

# 5

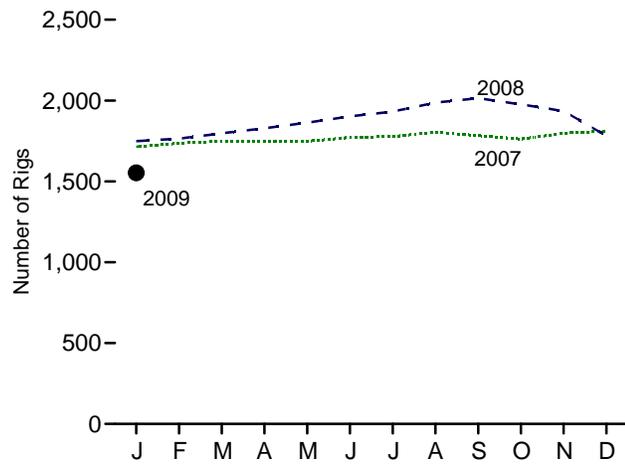
## Crude Oil and Natural Gas Resource Development



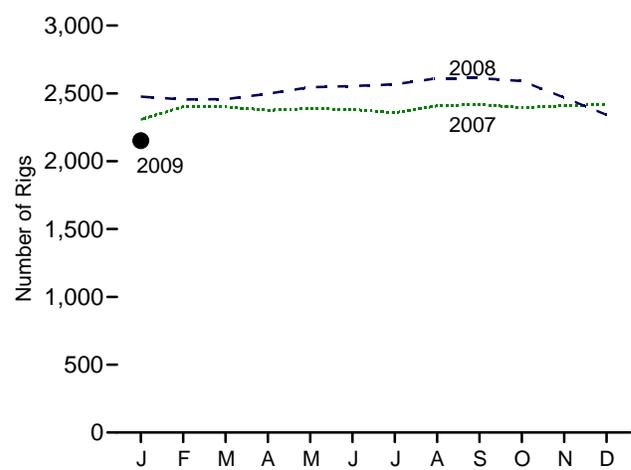
Semisubmersible drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico. Source: U.S. Department of Energy.

