

Table 4.6 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2007

Year	Wells Drilled				Successful Wells	Footage Drilled ¹				Average Depth			
	Crude Oil ²	Natural Gas ³	Dry Holes ⁴	Total		Crude Oil ²	Natural Gas ³	Dry Holes ⁴	Total	Crude Oil ²	Natural Gas ³	Dry Holes ⁴	Total
	Number					Percent	Thousand Feet				Feet per Well		
1949	1,406	424	7,228	9,058	20.2	5,950	2,409	26,439	34,798	4,232	5,682	3,658	3,842
1950	1,583	431	8,292	10,306	19.5	6,862	2,356	30,957	40,175	4,335	5,466	3,733	3,898
1955	2,236	874	11,832	14,942	20.8	10,774	5,212	53,220	69,206	4,819	5,964	4,498	4,632
1960	1,321	868	9,515	11,704	18.7	6,829	5,466	43,535	55,831	5,170	6,298	4,575	4,770
1965	946	515	8,005	9,466	15.4	5,366	3,757	40,081	49,204	5,672	7,295	5,007	5,198
1970	757	477	6,162	7,396	16.7	4,729	3,678	35,123	43,530	6,247	7,695	5,700	5,885
1971	659	470	5,952	7,081	15.9	3,786	3,610	34,499	41,895	5,745	7,649	5,796	5,915
1972	685	656	6,134	7,475	17.9	4,028	4,847	36,081	44,956	5,880	7,400	5,882	6,015
1973	642	1,067	5,952	7,661	22.3	4,008	5,952	34,571	45,618	6,243	6,596	5,808	5,955
1974	859	1,190	6,833	8,882	23.1	5,029	7,683	38,603	51,315	5,855	6,456	5,649	5,777
1975	982	1,248	7,129	9,359	23.8	5,806	8,422	40,448	54,677	5,913	6,748	5,674	5,842
1976	1,086	1,346	6,772	9,204	26.4	6,527	9,121	37,969	53,617	6,010	6,777	5,607	5,825
1977	1,164	1,548	7,283	9,995	27.1	6,870	10,255	40,823	57,949	5,902	6,625	5,605	5,798
1978	1,171	1,771	7,965	10,907	27.0	7,105	11,798	46,295	65,197	6,067	6,662	5,812	5,978
1979	1,321	1,907	7,437	10,665	30.3	7,941	12,643	42,512	63,096	6,011	6,630	5,716	5,916
1980	1,777	2,099	9,081	12,957	29.9	10,177	13,862	50,249	74,288	5,727	6,604	5,533	5,733
1981	2,651	2,522	12,400	17,573	29.4	15,515	17,079	69,214	101,808	5,853	6,772	5,582	5,793
1982	2,437	2,133	11,307	15,877	28.8	13,413	14,763	60,680	88,856	5,504	6,921	5,367	5,597
1983	2,030	1,605	10,206	13,841	26.3	10,437	10,264	48,989	69,690	5,141	6,395	4,800	5,035
1984	2,209	1,528	11,321	15,058	24.8	12,294	9,935	58,624	80,853	5,565	6,502	5,178	5,369
1985	1,680	1,200	8,954	11,834	24.3	9,854	8,144	47,604	65,602	5,865	6,787	5,317	5,544
1986	1,084	797	5,567	7,448	25.3	6,579	5,401	30,325	42,305	6,069	6,777	5,447	5,680
1987	926	756	5,052	6,734	25.0	5,652	5,064	26,746	37,462	6,104	6,698	5,294	5,563
1988	855	747	4,711	6,313	25.4	5,286	4,992	27,079	37,357	6,182	6,683	5,748	5,917
1989	607	706	3,934	5,247	25.0	3,659	4,664	21,947	30,270	6,028	6,606	5,579	5,769
1990	664	693	3,793	5,150	26.3	4,420	4,774	21,777	30,971	6,657	6,889	5,741	6,014
1991	601	544	3,390	4,535	25.2	3,865	3,712	19,330	26,907	6,431	6,824	5,702	5,933
1992	498	427	2,550	3,475	26.6	3,236	2,749	13,983	19,968	6,498	6,438	5,484	5,746
1993	509	541	2,509	3,559	29.5	3,235	3,277	14,504	21,016	6,356	6,057	5,781	5,905
1994	579	740	2,465	3,784	34.9	3,708	4,720	14,632	23,060	6,404	6,378	5,936	6,094
1995	549	583	2,279	3,411	33.2	3,601	3,713	13,545	20,859	6,559	6,369	5,943	6,115
1996	496	591	2,246	3,333	32.6	3,615	3,938	13,805	21,358	7,288	6,663	6,146	6,408
1997	434	543	2,178	3,155	31.0	3,446	3,981	14,105	21,532	7,940	7,331	6,476	6,825
1998	286	510	1,649	2,445	32.6	2,351	3,629	11,062	17,042	8,220	7,116	6,708	6,970
1999	156	519	1,167	1,842	36.6	1,081	3,300	7,648	12,029	6,929	6,358	6,554	6,530
2000	267	615	1,349	2,231	39.5	1,945	4,488	9,024	15,457	7,285	7,298	6,689	6,928
2001	330	972	1,716	3,018	43.1	2,423	6,954	11,165	20,542	7,342	7,154	6,506	6,806
2002	236	701	1,283	2,220	42.2	1,609	5,042	8,559	15,210	6,818	7,193	6,671	6,851
2003	321	853	1,266	2,440	48.1	2,280	5,920	8,291	16,491	7,103	6,940	6,549	6,759
2004 ^E	^R 368	^R 1,323	^R 1,200	^R 2,891	^R 58.5	^R 2,957	^R 8,036	^R 8,134	^R 19,127	^R 8,036	^R 6,074	^R 6,778	^R 6,616
2005 ^E	^R 448	^R 1,532	^R 1,358	^R 3,338	^R 59.3	^R 3,700	^R 9,191	^R 8,551	^R 21,442	^R 8,258	^R 5,999	^R 6,297	^R 6,424
2006 ^E	576	1,559	1,870	4,005	53.3	4,452	9,845	11,107	25,404	7,729	6,315	5,940	6,343
2007 ^E	634	1,658	2,119	4,411	52.0	5,236	10,990	13,054	29,280	8,259	6,628	6,161	6,638

