

# Oil Market : 2017 - The Year That Was...

Oil price reaches 3-year high on declining inventory and supply...

Oil prices reached highest levels seen in 3 years as Brent crude touched USD 70/b at the start of 2018. Key drivers are supply issues in Libya, ongoing issues in Venezuela that has affected supply from OPEC members and declining inventory in the US, although US supply is expected to increase to an almost 5decade high in 2018. American data have consistently reported huge drawdown of inventory in the US. The most recent weekly inventory report from API showed an inventory draw of 5.121 million barrels following a more than double inventory draw of 11.19 million barrel during the previous week.

## In this Report ...

Faisal Hasan, CFA

+(965) 2233 6907

Junaid Ansari

+(965) 2233 6912

Assistant Vice President

junaid.ansari@kamconline.com

Head - Investment Research

faisal.hasan@kamconline.com

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The consistent decline in inventories came on the back of a drop in US oil production due to the cold weather in the US that has affected some oil facilities. The weekly report published by the EIA also pointed to a huge draw of 6.9 million barrels, a ninth consecutive week of decline, further supporting oil prices. Commercial inventories in the US is now projected to be around 413 million barrels, the lowest level since February-15. However, the decline is expected to be only temporary and producers in the US would be encouraged to take advantage of the rise in oil prices. Moreover, according to projections mentioned in EIA's latest Short Term Energy Outlook (STEO), US crude production is set to reach 10.3 mb/d in 2018 and even higher to 11 mb/d by late 2019, rivaling Russia's production levels. However, prices were little affected by these projections as the oil market is currently undergoing a tightening of supplies.

Supply side factors that supported oil prices also included a decline in oil production in Libya due to a pipeline disruption during the last week of December-17 that resulted in a decline in production from the country by almost 100 tb/d, although it was restored after almost a week. In addition, threats to oil supply from Nigeria have also affected prices recently. The protests in Iran was also one of the closely watched events during the last few weeks.

Demand side factors have also supported higher oil prices. The EIA report pointed to higher oil demand in 2018 by an additional 100 tb/d as compared to the previous prediction for 2018, while demand in 2019 is expected to be at 101.8 mb/d, an increase of 1.65 mb/d from 2018. Manufacturing activity around the world has gained pace supported by higher demand from developing markets and this has affected commodity prices in general. Unemployment rates in the US and Germany, two key industrialized nations, have dropped recently to record lows indicating higher industrial activity. In addition, the latest tax reforms in the US is expected to spur faster economic activity and corporate profitability, that augurs well for the already positive trend in vehicle sales. In Asia, Bloomberg data suggested a consistent rise in oil demand from China during 2017 with an increase of 5.4% during the year. Demand from India is also expected to is enterm with the country going into elections next year with a number of populist policies expected to be announced until elections.



Source for the above charts : OPEC and Bloomberg

## Oil Market in 2017

### A second consecutive year of oil price growth, but at a much slower pace

Oil market improved in 2017 as prices went up for the second consecutive year. However, the surge in price was much slower than in 2016. Year-end oil prices during 2017 stood at 64.5/ barrel of OPEC crude which was up 21% as compared to 2016 year-end prices. Similarly, Brent spot prices stood at USD 66.7/barrel during 2017 as compared to USD 55/barrel in 2016, a surge of 21.4%. Average oil prices during the year, however, showed a different picture. OPEC crude average price during 2017 witnessed a positive gain after four consecutive years of

Year End Oil Prices	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
OPEC	107.94	52.00	31.27	53.30	64.47
Change (%)	-0.9%	-51.8%	-39.9%	70.5%	21.0%
Brent	109.95	55.27	36.61	54.96	66.73
Change (%)	-2.7%	-49.7%	-33.8%	50.1%	21.4%
Average Oil Price for the Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017
OPEC	105.87	96.29	49.49	40.76	52.43
					52145
Change (%)	-3.3%	-9.1%	-48.6%	-17.6%	28.6%
Change (%) Brent	-3.3% 108.55	-9.1% <b>98.93</b>	-48.6% <b>52.33</b>		

Source : Bloomberg, KAMCO Research

decline. Crude averaged USD 52.4/barrel in 2017 as compared to USD 40.8/barrel in 2016, recording an increase of 28.6%. Average Brent spot prices were also high as compared to the previous year at USD 54.2/barrel in 2017 as compared to USD 43.6/barrel in 2016, recording an increase of 24.2%.

