

Table 4.5 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2008

Year	Wells Drilled				Successful Wells	Footage Drilled ¹				Average Depth			
	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
1971	11,853	3,971	10,309	26,133	60.6	49,109	23,460	54,685	127,253	4,126	5,890	5,305	4,858
1972	11,378	5,440	10,891	27,709	60.7	49,269	30,006	58,556	137,831	4,330	5,516	5,377	4,974
1973	10,167	6,933	10,320	27,420	62.4	44,416	38,045	55,761	138,223	4,369	5,488	5,403	5,041
1974	13,647	7,138	12,116	32,901	63.2	52,025	38,449	62,899	153,374	3,812	5,387	5,191	4,662
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	R12,479	R11,112	R8,226	R31,817	R74.1	R55,943	R56,829	R42,511	R155,283	R4,483	R5,114	R5,168	R4,881
1991	R12,152	R9,538	R7,461	R29,151	R74.4	R55,368	R50,238	R37,817	R143,424	R4,556	R5,267	R5,069	R4,920
1992	R8,994	R7,992	R5,847	R22,833	R74.4	R45,034	R44,301	R29,451	R118,786	R5,007	R5,543	R5,037	R5,202
1993	R8,618	R9,759	R6,075	R24,452	R75.2	R43,857	R58,130	R31,090	R133,078	R5,089	R5,957	R5,118	R5,442
1994	R7,100	R9,264	R5,063	R21,427	R76.4	R38,300	R58,108	R27,756	R124,163	R5,394	R6,272	R5,482	R5,795
1995	R7,919	R7,975	R4,804	R20,698	R76.8	R40,667	R49,600	R26,395	R116,662	R5,135	R6,219	R5,494	R5,636
1996	R8,612	R8,943	R4,877	R22,432	R78.3	R42,114	R56,050	R27,828	R125,992	R4,890	R6,267	R5,706	R5,617
1997	R11,046	R11,440	R5,855	R28,341	R79.3	R56,134	R71,416	R33,735	R161,286	R5,082	R6,243	R5,762	R5,691
1998	R7,559	R11,512	R4,754	R23,825	R80.0	R38,471	R70,082	R28,561	R137,114	R5,089	R6,088	R6,008	R5,755
1999	R4,738	R11,902	R3,518	R20,158	R82.5	R21,900	R60,096	R20,617	R102,613	R4,622	R5,049	R5,861	R5,090
2000	R7,991	R16,942	R4,130	R29,063	R85.8	R36,702	R83,414	R24,060	R144,175	R4,593	R4,923	R5,826	R4,961
2001	R8,812	R21,973	R4,546	R35,331	R87.1	R43,122	R110,523	R26,072	R179,716	R4,894	R5,030	R5,735	R5,087
2002	R6,731	R17,237	R3,721	R27,689	R86.6	R30,842	R92,885	R21,129	R144,856	R4,582	R5,389	R5,678	R5,232
2003	R8,048	R20,627	R3,924	R32,599	R88.0	R38,495	R115,833	R22,539	R176,867	R4,783	R5,616	R5,744	R5,426
2004	R8,705	R24,060	R4,012	R36,777	R89.1	R42,032	R138,503	R23,462	R203,997	R4,829	R5,757	R5,848	R5,547
2005 ^E	R10,651	R28,451	R4,645	R43,747	R89.4	R51,511	R164,353	R25,104	R240,969	R4,836	R5,777	R5,405	R5,508
2006 ^E	R13,133	R32,478	R5,231	R50,842	R89.7	R63,649	R193,595	R28,154	R285,398	R4,846	R5,961	R5,382	R5,613
2007 ^E	R13,016	R32,622	R5,187	R50,825	R89.8	R66,527	R212,753	R28,931	R308,210	R5,111	R6,522	R5,578	R6,064
2008 ^E	17,351	32,630	5,646	55,627	89.9	88,382	212,079	31,280	331,740	5,094	6,500	5,540	5,964

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: • Revisions 1990-2007 result from updates in the data source files through September 2008, including the addition of new wells that are classified as horizontal or lateral, which previously were not included in these tables. • 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 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: • For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/aer/resource.html>.

• For related information, see http://www.eia.doe.gov/oil_gas/petroleum/info_glance/petroleum.html.

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.