

Iraq Weekly Status Report

September 24, 2008

**Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs
US Department of State**

Unclassified



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HIGHLIGHTS

- Iraqi Parliament Passes the Provincial Elections Law (**POLITICAL, page 4**).
- AQI Emir Killed during Coalition Operation (**SECURITY, page 8**).
- Etisalat to Enter Iraqi Telecommunications Market (**ECONOMIC, page 14**).
- Saudi Arabia Repatriates 16 Iraqis in preparation for an agreement with GOI (**DIPLOMATIC, page 23**).

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



Iraqi Parliament Passes Election Law:

- On Wednesday, September 24, Iraq's Council of Representatives passed the Provincial Elections Law (PEL), establishing the process through which local elections will occur. The PEL must now be approved by Iraq's Presidency Council and published in the official gazette to be enacted into law. As part of the electoral compromise, Iraqis have agreed to postpone elections in Kirkuk province and proceed with elections in the other fourteen provinces outside of Kirkuk and the Kurdistan Regional Government. Holding local elections is an important step toward national reconciliation as it gives Sunnis and others who boycotted elections in 2005 the opportunity to gain more representation in their local governments. The new law sets January 31, 2009 as the deadline for holding provincial elections.

KRG Will Provide Stipend to Refugees:

- After meeting with the Federal Minister for Displacement and Migration, Kurdish Minister of Extra-Regional Affairs Mohammad Ihsan stated that the KRG will provide refugees resettled in Kurdish territories a monthly stipend of about 150,000 Iraqi dinars (\$130). The Kurdish Ministry of Extra-Regional Affairs will also set up a headquarters to coordinate assistance to displaced persons with officials from the central government.

POLITICAL - Governance & Legislation



KRG Parliament Passes Media Law:

- The Parliament of the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) passed an amended version of a media law September 22 in an attempt to provide more protection for journalists. The previous version of the law, which was passed by the regional parliament in December 2007, allowed publications to be shut down, stipulated that journalists could be fined up to 10 million Iraqi dinars (\$8,400), and included punishments such as imprisonment. Masoud Barzani, president of the KRG, refused to accept this version of the law and sent it back to parliament for revision after backlash from the public. The modified law removed imprisonment as a punishment for acts such as defamation and included measures to protect the rights of journalists.



POLITICAL – Government of Iraq

Coalition Affiliation (at time of appointment)
United Iraq Alliance
Kurdistani Alliance
Iraqi Accord Front
Iraqi National List
Other / Independent

(F) = Female
 ***Formerly Iraqiya

Prime Minister
 Nuri al-Maliki

Deputy Prime Minister
 Rafi al-Issawi

Deputy Prime Minister
 Barham Salih

President
 Jalal Talabani
Deputy President
 Tariq al-Hashimi
Deputy President
 'Adil 'Abd al-Mahdi

Minister of Agriculture
 Ali al-Bahadeli

Minister of Communications
 Faruq Abdul Qadir Abdul Rahman

Minister of Culture
 Mahir Dalli Ibrahim al-Hadithi

Minister of Defense
 Abdul Qadir Muhammed Jasim al-Mufraji

Minister of Displacement & Migration
 Abd al-Samad Rahman Sultan

Minister of Electricity
 Karim Wahid

Minister of Education
 Khudayyir al-Khuza'i

Minister of Environment
 Narmin 'Uthman (F)

Minister of Finance
 Bayan Jabr

Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Hoshiyar Zebari

Minister of Health
 Saleh al-Hasnawi

Minister of Higher Education
 Dr. Abd Dhiyab al-Ujayli

Minister of Human Rights
 Wijdan Mikha'il (F)

Minister of Industry & Minerals
 Fawzi al-Hariri

Minister of Interior
 Jawad al-Bulani

Minister of Justice
 *** (Safa al Safi acting)

Minister of Housing & Construction
 Bayan Daza'l (F)

Minister of Labor & Social Affairs
 Mahmud Muhammad Jawad al-Radi

Minister of Oil
 Husayn al-Shahrastani

Minister of Planning
 Ali Baban

Minister of Trade
 Abd al-Falah al-Sudani

Minister of Science & Technology
 Ra'id Fahmi Jahid

Minister of Municipalities & Public Works
 Riyad Ghurayyib

Minister of Transportation
 Amir Abd al-Jabar Ismail

Minister of Water Resources
 'Abd al-Latif Rashid

Minister of Youth & Sports
 Jasim Muhammad Ja'far

Minister of State for Civil Society
 Thamir Jaraf al-Zubaydi

Minister of State for National Dialogue Affairs
 Akram al-Hakim

Minister of State for National Security Affairs
 Shirwan al-Waili

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs
 Dr. Muhammad Munajid Ifan al-Dulaymi

Minister of State for Governorates Affairs
 Khalud Sami Izara al-Majun (F)

Minister of State for Tourism and Antiquities
 Qahtan Abbas Numan al-Jiburi

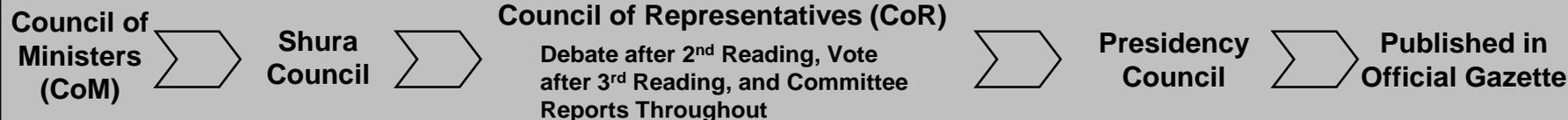
Minister of State for Women's Affairs
 Dr. Nawal Majid Hamid al-Samarr (F)

