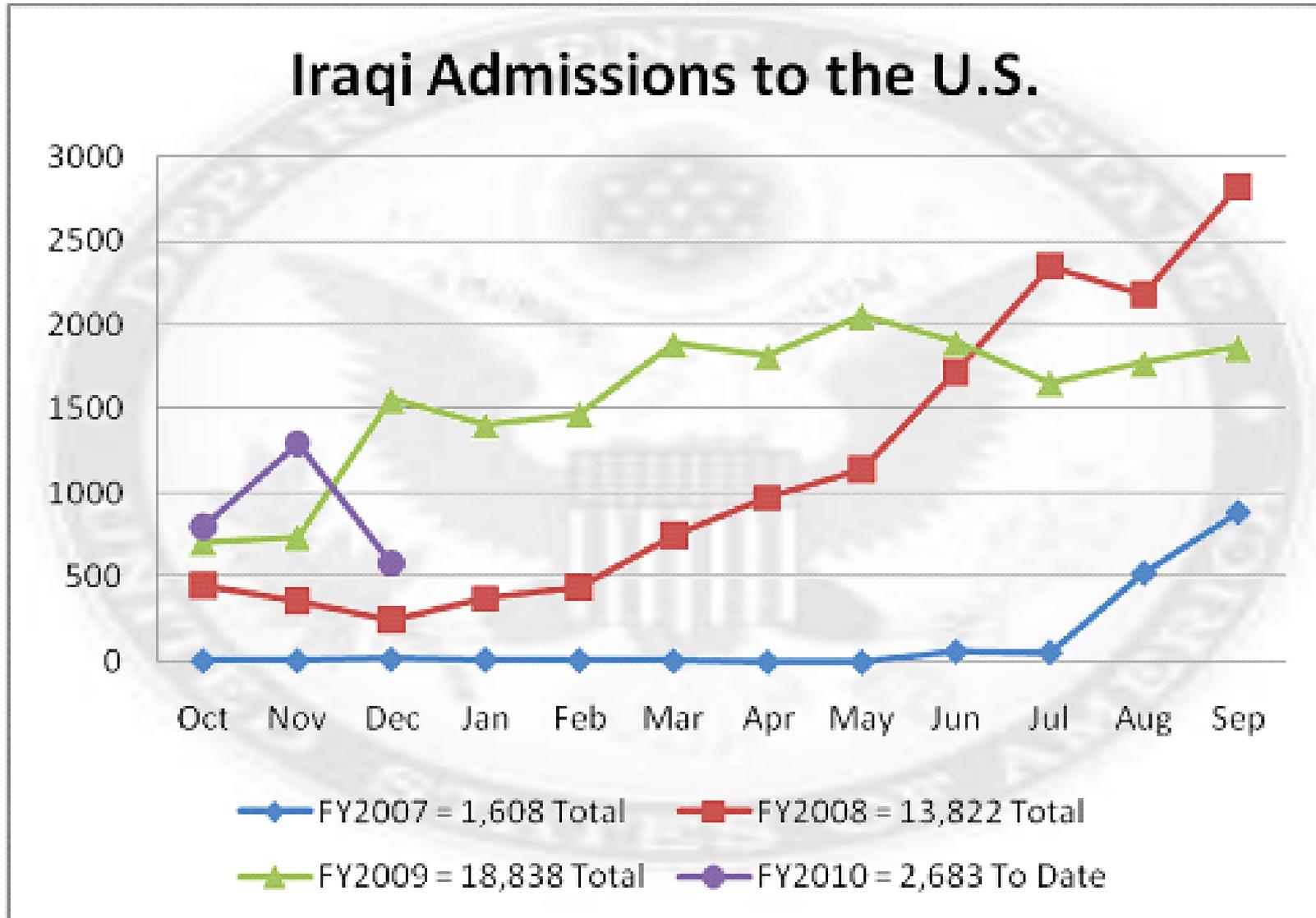
- **Hydrocarbons Package:** The Framework Law was resubmitted to the Oil and Gas Committee on October 26, 2008 and then returned to the Council of Ministers. There has been no progress on the other three laws in the package.
- **NGO Law:** This law will regulate the operations and funding of Non-Governmental Organizations operating within Iraq. It received its first reading in the Council of Representatives on April 20, 2009.
- **National Elections Law:** The amended election law was approved by the Presidency Council on December 6.

