

Table 4.6 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2010

| Year | Wells Drilled | | | | Successful Wells Percent | Footage Drilled ¹ | | | | Average Footage Drilled | | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|-----------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|-------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|
| | 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 | | | | | 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 |
| 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 | 778 | 811 | R3,652 | R5,241 | 30.3 | R5,321 | R5,758 | R20,757 | R31,836 | R6,839 | R7,100 | R5,684 | 6,074 |
| 1991 | 673 | R649 | R3,191 | R4,513 | 29.3 | R4,470 | R4,620 | R18,049 | R27,139 | R6,642 | R7,118 | R5,656 | R6,013 |
| 1992 | 571 | 513 | R2,384 | R3,468 | 31.3 | R3,958 | R3,544 | R13,058 | R20,560 | R6,932 | R6,908 | R5,477 | R5,928 |
| 1993 | 539 | 610 | R2,334 | R3,483 | 33.0 | R3,573 | R3,960 | R13,472 | R21,005 | R6,629 | R6,491 | R5,772 | R6,031 |
| 1994 | 595 | R782 | 2,247 | R3,624 | 38.0 | R3,971 | R5,129 | R13,307 | R22,407 | R6,674 | R6,559 | R5,922 | R6,183 |
| 1995 | 570 | R558 | R2,024 | R3,152 | 35.8 | R3,933 | R3,497 | R11,928 | R19,358 | 6,900 | R6,266 | 5,893 | R6,141 |
| 1996 | 489 | 576 | 1,956 | 3,021 | 35.3 | 3,654 | 3,901 | R12,137 | R19,692 | 7,472 | R6,773 | R6,205 | 6,518 |
| 1997 | 491 | R562 | 2,113 | R3,166 | R33.3 | R3,947 | R4,036 | R13,490 | R21,473 | R8,039 | R7,181 | R6,384 | R6,782 |
| 1998 | 327 | 566 | 1,590 | 2,483 | 36.0 | R2,740 | R4,093 | R10,842 | R17,675 | R8,379 | R7,231 | 6,819 | 7,118 |
| 1999 | 197 | R570 | 1,157 | R1,924 | R39.9 | R1,433 | R3,992 | R7,687 | R13,112 | R7,274 | R7,003 | 6,644 | 6,815 |
| 2000 | R288 | R657 | R1,341 | R2,286 | 41.3 | R2,103 | R4,812 | R9,173 | R16,088 | R7,302 | R7,325 | R6,840 | R7,038 |
| 2001 | 357 | 1,052 | R1,733 | R3,142 | R44.8 | R2,618 | R7,327 | R11,470 | R21,415 | R7,333 | R6,965 | R6,619 | R6,816 |
| 2002 | R258 | R844 | R1,282 | R2,384 | 46.2 | R1,743 | R5,731 | R8,695 | R16,169 | R6,756 | R6,791 | R6,782 | R6,782 |
| 2003 | R350 | R997 | R1,297 | R2,644 | R50.9 | R2,448 | R6,584 | R8,817 | R17,849 | R6,994 | R6,604 | 6,798 | R6,751 |
| 2004 | R383 | R1,671 | R1,350 | R3,404 | R60.3 | R3,124 | R9,989 | R9,345 | R22,458 | R8,157 | R5,978 | R6,922 | R6,598 |
| 2005 | R539 | R2,135 | R1,462 | R4,136 | R64.7 | R4,279 | R12,198 | R9,396 | R25,873 | R7,939 | R5,713 | R6,427 | R6,255 |
| 2006 ^E | R644 | R2,450 | R1,529 | R4,623 | R66.9 | R4,760 | R14,003 | R9,609 | R28,372 | R7,391 | R5,716 | R6,284 | R6,137 |
| 2007 ^E | R825 | R2,777 | R1,585 | R5,187 | R69.4 | R5,944 | R15,616 | R10,136 | R31,696 | R7,205 | R5,623 | R6,395 | R6,111 |
| 2008 ^E | R921 | R2,467 | R1,764 | R5,152 | R65.8 | R7,356 | R15,152 | R10,835 | R33,343 | R7,987 | R6,142 | R6,142 | R6,472 |
| 2009 ^E | R618 | R1,290 | R1,157 | R3,065 | R62.3 | R4,856 | R9,254 | R7,053 | R21,163 | R7,858 | R7,173 | R6,096 | R6,905 |
| 2010 ^E | 778 | 1,269 | 1,322 | 3,369 | 60.8 | 6,319 | 8,639 | 7,932 | 22,890 | 8,122 | 6,808 | 6,000 | 6,794 |

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 U.S. 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: • See <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#resources> for all data beginning in 1949. • For related information, see <http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/>.

Sources: • 1949-1965—Gulf Publishing Company, *World Oil*, "Forecast-Review" issue. • 1966-1969—American Petroleum Institute (API), *Quarterly Review of Drilling Statistics for the United States*, annual summaries and monthly reports. • 1970-1989—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the API. • 1990 forward—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to IHS, Inc., Denver, CO. For current data see the EIA, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 5.2.