**Figure 5.1 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Resource Development Indicators**

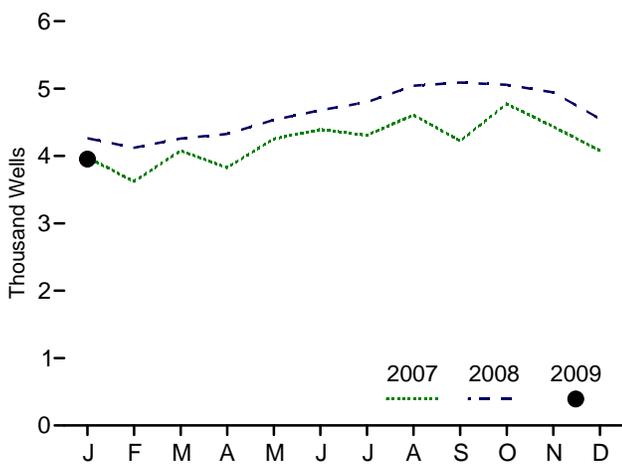
Rotary Rigs in Operation, Monthly



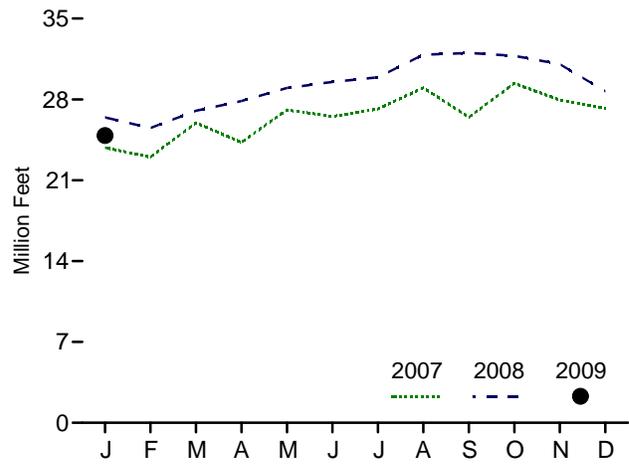
Active Well Service Rig Count, Monthly



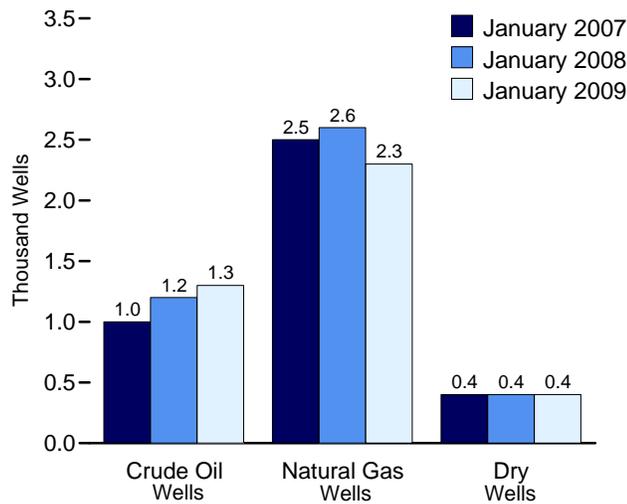
Wells Drilled, Monthly



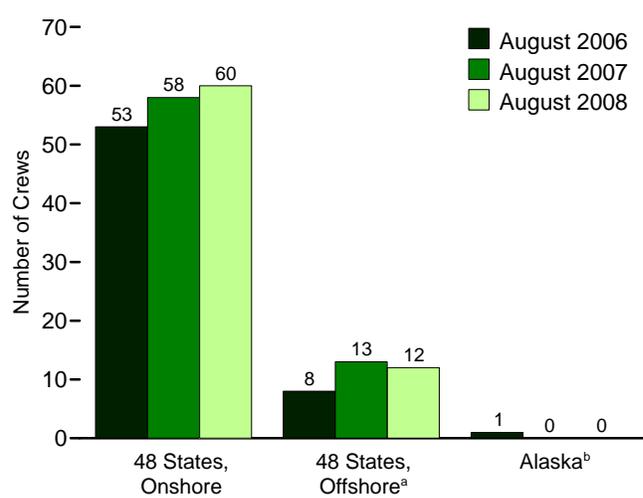
Footage Drilled, Monthly



Wells Drilled by Type



Maximum U.S. Active Seismic Crew Counts



<sup>a</sup>Federal and State Jurisdiction waters of the Gulf of Mexico.  
<sup>b</sup>All onshore.

Web Page: <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mer/resource.html>.  
 Sources: Tables 5.1-5.3.