In terms of OPEC oil production in 2017, despite the production cuts announced by the OPEC members, overall production rate by the group has seen minimal decline during the year. According to data from OPEC's secondary sources, average oil production during 2017 declined by 0.6% or 203 tb/d to 32.058 mb/d as compared to 32.261 mb/d in 2016. The decline came primarily on the back of production cuts undertaken by Saudi Arabia that slashed its production by an average 456 tb/d in 2017 and produced at the rate of 9.95 mb/d as compared to 10.41 mb/d in 2016. Venezuela recorded the second biggest decline of 227 tb/d in 2017 and produced at an average rate of 1.93 mb/d. Kuwait reported the third biggest decline of 145 tb/d in 2017 and produced at an average rate of 2.71 mb/d. These

aforementioned prominent declines were partially offset by higher production in Libya which increased it production by 427 tb/d to an average rate of 817 tb/d in 2017. Iran, which saw the biggest increase in production in 2016 at 679 tb/d, recorded the second highest increase in 2017 recorded at 296 tb/d and produced at an average rate of 3.81 mb/d. Nigeria also added production during 2017 and produced at 1.66 mb/d recording an increase of 107 tb/d during the year. On the non-OPEC side, US raised production by 5% to 9.3 mb/d during 2017 as compared to 8.9 mb/d during 2016. The US has seen one of the highest average production growth rates over the past five years, recorded at around 7.4%.

KAMCO Research believes 2018 would see increasing pressure on oil prices coming primarily from the US as it raises production backed by higher prices and initial signs of some incentives by the US government. Oil market will also be swayed by signs of how OPEC plans to end the ongoing pact and how gradually the production would be raised in 2019 and beyond, as these countries have continued to add capacity over the years. We see USD 70/b as a strong resistance level for oil and see higher volatility on any sign of higher production in Libya and Nigeria as well as any indication of stability and improvement in Venezuela.

Production ('000 b/d)	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	5-Year CAGR
Algeria	1,159	1,151	1,109	1,090	1,044	-2.9%
Change (%)	-4.2%	-0.7%	-3.6%	-1.7%	-4.2%	
Angola	1,738	1,660	1,744	1,725	1,640	-1.2%
Change (%)	0.0%	-4.5%	5.1%	-1.1%	-4.9%	
Ecuador	516	542	547	545	531	1.3%
Change (%)	3.4%	5.0%	0.9%	-0.4%	-2.6%	
Iran, I.R.	2,673	2,766	2,836	3,515	3,811	5.1%
Change (%)	-10.2%	3.5%	2.5%	23.9%	8.4%	
Iraq	3,037	3,265	3,927	4,392	4,445	8.3%
Change (%)	1.9%	7.5%	20.3%	11.8%	1.2%	
Kuwait	2,822	2,774	2,726	2,853	2,708	-0.6%
Change (%)	1.0%	-1.7%	-1.7%	4.7%	-5.1%	
Libya	928	473	404	390	817	-10.1%
Change (%)	-33.4%	-49.0%	-14.6%	-3.5%	109.5%	
Nigeria	1,912	1,911	1,853	1,556	1,663	-4.3%
Change (%)	-7.8%	-0.1%	-3.0%	-16.0%	6.9%	
Qatar	732	716	669	656	606	-4.3%
Change (%)	-2.8%	-2.2%	-6.6%	-1.9%	-7.6%	
Saudi Arabia	9,586	9,683	10,113	10,406	9,950	0.4%
Change (%)	-1.6%	1.0%	4.4%	2.9%	-4.4%	
UAE	2,741	2,761	2,855	2,979	2,916	2.1%
Change (%)	4.5%	0.7%	3.4%	4.3%	-2.1%	
Venezuela	2,389	2,373	2,368	2,154	1,927	-4.0%
Change (%)	1.3%	-0.7%	-0.2%	-9.0%	-10.5%	
Total OPEC*	30,233	30,075	31,151	32,261	32,058	0.6%
Change (%)	-2.9%	-0.5%	3.6%	3.6%	-0.6%	
US	7,466	8,753	9,408	8,857	9,300	7.4%
Change (%)	14.9%	17.2%	7.5%	-5.9%	5.0%	

