

Table 2. Reserves Changes, 1977-2004

Components of Change	Lower 48 States			U.S. Total		
	Volume	Average per Year	Percent of Reserves Additions	Volume	Average per Year	Percent of Reserves Additions
Crude Oil (million barrels of 42 U.S. gallons)						
Proved Reserves as of 12/31/76	24,928	—	—	33,502	—	—
New Field Discoveries	5,725	204	12.1	6,676	238	11.5
New Reservoir Discoveries in Old Fields . .	3,914	140	8.3	4,102	147	7.1
Extensions	12,729	455	26.9	14,431	515	25.0
Total Discoveries	22,368	799	47.3	25,209	900	43.6
Revisions, Adjustments, Sales & Acquisitions ^a	24,887	889	52.7	32,614	1,165	56.4
Total Reserves Additions	47,255	1,688	100.0	57,823	2,065	100.0
Production	55,075	1,967	116.5	69,954	2,498	121.0
Net Reserves Change	-7,820	-279	-16.5	-12,131	-433	-21.0
Dry Natural Gas (billion cubic feet at 14.73 psia and 60° Fahrenheit)						
Proved Reserves as of 12/31/76	180,838	—	—	213,278	—	—
New Field Discoveries	52,929	1,890	10.6	53,171	1,899	11.0
New Reservoir Discoveries in Old Fields . .	68,090	2,432	13.7	68,539	2,448	14.2
Extensions	249,592	8,914	50.1	252,803	9,029	52.2
Total Discoveries	370,611	13,236	74.5	374,513	13,375	77.4
Revisions, Adjustments, Sales & Acquisitions ^a	127,110	4,540	25.5	109,511	3,911	22.6
Total Reserves Additions	497,721	17,776	100.0	484,024	17,287	100.0
Production	494,453	17,659	99.3	504,789	18,028	104.3
Net Reserves Change	3268	117	0.7	-20,765	-742	-4.3

^a EIA did not separately collect data on sales and acquisitions of proved reserves until the year 2000.
Source: U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves 1977-2004 annual reports, DOE/EIA-0216.{1-27}

Looking at the components of total discoveries in 2004:

- 2004's new field discoveries (33 million barrels) were 86 percent less than the post-1976 average for crude oil and the lowest since 1992,
- Extensions in 2004 (617 million barrels) were 20 percent more than the post-1976 average, and
- New reservoir discoveries in old fields (132 million barrels) were 10 percent less than the post-1976 average for crude oil.

Revisions, Adjustments, Sales & Acquisitions were 517 million barrels in 2004. This was 56 percent less than the post-1976 average of 1,165 million barrels per year.

Dry Natural Gas: Since 1977 U.S. operators have:

- had average annual new reserves discoveries of 13,375 billion cubic feet,
- had average annual proved reserves additions of 17,287 billion cubic feet from total discoveries, net revisions and adjustments, and net sales and acquisitions, and

- had an average annual proved reserves decline Nationwide of 742 billion cubic feet.

Like crude oil reserves, natural gas reserves have primarily been sustained by proved ultimate recovery appreciation since 1977. For gas, extensions rather than net revisions and adjustments are usually the largest component. Extensions accounted for 52 percent of all reserves additions since 1977 while net revisions and adjustments accounted for only 23 percent.

Compared to the averages of reserves changes since 1977, 2004 was an up year for dry natural gas total discoveries. Operators reported 20,163 billion cubic feet of total discoveries of dry natural gas proved reserves, 51 percent more than the post-1976 average (13,375 billion cubic feet).

The net of revisions, adjustments, sales, and acquisitions was 2,474 billion cubic feet in 2004, 37 percent lower than the post-1976 U.S. average (3,911 billion cubic feet per year).