

January 30, 2008

Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State

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HIGHLIGHTS



- The U.S. will seek a security framework agreement with the GOI to continue combat operations, detain prisoners and maintain legal protections for American troops. Defense Secretary Robert Gates also commented on discussions over a security agreement with the Iraqis, stating that any agreement would not authorize permanent U.S. bases in Iraq. (POLITICAL, page 4)
- Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh told a panel on peace and stability at the World Economic Forum that he favors "rolling" local elections for Iraq's provinces. (POLITICAL, page 5)
- Operation Phantom Phoenix's success in the area of the northern Diyala River Valley known as the "Bread Basket" allowed members of the Iraqi press to visit the area January 21 for the first time in years. (SECURITY, page 9)
- Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmud al-Mashhadani plans to hold a vote on the 2008 budget during the CoR's February 4th session. (ECONOMIC, page 14)
- Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki announced that President Mahmud Ahmadinejad will make a historic trip to Iraq sometime before March 19. (DIPLOMATIC, page 25)

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



U.S. Will Seek Security Framework with Iraq, Defense Official Reports:

• The New York Times reported January 24 that a U.S. defense official says the U.S. will seek a security framework agreement with the GOI to continue combat operations, detain prisoners and maintain legal protections for American troops. At a Pentagon news conference the same day, Defense Secretary Robert Gates also commented on discussions over a security agreement with the Iraqis, stating that any agreement would not authorize permanent U.S. bases in Iraq. "The way to think about the framework agreement is an approach to normalizing the relationship between the U.S. and Iraq," Gates said. Gates also noted that the negotiations remain in an early phase.

President Bush Applauds Iraq "Surge" during State of the Union Address:

President George W. Bush defended his decision to send an additional 30,000 troops to Iraq last year in his final State of the Union address January 28. During the speech, the President warned against withdrawing troops hastily to avoid squandering political and security gains achieved over the last year. "Our objective in the coming year is to sustain and build on the gains we made in 2007, while transitioning to the next phase of our strategy. American troops are shifting from leading operations, to partnering with Iraqi forces, and, eventually, to a protective overwatch mission," he said.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



<u>Iraqi Deputy PM Calls for Rolling Elections</u>:

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Barham Saleh told a panel on peace and stability at the
World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland January 24 that he favors "rolling"
local elections for Iraq's provinces. He said the election model should be part of the
Provincial Powers Act, which he also supports and which is being debated in the
Iraqi Council of Representatives. "This is a very crucial piece of legislation that will
define the character of the Iraqi state. [It] involves devolving power from the central
[government] to the provinces, which is crucial for local democracy," Saleh said.

President Requests \$70 Billion for Iraq/Afghanistan Funding:

 Pentagon spokesman Bryan Whitman on January 28 said the White House will ask Congress next week for \$70 billion to fund the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan from October 1, 2008 through January 2009. The money will be an "emergency allowance" under the 2009 budget request. Since 2001, Congress has approved around \$700 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Congressional Members Ask President Bush to Fund Iraq Refugee Programs:

 Representatives Alcee L. Hastings (D-FL) and John D. Dingell (D-MI), in a letter sent January 23, asked President Bush to add \$1.5 billion to the 2009 Iraq war budget to help pay for Iraq refugee programs. "Our government has a moral responsibility to provide leadership...Iraqis are now the third-largest displaced population in the world and the fastest-growing refugee population globally," they said.

POLITICAL - Provincial



Baghdad Province Presents New Local Council Bylaws:

 Baghdad Provincial Council Chairman Mueen al-Khademy presented copies of the newly-drafted official Bylaws for local councils to representatives of each of Baghdad's 15 district councils in a ceremony at the Provincial Council (PC) building January 27. Jointly developed by members of the PC and lower councils, with guidance from USAID's Local Governance Program, these Bylaws establish guidelines for appointing, replacing and removing local council members and further define both the internal workings of councils and how they interact with other governance institutions. PC Chairman Mueen praised the achievements of local council members and noted their courage.