Source : OPEC, Bloomberg, EIA, KAMCO Research \* Excludes Indonesia, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea

# **Oil Prices**

Crude prices continued to surge since the start of the year continuing the momentum seen at the end of 2017 on the back of tightening oil market conditions. Spot crude prices scaled new heights reaching a 3 -year high level as OPEC's restraint in cutting production coincided with rising oil demand as well as a temporary slowdown in production in the US owing to weather conditions that shut down some production facilities and resulted in a decline in crude inventories. OPEC crude prices soared to USD 67.78/barrel during January-18, the highest level since December-14, while Brent crude spot prices reached USD 70.36/barrel.

The decline in US oil production was also visible in the weekly rig count data released by Baker Hughes. After adding 10 rigs in the week ended 12-Jan-18, the highest since June-17, US oil rig count declined by 5 to reach 747 rigs during the week ended 19-Jan-18.



The surge in oil prices during the third week of January-18 was so remarkable that IEA updated its monthly report with revised view on the oil market given the higher prices. The agency now predicts a slowdown in oil demand in 2018 to a growth of 1.3 mb/d owing to the higher prices, changing pattern of oil use in China, weakness in OECD demand and the switch to natural gas in several non-OECD countries. On the supply side, IEA expects higher production in the US, Canada and Brazil will push non-OPEC supply by 1.7 mb/d in 2018 as compared to 0.7 mb/d growth in 2017.

Average crude prices continued to maintain a positive trend and were consistently up for the past six months. Average OPEC prices reached USD 62.06/barrel, recording a month-on-month gain of 2.2% in December-17. Kuwait crude grade also posted a similar gain of 2.3% to reach an average price of USD 60.93/barrel. Average Brent crude prices during December-17 reached the highest level in 37 months to USD 64.4/barrel recording a month-on-month increase of 2.4%.

OPEC Reference BasketImage: Second Secon	60.7 61.1 60.2 63.3 61.6 63.0 59.3 59.6 60.5	62.1 62.5 61.4 64.6 63.1 65.0 60.9 <b>60.9</b>	1.3 1.4 1.2 1.4 1.5 2.0	<b>40.8</b> 41.0 39.5 44.0 42.7 43.6	<b>52.4</b> 52.6 51.9 54.6
Basrah Light Bonny Light Bonny Light Es Sider Sider Girassol Iran Heavy Muwait Export Qatar Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	60.2 63.3 61.6 63.0 59.3 <b>59.6</b> 60.5	61.4 64.6 63.1 65.0 60.9	1.2 1.4 1.5 2.0	39.5 44.0 42.7	51.9 54.6
Bonny Light Es Sider Girassol Iran Heavy Kuwait Export Qatar Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	63.3 61.6 63.0 59.3 <b>59.6</b> 60.5	64.6 63.1 65.0 60.9	1.4 1.5 2.0	44.0 42.7	54.6
Es Sider Girassol Iran Heavy Kuwait Export Qatar Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	61.6 63.0 59.3 <b>59.6</b> 60.5	63.1 65.0 60.9	1.5 2.0	42.7	
Girassol Iran Heavy Kuwait Export Qatar Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	63.0 59.3 <b>59.6</b> 60.5	65.0 60.9	2.0		
Iran Heavy Kuwait Export Qatar Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	59.3 <b>59.6</b> 60.5	60.9		12 6	52.8
Kuwait ExportQatarMereyMurbanOrienteRabiSaharan Blend	<b>59.6</b> 60.5		1.0	43.0	54.5
Qatar Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	60.5	60.9	1.6	39.6	51.7
Merey Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend			1.4	39.3	51.6
Murban Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend		61.5	1.1	41.4	52.8
Oriente Rabi Saharan Blend	55.9	56.0	0.2	34.0	47.6
Rabi Saharan Blend	62.8	63.8	1.1	44.8	54.8
Saharan Blend	59.2	59.7	0.4	38.4	50.0
	61.7	63.2	1.5	42.6	53.2
Sabaran Blend	63.2	64.7	1.5	44.3	54.1
	62.8	64.3	1.6	42.4	54.0
Other Crudes					
Brent	62.6	64.1	1.5	43.8	54.2
Dubai	60.8	61.6	0.8	41.4	53.1
Isthmus	61.4	62.6	1.2	42.4	54.6
LLS	62.6	63.3	0.8	45.0	54.1
Mars	59.3	60.2	0.9	40.1	50.6
Minas	55.5	57.0	1.5	41.1	49.0
Urals	62.5	63.8	1.2	42.2	53.3
WTI	56.7	57.9	1.3	43.3	50.8
Differentials					
Brent/WTI	6.0	6.2	0.2	0.5	3.4
Brent/LLS	0.1	0.8	0.8	(1.2)	0.1
Brent/Dubai	1.8	2.5	0.7		

