

Table 5.2 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells

| | Wells Drilled | | | | | | | | | | | | Total Footage Drilled Thousand Feet |
|-------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--|
| | Exploratory | | | | Development | | | | Total | | | | |
| | Crude Oil | Natural Gas | Dry | Total | Crude Oil | Natural Gas | Dry | Total | Crude Oil | Natural Gas | Dry | Total | |
| | Number | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1973 Total | 642 | 1,067 | 5,952 | 7,661 | 9,525 | 5,866 | 4,368 | 19,759 | 10,167 | 6,933 | 10,320 | 27,420 | 138,223 |
| 1975 Total | 982 | 1,248 | 7,129 | 9,359 | 15,966 | 6,879 | 6,517 | 29,362 | 16,948 | 8,127 | 13,646 | 38,721 | 180,494 |
| 1980 Total | 1,777 | 2,099 | 9,081 | 12,957 | 31,182 | 15,362 | 11,704 | 58,248 | 32,959 | 17,461 | 20,785 | 71,205 | 316,943 |
| 1985 Total | 1,680 | 1,200 | 8,954 | 11,834 | 33,581 | 13,124 | 12,257 | 58,962 | 35,261 | 14,324 | 21,211 | 70,796 | 314,409 |
| 1990 Total | 778 | 811 | 3,652 | 5,241 | 12,061 | 10,435 | 4,593 | 27,089 | 12,839 | 11,246 | 8,245 | 32,330 | 156,044 |
| 1995 Total | 570 | 558 | 2,024 | 3,152 | 7,678 | 7,524 | 2,790 | 17,992 | 8,248 | 8,082 | 4,814 | 21,144 | 117,156 |
| 1996 Total | 489 | 576 | 1,956 | 3,021 | 8,347 | 8,451 | 2,934 | 19,732 | 8,836 | 9,027 | 4,890 | 22,753 | 126,365 |
| 1997 Total | 491 | 562 | 2,113 | 3,166 | 10,715 | 10,936 | 3,761 | 25,412 | 11,206 | 11,498 | 5,874 | 28,578 | 161,249 |
| 1998 Total | 327 | 566 | 1,590 | 2,483 | 7,355 | 11,073 | 3,171 | 21,599 | 7,682 | 11,639 | 4,761 | 24,082 | 137,202 |
| 1999 Total | 197 | 570 | 1,157 | 1,924 | 4,608 | 11,457 | 2,393 | 18,458 | 4,805 | 12,027 | 3,550 | 20,382 | 102,861 |
| 2000 Total | 288 | 657 | 1,341 | 2,286 | 7,802 | 16,394 | 2,805 | 27,001 | 8,090 | 17,051 | 4,146 | 29,287 | 144,425 |
| 2001 Total | 357 | 1,052 | 1,733 | 3,142 | 8,531 | 21,020 | 2,865 | 32,416 | 8,888 | 22,072 | 4,598 | 35,558 | 180,141 |
| 2002 Total | 258 | 844 | 1,282 | 2,384 | 6,517 | 16,498 | 2,472 | 25,487 | 6,775 | 17,342 | 3,754 | 27,871 | 145,159 |
| 2003 Total | 350 | 997 | 1,297 | 2,644 | 7,779 | 19,725 | 2,685 | 30,189 | 8,129 | 20,722 | 3,982 | 32,833 | 177,239 |
| 2004 Total | 383 | 1,671 | 1,350 | 3,404 | 8,406 | 22,515 | 2,732 | 33,653 | 8,789 | 24,186 | 4,082 | 37,057 | 204,279 |
| 2005 Total | 539 | 2,141 | 1,462 | 4,142 | 10,240 | 26,449 | 3,191 | 39,880 | 10,779 | 28,590 | 4,653 | 44,022 | 240,307 |
| 2006 Total | 646 | 2,456 | 1,547 | 4,649 | 12,739 | 30,382 | 3,659 | 46,780 | 13,385 | 32,838 | 5,206 | 51,429 | 282,675 |
| 2007 Total | 808 | 2,794 | 1,582 | 5,184 | 12,563 | 29,925 | 3,399 | 45,887 | 13,371 | 32,719 | 4,981 | 51,071 | 301,515 |