Safa al-Safi

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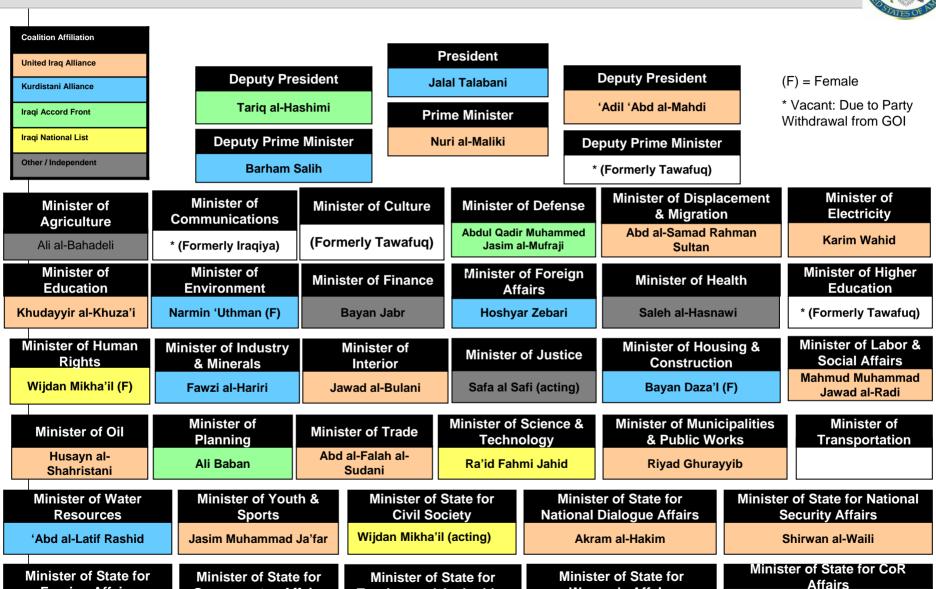
Foreign Affairs

* (Formerly Tawafuq)

POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

Governorates Affairs





Tourism and Antiquities

(Formerly Sadrist/UIA)

Women's Affairs

* (Formerly Tawafug)

POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update



Legislative Process

Council of Shura Council

Council of Representatives (CoR)

Debate after 2nd Reading, Vote after 3rd Reading, and Committee Reports Throughout

Presidency Council

Official Gazette

De-Ba'athification Reform The CoR passed the amended law January 12; the law is under

review before being sent to the Presidency Council

Provincial Powers Major political blocs within the GOI are working on a

compromise on the level of authority over provinces allocated

to the central government

Elections The Prime Minister's Office is currently drafting the law, which

will set the legal basis and structure of provincial and national

elections

Hydrocarbons (Package of 4) The level of control allocated to the central government

in the July 2007 draft version of the Framework Law (currently in CoR Committee) is the key point of disagreement; there may be more progress on the Revenue Management Law, currently with

the Shura Council, in the coming months

General Pardon Law (Amnesty) Had its first reading in the CoR January 21

Pensions Amendment PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette in December 2007

Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.2-2.4 million

Total number of Iraqi refugees admitted to the U.S. to date in FY07-FY08: 2,665

SECURITY - Situation Update



Operation Phantom Phoenix Results in Iraqi Media Visit to Former AQI Stronghold:

• Operation Phantom Phoenix's success in the area of the northern Diyala River Valley known as the "Bread Basket" allowed members of the Iraqi press to visit the area January 21 for the first time in years. The area had been a stronghold and safe haven for al-Qaida in Iraq for several years. However, earlier this month Coalition and Iraqi Forces cleared AQI from the Bread Basket making it safe enough for Iraqi media to see it for themselves. Several of the major Iraqi TV networks made the trip, including al-Jazeera International, al-Iraqia, al-Sumareyai, and al-Salam. The media witnessed the Iraqi Army provide humanitarian aid to the people of Abu Musa, conduct a medical engagement with the citizens of Himbus and distribute kerosene to the people of Taiha.