POLITICAL - Refugee Update



- **There are approximately 295,000 Iraqi refugees currently registered with UNHCR in neighboring countries. There are likely significant numbers of unregistered refugees as well. UNHCR reports that 1.5 million Iraqis displaced by sectarian violence following the Samarra Mosque bombing of February 2006 remain internally displaced in Iraq.**
- **In FY09, the State Department's Bureau of Population, Refugees and Migration contributed \$ 303.4 million to international organizations and nongovernmental organizations to assist displaced Iraqis inside the country and in the region.**
- **Since the program's inception in FY07, 37,573 Iraqi refugees have been admitted for U.S. resettlement, an increase of 622 since the last report. The U.S. admitted 18,838 Iraqi refugees in FY09.**
- **As of September 2009, a total of 1,606 Special Immigrant Visa (SIVs) have been issued for Iraqi translators and interpreters (and their dependents) since FY07 (under the Section 1059 program).**
- **As of September 2009, a total of 3,028 SIVs have been issued for Iraqis employed by or on behalf of the U.S. government (and their dependents) since FY08 (under the Section 1244 program).**
- **Secretary of State Hillary Clinton announced July 24 that the United States was contributing more than \$100 million in new assistance to support the return and reintegration of displaced Iraqis.**

POLITICAL - Refugee Update



SECURITY – Situation Update



GOI releases militant cleric amidst anticipated fifth British hostage release

Militant Cleric Released; Likely Release of Fifth British Hostage's Remains:

- **Qais al-Khazali, a leader within the Shi'a militant group Asaib Ahl al-Haq (AAH), was released from Iraqi custody on January 3. News of the release has prompted speculation that the remains of Alan McMenemy, who was the fifth and final British hostage held by the group, are likely to be released soon to Iraqi authorities, as demands made by the AAH for the release of the hostages have now been met. Peter Moore, the British IT consultant who was kidnapped with McMenemy in front of the Iraqi Ministry of Finance in May 2007, was released alive from captivity on December 30. Alan McMenemy acted as a bodyguard for Peter Moore and was killed by his captives.**

Iraqi Police Targeted by Roadside Bombings:

- **Iraqi police and hospital officials reported that two roadside bombs in Kirkuk killed three people and wounded six others. A Kirkuk police officer said that the first blast took place in the early morning, targeting a police convoy. The officer said two guards of the city's police chief were in the convoy and both were killed in the attack. The police chief was not in the convoy. According to the officer, minutes later another roadside bomb targeting a police patrol went off, killing a policeman.**

SECURITY – Situation Update



GOI releases militant cleric amidst anticipated fifth British hostage release.

Twin Suicide Bombings in Anbar Kill 23 and Wound Governor:

- **Two suicide bombings killed 23 people and wounded 30 others, including the Anbar provincial governor on December 30, in the western city of Ramadi. The first attack struck near a security checkpoint leading to the governorate offices in the center of Ramadi. Shortly afterwards another suicide bomber detonated his explosives as he ran toward Anbar Governor Qassim Mohammed Abid, who was inspecting the situation from the first blast. Governor Abid was wounded in the attack and flown to Baghdad for treatment.**



ECONOMIC – Oil

Oil prices are rising, but exports below 2009 targets

Crude Oil Update:

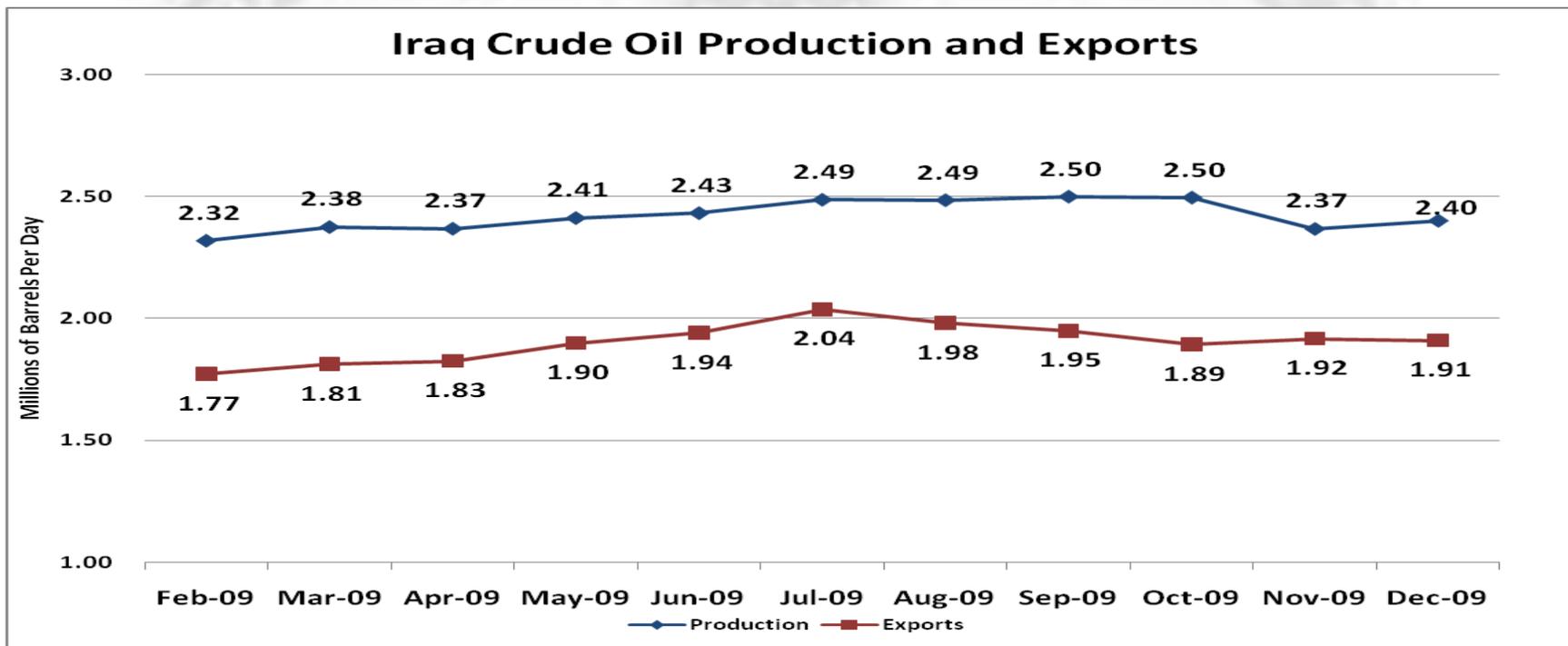
Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$ 75.62/barrel

Dated Brent at \$77.07/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$79.07/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$77.25/barrel



Revenue estimates:

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$61.9 Billion

2009: \$39.23 Billion

*Approximate estimate.

ECONOMIC – Oil



Continued progress in the oil sector

Four Oil Field Contracts Ratified by the Iraqi Cabinet:

- **The Iraqi cabinet approved contracts with winning oil firms to develop four major oil fields, including Majnoon, Gharaf, Qayara, and al-Najmah. Three contracts from the second bid round, as well as two from the first bid round, remain to be ratified by the Cabinet. The remaining companies are expected to respond to the government's proposed contractual amendments by January 7 in order to begin work in the coming months. Iraq's oil output is expected to increase exponentially, from 2.5 million bpd to 12 million bpd over the next decade, with the finalized deals.**