| 2008 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 88 | 208 | 144 | 440 | 1,111 | 2,321 | 272 | 3,704 | 1,199 | 2,529 | 416 | 4,144 | 25,306 |
| February | 82 | 230 | 107 | 419 | 1,080 | 2,261 | 247 | 3,588 | 1,162 | 2,491 | 354 | 4,007 | 24,958 |
| March | 66 | 216 | 127 | 409 | 1,132 | 2,363 | 271 | 3,766 | 1,198 | 2,579 | 398 | 4,175 | 26,226 |
| April | 68 | 189 | 130 | 387 | 1,177 | 2,415 | 281 | 3,873 | 1,245 | 2,604 | 411 | 4,260 | 26,920 |
| May | 88 | 206 | 124 | 418 | 1,317 | 2,449 | 240 | 4,006 | 1,405 | 2,655 | 364 | 4,424 | 27,947 |
| June | 63 | 195 | 139 | 397 | 1,428 | 2,540 | 299 | 4,267 | 1,491 | 2,735 | 438 | 4,664 | 28,739 |
| July | 79 | 163 | 171 | 413 | 1,439 | 2,695 | 344 | 4,478 | 1,518 | 2,858 | 515 | 4,891 | 29,140 |
| August | 67 | 165 | 144 | 376 | 1,448 | 2,735 | 379 | 4,562 | 1,515 | 2,900 | 523 | 4,938 | 28,942 |
| September | 52 | 166 | 164 | 382 | 1,488 | 2,667 | 355 | 4,510 | 1,540 | 2,833 | 519 | 4,892 | 28,960 |
| October | 80 | 243 | 173 | 496 | 1,549 | 2,841 | 373 | 4,763 | 1,629 | 3,084 | 546 | 5,259 | 31,505 |
| November | 97 | 192 | 160 | 449 | 1,361 | 2,418 | 334 | 4,113 | 1,458 | 2,610 | 494 | 4,562 | 29,276 |
| December | 67 | 172 | 132 | 371 | 1,206 | 2,196 | 313 | 3,715 | 1,273 | 2,368 | 445 | 4,086 | 26,222 |
| Total | 897 | 2,345 | 1,715 | 4,957 | 15,736 | 29,901 | 3,708 | 49,345 | 16,633 | 32,246 | 5,423 | 54,302 | 334,141 |
| 2009 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 80 | 171 | 99 | 350 | 1,192 | 2,253 | 250 | 3,695 | 1,272 | 2,424 | 349 | 4,045 | 28,077 |
| February | 62 | 125 | 88 | 275 | 991 | 1,925 | 195 | 3,111 | 1,053 | 2,050 | 283 | 3,386 | 25,440 |
| March | 59 | 146 | 88 | 293 | 867 | 1,771 | 210 | 2,848 | 926 | 1,917 | 298 | 3,141 | 25,304 |
| April | 36 | 68 | 93 | 197 | 755 | 1,396 | 205 | 2,356 | 791 | 1,464 | 298 | 2,553 | 21,406 |
| May | 47 | 90 | 80 | 217 | 584 | 1,136 | 156 | 1,876 | 631 | 1,226 | 236 | 2,093 | 20,055 |
| June | 44 | 91 | 75 | 210 | 804 | 1,297 | 189 | 2,290 | 848 | 1,388 | 264 | 2,500 | 16,301 |
| July | 40 | 100 | 101 | 241 | 789 | 1,188 | 217 | 2,194 | 829 | 1,288 | 318 | 2,435 | 13,543 |
| August | 49 | 84 | 88 | 221 | 867 | 1,372 | 207 | 2,446 | 916 | 1,456 | 295 | 2,667 | 15,970 |
| September | 61 | 71 | 96 | 228 | 945 | 1,170 | 207 | 2,322 | 1,006 | 1,241 | 303 | 2,550 | 15,547 |
| October | 55 | 79 | 78 | 212 | 966 | 1,167 | 222 | 2,355 | 1,021 | 1,246 | 300 | 2,567 | 17,261 |
| November | 38 | 83 | 85 | 206 | 931 | 1,133 | 199 | 2,263 | 969 | 1,216 | 284 | 2,469 | 16,236 |
| December | 34 | 98 | 84 | 216 | 894 | 1,074 | 213 | 2,181 | 928 | 1,172 | 297 | 2,397 | 16,424 |