Fighting AQI in Mosul:

• Since AQI has been driven from previous strongholds in Baghdad and Anbar, U.S. commanders describe Mosul as the last major urban center with a significant AQI presence. Iraqi army reinforcements moved into positions near Mosul January 27 ahead of a planned offensive announced by Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki. Five American soldiers were killed January 28 in a complex attack in the northern city, just days after a house explosion and suicide attack killed as many as 60 people there. The U.S. military has said Iraqi security forces will take the lead in Mosul.

SECURITY - Situation Update



Weapons Cache Found during Operation Yukon:

• Coalition Forces and Concerned Local Citizens found a large weapons cache in southern Baghdad during Operation Yukon, part of the country-wide Operation Phantom Phoenix January 20. The cache contained more than 100 various munitions. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 502nd Paratrooper Infantry Regiment were able to find the cache with the help of local residents. "The residents are moving back to the area and giving us information, because they feel safe now," said 1st Lt. Daniel Stephens, from Brewster, NY. "They see that CLCs and U.S. troops are staying in the area to rid it of al-Qaeda." The troops are working closely with local shaykhs and CLCs to maintain security in the area.

SECURITY - Security Transition



<u>Iraqi Army Receives Vehicle Shipment through FMS</u>:

- The Iraqi Army received 45 military support vehicles at the Muthanna Vehicle Warehouse January 23 through the Foreign Military Sales (FMS) program. The nearly \$7 million cost for the trucks and eight wreckers was paid through Foreign Military Sales, a program in where the GOI purchases defense equipment and supplies from foreign countries, including the U.S. The vehicles will primarily be used for the recovery of any vehicles or equipment that may have been disabled due to mechanical failure or enemy fire.
- U.S. Army Lt. Col. Keith Muschalek, a Foreign Military Sales officer with the Multi-National Security Transition Command – Iraq, Baghdad said, "All of the vehicles have been manufactured in the U.S. and produced specifically for the Iraqi Army. These vehicles will add more efficiency and maneuverability to the battlefield. They will be able to reach certain areas and do certain tasks that we couldn't do before."

SECURITY - Security Transition



Thirty Iraqi National Police Graduate from Armorer's Course:

• More than 30 "shurta," or Iraqi National Policemen, graduated from the Armorer's Maintenance Course in a ceremony held at Joint Security Station Jazeera January 19. The course taught the National Policemen how to maintain an AK-47 and how to properly organize an arms room. "We thank all who participate in these courses and help its successes," said Iraqi Brig. Gen. Karim, 7th Bde., 2nd NP commander, speaking to his troops during the ceremony. "A few months ago, we passed through a very hard situation in fighting al-Qaida criminals, and some of our weapons and vehicles were destroyed. However, we can say that we improved the security by 80-90% in this district, and that required maintaining our weapons, cleaning our guns and vehicles, and organizing our bases."

Sixteen IEDs, Cache Turned in by CLCs:

 Concerned Local Citizens turned in numerous improvised explosive device components and a munitions cache to Multi-National Division-Center Soldiers in Arab Jabour January 25. The CLCs approached Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Stewart, Ga., with 16 pressure plate switches and numerous blasting caps. The CLCs then pointed out where the IEDs were found, allowing Coalition Forces to safely eliminate the threat. The CLCs also turned in a cache of weapons to the soldiers. The cache consisted of 340 57 mm projectile fuses, three 57 mm projectiles and 500 DSHKA heavy machine gun rounds.

SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces



Iraq Security Forces as of December 1, 2007 ^a								
	Current Authorized	Assigned Personnel	Total Trained Personnel to					
Component	Personnel ^b	С	date ^d					
Ministry of Interior (Mol) Forces ^e								
Iraqi Police Service ^f	271,850 269,199		176,126					
National Police ^g	33,861	31,835	36,504					
Border Enforcement	38,000	38,972	31,431					
Total Mol	343,711	340,006	244,061					
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces ⁿ								
Army	186,352	153,871	173,545					
Support Forces	17,369	17,252	18,208					
Air Force	2,907	1,221	1,286					
Navy	1,483	1,109	1,194					
Total MoD	208,111	173,453	194,233					
Counter Terrorism Bureau								
Special Operations	3,967	3,187	3,485					
Total Iraqi Security Forces	555,789	516,646	441,779					

- a Numbers do not include ministry staffs.
- b Numbers reflect Government of Iraq (GOI) authorizations.
- c Numbers are based upon GOI payroll data and do not reflect present for duty totals.
- d Numbers reflect assigned personnel that have received training.
- e Numbers reflect total ISF personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.
- f Mol strength does not reflect investigative and administrative forces, the Mol HQ, Mol Forensics, Dignitary Protection, or contracted guards.
- g Mol Police Support Unit, Provincial Security Force, and Emergency Response Unit personnel are part of the Iraqi Police Service and does not include other Ministry FPS.
- h The MoD strength are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).

ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update



2008 Budget Vote Scheduled for February 4:

 Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mahmud al-Mashhadani plans to hold a vote on the 2008 budget during the Council of Representatives' February 4th session. Wael Abdul-Latif, an independent legislator, said prior to the announcement that the session's agenda "was void of the budget debate although the legislative term was extended mainly to debate it." Debates have been ongoing since December 2007 on the roughly \$48 billion allocated for the 2008 budget.

Ministry of Finance to Raise Capital of Private Banks:

• Allocations to the capital for private sector banks will rise in 2008 due to efforts initiated by the Iraqi Minister of Finance. Minister Jabr al-Zubaydi will raise allocations from \$200 million to \$1 billion. "The government, in line with market economy policies, has already launched mechanisms for equal opportunities between the public and private banks," he said during a press conference following a meeting on private sector banking support. Zubaydi went on to state that Iraq will pay its debts to Kuwait even thought they are not entirely convinced of their validity. According to Zubaydi, Iraq is paying the debt to show respect for international resolutions. In a related announcement, Hussein al-Azeri, the director general of the Iraqi Commercial Bank, stated that in the past six months accredited banks have risen from seven to fourteen.

ECONOMIC - Oil



Turkey to Study Iraq Gas Pipeline:

 Turkey will study the feasibility of a natural gas pipeline from northern Iraq to Yumurtalik, Turkey. BOTAS, the Turkish Pipeline Corporation, will begin assessing the potential for a natural gas pipeline in Turkey. Iraq and Turkey have yet to agree on creating this pipeline that would run from Kirkuk to the Mediterranean terminal of Yumurtalik. It is expected that 353 billion cubic feet of natural gas will flow to Yumurtalik on completion of the pipeline. Iraq has an estimated 111 trillion cubic feet of natural gas reserves.

ECONOMIC – Oil



Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$82.856/ barrel Dated Brent at \$88.646/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$89.845/ barrel Oman/Dubai at \$84.114/barrel

Revenue estimates:

