

**Table 4.5 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2005**

| Year              | Wells Drilled          |                          |                        |        | Successful Wells | Footage Drilled <sup>1</sup> |                          |                        |         | Average Depth          |                          |                        |       |
|-------------------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|--------|------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|---------|------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|-------|
|                   | Crude Oil <sup>2</sup> | Natural Gas <sup>3</sup> | Dry Holes <sup>4</sup> | Total  |                  | Crude Oil <sup>2</sup>       | Natural Gas <sup>3</sup> | Dry Holes <sup>4</sup> | Total   | Crude Oil <sup>2</sup> | Natural Gas <sup>3</sup> | Dry Holes <sup>4</sup> | 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              | 12,445                 | 11,126                   | 8,496                  | 32,067 | 73.5             | 55,269                       | 56,775                   | 44,160                 | 156,204 | 4,441                  | 5,103                    | 5,198                  | 4,871 |
| 1991              | 12,035                 | 9,611                    | 7,882                  | 29,528 | 73.3             | 55,268                       | 50,757                   | 40,307                 | 146,332 | 4,592                  | 5,281                    | 5,114                  | 4,956 |
| 1992              | 9,019                  | 8,305                    | 6,284                  | 23,608 | 73.4             | 44,851                       | 46,615                   | 31,814                 | 123,280 | 4,973                  | 5,613                    | 5,063                  | 5,222 |
| 1993              | 8,764                  | 10,174                   | 6,513                  | 25,451 | 74.4             | 43,922                       | 61,186                   | 33,323                 | 138,431 | 5,012                  | 6,014                    | 5,116                  | 5,439 |
| 1994              | 7,001                  | 9,739                    | 5,515                  | 22,255 | 75.2             | 37,270                       | 61,576                   | 30,293                 | 129,139 | 5,324                  | 6,323                    | 5,493                  | 5,803 |
| 1995              | 7,827                  | 8,454                    | 5,319                  | 21,600 | 75.4             | 39,125                       | 52,872                   | 29,312                 | 121,309 | 4,999                  | 6,254                    | 5,511                  | 5,616 |
| 1996              | 8,760                  | 9,539                    | 5,587                  | 23,886 | 76.6             | 42,196                       | 59,800                   | 31,366                 | 133,362 | 4,817                  | 6,269                    | 5,614                  | 5,583 |
| 1997              | 10,445                 | 11,186                   | 5,955                  | 27,586 | 78.4             | 51,466                       | 69,593                   | 34,233                 | 155,292 | 4,927                  | 6,221                    | 5,749                  | 5,629 |
| 1998              | 6,979                  | 11,127                   | 4,805                  | 22,911 | 79.0             | 34,340                       | 67,789                   | 29,008                 | 131,137 | 4,920                  | 6,092                    | 6,037                  | 5,724 |
| 1999              | 4,314                  | 11,121                   | 3,504                  | 18,939 | 81.5             | 18,860                       | 55,331                   | 20,404                 | 94,595  | 4,372                  | 4,975                    | 5,823                  | 4,995 |
| 2000              | 7,585                  | 16,242                   | 4,046                  | 27,873 | 85.5             | 33,777                       | 79,605                   | 23,193                 | 136,575 | 4,453                  | 4,901                    | 5,732                  | 4,900 |
| 2001              | 8,186                  | 21,403                   | 4,432                  | 34,021 | 87.0             | 38,716                       | 108,482                  | 25,047                 | 172,245 | 4,730                  | 5,069                    | 5,651                  | 5,063 |
| 2002              | 6,226                  | 16,728                   | 3,610                  | 26,564 | 86.4             | 27,869                       | 91,788                   | 20,316                 | 139,973 | 4,476                  | 5,487                    | 5,628                  | 5,269 |
| 2003 <sup>E</sup> | 7,465                  | 19,522                   | 3,688                  | 30,675 | 88.0             | 35,220                       | 112,990                  | 20,968                 | 169,178 | 4,718                  | 5,788                    | 5,685                  | 5,515 |
| 2004 <sup>E</sup> | 7,703                  | 21,529                   | 3,624                  | 32,856 | 89.0             | 37,477                       | 132,660                  | 21,666                 | 191,803 | 4,865                  | 6,162                    | 5,978                  | 5,838 |
| 2005 <sup>E</sup> | 8,551                  | 27,397                   | 5,005                  | 40,953 | 87.8             | 48,274                       | 157,080                  | 28,549                 | 233,903 | 5,645                  | 5,733                    | 5,704                  | 5,711 |

<sup>1</sup> See "Footage Drilled" in Glossary.

<sup>2</sup> See "Crude Oil Well" in Glossary.

<sup>3</sup> See "Natural Gas Well" in Glossary.

<sup>4</sup> See "Dry Hole" in Glossary.

E=Estimate.

Notes: • Data in this table do not include recent updates (see the Energy Information Administration's *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 5.2). • 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 to provide estimates of total well completions and footage where necessary. See "Completion (Crude Oil/Natural Gas Production)" in Glossary. • 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](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. • 1970-1994—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the API. • 1995 forward—EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the Information Handling Services Energy Group, Inc. For current data see the EIA, *Monthly Energy Review*, Table 5.2.