Minister of State for CoR Affairs
 Safa al-Safi



POLITICAL – Key Legislation and Refugee Update

Legislative Process



Provincial Elections	Passed July 22; vetoed July 26. On September 24, the CoR passed the revised law after voting on each of the vetoed articles. The compromise version of Article 24, the contentious article on Kirkuk, passed unanimously. The law must now be approved by Iraq's Presidency Council (which has ten days to submit a veto).
Hydrocarbons Package	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.
Amnesty Law	PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was signed by the Presidency Council February 26 and was implemented March 2.
Pensions Amendment	PASSED: Published in the Official Gazette December 2007.
De-Ba'athification Reform	PASSED: Approved by default by the Presidency Council February 2008. Published in the Official Gazette in mid-February.
Provincial Powers	PASSED: CoR approved the law on February 13; the law was vetoed by the Presidency Council February 26. The veto was rescinded on March 19, allowing the law to take effect.

Refugee Update

Refugees in the region: 2-2.4 million

Internally displaced persons in Iraq: 2.7 million

The U.S. expects to admit 12,000 Iraqi refugees in FY08; 13,349 refugees have been admitted thus far in FY08. 14,957 Iraqi refugees have been admitted since FY07.



SECURITY - Situation Update

AQI Emir Killed during Coalition Operation:

- Coalition forces killed a leading al-Qaeda in Iraq (AQI) terrorist during an operation in the Tikrit area September 19. The terrorist was suspected of being an IED facilitator and the local “emir” of the Muqdadiyah area of the Tigris River Valley. Acting on intelligence tips, Coalition troops surrounded a building in Ad Dwar, about 140 kilometers northwest of Baghdad. After failing to negotiate the occupants’ surrender, Coalition troops engaged and killed the armed “emir”. Additionally, in accordance with applicable rules, supporting aircraft also engaged and killed three other terrorist suspects. Three women were also killed and an Iraqi child was rescued from the rubble and evacuated for medical treatment.

Coalition Forces Capture Iranian-Backed Terrorists:

- Acting on intelligence information, Coalition forces targeted and captured five suspected key members of the Khataib Hezbollah network September 21 in two separate operations in Baghdad. The network allegedly funnels materiel and weapons into Iraq from Iran, which are then used to conduct attacks against Coalition and Iraqi forces.



SECURITY - Situation Update

Ramadan Detainee Release Continues:

- Task Force 134, the organization responsible for all Coalition detainee operations in Iraq, reported a release of 282 detainees during the third week of Ramadan, bringing the total detainee releases for September to 1,449. Currently, there are about 18,800 detainees in Coalition theater internment facilities; down dramatically from the high of about 26,000 in November 2007. Since the start of 2008, over 13,200 detainees have been released.



SECURITY – Security Transition

Government of Iraq Prepares to Take Control of Sons of Iraq Program:

- The Iraqi Government plans to take control of the Sons of Iraq (SOI) program from Coalition forces on October 1, 2008. Security gains – partially as a result of SOI contributions – have reduced the need for the program; officials assess the SOI to have been key contributors to the 90-percent reduction in violence across Baghdad since August 2007. A Coalition spokesman stated that maintaining these security gains will be the key to a successful transition to Iraqi control.

3,700 Iraqi Police Recruits Graduate from Training:

- Nearly 3,000 police recruits, including 58 women, recently graduated from the Kirkuk Police Training Center. Iraqi and Coalition leaders praised the graduates at the September 23 ceremony for their accomplishments and noted that the newly appointed Iraqi Police officers will provide additional security and stability to the country. Additionally, 704 recruits, including 21 women, graduated from the Ashraf Police Training Facility in Diyala province September 17.



SECURITY - Iraqi Security Forces

Iraq Security Forces as of July 31, 2008 ^a			
Component	Current Authorized Personnel ^b	Assigned ^c Personnel	Total Trained Personnel to date
Ministry of Interior (MoI) Forces ^e			
Iraqi Police Service ^f	333,324	299,170	192,028
National Police ^g	44,263	39,739	50,184
Border Enforcement	47,750	43,073	34,370
Total MoI	425,337	381,982	276,582
Ministry of Defense (MoD) Forces ^h			
Army	171,262	180,296	224,970
Support Forces	15,583	22,069	21,144
Air Force	3,311	1,887	2,246
Navy	1,893	1,872	1,494
Total MoD	192,049	206,124	249,854
Counter Terrorism Bureau			
Special Operations ⁱ	4,733	3,589	4,564
Total Iraqi Security Forces	622,119	591,695	531,000

**The decrease in authorized MoD forces from the April 30 Weekly Status Report with ISF data as of March 31 reflects a change in a temporary GOI policy to increase front line units to 120% of authorized end strength to maintain present-for-duty totals at 100% while soldiers took leave. This change will make ISF reporting consistent with standard military personnel accounting practices in other countries and provide a clearer representation of ISF manning levels.