# World Oil Demand

World oil demand growth estimates for 2017 was revised up by 43 tb/d to an average of 1.57 mb/d and total demand is expected to reach 96.99 mb/d during the year. The upgrade in demand outlook reflected better-than-expected demand data from OECD Europe and China. The OECD Europe region continues to witness strong economic momentum that led to higher demand, particularly in Q3-17 by 100 tb/d, resulting from higher consumption in the transportation and industrial sectors. In terms of individual countries, higher demand was seen in Italy, Turkey, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain and Portugal during October-17. This growth comes despite warmer weather as compared to 2016 that is expected to affect oil demand during the last two months of the year, although the weather was still colder as compared to historical norms. The transportation sector witnessed strong vehicle sales in the region with November-17 data suggesting a year-on-year

World Oil Demand - 2016/2017, mb/d	2016	Q1-17	Q2-17	Q3-17	Q4-17	2017	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.74	24.62	25.03	25.16	25.08	24.97	0.23	0.94
of which US	20.00	19.94	20.32	20.34	20.31	20.23	0.23	1.13
Europe	14.04	13.83	14.17	14.61	14.28	14.22	0.18	1.31
Asia Pacific	8.12	8.60	7.72	7.92	8.39	8.16	0.04	0.45
Total OECD	46.90	47.04	46.92	47.69	47.75	47.35	0.45	0.96
Other Asia	12.85	12.87	13.30	12.95	13.47	13.15	0.29	2.28
of which India	4.39	4.43	4.42	4.20	4.81	4.47	0.08	1.80
Latin America	6.47	6.27	6.51	6.82	6.46	6.52	0.05	0.72
Middle East	7.97	8.11	7.91	8.40	7.82	8.06	0.09	1.11
Africa	4.10	4.25	4.19	4.14	4.26	4.21	0.11	2.76
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	31.39	31.49	31.90	32.31	32.01	31.93	0.54	1.72
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.63	4.56	4.39	4.77	5.09	4.70	0.07	1.52
Other Europe	0.70	0.71	0.67	0.70	0.79	0.72	0.02	3.15
China	11.80	11.88	12.40	12.30	12.56	12.28	0.48	4.10
Total "Other Regions"	17.13	17.14	17.46	17.77	18.44	17.70	0.58	3.36
Total World	95.42	95.67	96.28	97.77	98.20	96.99	1.57	1.64

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - January 2018

growth of 5.9%. Oil demand data from the US also indicated strong trends emanating especially from the transportation sector in addition to higher requirements for most crude categories. Preliminary weekly data for the last two months of the year indicated an overall positive trend, although gasoline demand remained flat, while the colder weather resulted in higher demand for diesel and residual fuel oil usage. A similar trend was also seen in Canada with the latest data for October-17 indicating growth in all product categories, with the only exception of LPG demand that declined as compared to the previous year.

