

# Natural Gas

## Note 1. Production.

Annual data—Final annual data are from the Energy Information Administration (EIA) *Natural Gas Annual (NGA)*.

Estimated monthly data—Data for the two most recent months presented are estimated. Some of the data for earlier months are also estimated or computed. For a discussion of computation and estimation procedures, see the EIA *Natural Gas Monthly (NGM)*.

Preliminary monthly data—Monthly data are considered preliminary until after publication of the EIA *NGA*. Preliminary monthly data are gathered from reports to the Interstate Oil Compact Commission and the U.S. Minerals Management Service. Volumetric data are converted, as necessary, to a standard 14.73 psi pressure base. Unless there are major changes, data are not revised until after publication of the EIA *NGA*.

Final monthly data—Differences between annual data in the EIA *NGA* and the sum of preliminary monthly data (January–December) are allocated proportionally to the months to create final monthly data.

**Note 2. Extraction Loss.** Extraction loss is the reduction in volume of natural gas resulting from the removal of natural gas liquid constituents at natural gas processing plants.

Annual data are from the EIA *NGA*, where they are estimated on the basis of the type and quantity of liquid products extracted from the gas stream and the calculated volume of such products at standard conditions. For a detailed explanation of the calculations used to derive estimated extraction losses, see the EIA *NGA*.

Preliminary monthly data are estimated on the basis of extraction loss as an annual percentage of marketed production. This percentage is applied to each month's marketed production to estimate monthly extraction loss.

Monthly data are revised and considered final after the publication of the EIA *NGA*. Final monthly data are estimated by allocating annual extraction loss data to the months on the basis of total natural gas marketed production data from the EIA *NGA*.

**Note 3. Supplemental Gaseous Fuels.** Supplemental gaseous fuels are any substances that, introduced into or commingled with natural gas, increase the volume available for disposition. Such substances include, but are not limited to, propane-air, refinery gas, coke oven gas, still gas, manufactured gas, biomass gas, or air or inert gases added for Btu stabilization.

Annual data beginning with 1980 are from the EIA, *NGA*. Unknown quantities of supplemental gaseous fuels are included in consumption data for 1979 and earlier years.

Monthly data are considered preliminary until after the publication of the EIA *NGA*. Monthly estimates are based on the annual ratio of supplemental gaseous fuels to the sum of dry gas production, net imports, and net withdrawals from storage. The ratio is applied to the monthly sum of the three elements to compute a monthly supplemental gaseous fuels figure.

Although the total amount of supplemental gaseous fuels consumed is known for 1980 forward, EIA estimates the amount consumed by each energy-use sector. It is assumed that supplemental gaseous fuels are commingled with natural gas consumed by the residential, commercial, other industrial, and electric power sectors, but are not commingled with natural gas used for lease and plant fuel, pipelines and distribution, or vehicle fuel. The estimated consumption of supplemental gaseous fuels by each sector (residential, commercial, other industrial, and electric power) is calculated as that sector's natural gas consumption (see Table 4.3) divided by the sum of natural gas consumption by the residential, commercial, other industrial, and electric power sectors (see Table 4.3). For estimated sectoral consumption of supplemental gaseous fuels in Btu, the residential, commercial, and other industrial values in cubic feet are multiplied by the "End-Use Sectors" conversion factors (see Table A4), and the electric power values in cubic feet are multiplied by the "Electric Power Sector" conversion factors (see Table A4). Total supplemental gaseous fuels consumption in Btu is calculated as the sum of the Btu values for the sectors.

**Note 4. Storage.** Natural gas in storage at the end of a reporting period may not equal the quantity derived by adding or subtracting net injections or withdrawals from the quantity in storage at the end of the previous period. The difference is due to changes in the quantity of native gas included in the base gas and/or losses in base gas due to migration from storage reservoirs.