- 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 total Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) personnel trained to date, some of which are no longer assigned due to casualties, AWOL, and normal separation.
- e. MoI strength excludes other services within Ministry Of Interior (MOI), including the MOI HQ, MOI Forensics, Facility Protection Services, and contracted guards.
- f. The Iraqi Police Service consists of all provincial police forces (station, patrol, traffic, and special units) assigned to all 18 Iraqi provinces.
- g. Includes the national Emergency Response Unit.
- h. The Ministry Of Defense (MOD) authorized numbers are derived from Modified Tables of Organization and Equipment (MTOEs).
- i. The MoD Army Training and Support Forces include logistics units and training center cadre.
- j. Does not include personnel assigned to Counterterrorism Bureau (CTB) or Counterterrorism Command (CTC) headquarters.



ECONOMIC – Economic & Government Capacity Update

Ministry of Transportation's Budget Increased in FY09:

- The Iraqi cabinet increased the FY 2009 budget for the Ministry of Transportation to \$50 million, up from \$30 million in 2008, the National Information Center in Iraq said in a statement. The cabinet also approved the merger of two bus companies—the General Company for Transport and the General Company for Passenger Transport—citing overlap in operations between the two companies.



ECONOMIC – Oil

Crude Oil Update:

Price averages in world markets closed with the following prices:

Basrah Light at \$85.32/barrel

Dated Brent at \$92.74/barrel

WTI Cushing at \$97.29/barrel

Oman/Dubai at \$89.15/barrel

Revenue estimates:

2006: \$31.3 Billion

2007: \$41.0 Billion

2008: \$52.1 Billion (ytd)

Minister of Oil Requests Technical Support from Great Britain:

- The Office of Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki announced September 18 that it has requested technical support from Great Britain to help improve the country's oil industry after talks between PM Maliki and visiting British Minister of State for Energy Malcolm Wicks. A statement released by the office stated that PM Maliki has "invited British companies to invest and get involved in rebuilding projects and provide technical help in oil fields." Wicks reaffirmed his government's commitment to support Iraq and pledged to back efforts to improve security as well as reconstruction.



ECONOMIC – Essential Services

Etisalat to Enter Iraqi Telecommunications Market:

- The United Arab Emirates telecommunications company, Etisalat, announced September 18 its intentions to enter the Iraqi market before the end of the year. Ahmad Julfar, the chief operating officer, said the company was in negotiations to take over an existing licensed operator which operates in a limited capacity. Etisalat has plans to expand into a broader market. In August 2007, Etisalat opted not to bid for an Iraqi mobile phone license; Kuwaiti telecommunications company Zain later received 3 contracts worth \$3.75 billion.

Mobile X-Ray and Blood Mobile Training:

- The U.S. Embassy Baghdad Office of the Health Attaché, in cooperation with the Iraqi Ministry of Health (MOH), has begun the coordination of training in operation, maintenance, and technical assistance courses in Baghdad for Mobile X-Ray and Blood Mobile Vehicles and medical equipment. The MOH, through a United States government grant, was awarded seventeen Blood Mobiles and nineteen Mobile X-Ray vehicles. These vehicles will be distributed throughout each of the provinces and will provide mobile laboratory and X-Ray medical services. The training programs will graduate thirty-six students per week, and will train approximately 180 Iraqi medical students