**Table 5.1 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Activity Measurements**  
(Number of Rigs)

	Rotary Rigs in Operation <sup>a</sup>					Active Well Service Rig Count <sup>c</sup>
	By Site		By Type		Total <sup>b</sup>	
	Onshore	Offshore	Crude Oil	Natural Gas		
<b>1973 Average</b> .....	1,110	84	NA	NA	1,194	2,008
<b>1975 Average</b> .....	1,554	106	NA	NA	1,660	2,486
<b>1980 Average</b> .....	2,678	231	NA	NA	2,909	4,089
<b>1985 Average</b> .....	1,774	206	NA	NA	1,980	4,716
<b>1990 Average</b> .....	902	108	532	464	1,010	3,658
<b>1995 Average</b> .....	622	101	323	385	723	3,041
<b>1996 Average</b> .....	671	108	306	464	779	3,445
<b>1997 Average</b> .....	821	122	376	564	943	3,499
<b>1998 Average</b> .....	703	123	264	560	827	3,014
<b>1999 Average</b> .....	519	106	128	496	625	2,232
<b>2000 Average</b> .....	778	140	197	720	918	2,692
<b>2001 Average</b> .....	1,003	153	217	939	1,156	2,267
<b>2002 Average</b> .....	717	113	137	691	830	1,830
<b>2003 Average</b> .....	924	108	157	872	1,032	1,967
<b>2004 Average</b> .....	1,095	97	165	1,025	1,192	2,064
<b>2005 Average</b> .....	1,287	94	194	1,184	1,381	2,222
<b>2006</b> January .....	1,396	77	242	1,228	1,473	2,285
February .....	1,455	79	209	1,321	1,533	2,339
March .....	1,464	88	244	1,305	1,551	2,342
April .....	1,502	95	259	1,337	1,597	2,340
May .....	1,536	100	261	1,373	1,635	2,398
June .....	1,570	95	285	1,376	1,665	2,382
July .....	1,587	94	298	1,379	1,681	2,342
August .....	1,639	99	316	1,417	1,738	2,404
September .....	1,646	93	305	1,429	1,739	2,380
October .....	1,644	90	288	1,441	1,734	2,440
November .....	1,620	87	288	1,414	1,706	2,366
December .....	1,634	84	281	1,431	1,718	2,351
<b>Average</b> .....	<b>1,559</b>	<b>90</b>	<b>274</b>	<b>1,372</b>	<b>1,649</b>	<b>2,364</b>
<b>2007</b> January .....	1,630	84	270	1,440	1,714	2,307
February .....	1,651	85	266	1,466	1,736	2,401
March .....	1,667	81	282	1,461	1,749	2,401
April .....	1,675	75	285	1,461	1,750	2,375
May .....	1,671	77	282	1,464	1,748	2,387
June .....	1,692	79	283	1,483	1,771	2,381
July .....	1,698	79	285	1,486	1,777	2,358
August .....	1,731	73	306	1,492	1,804	2,408
September .....	1,718	65	302	1,475	1,783	2,418
October .....	1,713	49	321	1,435	1,762	2,395
November .....	1,737	61	341	1,451	1,798	2,408
December .....	1,749	62	338	1,468	1,811	2,420
<b>Average</b> .....	<b>1,695</b>	<b>72</b>	<b>297</b>	<b>1,466</b>	<b>1,768</b>	<b>2,388</b>
<b>2008</b> January .....	1,690	60	321	1,421	1,749	2,476
February .....	1,709	56	331	1,426	1,765	2,455
March .....	1,737	60	343	1,444	1,797	2,457
April .....	1,765	64	358	1,461	1,829	2,498
May .....	1,794	68	375	1,478	1,863	2,546
June .....	1,834	67	383	1,510	1,902	2,554
July .....	1,865	67	380	1,543	1,932	2,567
August .....	1,920	67	397	1,581	1,987	2,611
September .....	1,942	72	417	1,585	2,014	2,612
October .....	1,903	73	422	1,542	1,976	2,591
November .....	1,872	63	426	1,498	1,935	2,469
December .....	1,716	66	391	1,380	1,782	2,342
<b>Average</b> .....	<b>1,814</b>	<b>65</b>	<b>379</b>	<b>1,491</b>	<b>1,879</b>	<b>2,515</b>
<b>2009</b> January .....	1,487	66	328	1,215	1,553	2,152

<sup>a</sup> Rotary rigs in operation are reported weekly. Monthly data are averages of 4- or 5-week reporting periods, not calendar months. Multi-month data are averages of the reported data over the covered months, not averages of the weekly data. Annual data are averages over 52 or 53 weeks, not calendar years. Published data are rounded to the nearest whole number.

<sup>b</sup> Sum of rigs drilling for crude oil, rigs drilling for natural gas, and other rigs (not shown) drilling for miscellaneous purposes, such as service wells, injection wells, and stratigraphic tests.

<sup>c</sup> The number of rigs doing true workovers (where tubing is pulled from the well), or doing rod string and pump repair operations, and that are, on average, crewed

and working every day of the month.