Total underground storage capacity at the end of each calendar year since 1975 (first year data were available), in billion cubic feet, was:

1975 .. 6,280	1986 ... 8,145	1997 ... 8,332
1976 .. 6,544	1987 ... 8,124	1998 ... 8,179
1977 .. 6,678	1988 ... 8,124	1999 ... 8,229
1978 .. 6,890	1989 ... 8,120	2000 ... 8,241
1979 .. 6,929	1990 ... 7,794	2001 ... 8,415
1980 .. 7,434	1991 ... 7,993	2002 ... 8,207
1981 .. 7,805	1992 ... 7,932	2003 ... 8,206
1982 .. 7,915	1993 ... 7,989	2004 ... 8,255
1983 .. 7,985	1994 ... 8,043	2005 ... 8,268
1984 .. 8,043	1995 ... 7,953	2006 ... 8,330
1985 .. 8,087	1996 ... 7,980	

Monthly underground storage data are collected from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Form FERC-8 (interstate data) and EIA Form EIA-191 (intrastate data). Beginning in January 1991, all data are collected on the revised Form EIA-191. Injection and withdrawal data from

the FERC-8/EIA-191 survey are adjusted to correspond to data from Form EIA-176 following publication of the EIA *NGA*.

The final monthly and annual storage and withdrawal data for 1980–2005 include both underground and liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage. Annual data on LNG additions and withdrawals are from Form EIA-176. Monthly data are estimated by computing the ratio of each month's underground storage additions and withdrawals to annual underground storage additions and withdrawals and applying the ratio to the annual LNG data.

**Note 5. Balancing Item.** The balancing item for natural gas represents the difference between the sum of the components of natural gas supply and the sum of components of natural gas disposition. The differences may be due to quantities lost or to the effects of data reporting problems. Reporting problems include differences due to the net result of conversions of flow data metered at varying temperature and pressure bases and converted to a standard temperature and pressure base; the effect of variations in company accounting and billing practices; differences between billing cycle and calendar period time frames; and imbalances resulting from the merger of data reporting systems which vary in scope, format, definitions, and type of respondents.

The increase of 0.2 trillion cubic feet (Tcf) in the "Balancing Item" category in 1983, followed by a decline of 0.5 Tcf in 1984, reflected unusually large differences resulting from the use of the annual billing cycle (essentially December 15 through the following December 14) consumption data in conjunction with calendar year supply data. Record cold temperatures during the last half of December 1983 resulted in a reported 0.3 Tcf increase in net withdrawals from underground storage for peak shaving as compared with the same period in 1982, but the effect of this cold weather was reflected primarily in 1984 consumption data. For underground storage data, see Table F2 in the May 1985 EIA *NGM*, which was published in July 1985.

**Note 6. Consumption.** Consumption includes use for lease and plant fuel, pipelines and distribution, vehicle

fuel, and electric power plants, as well as deliveries to residential, commercial, and other industrial customers.

Final data for series other than "Other Industrial CHP" and "Electric Power Sector" are from the EIA *NGA*. Monthly data are considered preliminary until after publication of the EIA *NGA*. For more detailed information on the methods of estimating preliminary and final monthly data, see the EIA *NGM*.

**Note 7. Consumption, 1989-1992.** Prior to 1993, deliveries to nonutility generators were not separately collected from natural gas companies on Form EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition." As a result, for 1989 through 1992, those volumes are probably included in both the industrial and electric power sectors and double-counted in total consumption. In 1993, 0.28 trillion cubic feet was reported as delivered to nonutility generators.

**Note 8. Imports and Exports.** The United States imports natural gas via pipeline from Canada and Mexico and imports liquefied natural gas (LNG) via tanker from Algeria, Australia, Brunei, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, and the United Arab Emirates. In addition, very small amounts of LNG arrived from Canada in 1973 (667 million cubic feet), 1977 (572 million cubic feet), and 1981 (6 million cubic feet). The United States exports natural gas via pipeline to Canada and Mexico and exports LNG via tanker to Japan. Also, small amounts of LNG have gone to Mexico since 1998.

Annual and final monthly data are from the annual EIA Form FPC-14, "Annual Report for Importers and Exporters of Natural Gas," which requires data to be reported by month for the calendar year.

Preliminary monthly data are EIA estimates. For a discussion of estimation procedures, see the EIA *NGM*. Preliminary data are revised after the publication of the EIA *U.S. Imports and Exports of Natural Gas*.