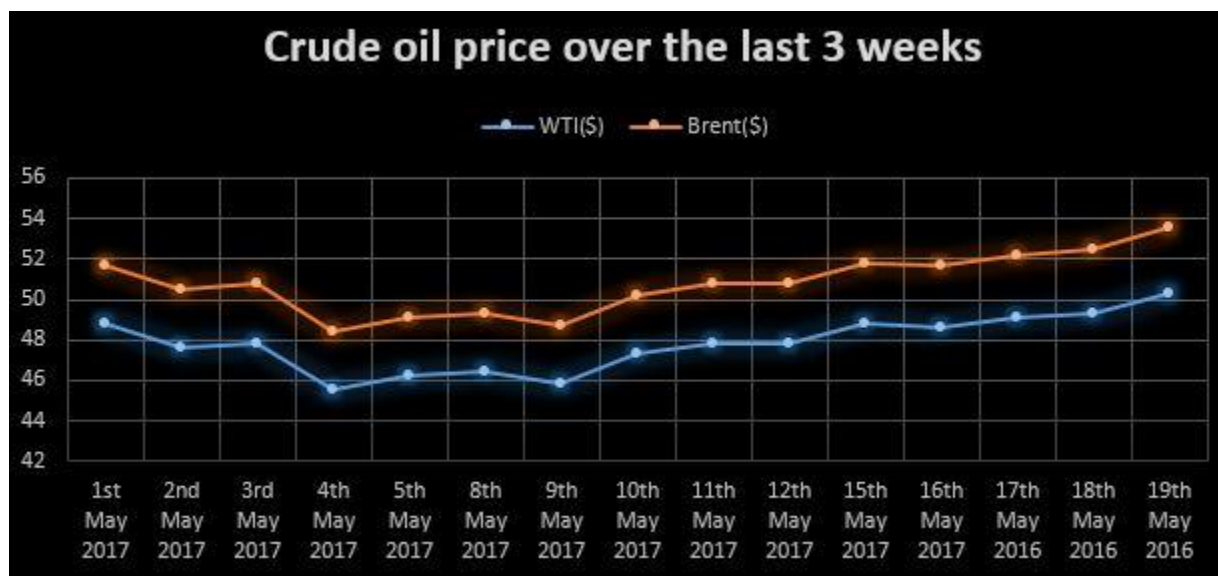
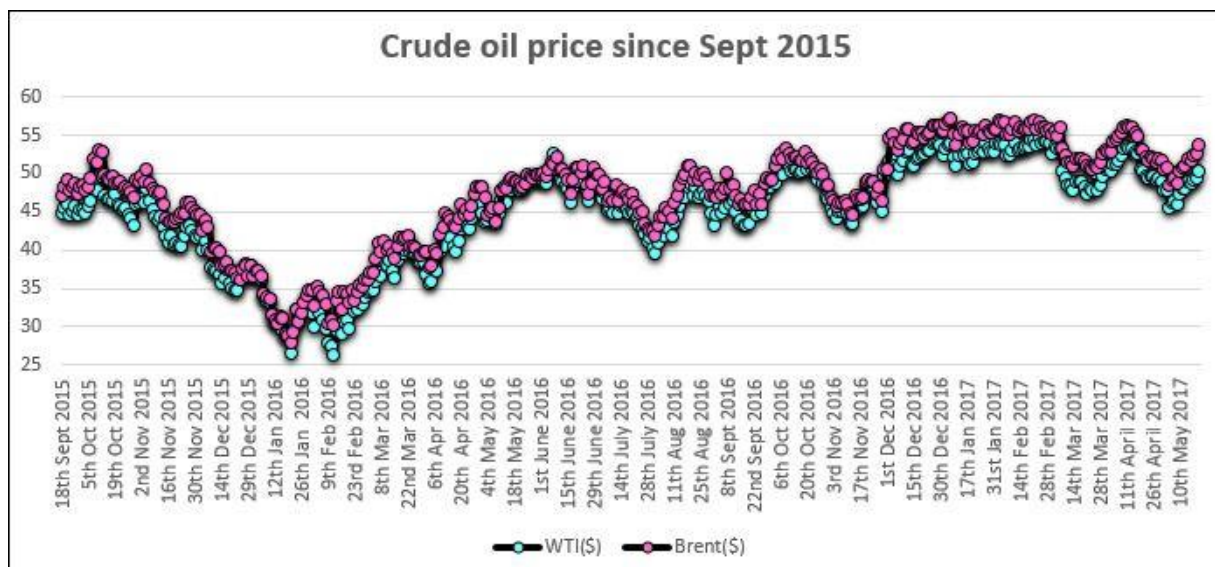


