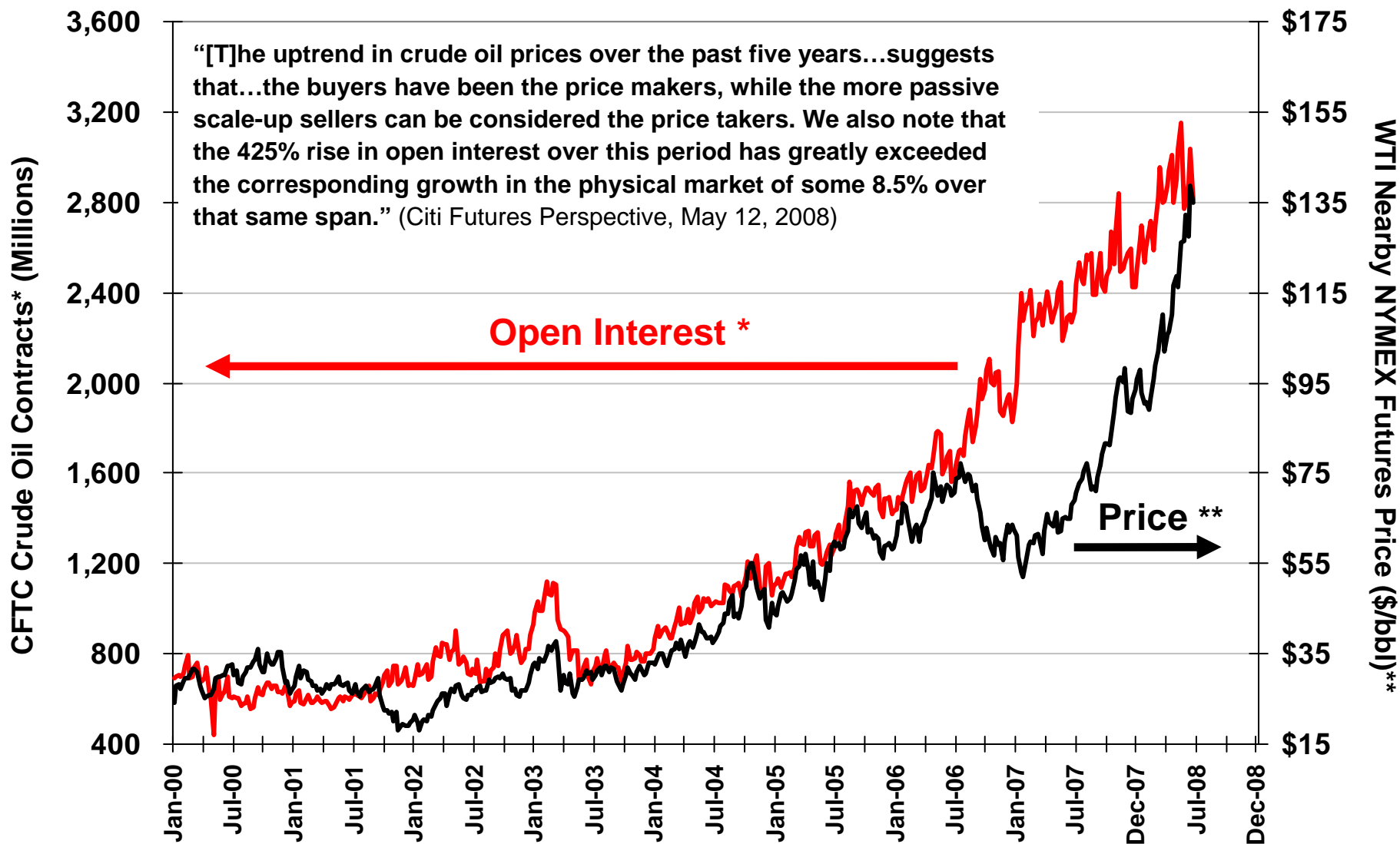


NYMEX Crude Oil Contracts Have Soared Since 2000

On May 13, Total Open Interest Surpassed Equivalent of 3.15 *Billion* Barrels



* NYMEX futures and options combined; note that one contract equals 1,000 barrels

** Friday settlement in the nearby NYMEX futures contract (<http://tonto.eia.doe.gov/dnav/pet/hist/rclc1d.htm>)

Source: Citi Futures Perspective