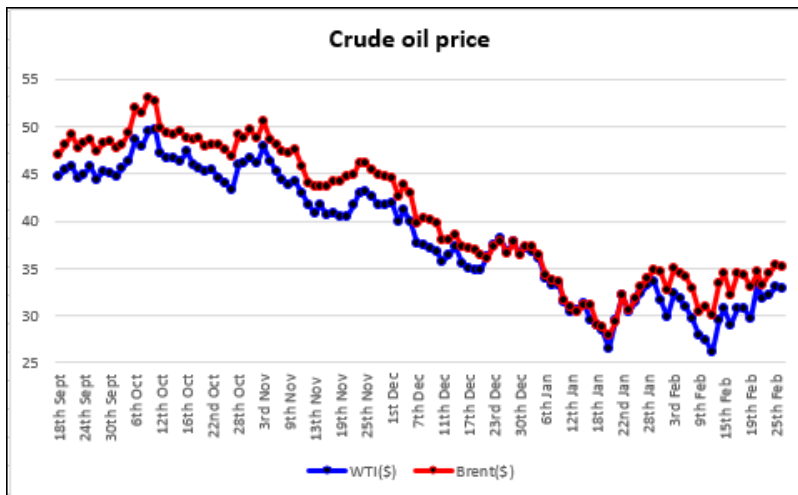


# [www.chopraseismic.com](http://www.chopraseismic.com)

## Calgary, Canada

Some of the news items for this week are as follows:



1. Crude oil prices this week have fluctuated in the \$29 and \$34 range. This has been in response to the news or rumours about oil production getting restricted by OPEC/non-OPEC countries after last week's developments.
2. The slump in the oil prices will have its toll on Alberta's economy and the provincial deficit will top \$10.4 billion next year. Many other countries that depend on oil revenue are badly hit and will be in a similar situation.
3. Saudi Arabia's Oil Minister Ali Al-Naimi issued a strict warning to global oil executives in that they should lower their cost of production or 'get out'. He said there will not be any production cuts as other countries will not comply. Similar to the one they had last week, there will be another meeting next month.
4. Iraq's oil minister Adel Abdul Mahdi has said that the success of a proposal on output freeze floated recently by Russia and Saudi Arabia depends on support of the other countries, both OPEC and non-OPEC, so that there is complete agreement. Iran does not intend to comply with this proposal.
5. Speaking at the IHS CERA Week earlier this week, the OPEC Secretary General, Abdalla Salem el-Badri said the production freeze should be adhered to for three/four months and then assess the situation in terms of the crude oil price. Of course, he said, that when the price goes up, the US shale oil production will come back, which is now gradually getting curtailed due to the low price of oil.
6. According to a US EIA report issued recently, the crude oil production from the US Gulf of Mexico will increase to 1.6 mb/d by the end of this year, despite low oil prices. This number will climb to 1.8 mb/d next year, and by the end of 2017 it will probably reach 1.9 mb/d.

7. For the first time after the last 21 consecutive years, ExxonMobil has failed to replace the oil and gas it produced last year with new discoveries and acquisitions. The company holds reserves equivalent to 24.7 bbl of crude oil as of December 31, 2015, which can be produced for 16 years at current rate of production. At the end of 2014, it was holding reserves that could produce for 17 years.
8. EnCana Corp. announced on Feb 24<sup>th</sup> that it is planning to further reduce its workforce by 20%, to achieve up to \$250 m in cost savings in 2016. The Q4 financial report for the company announced a net loss of \$612 m. The workforce reduction will then become 50% since 2013.
9. Halliburton Co. announced this week that due to the present market downturn, it is cutting another 5000 workers, or 8% of its global workforce. Last year the company had axed 4000 jobs.

*For the lighter side this week*

*Have you heard of the 'Rule of thirds'?*

I hadn't till recently. It is a guideline kept in mind while composing visual images. Remember, composition is the template that builds a photograph or an image. For example, you are painting or clicking a picture with your digital camera or you iPhone. The guideline suggests that an image should be divided into nine equal parts by two equally spaced horizontal lines and two vertical lines, and then the main elements of the image you are trying to capture be placed along these lines or their intersections. By doing so, you avoid putting the main elements or the visual mass, or focus of the image at the center of the image, or else we end up making it a bull's-eye kind of a thing. When we look at a photo or an image, if the main elements are spread out, our eyes like to roam with the subject, and understand the visual. If the center of mass or the visual mass is a bull's-eye, then our eyes see that and have nowhere to go, as it is almost equal distance from all the sides. If the main elements that you are trying to capture are placed along the lines and their intersections, our eyes tend to follow them. This will make the image somewhat interactive and you view the image for a bit longer. Such photos and images are more appreciated.