NA=Not available.

Note: Geographic coverage is the 50 States and the District of Columbia.

Web Page: See <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mer/resource.html> for all available data beginning in 1973.

Sources: • **Rotary Rigs in Operation: By Site**—Baker Hughes, Inc., Houston, Texas, *Rotary Rigs Running—by State*. **By Type**—Baker Hughes, Inc., Houston, Texas, weekly phone recording. • **Active Well Service Rig Count**: Cameron International Corporation, Houston, Texas.

**Table 5.2 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells**

	Wells Drilled												Total Footage Drilled Thousand Feet
	Exploratory				Development				Total				
	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Dry	Total	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Dry	Total	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Dry	Total	
	Number												
<b>1973 Total</b> .....	<b>642</b>	<b>1,067</b>	<b>5,952</b>	<b>7,661</b>	<b>9,525</b>	<b>5,866</b>	<b>4,368</b>	<b>19,759</b>	<b>10,167</b>	<b>6,933</b>	<b>10,320</b>	<b>27,420</b>	<b>138,223</b>
<b>1975 Total</b> .....	<b>982</b>	<b>1,248</b>	<b>7,129</b>	<b>9,359</b>	<b>15,966</b>	<b>6,879</b>	<b>6,517</b>	<b>29,362</b>	<b>16,948</b>	<b>8,127</b>	<b>13,646</b>	<b>38,721</b>	<b>180,494</b>
<b>1980 Total</b> .....	<b>1,777</b>	<b>2,099</b>	<b>9,081</b>	<b>12,957</b>	<b>31,182</b>	<b>15,362</b>	<b>11,704</b>	<b>58,248</b>	<b>32,959</b>	<b>17,461</b>	<b>20,785</b>	<b>71,205</b>	<b>316,943</b>
<b>1985 Total</b> .....	<b>1,680</b>	<b>1,200</b>	<b>8,954</b>	<b>11,834</b>	<b>33,581</b>	<b>13,124</b>	<b>12,257</b>	<b>58,962</b>	<b>35,261</b>	<b>14,324</b>	<b>21,211</b>	<b>70,796</b>	<b>314,409</b>
<b>1990 Total</b> .....	<b>778</b>	<b>812</b>	<b>3,648</b>	<b>5,238</b>	<b>11,696</b>	<b>10,296</b>	<b>4,569</b>	<b>26,561</b>	<b>12,474</b>	<b>11,108</b>	<b>8,217</b>	<b>31,799</b>	<b>155,253</b>
<b>1995 Total</b> .....	<b>570</b>	<b>557</b>	<b>2,023</b>	<b>3,150</b>	<b>7,345</b>	<b>7,412</b>	<b>2,764</b>	<b>17,521</b>	<b>7,915</b>	<b>7,969</b>	<b>4,787</b>	<b>20,671</b>	<b>116,590</b>
<b>1996 Total</b> .....	<b>489</b>	<b>576</b>	<b>1,955</b>	<b>3,020</b>	<b>8,122</b>	<b>8,367</b>	<b>2,915</b>	<b>19,404</b>	<b>8,611</b>	<b>8,943</b>	<b>4,870</b>	<b>22,424</b>	<b>125,971</b>
<b>1997 Total</b> .....	<b>491</b>	<b>561</b>	<b>2,108</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>10,553</b>	<b>10,874</b>	<b>3,740</b>	<b>25,167</b>	<b>11,044</b>	<b>11,435</b>	<b>5,848</b>	<b>28,327</b>	<b>161,215</b>