In the non-OECD countries, oil demand data was upgraded by 30 tb/d for 2017 on the back of higher oil demand from China and India, while demand from Middle East was lowered by 10 tb/d. This decline in Middle East reflected downward revision of 30 tb/d for Q4-17 oil demand led by high level of fuel substitution in Saudi Arabia and Iraq, in addition to a general fall in demand due to higher prices. Oil demand growth for 2018 was kept largely unchanged at 1.53mb/d to reach 98.51 mb/d. China and India are expected to be key drivers of oil demand growth in 2018 owing to higher economic growth rates that will lead to higher oil consumption, particularly in the transportation sector.

World Oil Demand - 2017/2018, mb/d	2017	Q1-18	Q2-18	Q3-18	Q4-18	2018	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	24.97	24.79	25.22	25.39	25.32	25.18	0.21	0.83
of which US	20.23	20.07	20.52	20.56	20.49	20.41	0.19	0.92
Europe	14.22	13.94	14.24	14.70	14.35	14.31	0.08	0.60
Asia Pacific	8.16	8.60	7.73	7.89	8.40	8.15	0.00	(0.02)
Total OECD	47.35	47.33	47.19	47.98	48.07	47.64	0.29	0.61
Other Asia	13.15	13.23	13.68	13.32	13.83	13.52	0.37	2.81
of which India	4.47	4.65	4.66	4.32	4.97	4.65	0.18	4.11
Latin America	6.52	6.36	6.59	6.91	6.55	6.60	0.09	1.30
Middle East	8.06	8.20	7.99	8.51	7.92	8.15	0.10	1.18
Africa	4.21	4.39	4.32	4.27	4.40	4.34	0.14	3.23
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	31.93	32.17	32.59	33.00	32.70	32.62	0.69	2.15
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	4.70	4.66	4.50	4.89	5.20	4.82	0.12	2.45
Other Europe	0.72	0.73	0.69	0.73	0.82	0.74	0.03	3.48
China	12.28	12.28	12.81	12.71	12.97	12.69	0.41	3.34
Total "Other Regions"	17.70	17.67	18.01	18.33	19.00	18.25	0.55	3.11
Total World	96.99	97.17	97.79	99.30	99.77	98.51	1.53	1.57
Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - January 2018								

# World Oil Supply

In terms of global oil supply, December-17 witnessed a big month-on-month jump of 0.4 mb/d and averaged at 97.49 mb/d primarily on the back of higher non-OPEC supply that grew by 0.34 mb/d during the month and averaged at 58.62 mb/d. The increase was primarily on the back of higher supply from Canada, Mexico, Norway, Brazil and Kazakhstan partially offset by a decline in production in the US and the UK. For the full year 2017, non-OPEC supply growth estimates were lowered by 0.04 mb/d and is now expected to grow by 0.77 mb/d to average at 57.79 mb/d during the year. The downward revision primarily reflects lower oil supply from OECD (-28 tb/d) and Developing Countries (-35 tb/d), while the oil supply forecast for the FSU was revised up by 32 tb/d. In OECD Americas, supply growth estimates for US and Canada were revised upwards by 16 tb/d and 11 tb/d, while it was lowered in the case of Mexico. On the other

