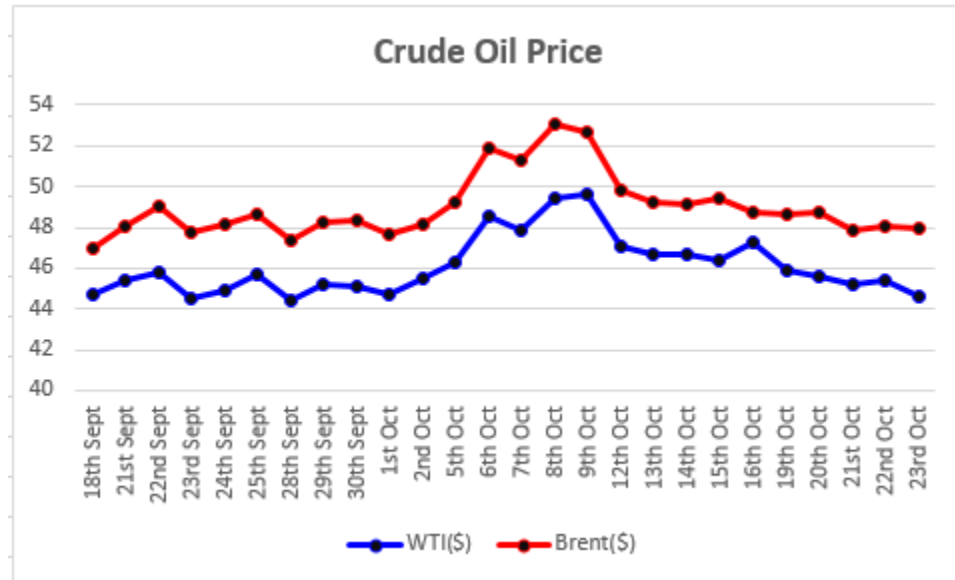


## Post 24<sup>th</sup> October, 2015

Some of the news items doing the rounds this week are as follows:

1. The slide in the oil price continued this week, though slightly.



2. The reduced price of oil has had companies reporting lower levels of profit. Halliburton reported a revenue of \$5.6 billion for Q3, which is down from \$8.7 billion from Q3 2014. Halliburton had reduced its workforce by over 21% this year, and at the present rate the company might have to take some more tough decisions.
3. Schlumberger has reported a Q3 revenue of \$8.5 billion, which is down 34% from the same time last year. The company will go ahead in terms of restructuring and job cuts going forward.
4. Weatherford, which has reduced its workforce by 11,000 since the beginning of this year, has also announced its plans to reduce it by another 3000 before the end of this year. It has closed down many manufacturing, service and operating facilities and plans to close down more next year, as the oil pricing is expected to remain low during 2016.
5. Shell has stopped further exploration in the Chukchi Sea, offshore Alaska for the foreseeable future, following the results of its exploration activity in the area. Besides, the present oil price may not warrant any such activity anywhere in hostile or difficult areas.
6. Recently, Iran's oil minister remarked that even though he had urged the OPEC members to reduce their production so that the oil price comes above \$70, he does not see any imminent change in OPEC strategy. This will be a hot issue for discussion at the forthcoming OPEC meeting slated for Dec 4 in Vienna. We'll have to wait and watch.

So much for the industry news.

As I had indicated in my last column, I was travelling this week attending the SEG Convention at New Orleans, and didn't have the time to come up with a topic for the 'lighter side' part of my column. I will however report about the New Orleans experience soon.

So much for this week!

Till the next post, stay safe and happy!