<b>1998 Total</b> .....	<b>327</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>1,585</b>	<b>2,478</b>	<b>7,229</b>	<b>10,944</b>	<b>3,160</b>	<b>21,333</b>	<b>7,556</b>	<b>11,510</b>	<b>4,745</b>	<b>23,811</b>	<b>137,048</b>
<b>1999 Total</b> .....	<b>196</b>	<b>565</b>	<b>1,157</b>	<b>1,918</b>	<b>4,538</b>	<b>11,334</b>	<b>2,360</b>	<b>18,232</b>	<b>4,734</b>	<b>11,899</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>20,150</b>	<b>102,594</b>
<b>2000 Total</b> .....	<b>288</b>	<b>657</b>	<b>1,333</b>	<b>2,278</b>	<b>7,698</b>	<b>16,278</b>	<b>2,784</b>	<b>26,760</b>	<b>7,986</b>	<b>16,935</b>	<b>4,117</b>	<b>29,038</b>	<b>143,947</b>
<b>2001 Total</b> .....	<b>353</b>	<b>1,046</b>	<b>1,714</b>	<b>3,113</b>	<b>8,452</b>	<b>20,913</b>	<b>2,825</b>	<b>32,190</b>	<b>8,805</b>	<b>21,959</b>	<b>4,539</b>	<b>35,303</b>	<b>179,624</b>
<b>2002 Total</b> .....	<b>255</b>	<b>843</b>	<b>1,271</b>	<b>2,369</b>	<b>6,469</b>	<b>16,382</b>	<b>2,435</b>	<b>25,286</b>	<b>6,724</b>	<b>17,225</b>	<b>3,706</b>	<b>27,655</b>	<b>144,640</b>
<b>2003 Total</b> .....	<b>349</b>	<b>991</b>	<b>1,285</b>	<b>2,625</b>	<b>7,677</b>	<b>19,596</b>	<b>2,613</b>	<b>29,886</b>	<b>8,026</b>	<b>20,587</b>	<b>3,898</b>	<b>32,511</b>	<b>176,557</b>
<b>2004 Total</b> .....	<b>386</b>	<b>1,653</b>	<b>1,331</b>	<b>3,370</b>	<b>8,290</b>	<b>22,075</b>	<b>2,644</b>	<b>33,009</b>	<b>8,676</b>	<b>23,728</b>	<b>3,975</b>	<b>36,379</b>	<b>202,813</b>
<b>2005 Total</b> .....	<b>515</b>	<b>2,087</b>	<b>1,431</b>	<b>4,033</b>	<b>9,866</b>	<b>25,693</b>	<b>3,081</b>	<b>38,640</b>	<b>10,381</b>	<b>27,780</b>	<b>4,512</b>	<b>42,673</b>	<b>237,214</b>
<b>2006</b>													
January .....	65	176	95	336	952	2,267	307	3,526	1,017	2,443	402	3,862	21,910
February .....	51	192	112	355	852	2,192	269	3,313	903	2,384	381	3,668	20,559
March .....	42	209	96	347	955	2,456	306	3,717	997	2,665	402	4,064	23,649
April .....	44	167	128	339	950	2,212	299	3,461	994	2,379	427	3,800	21,796
May .....	61	211	138	410	1,018	2,409	271	3,698	1,079	2,620	409	4,108	23,801
June .....	78	217	139	434	1,106	2,571	336	4,013	1,184	2,788	475	4,447	25,102
July .....	37	223	134	394	1,105	2,332	301	3,738	1,142	2,555	435	4,132	22,889
August .....	62	277	142	481	1,080	2,854	317	4,251	1,142	3,131	459	4,732	26,300
September .....	57	226	139	422	1,049	2,553	289	3,891	1,106	2,779	428	4,313	24,665
October .....	61	250	129	440	1,090	2,674	336	4,100	1,151	2,924	465	4,540	26,002
November .....	60	285	119	464	1,079	2,466	338	3,883	1,139	2,751	457	4,347	25,427
December .....	35	251	156	442	1,039	2,314	273	3,626	1,074	2,565	429	4,068	23,509
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>653</b>	<b>2,684</b>	<b>1,527</b>	<b>4,864</b>	<b>12,275</b>	<b>29,300</b>	<b>3,642</b>	<b>45,217</b>	<b>12,928</b>	<b>31,984</b>	<b>5,169</b>	<b>50,081</b>	<b>285,609</b>