[www.chopraseismic.com](http://www.chopraseismic.com)  
**Calgary, Canada**

The price of oil has shown the following variation over the last week:



- US stocks slumped after it was revealed that President Trump asked former FBI director, James Comey, in February to stop an investigation into Russia's interference into the 2016 Presidential election, and Comey being relieved of his job after that. The crude price slipped slightly on Tuesday. They have been slipping in recent weeks on speculation that surging US production is expected to undercut OPEC's efforts. Also, the week before, as per EIA, the US stockpiles declined by 1.75 mb to 520.8 mb. Per separate data from American Petroleum Institute (API), the US stockpiles rose by 882,000 barrels for the week ended May 12. Thereafter, it gained strength due to the optimism surrounding the OPEC meeting scheduled for May 25 at Vienna, where a decision may be taken for extension of production cuts beyond June 2017. Saudi Arabia and

Russia have said they are in favour of extension, and other OPEC members also seem to agree with it.

- As per the Baker Hughes Inc. rig count, the number of active rigs jumped 16 units during the week ended May 19 to 901. Since the weekend of May 20-27, 2016, this number is up 497. The number 16 is evenly split between the oil-directed rigs and the gas-directed rigs.
- According to the Omani Finance Minister, Darwish Al Balushi, Oman will sell \$2 billion of Islamic bonds this month in order to reduce the large budget deficit caused by lower oil revenue. Per IMF, Oman's budget deficit swelled to almost 22% of GDP in 2016, and the lower oil prices have put a pressure on the finances. The government has undertaken many reforms including the restructuring of subsidies for fuel, water, electricity, gas and plans for implementation of value-added tax.
- Libya is now pumping 814,000 b/d after two of its fields restarted production last month. Higher production will likely eat into market share of other OPEC members, as OPEC decides to extend production cuts beyond June. Libya is exempt from OPEC production cuts.

So much for the industry news this week.

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

The sun is the main source of visible and ultraviolet (UV) radiation reaching the earth. The UV radiation helps in the production of vitamin D in our bodies, but can also induce skin cancer and sunburns. For protection against the latter, the use of sunscreens is suggested by doctors, and thanks to the media outlets (social media as well), it has emerged as a billion dollar a year market. However, sunscreens can do more harm than good.

Sunscreens protect the skin from the damage in two ways – by acting as a mineral barrier or a chemical one. While the former group include ingredients such as zinc oxide or titanium dioxide that create a barrier between the UV radiation and the skin, the chemical sunscreens use one or more chemicals for the purpose, including oxybenzone, avobenzone and others. The concerns that are sometimes raised are about the safety of these chemicals for the human body.

Besides the fact that they completely block our bodies against the UV, the question that often comes up is, can these chemicals cross into the skin or other tissues in our bodies? Some studies have revealed that the chemicals commonly used in the sunscreens (oxybenzone) are endocrine disruptors, and could influence the thyroid and other hormone processes in our bodies. Given this information, the mineral sunscreens may be a safer option.

Some nutritionists suggest the use of natural internal sunscreens from carotenoids found in fruits and vegetables (carrots, strawberries, red peppers, tomatoes, peaches and others), and astaxanthin (an antioxidant found in orange ocean algae).

Some spray sunscreens, though convenient, pose inhalation risks.

*Did you know?*

*Where on Earth is gravity the weakest?*

In the Indian ocean, just below India (as the GOCE) map that I posted on my blog last week.

*Do men or women's hearts beat at the same rate?*

A woman's heart beats faster. The average heart rate for a male adult is between 70 and 72 beats per minute, and this average for an adult female is between 78 and 82 beats. This difference is attributed to the difference in the size of the heart. A typical female heart is somewhat smaller than a male heart, and thus pumps less blood with each beat. It therefore needs to beat faster to pump the same quantity of blood as a male.

I hope you find this interesting.