

Table 4. U.S. Exploratory and Development Well Completions,^a 1970-2003

Year	Exploratory				Total Exploratory and Development			
	Oil	Gas	Dry	Total	Oil	Gas	Dry	Total
1970	763	478	6,193	7,434	13,043	4,031	11,099	28,173
1971	664	472	5,995	7,131	11,903	3,983	10,382	26,268
1972	690	659	6,202	7,551	11,437	5,484	11,013	27,934
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	1,764	2,081	9,039	12,884	32,639	17,333	20,638	70,610
1981	2,636	2,514	12,349	17,499	43,598	20,166	27,789	91,553
1982	2,431	2,125	11,247	15,803	39,199	18,979	26,219	84,397
1983	2,023	1,593	10,148	13,764	37,120	14,564	24,153	75,837
1984	2,198	1,521	11,278	14,997	42,605	17,127	25,681	85,413
1985	1,679	1,190	8,924	11,793	35,118	14,168	21,056	70,342
1986	1,084	793	5,549	7,426	19,097	8,516	12,678	40,291
1987	925	754	5,049	6,728	16,164	8,055	11,112	35,331
1988	855	732	4,693	6,280	13,636	8,555	10,041	32,232
1989	607	705	3,924	5,236	10,204	9,539	8,188	27,931
1990	654	689	3,715	5,058	12,198	11,044	8,313	31,555
1991	592	534	3,314	4,440	11,770	9,526	7,596	28,892
1992	493	423	2,513	3,429	8,757	8,209	6,118	23,084
1993	502	548	2,469	3,519	8,407	10,017	6,328	24,752
1994	570	726	2,405	3,701	6,721	9,538	5,307	21,566
1995	542	570	2,198	3,310	7,627	8,354	5,075	21,056
1996	483	570	2,136	3,189	8,314	9,302	5,282	22,898
1997	428	536	2,110	3,074	10,436	11,327	5,702	27,465
1998	291	504	1,647	2,442	R 7,064	R 11,144	4,840	R 23,048
1999	R 157	539	1,195	R 1,891	4,176	10,877	R 3,412	R 18,465
2000	264	R 602	1,288	R 2,154	7,358	16,455	4,025	27,838
2001	R 322	988	R 1,669	R 2,979	8,060	22,083	R 4,084	R 34,227
2002	R 231	R 659	R 1,240	R 2,130	R 6,058	R 16,155	R 3,531	R 25,744
2003	254	766	1,321	2,341	6,284	19,722	3,978	29,984

^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.

Sources: Years 1970-1972: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas. Years 1973-2003: EIA *Monthly Energy Review* September 2004, DOE/EIA-0035(2004/09). Web Page <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mer/resource.html>.