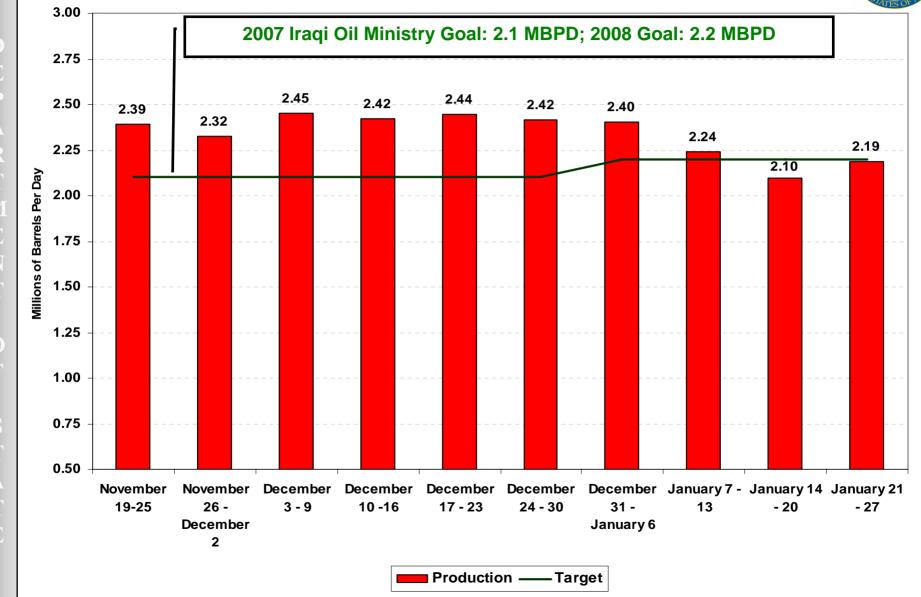
2006: \$31.3 Billion 2007: \$ 41.0 Billion (estimate)

Iraq Aims for Higher Oil Output in 2008:

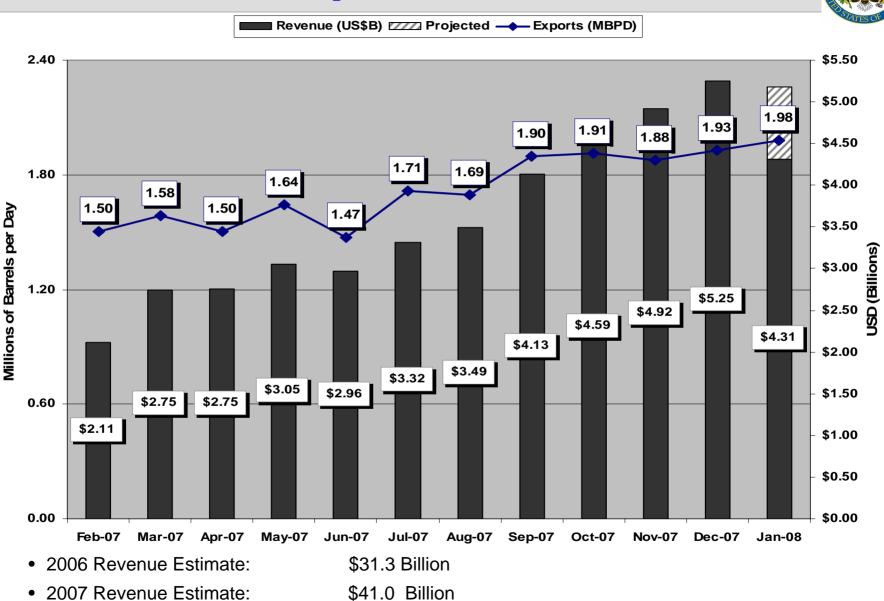
 Iraq Minister of Oil Hussein al-Shahristani expects oil production to rise during 2008. Baghdad currently produces an estimated 2.3 million barrels per day (bpd) and foresees an estimated 2.6 to 2.7 million bpd in 2008. Shahristani made these comments to Reuters while attending the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland. Iraq remains a member of OPEC, though it is exempt from the organization's oil production agreements. Shahristani also stated that he agrees with other OPEC oil ministers that production targets should not be adjusted.

ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production



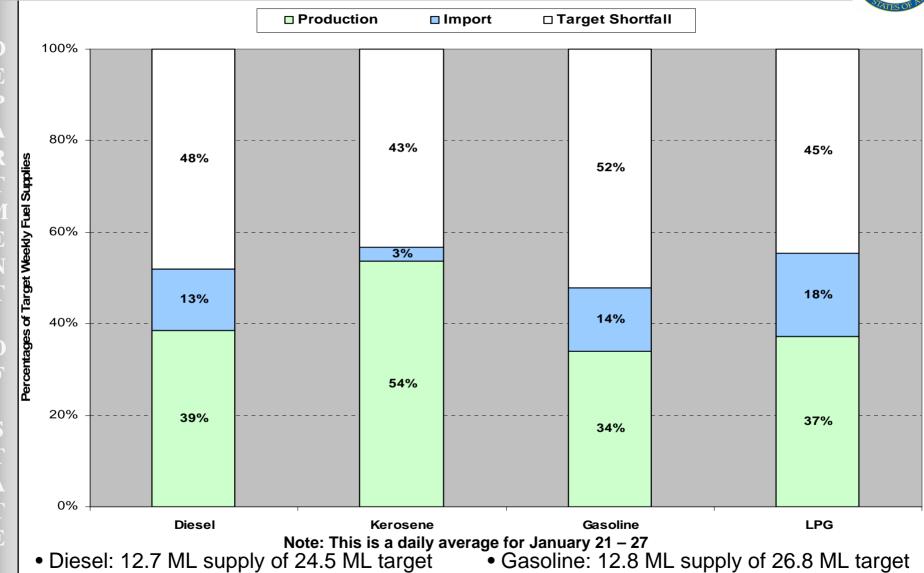


ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies





Kerosene: 8.3 ML supply of 14.6 ML target

Gasoline: 12.8 ML supply of 26.8 ML target

• LPG: 2,829 tons supply of 5,100 tons target UNCLASSIFIED

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ECONOMIC – Electricity



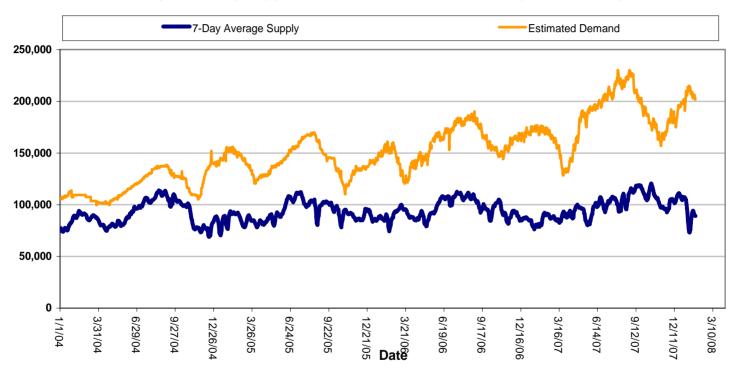
Babil Threatens to Cut Power Plants from Grid:

• Babil Province is threatening to cut its power plants from the national grid due to frustration over electrical blackouts. Salim al-Muslimawi, the governor of Babil province, stated, "If we compare Babil with other provinces, such as Karbala and Najaf, Babil is suffering from lengthy blackouts due to other provinces not sticking with their own shares." Muslimawi has given the central government a week to ensure the province receives its share of electricity, or power plants will be cut. "We have sent many messages to the central government but they have not responded. This is why we have given them this period before we cut any connections," he said. The Electricity Ministry blames some of the power shortages on lack of delivery from Turkey and Kuwait's fuel cuts to Iraqi power plants.