¹ See "Footage Drilled" in Glossary.

² See "Crude Oil Well" in Glossary.

³ See "Natural Gas Well" in Glossary.

⁴ See "Dry Hole" in Glossary.

R=Revised. E=Estimate.

Notes: • Data are for exploratory wells only; see Table 4.5 for exploratory and development wells combined, and Table 4.7 for development wells only. • For 1949-1959, data represent wells completed in a given year. For 1960-1969, data are for well completion reports received by the American Petroleum Institute (API) during the reporting year. For 1970 forward, the data represent wells completed in a given year. The as-received well completion data for recent years are incomplete due to delays in the reporting of wells drilled. The Energy Information Administration (EIA) therefore statistically imputes the missing

data. • Totals may not equal sum of components due to independent rounding. Average depth may not equal average of components due to independent rounding.

Web Pages: • For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer/resource.html>. • For related information, see http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/info_glance/petroleum.html.

Sources: • 1949-1960—American Association of Petroleum Geologists, *Statistics on Exploratory Drilling in the United States, 1940 through 1960* (1962), pp. 4-19. • 1961-1965—*Bulletin of the American Association of Petroleum Geologists*, "North American Developments" issue. • 1966-1969—API, *Quarterly Review of Drilling Statistics for the United States*, annual summaries and monthly reports. • 1970-1994—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the API. • 1995 forward—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the Information Handling Services Energy Group, Inc. For current data see the EIA, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 5.2.