<b>2007</b>													
January .....	59	274	122	455	977	2,253	295	3,525	1,036	2,527	417	3,980	23,821
February .....	62	242	100	404	893	2,077	247	3,217	955	2,319	347	3,621	22,989
March .....	66	313	117	496	990	2,298	294	3,582	1,056	2,611	411	4,078	25,965
April .....	60	298	128	486	947	2,143	250	3,340	1,007	2,441	378	3,826	24,272
May .....	58	331	153	542	1,034	2,370	309	3,713	1,092	2,701	462	4,255	27,085
June .....	84	290	118	492	1,071	2,555	274	3,900	1,155	2,845	392	4,392	26,524
July .....	83	335	133	551	1,023	2,424	311	3,758	1,106	2,759	444	4,309	27,168
August .....	66	322	123	511	1,051	2,688	359	4,098	1,117	3,010	482	4,609	29,002
September .....	80	302	141	523	958	2,462	280	3,700	1,038	2,764	421	4,223	26,449
October .....	79	367	159	605	1,132	2,698	339	4,169	1,211	3,065	498	4,774	29,383
November .....	63	338	189	590	1,032	2,523	291	3,846	1,095	2,861	480	4,436	27,955
December .....	63	303	127	493	1,043	2,275	268	3,586	1,106	2,578	395	4,079	27,205
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>823</b>	<b>3,715</b>	<b>1,610</b>	<b>6,148</b>	<b>12,151</b>	<b>28,766</b>	<b>3,517</b>	<b>44,434</b>	<b>12,974</b>	<b>32,481</b>	<b>5,127</b>	<b>50,582</b>	<b>317,818</b>
<b>2008</b>													
January .....	85	299	145	529	1,140	2,320	275	3,735	1,225	2,619	420	4,264	26,434
February .....	85	293	100	478	1,172	2,197	274	3,643	1,257	2,490	374	4,121	25,512
March .....	78	267	137	482	1,173	2,293	310	3,776	1,251	2,560	447	4,258	27,024
April .....	74	215	142	431	1,276	2,311	310	3,897	1,350	2,526	452	4,328	27,858
May .....	106	233	124	463	1,324	2,443	305	4,072	1,430	2,676	429	4,535	28,988
June .....	66	253	145	464	1,370	2,522	322	4,214	1,436	2,775	467	4,678	29,506
July .....	82	261	143	486	1,361	2,630	323	4,314	1,443	2,891	466	4,800	29,912
August .....	84	265	157	506	1,415	2,775	347	4,537	1,499	3,040	504	5,043	31,870
September .....	99	256	156	511	1,507	2,722	350	4,579	1,606	2,978	506	5,090	32,012
October .....	101	251	154	506	1,520	2,686	344	4,550	1,621	2,937	498	5,056	31,768
November .....	93	241	152	486	1,543	2,574	341	4,458	1,636	2,815	493	4,944	31,050
December .....	85	228	139	452	1,426	2,366	308	4,100	1,511	2,594	447	4,552	28,692
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>1,038</b>	<b>3,062</b>	<b>1,694</b>	<b>5,794</b>	<b>16,227</b>	<b>29,839</b>	<b>3,809</b>	<b>49,875</b>	<b>17,265</b>	<b>32,901</b>	<b>5,503</b>	<b>55,669</b>	<b>350,626</b>
<b>2009</b>													
January .....	74	200	122	396	1,199	2,085	273	3,557	1,273	2,285	395	3,953	24,873

