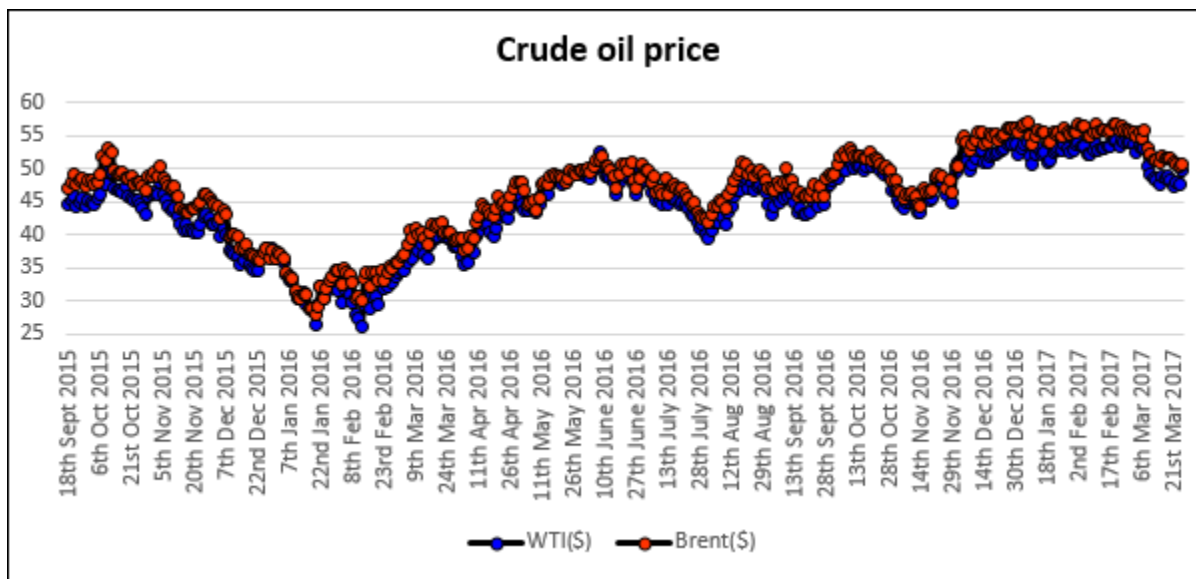


# [www.chopraseismic.com](http://www.chopraseismic.com)

## Calgary, Canada

The crude oil price has fluctuated due to a number of factors that are briefly mentioned below:



1. The US stockpiles showed a retreat from record levels (drop by 237,000 to 528.2 mb) two weeks ago, which prompted oil prices to look up, only to go below \$50 as the stockpile increased last week. Also indications have been received from Saudi Arabia that the OPEC production cuts that have been in place since the beginning of January this year, may continue beyond June 2017 for the rest of the year. There is also speculation about US President Donald Trump's pro-growth policies gaining congressional approval.
2. OPEC production cuts are helping heavy oil producers from western Canada and Gulf of Mexico. As part of its reduction or production cuts, Saudi Arabia and other OPEC and non-OPEC members had reduced their exports of heavy oil that are less expensive. Refineries that process heavy oil have now started looking for heavy crude oil from North America, and thus its market price has strengthened. Not only shipments from Gulf of Mexico are going to Japan and India, even the Canadian heavy crude has a market, and some of the oil companies are pursuing their expansion programs that had to be put on hold due to low oil prices.
3. The US rig count of active drilling rigs climbed by 20 to 809 during the week ended March 24, according to Baker Hughes data. Since Jan 2017, 150 more rigs have been added, and since the week ended May 27, 2016, 405 more. Meanwhile, the rig count in Canada has dropped 91 units to 185.
4. In the last two weeks the oil prices have lost 10% of their value, signaling that the worldwide supply glut is perhaps not shrinking. With the US output estimated to increase by 1.2 mb/d in

the next two years, which is about 50% more than the earlier estimates, energy analysts are revising their forecast for 2017 and 2018. The new projected prices are \$65 for 2018 and in the range \$60 to \$62.5 for second half of 2017.

5. Though the OPEC and non-OPEC compliance to their agreement has been 94%, Russia has trimmed its production by 160,000 b/d till mid-March and plans to reach its planned 300,000 barrel reduction thereafter till the end of June. In response to the Saudi indication that the production cuts in place may have to be extended beyond June 2017, the Russian Energy Minister Alexander Novak said that the members (OPEC/non-OPEC) should decide on it in late April or mid-May, and that it is too early to talk about it. The US oil production grew to 9.11 mb/d, the most since February 2016, and the US crude stockpiles for the week ended Mar 17, reached 533.1 mb/d, and is a big concern for the revival of the crude oil prices to higher levels.
6. Reports indicate that Libya's oil production has climbed to match the levels before clashes erupted among rival groups in the country and forced closure of two export terminals. This good news for the country.

So much for the industry news this week.

#### *For the lighter side this week*

As I had mentioned in my last post, while sitting in a lounge at an airport, people seem indifferent to the quiet ambience that is supposed to be maintained therein. On my way back from Saudi Arabia yesterday, I had two guys sitting next to me at the Amsterdam airport lounge, and discussing how to handle latecomers to work. One of the guys said that the most common excuse he gets when his subordinates show up late is 'caught in traffic'. The other excuses are 'vehicle breakdown', 'not feeling well', 'getting children ready for school', and others. Some of these excuses may be true, but when it happens frequently, how does he ensure if the employee is lying. The other guy seemed more patient and said that he had an employee working for him, is really hardworking, is a great performer, but is late to work. He went on to add that he does not mind this employee reaching late to work, as he is a team player, outshines others, meets deadlines and more than makes up for the 30-40 minutes he is late daily. This discussion was interesting I felt, and so was all ears for it. The following is a gist of the discussion that went on there, of course in my own words.

- Some offices have a card access, so that the times 'in' and 'out' of the office are recorded, and the employees are asked for explanation for the time that falls short of the 8 hours per day work time each week.
- There is a certain level of discipline/decorum that needs to be maintained in the place of work, or else there would be chaos. Needless to mention this also depends on the nature of the work, but should the boss need input from an employee only to find him/her missing is not good.
- If traffic is an issue, people can come in early and go early to beat the traffic.
- Regular work hours are also good for maintaining harmony amongst employees. If not checked some co-workers will silently become jealous of the 'relaxed' works hours for some and not for them.

- There is always the possibility of an employee showing up late for work on any particular day for a certain peculiar reason, but so long as the employee does not make it a habit, it is okay.
- Too rigid a stand is also not good and the employees should be given some leeway to perform the work within required deadlines.
- Besides, employees who have a passion for their work, will find a way to solve their problems (household or traffic) and get to work on time. If they have become habitual, then they need to work on their habits.
- Employees who are compensated well will feel a sense of guilt and show up on time.

There could be many other arguments for and against this issue, but the above points are what I could gather at the lounge. I had a long lay over (6 hours) at Amsterdam, and so it was possible for me to get hold of this discussion, which I felt was appropriate for my post.

I hope you find this interesting.

*Did you know?*

*How many eggs a year does a hen lay?*

Typically, a hen takes about 25 hours to produce an egg, which works out to 350 eggs a year.

Another thing to keep in mind is that hens do not lay eggs in the dark. As daylight depends on the location of a place where the hen is kept, the average number may work out to between 255 and 260 eggs a year.

How is it for you? 😊