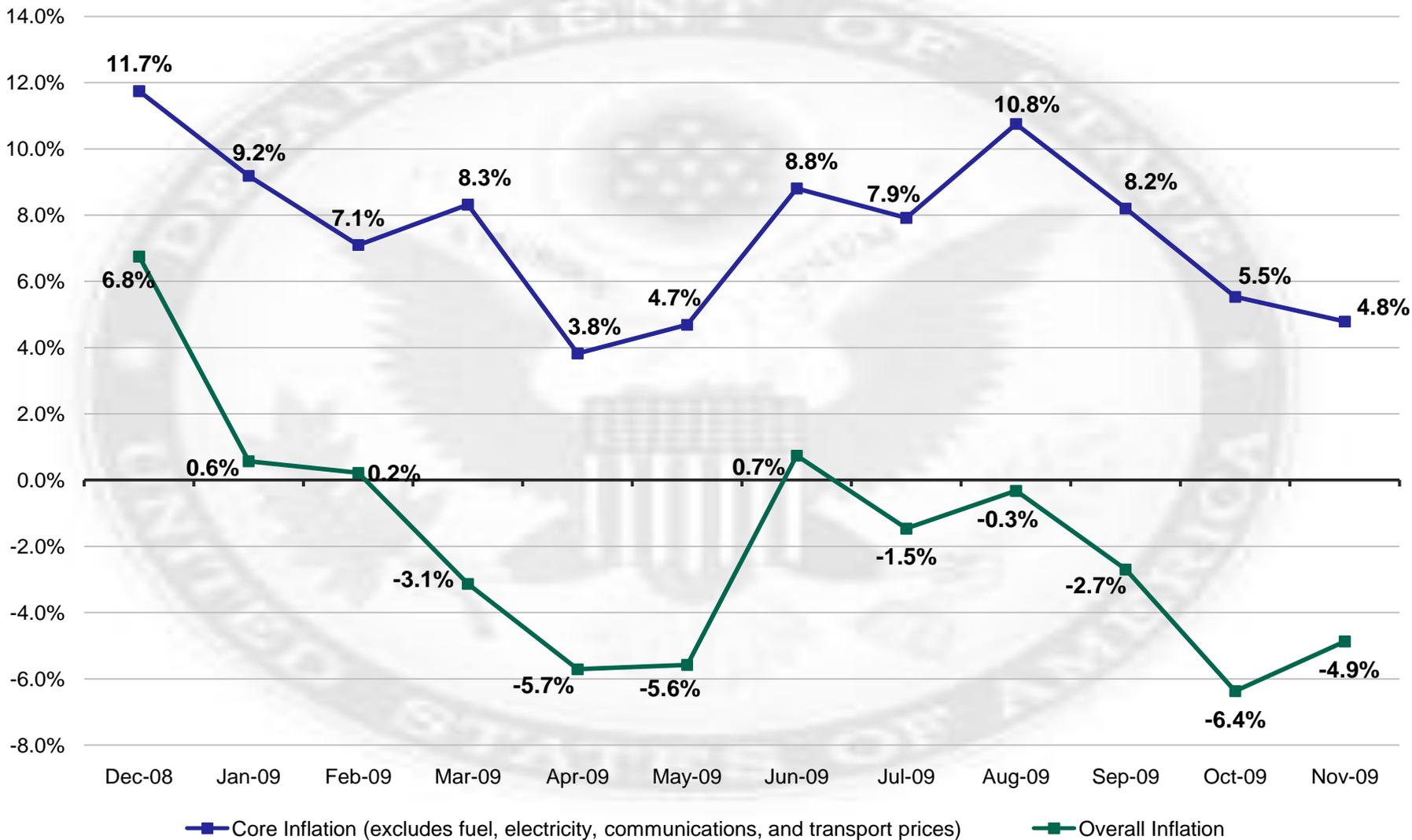
Oil Ministry Appoints New North Oil Company Leader:

- **A representative from the Iraqi Ministry of Oil reported that oil executive Hameed al-Saedi was appointed as the new head of the state-run North Oil Company on January 4. The decision angered current workers and increased tensions at the firm's headquarters in Kirkuk. Three other high-ranking oil managers were replaced.**

ECONOMIC - Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Year-on-Year Inflation



ECONOMIC – Fiscal and Monetary Affairs



Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$77.13	\$77.37	\$76.56	\$64.50
Yield	8.26%	8.35%	8.36%	10.32%

ECONOMIC – Private Sector



Engineering firm's reconstruction contract set to reinvigorate Baghdad's economic and cultural infrastructure