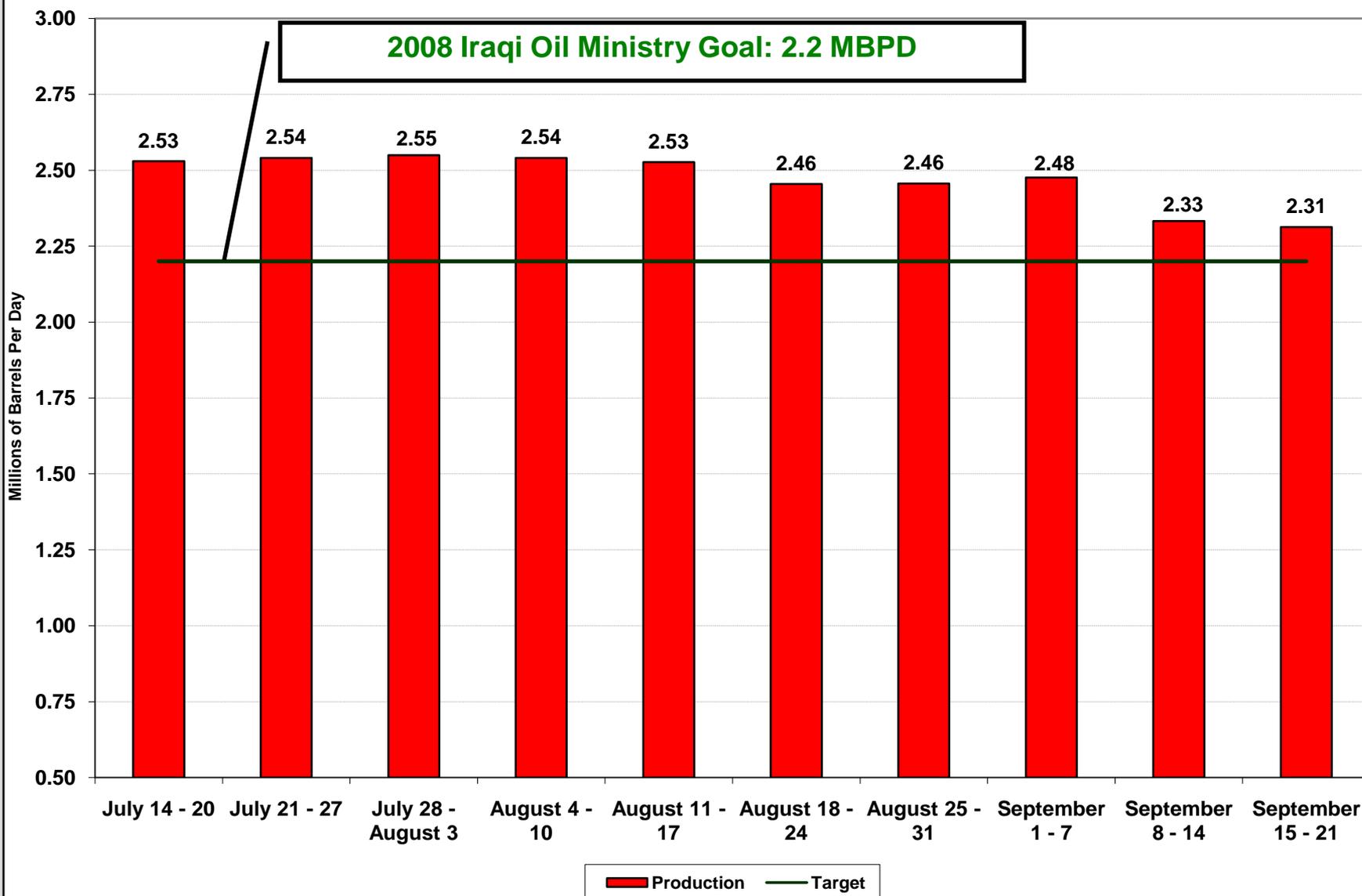
ECONOMIC – Essential Services

Iraq's Honeymoon Island to Be Revived:

- Iraq announced its plans to revive Al-A'arass Island with a multi-billion dollar resort complete with spas, golf courses and a six-star hotel. During the 1980s, the 1.32-mile long island was the destination of honeymooners and wedding parties, and although frequented by Iraqis today, there is no accommodation on the island. Ahmed Ridha, the head of the National Investment Commission, expressed his hopes that through projects such as this, tourism will fuel the Iraqi economy. "We want to put oil in the second place and tourism as the first source of revenue for people in Iraq. We have two great rivers, deserts, marshes and over 10,000 historic sites," Ridha said.

