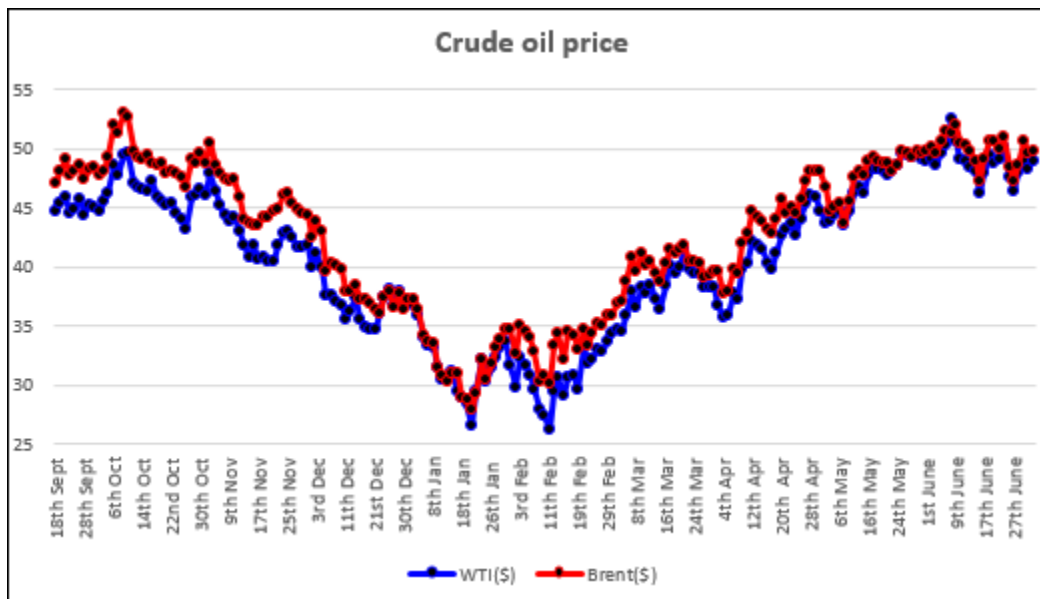


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1. Oil price fluctuated between \$46 and \$50 this week. After the Brexit concerns from last week and the consequent crude price tumble seen on Friday last, oil prices surged midweek as news spread about US crude inventories being lower than expected. Other international developments that affected the oil price support are the possible strike by oil workers in Norway and the crisis in Venezuela. The US EIA reported that crude stockpiles fell 4.1 mb during the week ending June 24. Up to 7500 Norwegian oil and gas workers could go on strike starting Saturday, if their demand on wage increases are not met. Oil producers and refiners in Venezuela are finding it difficult to maintain output due to power outages as well as equipment shortages.
2. Since March 2016, the Niger Delta Avengers militant group has been attacking oil installations in Nigeria, which has resulted in Nigeria's oil production from 2.2 mb/d to 1.3 mb/d. Recently, a ceasefire between the Nigerian government and the militant group has been agreed upon, which could help the country's oil production to recover. The government has also sought new investments worth \$8.5 billion from a Chinese group which could help recover the earlier production levels faster. Should this happen, the escalation in the crude oil price could get dampened.
3. Since October 2015, Saudi Arabia has provided more crude to the market that it has pumped out, the difference coming from its crude oil stocks. No wonder the country's new oil minister has said at the sidelines of the OPEC meeting on June 2nd that the market is emerging from the global oil glut. At the end of April, the Saudi crude stocked in domestic and overseas storage stood at 291 mb. Besides the crude stored in large storage tanks within the country, Saudi Arabia has such large storage tanks in Sidi Kerir in Egypt, Okinawa in Japan and Rotterdam.

4. According to BP CEO, Bob Dudley, the rise in crude oil demands in China, North America and Europe are likely to balance the global market this year. He said though we do not expect \$100 oil to return any time soon, if production is maintained at the present prices, it should see us through the present difficult times.
5. We are heading to close to two years in the present downturn and there is no end in sight. Different optimistic statements are given by prominent leaders in our industry or industry analysts, but think of the thousands of workers who have been laid off due to the low oil prices. These workers have been searching for jobs but the prolonged downturn is forcing some to look outside our industry. Many have already left our industry to enter an industry or business that is less unpredictable, even if it has somewhat lower perks or returns. The present downturn has definitely tested the patience of many, and will lead to a shortfall in experienced manpower, once our industry comes out of the downturn. This should be a cause of concern.

So much for the industry news this week.

For the lighter side this week

You may have heard of references to *hotels*, *motels*, *inns* and *resorts*. Have you ever wondered about the differences between them?

We all know that a **hotel** is a commercial establishment providing accommodation, meals and other services for travelers and tourists, for a stay extending from a day to a week or may be a few weeks, depending on the purpose or business. Some hotels may offer suites as accommodation, which are more suited for a short family vacation. Besides the basic amenities, well-fitted bathrooms, restaurants, entertainment, gym or fitness center, bar, TV, internet and more are available in hotels. Such facilities that are offered to travelers provide them relaxation and comfort, and of course come at a price. Thus hotels are usually more expensive, and the tariff varies with the comfort sought or offered.

A **motel** is an accommodation situated on a roadside meant for motorists usually found on less-travelled roads. It is designed usually as a square or a U-shaped block that has parking space for vehicles in the inner courtyard. They are affordable, meant for a night's stay and provide easy access to motorists.

The word **inn** has historical connotation as in old times inns would provide travelers with lodging and food, and also a stable for horses. Simple home-cooked food would be served as meals and such inns were located along main roads providing a place to stay for a night or so. Such accommodation, usually a smaller construction, along highways or countrysides are still found in present times, providing just the basic amenities to travelers, and are much less expensive.

There is also another related term that we come across these days, and that is a **resort**. Resorts are again commercial establishments that provide relaxation and comfort, but are usually built in beautiful natural surroundings in the mountains or in the outskirts of cities, or by the side of a river or sea, or on an island. Besides the place required for staying, resorts offer much more by way of recreation and are suitable for spending vacation time with family.

Did you know?

Human saliva contains a painkiller called *opiorphin* that is six times more powerful than morphine. The naturally produced opiorphin may not have a painkilling role in our body, but it has to be found if it could be used as an effective drug.

Check it out at <http://www.nature.com/news/2006/061113/full/news061113-4.html>

I hope you find these interesting.

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