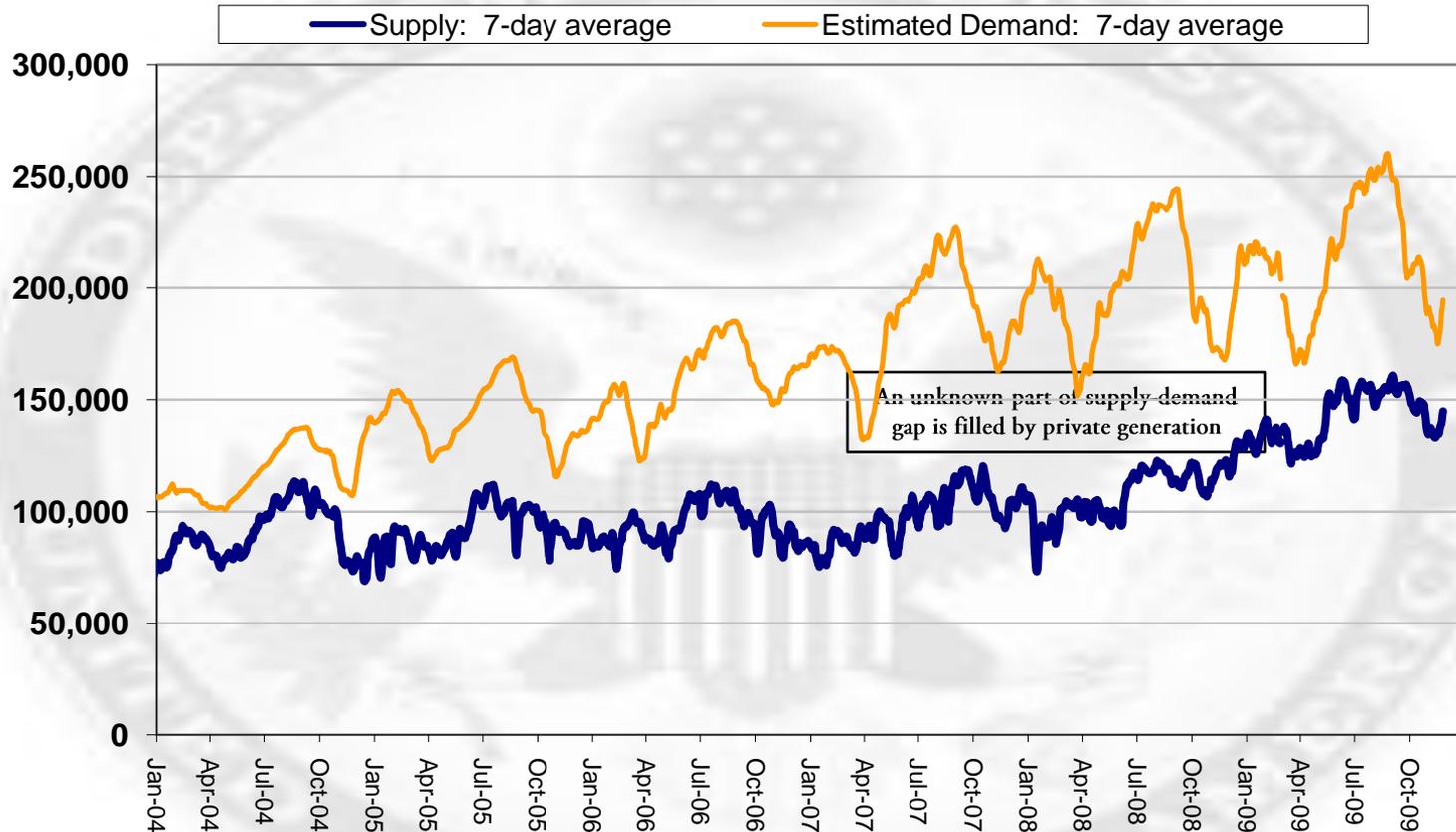
Commercial and Residential Properties Set to Be Built in Baghdad:

- **Working with Baghdad's municipal government and provincial council members, al-Miemari, an Iraqi engineering firm, has proposed a \$5 billion plan to revitalize Baghdad's economic and cultural main street. The firm's plan would create employment opportunities and attract foreign and domestic investment to the capital. However, officials and shopkeepers alike are concerned about the project's fiscal management. Though work is not projected to begin until 2011, the provincial council's integrity committee is already investigating allegations of corruption. Supporters of the project include Mohammed al-Rubaiei, chairman of the provincial council's strategic planning commission, who said that the involvement of private investors, including the street's property owners, would deflect the corruption and cronyism that pervaded government projects.**

Public Services – Electricity



Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- Electricity supply from the grid December 23-29 was 11% above the year-earlier period and met 69% of estimated demand, compared with 62% for the earlier period.

DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement



Iraq's IHEC continues out-of-country voting coordination with foreign countries

IHEC Announces Coordination Efforts with Foreign Governments:

- Judge Qassim al-Ibodi, a member of the board of commissioners of the Independent High Electoral Commission (IHEC) in Iraq, announced that four countries have agreed to allow Iraqis living there to vote in Iraq's upcoming parliamentary election. According to Ibodi, Turkey, Sweden, Austria, and Jordan agreed to host voting for Iraqi residents. IHEC is waiting for the approval of 11 additional countries to allow Iraqis to vote within their territories.