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2016/2017, mb/d	2016	Q1-17	Q2-17	Q3-17	Q4-17	2017	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	20.61	21.08	20.91	21.34	21.96	21.33	0.72	3.47
of which US	13.63	13.79	14.08	14.28	14.86	14.26	0.62	4.57
Europe	3.81	3.94	3.80	3.67	3.75	3.79	(0.02)	(0.45)
Asia Pacific	0.42	0.39	0.39	0.41	0.41	0.40	(0.02)	(5.88)
Total OECD	24.84	25.41	25.10	25.42	26.12	25.51	0.67	2.71
Other Asia	3.72	3.68	3.61	3.59	3.59	3.62	(0.10)	(2.72)
Latin America	5.10	5.20	5.20	5.19	5.23	5.20	0.10	1.97
Middle East	1.28	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	(0.04)	(2.91)
Africa	1.80	1.80	1.83	1.85	1.90	1.85	0.05	2.64
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	11.90	11.91	11.89	11.88	11.95	11.91	0.01	0.08
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	13.86	14.13	14.14	13.90	14.07	14.06	0.20	1.44
of which Russia	11.08	11.25	11.24	11.06	11.14	11.17	0.09	0.79
Other Europe	0.13	0.12	0.12	0.13	0.12	0.12	(0.01)	(4.94)
China	4.10	4.02	4.02	3.93	3.94	3.98	(0.12)	(2.87)
Total "Other regions"	18.09	18.27	18.28	17.95	18.14	18.16	0.08	0.42
Total Non-OPEC Production	54.82	55.59	55.27	55.26	56.21	55.58	0.76	1.38
Processing gains	2.19	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.21	0.01	0.50
Total Non-OPEC Supply	57.02	57.80	57.48	57.46	58.41	57.79	0.77	1.35
OPEC NGLs and non-conventionals	6.14	6.20	6.26	6.35	6.42	6.31	0.17	2.77
OPEC Crude Oil Production	32.64	32.11	32.28	32.73	32.45	32.39	(0.25)	(0.77)
Total World Supply	95.80	96.11	96.02	96.54	97.28	96.49	0.69	0.72

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - January 2018

hand, supply estimates for OECD Europe were lowered particularly for Norway and UK that affected the overall downward revision for OECD countries for 2017. In the non-OECD group, oil supply from China increased by 0.05 mb/d during November-17, although the average for the first eleven months of 2017 showed a decline of 0.14 mb/d compared to the same period in 2016.

Non-OPEC supply growth projection for 2018 was revised up by 0.16 mb/d to 1.15 mb/d and is expected to average at 58.94 mb/d. The revision primarily reflects higher-than-expected supply estimates from the US, Canada, Mexico and the UK partially offset by expected decline in supply from Norway and Argentina.

Non-OPEC Oil Supply - 2017/2018, mb/d	2017	Q1-18	Q2-18	Q3-18	Q4-18	2018	Y-o-Y Growth	% Chg.
Americas	21.33	22.41	22.46	22.58	22.88	22.58	1.26	5.90
of which US	14.26	15.11	15.35	15.49	15.65	15.40	1.15	8.04
Europe	3.79	3.78	3.79	3.70	3.90	3.79	0.00	0.12
Asia Pacific	0.40	0.39	0.42	0.43	0.44	0.42	0.02	5.26
Total OECD	25.51	26.58	26.67	26.71	27.22	26.80	1.28	5.04
Other Asia	3.62	3.60	3.59	3.58	3.55	3.58	(0.04)	(0.98)
Latin America	5.20	5.29	5.28	5.42	5.33	5.33	0.13	2.40
Middle East	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	1.24	0.00	(0.24)
Africa	1.85	1.89	1.89	1.90	1.90	1.90	0.05	2.68
Total Developing Countries (DCs)	11.91	12.03	12.00	12.13	12.02	12.05	0.14	1.15
Former Soviet Union (FSU)	14.06	13.97	13.94	13.81	13.94	13.92	(0.14)	(1.02)
of which Russia	11.17	10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98	10.98	(0.19)	(1.71)
Other Europe	0.12	0.13	0.13	0.13	0.12	0.13	0.00	1.37
China	3.98	3.89	3.80	3.79	3.79	3.82	(0.16)	(4.05)
Total "Other regions"	18.16	17.99	17.87	17.73	17.85	17.86	(0.30)	(1.66)
Total Non-OPEC Production	55.58	56.59	56.55	56.57	57.10	56.70	1.12	2.01
Processing gains	2.21	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	2.23	0.03	1.32
Total Non-OPEC Supply	57.79	58.83	58.78	58.80	59.33	58.94	1.15	1.99

Source: OPEC Monthly Oil Market Report - January 2018

# **OPEC Oil Production & Spare Capacity**

According to Bloomberg data, OPEC production remained flat month-on-month during December-17, although individual country production did see some minor changes. Among the prominent ones, the increase in production in Nigeria, Iraq, Angola and Algeria were offset by lower production in Venezuela, Libya, Iran and Saudi Arabia. This lead to an increase in compliance to the ongoing production cut agreement pushing it to 129% in December-17. Production in Saudi Arabia continued to remain below the critical 10 mb/d mark at 9.95 mb/d, the lowest level of production since May-17. The production disruption in Libya during the last week of December-17 resulted in a output decline in the country while mounting problems in Venezuela has severely affected the country's ability to produce oil in line with historical levels. The latter continues to see production decline at an accelerated pace owing to the deepening economic and