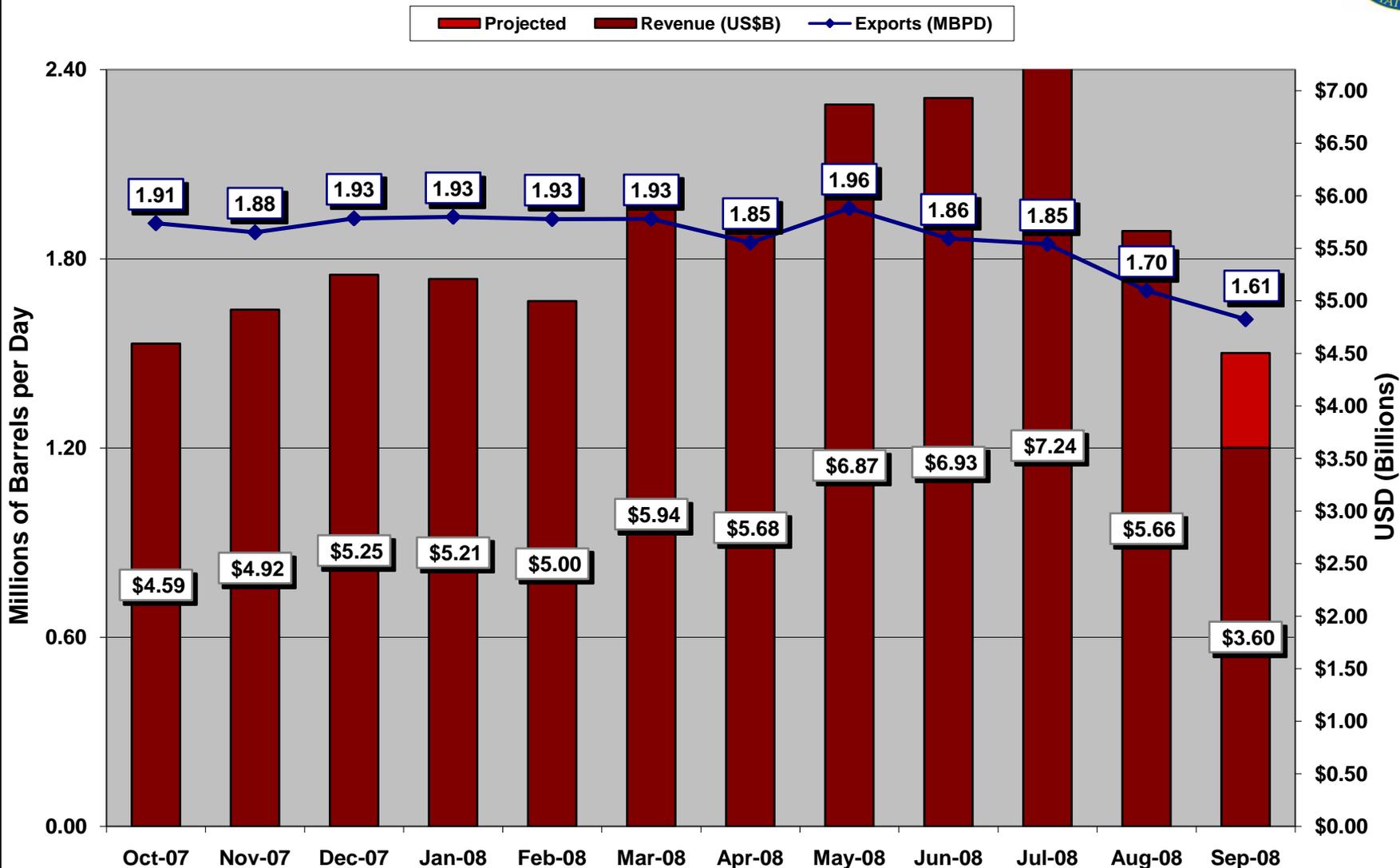


ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Production





ECONOMIC – Crude Oil Export



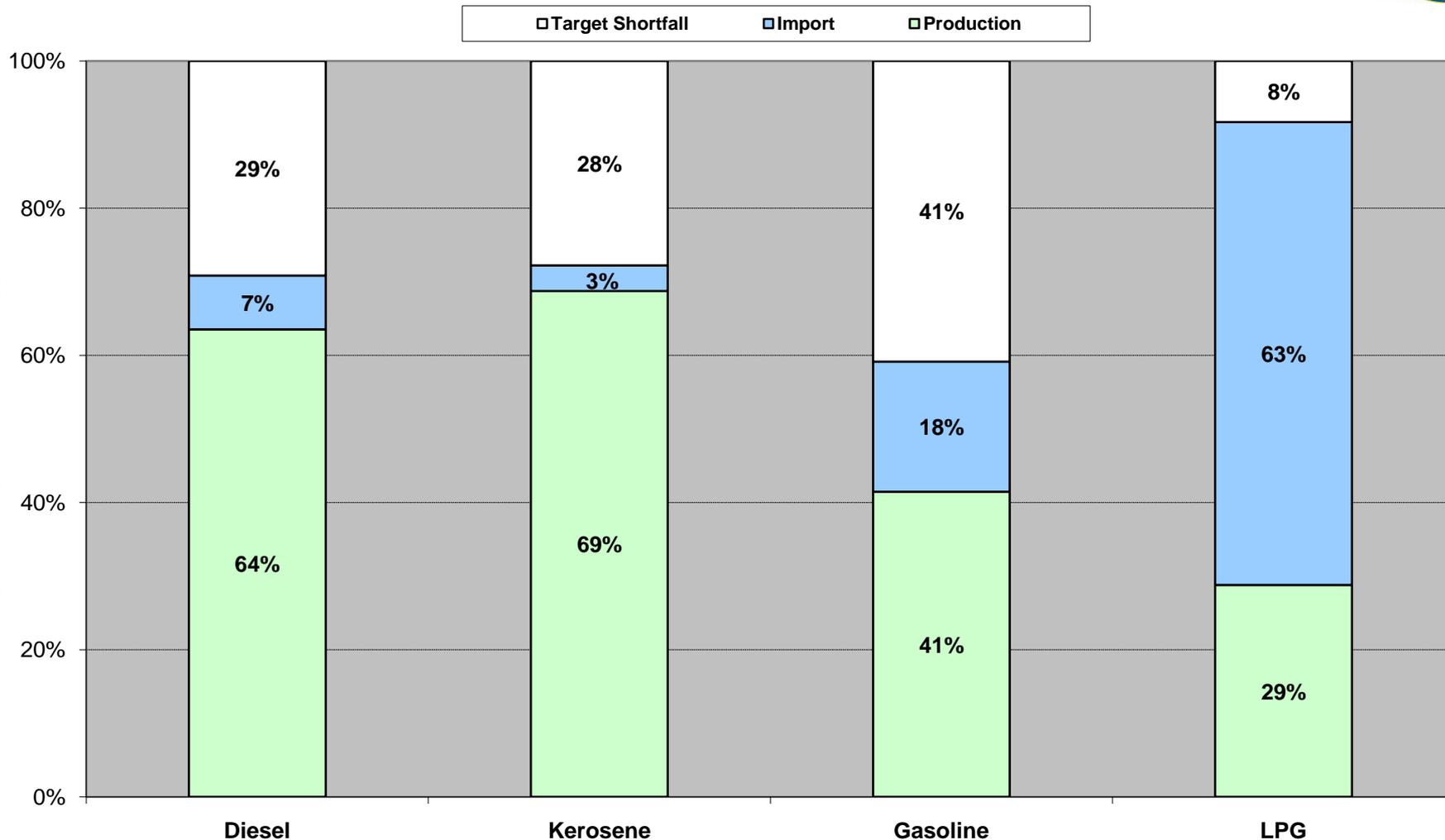
- 2006 Revenue Estimate: \$31.3 Billion
- 2007 Revenue Estimate: \$41.0 Billion
- 2008 Revenue Estimate: \$52.1 Billion (ytd)