ECONOMIC – Electricity



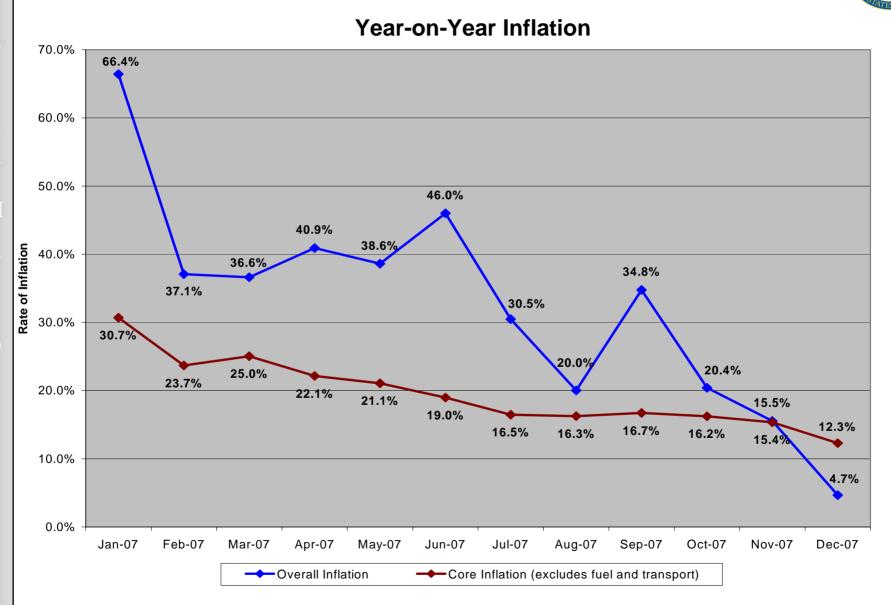
Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004



- For January 23-29, daily electricity demand was 19% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 12% above the year-earlier period and met 44% of demand, compared with 47% for the year-earlier period.
- For January 20-26, average hours of power via the electricity grid after meeting demand from essential services: Baghdad 6.6 and nationwide 8.7. Year-ago levels were Baghdad 4.7 and nationwide 8.2.

ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators





ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators



Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year	
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales					
Price (USD)	\$66.89	\$67.00	\$65.81	\$62.82	
Yield	9.54%	9.52%	9.70%	10.16%	
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction					
USD Sold	\$77,911,250	\$88,741,250	\$39,299,333	\$66,957,492	
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,213	\$1,214	\$1,217	\$1,254.00	
Total Employed by USG Programs					
	93,442	95,414	111,398	N/A	

ECONOMIC - Iraq Relief and Reconstruction Fund (IRRF) 1 and 2



Sector			Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	Allocated	Un- allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law Enforcement	\$4,985	\$20	\$4,961	\$4,961	\$0	\$4,961	\$4,961	\$0	\$4,855	\$4,856	\$2
Justice, Public Safety and Civil Society	\$2,264	\$44	\$2,253	\$2,253	\$0	\$2,250	\$2,250	\$0	\$2,145	\$2,145	\$0
Electricity Sector	\$4,201	\$25	\$4,068	\$4,068	\$0	\$4,046	\$4,048	\$1	\$3,724	\$3,735	\$10
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,714	\$11	\$1,599	\$1,614	\$15	\$1,599	\$1,607	\$9	\$1,555	\$1,559	\$3
Water Resources and Sanitation	\$2,084	\$18	\$1,975	\$1,983	\$8	\$1,971	\$1,972	\$1	\$1,762	\$1,763	\$1
Transportation and Communications	\$454	\$3	\$451	\$451	\$0	\$451	\$451	\$0	\$398	\$399	\$1
Roads, Bridges and Construction	\$332	\$1	\$318	\$318	\$0	\$318	\$318	\$0	\$241	\$241	\$0
Health Care	\$813	\$10	\$784	\$784	\$0	\$774	\$775	\$2	\$715	\$716	\$1
Private Sector Development	\$821	\$2	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$821	\$821	\$0	\$802	\$802	\$0
Education, Refugees, Human Rights, Governance	\$426	\$10	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$423	\$423	\$0	\$394	\$394	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID, STATE)	\$213	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0	\$210	\$210	\$0
Total	\$18,306	\$143	\$17,862	\$17,884	\$23	\$17,823	\$17,835	\$12	\$16,801	\$16,819	\$18
IRRF II Non- Construction	-	-	\$7,936	\$7,936	\$0	\$7,913	\$7,915	\$2	\$7,651	\$7,654	\$3
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,406	\$9,429	\$23	\$9,390	\$9,401	\$10	\$8,634	\$8,649	\$15
IRRF II Overhead	_	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$516	\$516	\$0
IRRF I Total	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,781	\$143	\$20,153	\$20,175	\$23	\$20,055	\$20,067	\$12	\$18,940	\$18,958	\$18

