

**Table 4.6 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory Wells, Selected Years, 1949-2008**

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	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
1971	659	470	5,952	7,081	15.9	3,786	3,610	34,499	41,895	5,745	7,649	5,796	5,915
1972	685	656	6,134	7,475	17.9	4,028	4,847	36,081	44,956	5,880	7,400	5,882	6,015
1973	642	1,067	5,952	7,661	22.3	4,008	7,038	34,571	45,618	6,243	6,596	5,808	5,955
1974	859	1,190	6,833	8,882	23.1	5,029	7,683	38,603	51,315	5,855	6,456	5,649	5,777
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	R778	R812	R3,650	R5,240	R30.3	R5,320	R5,765	R20,752	R31,837	R6,838	R7,100	R5,685	R6,076
1991	R673	R648	R3,189	R4,510	R29.3	R4,469	R4,615	R18,042	R27,127	R6,641	R7,122	R5,658	R6,015
1992	R571	R513	R2,381	R3,465	R31.3	R3,957	R3,543	R13,047	R20,548	R6,930	R6,907	R5,480	R5,930
1993	R539	R609	R2,328	R3,476	R33.0	R3,572	R3,947	R13,465	R20,984	R6,627	R6,482	R5,784	R6,037
1994	R595	R780	R2,240	R3,615	R38.0	R3,970	R5,120	R13,288	R22,377	R6,671	R6,564	R5,932	R6,190
1995	R570	R557	R2,023	R3,150	R35.8	R3,934	R3,489	R11,922	R19,345	R6,901	R6,264	R5,893	R6,141
1996	R489	R576	R1,955	R3,020	R35.3	R3,655	R3,901	R12,134	R19,690	R7,474	R6,773	R6,207	R6,520
1997	R491	R561	R2,111	R3,163	R33.3	R3,946	R4,032	R13,499	R21,478	R8,037	R7,188	R6,395	R6,790
1998	R327	R566	R1,588	R2,481	R36.0	R2,740	R4,092	R10,809	R17,641	R8,378	R7,230	R6,807	R7,110
1999	R196	R565	R1,156	R1,917	R39.7	R1,428	R3,963	R7,671	R13,062	R7,283	R7,015	R6,636	R6,814
2000	R288	R658	R1,339	R2,285	R41.4	R2,095	R4,834	R9,194	R16,123	R7,275	R7,347	R6,866	R7,056
2001	R356	R1,047	R1,715	R3,118	R45.0	R2,608	R7,318	R11,387	R21,313	R7,326	R6,990	R6,640	R6,836
2002	R257	R843	R1,275	R2,375	R46.3	R1,738	R5,729	R8,663	R16,130	R6,761	R6,796	R6,795	R6,792
2003	R353	R997	R1,287	R2,637	R51.2	R2,453	R6,569	R8,763	R17,785	R6,950	R6,589	R6,809	R6,744
2004	R386	R1,681	R1,335	R3,402	R60.8	R3,141	R9,998	R9,243	R22,382	R8,136	R5,948	R6,924	R6,579
2005 <sup>E</sup>	R532	R2,154	R1,452	R4,138	R64.9	R4,262	R12,347	R9,347	R25,955	R8,011	R5,732	R6,437	R6,272
2006 <sup>E</sup>	R671	R2,590	R1,528	R4,789	R68.1	R4,998	R14,945	R9,688	R29,630	R7,448	R5,770	R6,340	R6,187
2007 <sup>E</sup>	R832	R3,386	R1,630	R5,848	R72.1	R6,271	R19,982	R10,281	R36,534	R7,537	R5,901	R6,307	R6,247
2008 <sup>E</sup>	950	2,893	1,786	5,629	68.3	7,389	17,066	11,130	35,585	7,778	5,899	6,232	6,322

<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.

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 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 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](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.