DEPARTMENT OF STATE



ECONOMIC – Total Critical Refined Product Supplies

DEPARTMENT OF STATE
Percentages of Target Weekly Fuel Supplies



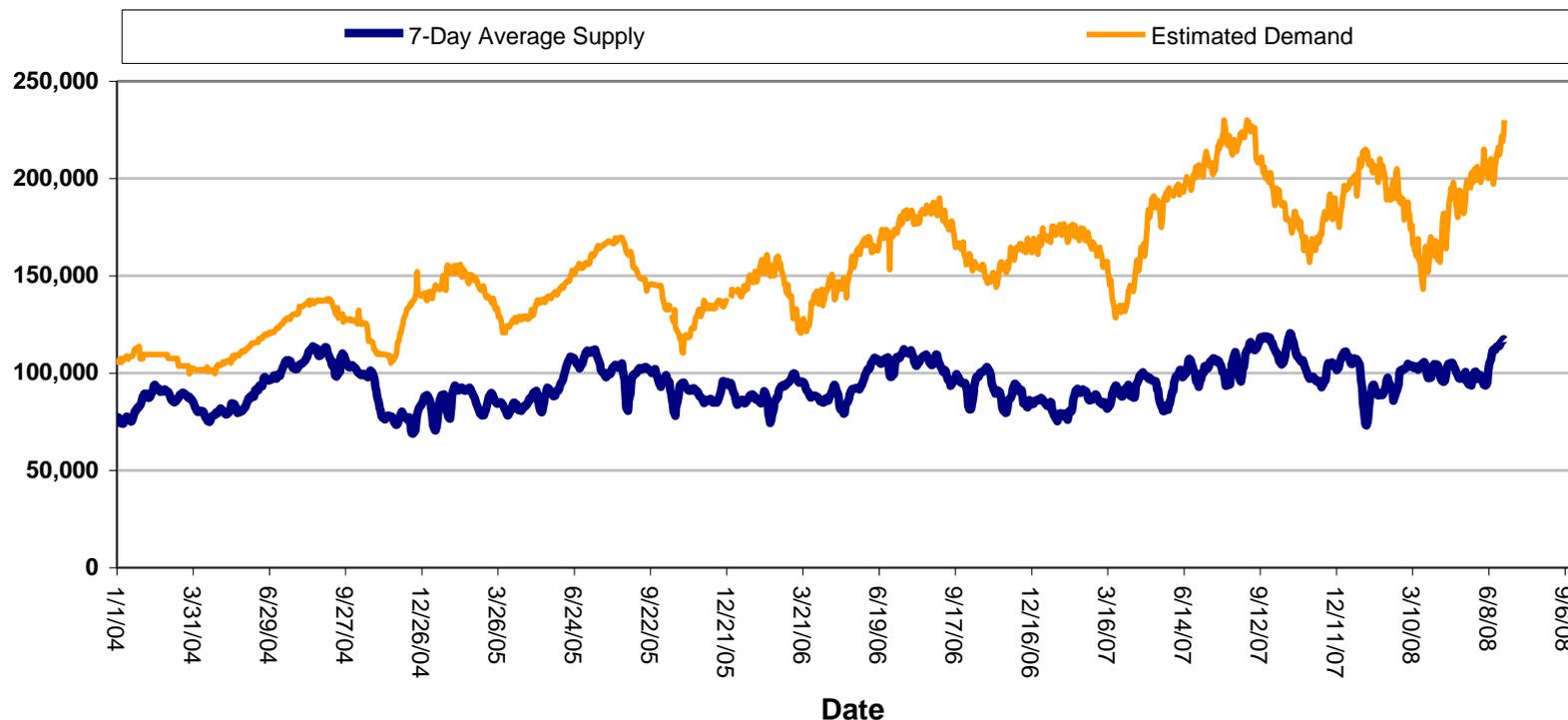
Note: This is a daily average for September 15 – 21

- Diesel: 17.4 ML supply of 24.5 ML target
- Kerosene: 10.5 ML supply of 14.6 ML target
- Gasoline: 15.9 ML supply of 26.8 ML target
- LPG: 4,677 tons supply of 5,100 tons target