The '*rule of thirds*' guideline is an age old tried and tested rule that was developed/created by painters during the Renaissance period. As the painters start on a clean canvas, they try and provide a relevant background for their painting so that it is able to tell a story. The known mention of the rule of thirds or reported is referred to the work of Sir Joshua Reynolds, back in 1783. It has been followed through since then and appreciated. The present day digital cameras also have the option of showing such a grid that guides you to observe the rule of thirds.

Having said this, it is not necessary that every picture you click should be following rule thirds. Sometimes, there are situations where this rule has to be broken. Your portrait photos obviously need to have your close up at the center. Besides this, you may be able to take great pictures that don't necessarily follow the rule of thirds. But being aware of such guidelines definitely helps us to be a little more creative.

As I came across this guideline only recently, I quickly checked up some of the pictures that I have collected on my laptop. I found a few of them which unknowingly appear to have followed the rule of

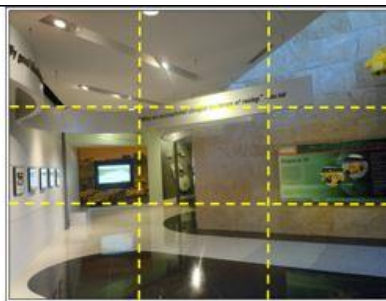
thirds, though not strictly. I show them below, but many others were not as good. I have overlaid the yellow grid for your reference. Going forward I will keep the rule of thirds in mind. So should you.

Another aspect that can be considered in some situations is to try and bring in depth in your images. For instance, while trekking if there is a long wounded trek path in front of you in a beautiful scenic background, that could tempt you to capture a good image. Though not scenic, I show below such a photo I captured few years ago when I visited Madrid. Notice the feeling of depth you perceive in this image.

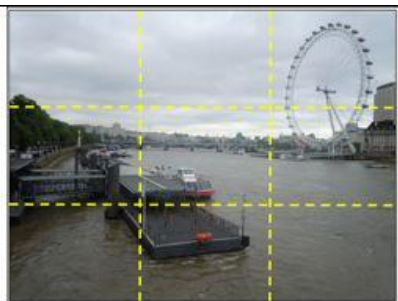
The rule of thirds is followed by professional photographers, videographers, TV and film artistes. It gives a sense of visual balance. I suggest you keep this in mind next when you happen to capture images.



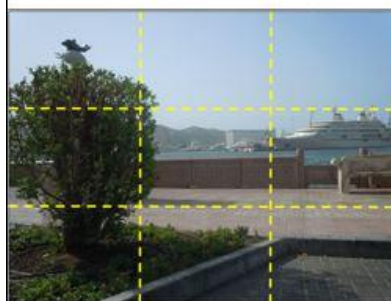
Shot taken at a museum in Tulsa, OK



Shot taken at a museum in Midland, Texas



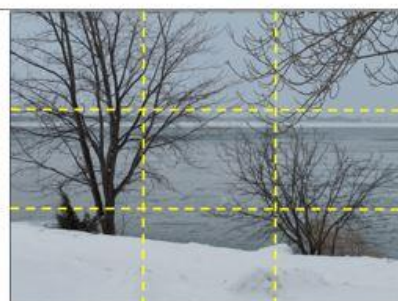
Shot taken at central London



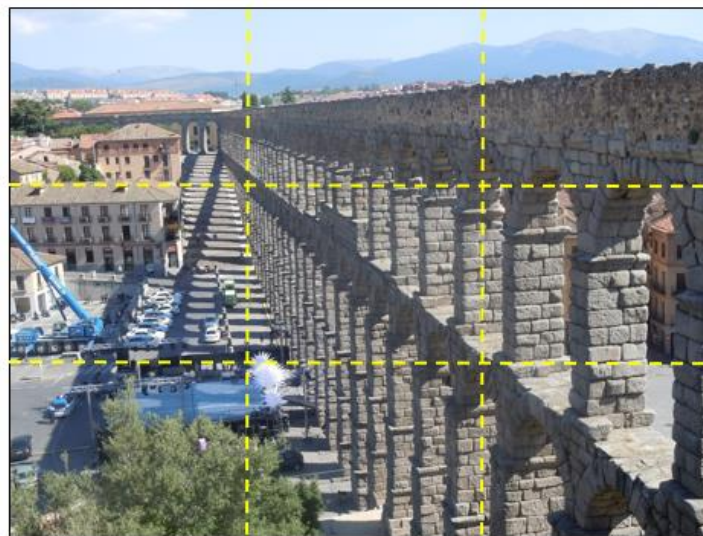
Shot taken at Muscat, Oman



Shot taken outside the hotel I was staying at Bakersfield, California



Shot taken in the freezing cold at Kingston. Shows frozen Lake Ontario



Shot taken at Sergovia, a beautiful town in the outskirts of Madrid. Shows the Roman aqueduct.

*Did you know?*

It takes 8 minutes and 20 seconds for light to travel from the sun to the earth [h](#).

I hope you find these interesting.

So much for this week! Till the next post, stay safe and happy!