Production ('000 b/d)	Dec-16	Nov-17	Dec-17	Change Y-o-Y		nge Y-o-Y Change M-o-M		Capacity	Spare Capacity
Total OPEC-14	33,260	32,470	32,470	-790	-2.4%	0	0.0%	36,845	4,375
KSA	10,480	9,970	9,950	-530	-5.1%	-20	-0.2%	11,500	1,550
Iraq	4,610	4,390	4,420	-190	-4.1%	30	0.7%	4,700	280
Iran	3,730	3,820	3,800	70	1.9%	-20	-0.5%	4,000	200
U.A.E	3,070	2,880	2,880	-190	-6.2%	0	0.0%	3,150	270
Kuwait	2,890	2,700	2,690	-200	-6.9%	-10	-0.4%	3,000	310
Venezuela	2,080	1,860	1,810	-270	-13.0%	-50	-2.7%	2,500	690
Nigeria	1,450	1,780	1,820	370	25.5%	40	2.2%	2,200	380
Angola	1,670	1,610	1,640	-30	-1.8%	30	1.9%	1,870	230
Algeria	1,110	1,010	1,030	-80	-7.2%	20	2.0%	1,150	120
Libya	630	1,000	970	340	54.0%	-30	-3.0%	970	0
Qatar	620	600	610	-10	-1.6%	10	1.7%	780	170
Ecuador	550	520	520	-30	-5.5%	0	0.0%	555	35
Gabon	210	200	200	-10	-4.8%	0	0.0%	220	20
Equatorial Guinea	160	130	130	-30	-18.8%	0	0.0%	250	120
Total OPEC-13	27,860	28,080	28,050	-600	0.68%	-30	-0.11%	32,145	4,095

Source: Bloomberg, OPEC

humanitarian crisis in the country. Meanwhile, Nigeria which is exempt form the ongoing pact, increased production by 40 tb/d during December-17 as the country continues to make several changes in its oil industry, including passing a historic legislation in the country. An additional 80-100 tb/d of oil is expected to be added to Nigeria's oil production by one of its oil producers, Shoreline Group, after the company signed a financing deal with Vitol Group and local lenders.

The dramatic run up in oil prices during the end of 2017 and the start of 2018 has also rattled OPEC and non-OPEC producers that are a part of the production cut pact. The earlier-thanexpected rise in oil prices has the potential to push shale production even higher and completely blunt the aforementioned producer's effort to push oil prices higher by voluntarily curbing oil production to rebalance the market marred with chronic oversupply. There are already indications that if oil prices remain above USD 70/b for long, it would force some of the bigger producers to raise the production and take advantage of the higher prices instead of just US shale producers enjoying the full advantage. Nevertheless, the energy ministers of UAE, Qatar and Iraq have, in separate interviews, assured that their plan is to stick to the pact and they continue to eye global inventories to come down to five year average before reviewing the accord.