ECONOMIC – Electricity

Daily Electricity Supplied and Estimated Demand in Iraq Since January 2004

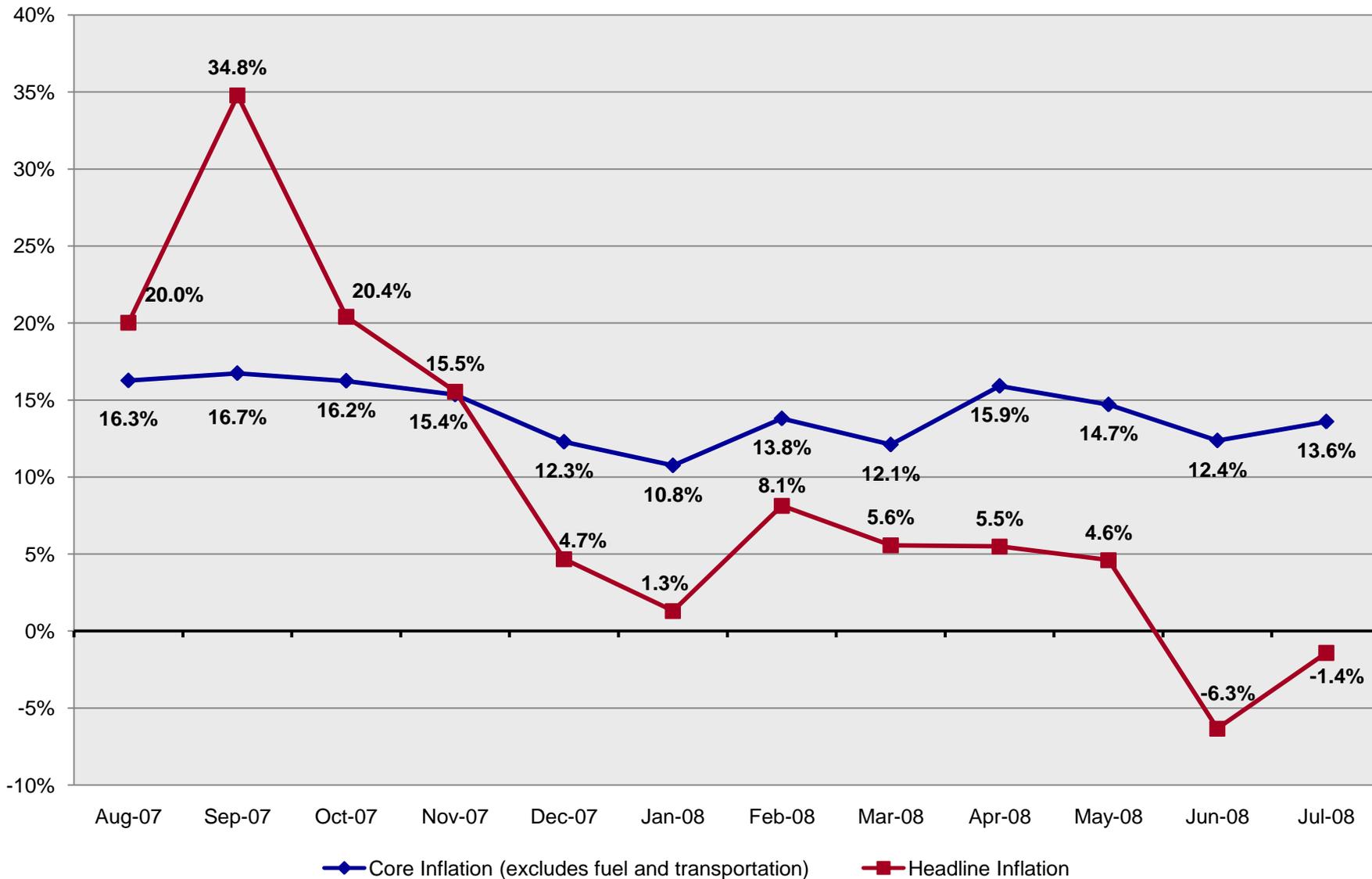


- Daily electricity demand September 16-22 was 9% above the same period last year. Daily supply from the grid was 1% below the year-earlier period and met 53% of demand, compared with 59% for the year-earlier period.
- For September 16-22 average hours of power from the grid after meeting demand from essential services were Baghdad: 11.4 and national 11.0 Year-ago levels were Baghdad 8.4 and national 12.4.



ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Year-on-Year Inflation



DEPARTMENT OF STATE



ECONOMIC – Economic Indicators

Economic Indicator	This Week	Last Week	Last Month	Last Year
Iraqi Commercial Bond Sales				
Price (USD)	\$67.83	\$73.26	\$74.05	\$62.82
Yield	9.46%	8.67%	8.56%	10.16%
Central Bank's USD Currency Auction				
USD Sold	\$82,242	\$116,603	\$114,366	\$66,957,492
NID Exchange Rate	\$1,180	\$1,182	\$1,187	\$1,254
Total Employed by USG Programs				
	120,179	123,354	130,661	N/A

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

Sector\Status (Millions of USD)	Allocated		Committed			Obligated			Disbursed		
	Allocated	Un-allocated	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change	Last Week	Current	Change
Security and Law	\$4,960	\$17	\$4,937	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,937	\$4,937	\$0	\$4,869	\$4,869	\$0
Justice and Civil Society	\$2,299	\$20	\$2,264	\$2,264	\$0	\$2,258	\$2,258	\$0	\$2,179	\$2,179	\$0
Electricity Sector	\$4,178	\$36	\$4,069	\$4,067	-\$2	\$4,066	\$4,066	\$0	\$3,921	\$3,924	\$3
Oil Infrastructure	\$1,717	\$7	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,597	\$1,597	\$0	\$1,581	\$1,581	\$0
Water and Sanitation	\$2,054	\$21	\$1,977	\$1,981	\$3	\$1,960	\$1,974	\$14	\$1,839	\$1,845	\$6
Transportation and Comm\	\$462	\$2	\$458	\$456	-\$2	\$457	\$455	-\$2	\$421	\$421	\$0
Roads, Bridges and Const\	\$320	\$8	\$282	\$282	\$0	\$282	\$282	\$0	\$257	\$257	\$0
Health Care	\$810	\$9	\$790	\$792	\$3	\$779	\$780	\$1	\$742	\$743	\$1
Private Sector Development	\$838	\$1	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$820	\$820	\$0	\$814	\$814	\$0
Edu\, Refugees, Human Rights	\$470	\$0	\$434	\$434	\$0	\$431	\$431	\$0	\$409	\$409	\$0
Admin Expense (USAID,DoS)	\$220	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$218	\$218	\$0	\$208	\$208	\$0
Rescission	\$0	-\$50	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total IRRF II	\$18,328	\$71	\$17,848	\$17,849	\$2	\$17,806	\$17,819	\$13	\$17,240	\$17,251	\$10
IRRF II Non-Construction	-	-	\$7,970	\$7,970	\$0	\$7,956	\$7,955	-\$2	\$7,765	\$7,765	\$0
IRRF II Construction	-	-	\$9,358	\$9,360	\$1	\$9,330	\$9,345	\$15	\$8,958	\$8,968	\$10
IRRF II Overhead	-	-	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$520	\$520	\$0	\$517	\$517	\$0
Total IRRF I	\$2,475	\$0	\$2,291	\$2,291	\$0	\$2,232	\$2,232	\$0	\$2,139	\$2,139	\$0
Grand Total IRRF I & II	\$20,803	\$71	\$20,139	\$20,140	\$2	\$20,038	\$20,051	\$13	\$19,379	\$19,390	\$10

