

Table 4.5 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2010

Year	Wells Drilled				Successful Wells	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					Percent	Thousand Feet				Feet per Well		
1949	21,352	3,363	12,597	37,312	66.2	79,428	12,437	43,754	135,619	3,720	3,698	3,473	3,635
1950	23,812	3,439	14,799	42,050	64.8	92,695	13,685	50,977	157,358	3,893	3,979	3,445	3,742
1955	30,432	4,266	20,452	55,150	62.9	121,148	19,930	85,103	226,182	3,981	4,672	4,161	4,101
1960	22,258	5,149	18,212	45,619	60.1	86,568	28,246	77,361	192,176	3,889	5,486	4,248	4,213
1965	18,065	4,482	16,226	38,773	58.2	73,322	24,931	76,629	174,882	4,059	5,562	4,723	4,510
1970	12,968	4,011	11,031	28,010	60.6	56,859	23,623	58,074	138,556	4,385	5,860	5,265	4,943
1975	16,948	8,127	13,646	38,721	64.8	66,819	44,454	69,220	180,494	3,943	5,470	5,073	4,661
1976	17,688	9,409	13,758	40,855	66.3	68,892	49,113	68,977	186,982	3,895	5,220	5,014	4,577
1977	18,745	12,122	14,985	45,852	67.3	75,451	63,686	76,728	215,866	4,025	5,254	5,120	4,708
1978	19,181	14,413	16,551	50,145	67.0	77,041	75,841	85,788	238,669	4,017	5,262	5,183	4,760
1979	20,851	15,254	16,099	52,204	69.2	82,688	80,468	81,642	244,798	3,966	5,275	5,071	4,689
1980	32,959	17,461	20,785	71,205	70.8	125,262	92,106	99,575	316,943	3,801	5,275	4,791	4,451
1981	43,887	20,250	27,953	92,090	69.6	172,167	108,353	134,934	415,454	3,923	5,351	4,827	4,511
1982	39,459	19,076	26,379	84,914	68.9	149,674	107,149	123,746	380,569	3,793	5,617	4,691	4,482
1983	37,366	14,684	24,355	76,405	68.1	136,849	78,108	105,222	320,179	3,662	5,319	4,320	4,191
1984	42,906	17,338	25,884	86,128	69.9	162,653	91,480	119,860	373,993	3,791	5,276	4,631	4,342
1985	35,261	14,324	21,211	70,796	70.0	137,728	76,293	100,388	314,409	3,906	5,326	4,733	4,441
1986	19,213	8,599	12,799	40,611	68.5	76,825	45,039	60,961	182,825	3,999	5,238	4,763	4,502
1987	16,210	8,096	11,167	35,473	68.5	66,358	42,584	53,588	162,530	4,094	5,260	4,799	4,582
1988	13,646	8,578	10,119	32,343	68.7	58,639	45,363	52,517	156,519	4,297	5,288	5,190	4,839
1989	10,230	9,522	8,236	27,988	70.6	43,266	49,081	42,099	134,446	4,229	5,154	5,112	4,804
1990	12,839	11,246	8,245	32,330	74.5	R56,591	R57,028	R42,433	R156,052	R4,408	R5,071	R5,147	R4,827
1991	12,588	9,793	7,481	29,862	74.9	R56,196	R51,032	R37,750	R144,978	R4,464	R5,211	R5,046	R4,855
1992	9,402	8,163	5,862	23,427	75.0	R45,748	R44,727	R29,451	R119,926	R4,866	R5,479	R5,024	R5,119
1993	8,856	9,839	6,096	24,791	75.4	R44,236	R58,240	R31,018	R133,494	R4,995	R5,919	R5,088	R5,385
1994	7,348	9,375	5,096	21,819	76.6	R38,620	R58,340	R27,771	R124,731	R5,256	R6,223	R5,450	R5,717
1995	8,248	8,082	4,814	21,144	77.2	R41,076	R49,746	R26,349	R117,171	R4,980	R6,155	R5,473	R5,542
1996	8,836	9,027	4,890	22,753	78.5	R42,472	R56,042	R27,851	R126,365	R4,807	R6,208	R5,696	R5,554
1997	11,206	11,498	5,874	28,578	79.4	R56,371	R71,270	R33,640	R161,281	R5,030	R6,198	R5,727	R5,644
1998	7,682	11,639	4,761	24,082	80.2	R38,579	R70,099	R28,540	R137,218	R5,022	R6,023	R5,995	R5,698
1999	4,805	12,027	3,550	20,382	82.6	R22,024	R60,217	R20,608	R102,849	4,584	R5,007	R5,805	R5,046
2000	8,090	17,051	4,146	29,287	85.8	R36,745	R83,618	R24,076	R144,439	R4,542	R4,904	R5,807	R4,932
2001	8,888	22,072	4,598	35,558	87.1	R43,172	R110,734	R26,221	R180,127	R4,857	R5,017	R5,703	R5,066
2002	6,775	17,342	3,754	27,871	86.5	R30,892	R93,041	R21,232	R145,165	R4,560	R5,365	R5,656	R5,208
2003	8,129	20,722	3,982	32,833	87.9	R38,588	R115,916	R22,744	R177,248	R4,747	R5,594	R5,712	R5,398
2004	8,789	24,186	4,082	37,057	89.0	R42,109	R138,449	R23,714	R204,272	R4,791	R5,724	R5,809	R5,512
2005	10,779	R28,590	4,653	R44,022	89.4	R51,449	R163,820	R25,044	R240,313	R4,773	R5,730	R5,382	R5,459
2006	R13,404	R32,838	R5,206	R51,448	89.9	R63,340	R191,646	R27,778	R282,764	R4,725	R5,836	R5,336	R5,496
2007	R13,361	R32,719	R4,978	R51,058	90.3	R64,792	R208,907	R27,754	R301,453	R4,849	R6,385	R5,575	R5,904
2008	R16,645	R32,274	R5,428	R54,347	R90.0	R82,646	R223,224	R28,572	R334,442	R4,965	R6,917	R5,264	R6,154
2009	R11,261	R18,234	R3,552	R33,047	R89.3	R62,771	R156,200	R20,520	R239,491	R5,574	R8,566	R5,777	R7,247
2010	R16,254	R16,973	R4,277	R37,504	R88.6	R100,682	R146,973	R21,719	R269,374	R6,194	R8,659	R5,078	R7,183

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.

Notes: • 2011 data for this table were not available in time for publication. • Data are estimates.

• Data are for exploratory and development wells combined; see Table 4.6 for exploratory wells only, and Table 4.7 for development wells only. • Service wells, stratigraphic tests, and core tests are excluded.

• 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 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/monthly/#crude> for updated monthly and annual data. • See <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#resources> for all annual data beginning in 1949.

• See <http://www.eia.gov/petroleum/> for related information.

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.