Source: Bloomberg

2017 Performance

# Brent Crude Oil Price Forecast by Various Research Houses

Firm	Analyst	As Of	Q1 18	Q2 18	Q3 18	Q4 18
Itau Unibanco Holding SA	A. Passos	17/Jan/18	65.0	62.0	59.0	
Landesbank Baden-Wuerttemberg	F. Schallenberger	17/Jan/18	67.0	65.0	65.0	65.0
Intesa Sanpaolo SpA	D. Corsini	16/Jan/18	67.0	65.0	65.0	65.0
Wells Fargo Securities LLC	R. Read	11/Jan/18	63.0	57.8	54.8	57.5
Banco Santander SA	J. Kenney	10/Jan/18	54.2	64.0	59.0	54.0
Bank of China International UK Ltd	X. Fu	10/Jan/18	62.0	64.0	64.0	60.0
Capital Economics Ltd	T. Pugh	8/Jan/18	63.5	59.0	57.0	55.5
Market Risk Advisory Co Ltd	N. Niimura	8/Jan/18	64.0	62.0	64.0	65.0
Promsvyazbank PJSC	E. Krylova	26/Dec/17	63.0	67.0	61.5	58.0
Bank of Nova Scotia/The	M. Loewen	21/Dec/17	58.0	62.0	63.0	64.9
Citigroup Inc	E. Morse	20/Dec/17	57.0	54.0	54.0	52.0
Raiffeisen Bank International AG	H. Loacker	19/Dec/17	58.0	56.0	57.0	59.0
Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp Ltd	B. Gan	14/Dec/17	59.0	61.0	63.0	70.0
Commerzbank AG	E. Weinberg	11/Dec/17	53.0	55.0	58.0	60.0
Norddeutsche Landesbank Girozentrale	F. Kunze	5/Dec/17	63.0	62.0	62.0	62.0
DZ Bank AG Deutsche Zentral-Genossenschaftsbank	A. Herlinghaus	4/Dec/17	58.0	55.0	56.0	58.0
Guggenheim Securities LLC	M. La motte	30/Nov/17	63.5	66.0	67.0	67.5
Lloyds Bank PLC	C. Paraskevas	30/Nov/17	62.0	65.0	65.0	67.0
Prestige Economics LLC	J. Schenker	27/Nov/17	64.0	65.0	64.0	63.0
Societe Generale SA	M. Wittner	22/Nov/17	58.0	56.0	60.0	58.0
Toronto-Dominion Bank/Toronto	B. Melek	16/Nov/17	64.0	63.0	64.0	64.0
ABN AMRO Bank NV	H. Van Cleef	16/Nov/17	65.0	68.0	70.0	73.0
BNP Paribas SA	H. Tchilinguirian	2/Nov/17	55.0	52.0	54.0	57.0
Westpac Banking Corp	J. Smirk	23/Oct/17	48.0	46.0	43.0	41.0
Deutsche Bank AG	M. Hsueh	12/Oct/17	53.0			
CIBC World Markets Inc	J. Pinto	29/Sep/17	54.5			
Schneider Electric SE	K. Liu	6/Sep/17	54.9			
DNB ASA	T. Kjus	3/Aug/17	60.0			
Promsvyazbank PJSC	S. Narkevich	31/Jul/17	49.2	51.3	53.4*	52.8*
HSH Nordbank AG	J. Edelmann	6/Jul/17	48*	46*	44*	46*
NE Nomisma Energia Srl	M. Mazzoni	5/Jul/17	51*	52.3*	53.5*	54.6*
Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi UFJ Ltd/The	E. Khoman	3/Jul/17	58.7*	59.6*	61.2*	61.4*
Citigroup Inc	A. Doshi	30/Jun/17	59*	63*	61*	58*
Danske Bank A/S	J. Pedersen	19/Jun/17	56*	57*	58*	59*
Natixis SA	Natixis SA	31/May/17	58*	58*	62*	64*
Standard Chartered Bank	P. Horsnell	26/May/17	62*	59*	59*	62*
Barclays PLC	M. Cohen	26/Apr/17	65*	63*	69*	72*
UniCredit Bank AG	J. Hitzfeld	25/Apr/17	60*	63*	65*	60*
Incrementum AG	R. Stoeferle	6/Apr/17	75*	80*	76*	75*
Median			60.0	62.0	61.8	60.0
Mean			59.5	60.1	60.4	60.7
High			67.0	68.0	70.0	73.0
Low			48.0	46.0	43.0	41.0
Current Fwd			68.9	68.0	66.9	65.7

Source: Bloomberg

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Al-Shaheed Tower, Khalid Bin Al-Waleed Street- Sharq P.O. BOX : 28873, Safat 13149, State of Kuwait Tel: (+965) 1852626 Fax: (+965) 22492395 Email : <u>Kamcoird@kamconline.com</u> Website : <u>http://www.kamconline.com</u>

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