Data as of the 25th of September 2008

Apportion amounts reflect those of the latest Executive Office of the President Report, published by the Office of Management and Budget. Committed, obligated and disbursed amounts reflect last numbers reported by each agency.



DIPLOMATIC – Political Engagement

Saudi Arabia Repatriates 16 Iraqis:

- On September 21, Saudi media sources reported that Saudi Arabia released 16 Iraqi prisoners in return for eight Saudis in Iraqi custody. The Saudi Interior Ministry released a statement stating the swap was intended to strengthen security "in preparation for an agreement on exchanging those convicted of jail sentences." Through this agreement 434 Iraqi prisoners in Saudi custody could be repatriated, according to statements made earlier this month by Iraqi National Security Adviser Mowaffaq al-Rubaie.

Georgia Considers Greater Involvement in Iraq:

- On September 17, during a news conference in Brussels, Georgian national parliament chairman David Bakradze stated that his country "will still keep our commitments to have our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is very important to our country." Georgia withdrew most of its troops during the outbreak of violence in South Ossetia.



DIPLOMATIC – Coalition Contributors

25 Countries with forces in Iraq (including US)

Albania	Czech Republic	Kazakhstan	Mongolia
Armenia	Denmark	Korea	Poland
Australia	El Salvador	Latvia	Romania
Azerbaijan	Estonia	Lithuania	Tonga
Bosnia-Herzegovina	Georgia	Macedonia	Ukraine
Bulgaria	Japan	Moldova	United Kingdom

TOTAL ~ 7,100 Forces

31 Countries and NATO*
 (including the US)
Support Iraqi Stability Operations

*31 includes the US, the 24 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 Iraq (UNAMI), are not included.



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)

Slide 4:

- BBC, http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/7633557.stm , CoR Report September 23
- The Middle East Times, http://www.metimes.com/Security/2008/09/22/iraqi_refugees_get_stipend_from_krg/3d99/

Slide 5:

- Reuters, <http://www.reuters.com/article/middleeastCrisis/idUSANW319038>

Slide 6-7:

- Department of State, NEA/I Political Section, NEA-I-POL-DL@State.gov

Slide 8:

- MNFI Press Release- http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22443&Itemid=21
- Armed Forces Press Service- <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=51260>

Slide 9:

- MNF-I Press Release - http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22521&Itemid=21

Slide 10:

- American Forces Press Service- <http://www.defenselink.mil/news/newsarticle.aspx?id=51243>
- MNSTCI Press Release- http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22540&Itemid=128 and http://www.mnf-iraq.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=22524&Itemid=109

Slide 11:

- DoD Input to Iraq Weekly Status Report September 24, 2008

Slide 12:

- Middle East Business Intelligence, September 22 - http://www.meed.com/news/2008/09/iraq_transport_ministry_sees_budget_rise_for_2009.html

Slide 13:

- Khaleej Times, September 18, http://www.khaleejtimes.com/DisplayArticle08.asp?xfile=/data/business/2008/September/business_September614.xml§ion=business

Slide 14:

- Reuters, September 18 - <http://www.reuters.com/article/technology-media-telco-SP/idUSLI12865020080918?sp=true>
- Office of the Health Attaché, Baghdad, Iraq, September 24

Slide 15

- AFP, MSN Arabia, September 21 - <http://www.arabia.msn.com/Channels/msnnews/article.aspx?CatID=1&ID=616615&S=Main>



NOTES AND SOURCE CITATIONS (2 of 2)

Slide 16-18:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 19:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov
- 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.

Slide 20:

- Department of State, NEA/I Economic/Assistance Section, NEA-I-ECON-DL@state.gov

Slide 21:

- Derived from Multiple Sources. (ITAO IMU Essential Indicators Report, Baghdad, 25 September 2008) (Bloomberg.org) (Central Bank of Iraq, Foreign Exchange Auction, CBiraq.org) (<http://www.cbiraq.org/C.B.I.%20FOREIGN%20EXCHANGE%20AUCTIONS.pdf>)

Slide 22:

- ITAO IMU Essential Indicators Report, Baghdad, 25 September 2008.

Slide 23:

- Reuters - <http://www.reuters.com/article/middleeastCrisis/idUSLL337033>
- Reuters - <http://www.reuters.com/article/GCA-Russia/idUSLH70353120080917>

Slide 24:

- DOD Input to Weekly Status Report, updated September 24, 2008