Notes: • Prior to 1990, these well counts include only the original drilling of a hole intended to discover or further develop already discovered crude oil or natural gas resources. Other drilling activities, such as drilling an old well deeper, drilling of laterals from the original well, drilling of service and injection wells, and drilling for resources other than crude oil or natural gas are excluded. After 1990, a new well is defined as the first hole in the ground whether it is lateral or not. Due to the methodology used to estimate ultimate well counts from the available partially reported data, the counts shown on this page are frequently revised. See Note,

"Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells," at end of section.  
 • Geographic coverage is the 50 States and the District of Columbia.  
 Web Page: See <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mer/resource.html> for all available data beginning in 1973.

Sources: • **1973-1989:** Energy Information Administration (EIA) computations based on well reports submitted to the American Petroleum Institute. • **1990 forward:** EIA computations based on well reports submitted to the Information Handling Services Energy Group, Inc.

**Table 5.3 Maximum U.S. Active Seismic Crew Counts**  
(Number of Crews)

	48 States, Onshore				48 States, Offshore <sup>a</sup>				Alaska <sup>b</sup>				Total
	Dimensions <sup>c</sup>			Total <sup>d</sup>	Dimensions <sup>c</sup>			Total <sup>d</sup>	Dimensions <sup>c</sup>			Total <sup>d</sup>	
	2	3	4		2	3	4		2	3	4		
<b>2000</b> August .....	4	40	1	45	7	7	0	15	0	1	0	1	61
<b>2001</b> August .....	8	32	1	41	7	8	0	15	0	0	0	0	56
<b>2002</b> August .....	7	26	0	33	8	7	0	15	1	1	0	2	50
<b>2003</b> August .....	8	22	0	30	7	4	0	11	1	1	0	2	43
<b>2004</b> January .....	8	25	0	33	5	5	0	10	0	0	0	0	43
February .....	8	27	0	35	5	5	0	10	0	0	0	0	45
March .....	8	27	0	35	5	5	0	10	0	0	0	0	45
April .....	9	27	0	36	5	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	45
May .....	9	26	0	35	5	4	0	9	0	0	0	0	44
June .....	9	30	0	39	4	4	0	8	0	2	0	2	49
July .....	8	30	0	38	4	4	0	8	0	2	0	2	48
August .....	8	31	0	39	4	4	0	8	0	2	0	2	49
September .....	8	32	0	40	4	2	0	6	0	2	0	2	48
October .....	8	34	0	42	2	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	48
November .....	9	33	0	42	1	4	0	5	0	2	0	2	49
December .....	9	32	0	41	3	4	0	7	0	2	0	2	50
<b>2005</b> January .....	8	33	0	41	5	4	0	9	0	2	0	2	52
February .....	8	34	0	42	5	4	0	9	0	2	0	2	53
March .....	6	33	0	39	6	6	0	12	0	0	0	0	51
April .....	8	30	0	38	6	6	0	12	0	0	0	0	50
May .....	8	34	0	42	7	6	0	13	0	0	0	0	55
June .....	9	35	0	44	7	5	0	12	0	1	0	1	57
July .....	8	34	0	42	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	54
August .....	8	35	0	43	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	55
September .....	7	37	0	44	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	56
October .....	6	39	0	45	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	57
November .....	5	40	0	45	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	57
December .....	6	40	0	46	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	58
<b>2006</b> January .....	5	38	0	43	6	5	0	11	0	1	0	1	55
February .....	5	39	0	44	6	6	0	12	0	1	0	1	57
March .....	4	42	0	46	6	6	0	12	0	1	0	1	59
April .....	4	42	0	46	5	6	0	11	0	1	0	1	58
May .....	4	42	0	46	5	6	0	11	0	1	0	1	58
June .....	9	35	0	44	7	5	0	12	0	1	0	1	57
July .....	5	51	0	56	4	5	0	9	0	1	0	1	66
August .....	4	49	0	53	3	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	62
September .....	4	51	0	55	2	5	0	7	0	1	0	1	63
October .....	5	51	0	56	2	5	0	7	0	1	0	1	64
November .....	5	51	0	56	3	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	65
December .....	5	50	0	55	3	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	64
<b>2007</b> January .....	3	51	0	54	3	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	63
February .....	3	51	0	54	3	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	63
March .....	4	55	0	59	3	5	0	8	0	1	0	1	68
April .....	4	55	0	59	4	6	1	11	0	1	0	1	71
May .....	3	55	0	58	4	6	1	11	0	1	0	1	70
June .....	3	55	0	58	3	6	1	10	0	1	0	1	69
July .....	2	57	0	59	3	6	1	10	0	0	0	0	69
August .....	2	56	0	58	4	8	1	13	0	0	0	0	71
September .....	3	58	0	61	3	8	1	12	0	0	0	0	73
October .....	4	60	0	65	3	8	1	12	0	0	0	0	77
November .....	4	60	0	65	3	10	1	14	0	0	0	0	79
December .....	5	54	0	60	4	10	1	15	0	0	0	0	75
<b>2008</b> January .....	6	55	0	61	4	10	1	15	0	0	0	0	76
February .....	6	55	0	61	4	11	1	16	0	0	0	0	77
March .....	6	54	0	60	3	11	1	15	0	0	0	0	75
April .....	4	53	0	57	3	11	1	15	0	0	0	0	72
May .....	4	54	0	58	3	11	1	15	0	0	0	0	73
June .....	2	56	0	58	3	11	1	15	0	0	0	0	73
July .....	2	58	0	60	3	8	1	12	0	0	0	0	72
August .....	2	58	0	60	3	8	1	12	0	0	0	0	72