DIPLOMATIC – **Political Engagement**



Ahmadinejad to Visit Iraq:

 Iranian Foreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki announced that President Mahmud Ahmadinejad will make a historic trip to Iraq sometime before March 19. The trip will not be announced until days before the visit, but Mottaki confirmed that the trip will be made before the end of the Iranian year.

Australia Iraq Departure Not Aimed at U.S.:

 Following a meeting with Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, Australian Foreign Minister Stephen Smith said that Australia will seek to "absolutely minimize any disruption" for the U.S. as it withdraws 550 combat troops from Iraq by mid-2008.
 Smith made it clear that his government's pledge to pull combat troops out of Iraq will not hurt its relationship with the U.S., which he called indispensable to Australian security.

DIPLOMATIC – **Economic Engagement**



GOI Suspends Crude Oil Exports to South Korea:

- Iraqi officials reported January 28 that supplies of crude oil exports to South Korea
 have been suspended in protest of an exploration deal involving Korean firms with
 Iraq's Kurdistan Regional Government. A consortium led by state-run Korea
 National Oil Corp. has been told to cancel the exploration project in the KRG region.
 The corporation has so far refused to abandon the deal.
- Similarly, SK Energy, South Korea's top oil refiner, had an annual contract with Iraq suspended January 1 for its involvement with the KRG. SK Energy was told to back out of the KRG deal if it wants to resume the contract. A spokesman for SK Energy stated, "We are trying hard to resume the contract through negotiations."

DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors



26 Countries with forces in Iraq (including U.S.)

Albania Denmark Korea Romania

Armenia El Salvador Latvia Singapore

Australia Estonia Lithuania **Tonga**

Macedonia Ukraine Azerbaijan Georgia

Bosnia-Herzegovina Japan Kazakhstan Mongolia Bulgaria

Czech Republic Poland

TOTAL ~ 10,604 Forces

Moldova

32 Countries and NATO*

(including the U.S.)

Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*32 includes the U.S., the 25 countries listed above, and six non-MNF-I countries: Hungary, Italy, Netherlands, Portugal, Slovenia, Turkey Note: Fiji and New Zealand, participating as a part of the UN Assistance Mission in Irag (UNAMI), are not included.

United Kingdom

CONTACT INFORMATION



• This brief draws from multiple sources. References are cited on the following pages.

Please forward all questions and/or comments to:

NEA-I-IPOG-DL@state.gov

NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (1 of 2)



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- January 25 AP http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080124/ap_on_re_mi_ea/world_forum_iraq;_ylt=AgsXTKDMzhFOc_bVHe3ILq0LewgF
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- January 28 AP http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20080128/ap_on_re_mi_ea/iraq_080119205317
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January 25 - MNF-I Press Release

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January 23 - MNF-I Press Release

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- January 26 MNF-I Press Release
- January 27 MNF-I Press Release

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- http://www.upi.com/International_Security/Energy/Briefing/2008/01/24/iraq_power_outage_prompts_babil_threat/5364/

Slide 21:

- POC Department of State, NEA-I ECON, 202-647-9815
- The chart shows average daily power production in megawatt hours (MWh). 120,000 MWh goal equates to 20 hours at 6000 MW average supplied load or 24 hours at 5000 MW average supply load.
- Oil Prices are sourced from Bloomberg

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- ITAO Weekly Status Report January 30, 2008
- Iraqi Bond Prices sourced from Bloomberg

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Slide 27:

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