



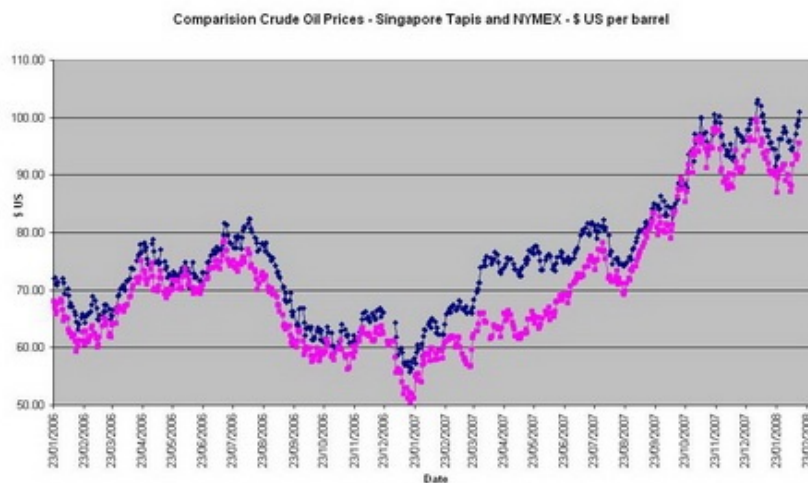
Oil breaks \$100, hits new all-time high

Posted by [Big Gav](#) on February 19, 2008 - 11:28pm in [The Oil Drum: Australia/New Zealand](#)

Topic: [Demand/Consumption](#)

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Sydney Morning Herald: Tapis and WTI both over [\\$100 a barrel](#) now.



Rex from ASPO Sydney provided this chart and the following edited comments:

This time a year ago Tapis opened up a price lead over WTI that lasted about 5 months. They then tracked closer together up to the first \$100 price spike late last year. Since then they have been on their own 'bumpy plateau'.

It appears the Tapis/WTI price gap is opening up again in 2008. Although it's early days and with much higher prices than 12 months ago, it will be worth watching.

The price plateau that both WTI & Tapis have reached I suspect will be tested in an upward direction over the next few months as demand pushes available supply and maybe a new price spike will emerge in the months to come?

I think price differentials between Tapis/WTI are mainly geographical in nature, with strong Asian demand, and possibly some particular local constraints on demand for WTI with refineries in turn-around season? Since Rex produced the chart, WTI has closed the gap substantially.

Clearly, with both indicators touching above \$100 at least temporarily, the US recession is not hurting oil demand appreciably yet.



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