| Total | 605 | 1,206 | 1,055 | 2,866 | 10,585 | 16,882 | 2,470 | 29,937 | 11,190 | 18,088 | 3,525 | 32,803 | 231,562 |
| 2010 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| January | 55 | 91 | 81 | 227 | 898 | 1,264 | 169 | 2,331 | 953 | 1,355 | 250 | 2,558 | 15,304 |
| February | 44 | 71 | 67 | 182 | 871 | 1,096 | 144 | 2,111 | 915 | 1,167 | 211 | 2,293 | 16,862 |
| March | 59 | 85 | 88 | 232 | 1,062 | 1,224 | 216 | 2,502 | 1,121 | 1,309 | 304 | 2,734 | 15,102 |
| April | 49 | 78 | 77 | 204 | 1,173 | 1,152 | 249 | 2,574 | 1,222 | 1,230 | 326 | 2,778 | 17,904 |
| May | 48 | 107 | 86 | 241 | 1,282 | 1,208 | 255 | 2,745 | 1,330 | 1,315 | 341 | 2,986 | 17,987 |
| June | 61 | 100 | 90 | 251 | 1,385 | 1,250 | 302 | 2,937 | 1,446 | 1,350 | 392 | 3,188 | 19,408 |
| July | 46 | 103 | 105 | 254 | 1,386 | 1,443 | 390 | 3,219 | 1,432 | 1,546 | 495 | 3,473 | 20,847 |
| August | 56 | 104 | 94 | 254 | 1,434 | 1,402 | 314 | 3,150 | 1,490 | 1,506 | 408 | 3,404 | 22,923 |
| September | 57 | 73 | 88 | 218 | 1,374 | 1,358 | 268 | 3,000 | 1,431 | 1,431 | 356 | 3,218 | 23,037 |
| October | 75 | 87 | 117 | 279 | 1,502 | 1,463 | 283 | 3,248 | 1,577 | 1,550 | 400 | 3,527 | 22,123 |
| November | 62 | 114 | 103 | 279 | 1,400 | 1,352 | 263 | 3,015 | 1,462 | 1,466 | 366 | 3,294 | 24,561 |
| December | 57 | 92 | 70 | 219 | 1,317 | 1,379 | 243 | 2,939 | 1,374 | 1,471 | 313 | 3,158 | 23,189 |
| Total | 669 | 1,105 | 1,066 | 2,840 | 15,084 | 15,591 | 3,096 | 33,771 | 15,753 | 16,696 | 4,162 | 36,611 | 239,247 |

Notes: • Data are estimates. • Prior to 1990, these well counts include only the original drilling of a hole intended to discover or further develop already discovered crude oil or natural 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 crude oil or natural gas are excluded. After 1990, a new well is defined as the first hole in the ground whether it is lateral or not. Due to the methodology used to estimate ultimate well counts from the available partially reported data, the counts shown on this page are frequently revised. See Note, "Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development

Wells," at end of section. • Geographic coverage is the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Web Page: See <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/#crude> for all available data beginning in 1973.

Sources: • **1973–1989:** U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) computations based on well reports submitted to the American Petroleum Institute. • **1990 forward:** EIA computations based on well reports submitted to IHS, Inc., Denver, CO.

2011 and 2012 data in this table have been removed while EIA evaluates the quality of the data and the estimation methodology.