Speaker Samarraie Visits Jordan:

- Iraqi Parliament Speaker Iyad al-Samarraie visited Amman to discuss political developments and strengthening of bilateral relations with Jordanian counterparts.

Beyond Baghdad



Picture of a greenhouse, or hoop house as they are known locally, in Ninewa

“...we will help Iraq's institutions strengthen their capacity to protect the rule of law, confront corruption, and deliver basic services.”

President Barack Obama

Recent Highlights

Ninewa

PRT Ninewa, in conjunction with local farmers associations, completed construction on 36 greenhouses throughout the province. The completion of these greenhouses marks the end of the first phase of a grassroots capacity-building program to purchase and build greenhouses for Iraqi farmers in Ninewa province. Local farmers enter a lottery through the farmers association and earn the chance to win a greenhouse, or hoop house as they are known locally, paid for by the PRT. Winners of the lottery receive training from the Ministry of Agriculture on the greenhouse farming industry. Recipients of the greenhouses are expected to pay a portion of the proceeds from their crop to the farmers association to buy additional greenhouses for other farmers.

Diwaniyah

PRT Diwaniyah has been assisting the provincial government with an anti-drug campaign and recently attended the second of two conferences at Quadisiyah University on the war against illegal drugs. During the conference, which was attended by leading political and academic figures as well as Baghdad ministry officials, representatives from the Ministry of Health reported that 30% of persons between 13 and 30 years of age are using illicit drugs. Growing concern over the use of illegal drugs in the region has prompted the local government to request information on how the U.S. Government can help. PRT Diwaniyah has assisted by providing anti-drug posters for several communities in the province.



CONTACT INFORMATION

This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.

For additional information, please see:

- Department of State, Section 2207 Report on Iraq Relief and Reconstruction
<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of State, Section 1227 Report on Iraq
<http://2001-2009.state.gov/p/nea/rls/rpt/>
- Department of Defense, Section 9010 Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq
http://www.defenselink.mil/home/features/Iraq_Reports/index.html

Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)

Slide 4:

- Reuters, December 4, http://news.yahoo.com/s/nm/20100104/wl_nm/us_iraq_blackwater_5

Slide 5-8:

- Department of State, NEA Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@state.gov

Slide 9:

- Times Online, January 4, <http://www.timesonline.co.uk/tol/news/world/iraq/article6975598.ece> (BBC, December 30, http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/uk_news/8435075.stm)
- AFP, December 30, <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ioip3U5jEx9HnTI6-opYbL5WvonQ>

Slide 10:

- AFP, December 30, <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5ioip3U5jEx9HnTI6-opYbL5WvonQ>

Slides 11:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economics Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 12:

- Reuters US, January 5, 2010, <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSLDE60412820100105?type=marketsNews>
- Reuters UK, January 4, 2010, <http://uk.reuters.com/article/idUKLDE60310P20100104>

Slide 13:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economics Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (2 of 2)

Slide 14:

- Department of State, NEA/I Iraq Policy and Operations Group, NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

Slide 15:

- New York Times, December 30, 2009
- http://www.nytimes.com/2009/12/30/world/middleeast/30baghdad.html?_r=1&scp=1&sq=iraq%20Al%20Miemari&st=cse

Slide 16:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economics Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 17:

- Aswat al-Iraq, December 28, <http://en.aswataliraq.info/?p=124309>
- Aswat al-Iraq, December 27, <http://en.aswataliraq.info/?p=124278>; Jordan Directions <http://www.jordandirections.com/27/rifai-meets-1230-iraqi-parliament-speaker-2009>; Monsters and Critics, December 30, http://www.monstersandcritics.com/news/middleeast/news/article_1522365.php/Iraqi-speaker-discusses-poll-arrangements-for-Iraqis-in-Jordan

Slide 18:

- Source for Stories: Embassy Baghdad, http://iraq.usembassy.gov/prt_ninewa121609.html
- -PRT Weekly Summary, December 20-26, 2009
- -Source for President Obama's Quote: http://www.whitehouse.gov/the_press_office/Remarks-of-President-Barack-Obama-Responsibly-Ending-the-War-in-Iraq/