

Table 4. U.S. Exploratory and Development Well Completions,^a 1973-2006

| Year | Exploratory | | | | Total Exploratory and Development | | | |
|--------|-------------|-------|--------|--------|-----------------------------------|--------|--------|--------|
| | Oil | Gas | Dry | Total | Oil | Gas | Dry | Total |
| 1973 | 642 | 1,067 | 5,952 | 7,661 | 10,167 | 6,933 | 10,320 | 27,420 |
| 1974 | 859 | 1,190 | 6,833 | 8,882 | 13,647 | 7,138 | 12,116 | 32,901 |
| 1975 | 982 | 1,248 | 7,129 | 9,359 | 16,948 | 8,127 | 13,646 | 38,721 |
| 1976 | 1,086 | 1,346 | 6,772 | 9,204 | 17,688 | 9,409 | 13,758 | 40,855 |
| 1977 | 1,164 | 1,548 | 7,283 | 9,995 | 18,745 | 12,122 | 14,985 | 45,852 |
| 1978 | 1,171 | 1,771 | 7,965 | 10,907 | 19,181 | 14,413 | 16,551 | 50,145 |
| 1979 | 1,321 | 1,907 | 7,437 | 10,665 | 20,851 | 15,254 | 16,099 | 52,204 |
| 1980 | 1,777 | 2,099 | 9,081 | 12,957 | 32,959 | 17,461 | 20,785 | 71,205 |
| 1981 | 2,651 | 2,522 | 12,400 | 17,573 | 43,887 | 20,250 | 27,953 | 92,090 |
| 1982 | 2,437 | 2,133 | 11,307 | 15,877 | 39,459 | 19,076 | 26,379 | 84,914 |
| 1983 | 2,030 | 1,605 | 10,206 | 13,841 | 37,366 | 14,684 | 24,355 | 76,405 |
| 1984 | 2,209 | 1,528 | 11,321 | 15,058 | 42,906 | 17,338 | 25,884 | 86,128 |
| 1985 | 1,680 | 1,200 | 8,954 | 11,834 | 35,261 | 14,324 | 21,211 | 70,796 |
| 1986 | 1,084 | 797 | 5,567 | 7,448 | 19,213 | 8,599 | 12,799 | 40,611 |
| 1987 | 926 | 756 | 5,052 | 6,734 | 16,210 | 8,096 | 11,167 | 35,473 |
| 1988 | 855 | 747 | 4,711 | 6,313 | 13,646 | 8,578 | 10,119 | 32,343 |
| 1989 | 607 | 706 | 3,934 | 5,247 | 10,230 | 9,522 | 8,236 | 27,988 |
| 1990 | 664 | 693 | 3,793 | 5,150 | 12,445 | 11,126 | 8,496 | 32,067 |
| 1991 | 601 | 544 | 3,390 | 4,535 | 12,035 | 9,611 | 7,882 | 29,528 |
| 1992 | 498 | 427 | 2,550 | 3,475 | 9,019 | 8,305 | 6,284 | 23,608 |
| 1993 | 509 | 541 | 2,509 | 3,559 | 8,764 | 10,174 | 6,513 | 25,451 |
| 1994 | 579 | 740 | 2,465 | 3,784 | 7,001 | 9,739 | 5,515 | 22,255 |
| 1995 | 549 | 583 | 2,279 | 3,411 | 7,827 | 8,454 | 5,319 | 21,600 |
| 1996 | 496 | 591 | 2,246 | 3,333 | 8,760 | 9,539 | 5,587 | 23,886 |
| 1997 | 434 | 543 | 2,178 | 3,155 | 10,445 | 11,186 | 5,955 | 27,586 |
| 1998 | 286 | 510 | 1,649 | 2,445 | 6,979 | 11,127 | 4,805 | 22,911 |
| 1999 | 156 | 519 | 1,167 | 1,842 | 4,314 | 11,121 | 3,504 | 18,939 |
| 2000 | 267 | 615 | 1,349 | 2,231 | 7,585 | 16,242 | 4,046 | 27,873 |
| 2001 | 330 | 972 | 1,716 | 3,018 | 8,186 | 21,403 | 4,432 | 34,021 |
| 2002 | 239 | 701 | 1,283 | 2,223 | 6,226 | 16,728 | 3,610 | 26,564 |
| 2003 | 326 | 892 | 1,266 | 2,484 | 7,465 | 19,522 | 3,688 | 30,675 |
| 2004 R | 368 | 1,323 | 1,200 | 2,891 | 7,806 | 21,816 | 3,474 | 33,096 |
| 2005 R | 448 | 1,532 | 1,358 | 3,338 | 9,668 | 27,014 | 4,063 | 40,745 |
| 2006 | 576 | 1,559 | 1,870 | 4,005 | 12,339 | 31,587 | 5,581 | 49,507 |

^aExcludes service wells and stratigraphic and core testing.
R = Revised Data.

Notes: Estimates include only the original drilling of a hole intended to discover or further develop already discovered oil or gas resources. Other drilling activities, such as drilling an old well deeper, drilling of laterals from the original well, drilling of service and injection wells, and drilling for resources other than oil and gas are excluded.

Source: Table 5.2, EIA *Monthly Energy Review October 2007*, DOE/EIA-0035(2007/10).