

U.S. oil imports to decline with rising oil production through 2014

The United States will need fewer oil imports over the next two years because of rising U.S. oil production.

The new monthly Short-Term Energy Outlook from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's says the share of total U.S. petroleum consumption met by foreign oil will fall from 40 percent last year to 32 percent by 2014. That's almost half the 60 percent import peak reached in 2005.

Higher U.S. oil production -- which is expected to average 7.3 million barrels a day this year and 7.8 million next year -- is the main reason for the drop in imports, although more efficient vehicles are also limiting growth in oil consumption.

While total U.S. oil output rises, Alaskan production is expected to continue its steady decline and fall below 500,000 barrels per day next year for first time since 1977.

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