

Table 4.6 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory 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	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	3,652	5,241	30.3	^R 5,316	^R 5,740	^R 20,761	^R 31,817	^R 6,833	^R 7,078	^R 5,685	^R 6,071
1991	673	649	3,191	4,513	29.3	4,470	^R 4,619	18,049	^R 27,138	6,642	^R 7,117	5,656	6,013
1992	571	513	2,384	3,468	31.3	^R 3,959	3,544	13,058	^R 20,561	^R 6,933	6,908	5,477	^R 5,929
1993	539	610	2,334	3,483	33.0	^R 3,572	^R 3,950	^R 13,465	^R 20,987	^R 6,627	^R 6,475	^R 5,769	^R 6,026
1994	595	782	2,247	3,624	38.0	782	5,121	^R 13,306	^R 22,398	6,674	^R 6,549	5,922	^R 6,180
1995	570	558	2,024	3,152	35.8	^R 3,927	^R 3,494	^R 11,927	^R 19,348	^R 6,889	^R 6,262	5,893	^R 6,138
1996	489	576	1,956	3,021	35.3	^R 3,650	^R 3,902	12,137	^R 19,689	^R 7,464	^R 6,774	6,205	^R 6,517
1997	491	562	2,113	3,166	33.3	^R 3,946	^R 4,022	^R 13,485	^R 21,453	^R 8,037	^R 7,157	^R 6,382	^R 6,776
1998	327	566	1,590	2,483	36.0	2,740	^R 4,068	^R 10,836	^R 17,644	8,379	^R 7,187	^R 6,815	^R 7,106
1999	197	570	1,157	1,924	39.9	1,433	^R 3,997	7,687	^R 13,117	7,274	^R 7,012	6,644	^R 6,818
2000	288	657	1,341	2,286	41.3	2,103	^R 4,798	^R 9,147	^R 16,048	7,302	^R 7,303	^R 6,821	^R 7,020
2001	357	1,052	1,733	3,142	44.8	^R 2,608	^R 7,323	^R 11,458	^R 21,389	^R 7,305	^R 6,961	^R 6,612	^R 6,807
2002	258	844	1,282	2,384	46.2	^R 1,742	^R 5,701	^R 8,687	^R 16,130	^R 6,752	^R 6,755	^R 6,776	^R 6,766
2003	350	997	1,297	2,644	50.9	^R 2,446	^R 6,569	^R 8,810	^R 17,825	^R 6,989	^R 6,589	^R 6,793	^R 6,742
2004	383	1,671	1,350	3,404	60.3	^R 3,098	^R 9,988	^R 9,331	^R 22,417	^R 8,089	^R 5,977	^R 6,912	^R 6,585
2005	539	^R 2,141	1,462	^R 4,142	64.7	^R 4,252	^R 12,208	^R 9,359	^R 25,819	^R 7,889	^R 5,702	^R 6,402	^R 6,233
2006	^R 646	^R 2,456	^R 1,547	^R 4,649	^R 66.7	^R 4,710	^R 13,987	^R 9,745	^R 28,442	^R 7,291	^R 5,695	^R 6,299	^R 6,118
2007	^R 806	^R 2,794	^R 1,582	^R 5,182	^R 69.5	^R 5,790	^R 15,658	^R 10,102	^R 31,550	^R 7,184	^R 5,604	^R 6,386	^R 6,088
2008	^R 892	^R 2,345	^R 1,715	^R 4,952	^R 65.4	^R 7,088	^R 14,276	^R 10,500	^R 31,864	^R 7,946	^R 6,088	^R 6,122	^R 6,435
2009	^R 612	^R 1,196	^R 1,052	^R 2,860	^R 63.2	^R 4,711	^R 8,499	^R 6,443	^R 19,653	^R 7,698	^R 7,106	^R 6,125	^R 6,872
2010	^R 668	^R 1,044	^R 1,093	^R 2,805	^R 61.0	^R 6,099	^R 9,226	^R 6,192	^R 21,517	^R 9,130	^R 8,837	^R 5,665	^R 7,671

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 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/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.