<sup>a</sup> Federal and State Jurisdiction waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

<sup>b</sup> All onshore.

<sup>c</sup> In **two-dimensional** (2D) reflection seismic surveying both the sound source and the sound detectors (numbering up to a hundred or more per shot) are moved along a straight line. The resultant product can be thought of as a vertical sonic cross-section of the subsurface beneath the survey line. It is constructed by summing many compressional (pressure) wave reflections from the various sound source and sound detector locations at the halfway sound path points beneath each location (common depth point stacking). In **three-dimensional** (3D) reflection seismic surveying the sound detectors (numbering up to a thousand or more) are spread out over an area and the sound source is moved from location to location through the area. The resultant product can be thought of as a cube of common depth point stacked reflections. Advantages over 2D include the additional dimension, the fact that many more reflections are available for stacking at each point, which provides greatly improved resolution of subsurface features, and elimination of the "ghost" or "side swipe" reflections from nearby offline features that 2D surveys

are prone to (except, of course, along the outer faces of the cube). **Four dimensional** (4D) reflection seismic surveying is the exact repetition of a 3D survey at two or more time intervals. The primary application of 4D is mapping the movement of fluid interfaces in producing oil and gas reservoirs.

<sup>d</sup> Includes crews with unknown survey dimension.

Notes: • A "seismic crew" is a group of people, of varying number, engaged in a seismic surveying job. • "48 States" is the United States excluding Alaska and Hawaii. • Data are reported on the first and fifteenth of each month, except January when they are reported only on the fifteenth. When semi-monthly values differ for the month, the larger of the two values is shown here. Consequently, this table reflects the maximum number of crews at work at any time during the month.

Web Page: See <http://www.eia.doe.gov/emeu/mer/resource.html> for all available data beginning in March 2000.

Source: *World Geophysical News*, IHS Energy Group, Denver, CO, used with permission.

Table 5.3 is not updated this month.

## Crude Oil and Natural Gas Resource Development

**Note. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells.** Three well types are considered in the *Monthly Energy Review (MER)* drilling statistics: “completed for crude oil,” “completed for natural gas,” and “dry hole.” Wells that productively encounter both crude oil and natural gas are categorized as “completed for crude oil.” Both development wells and exploratory wells (new field wildcats, new pool tests, and extension tests) are included in the statistics. All other classes of wells drilled in connection with the search for producible hydrocarbons are excluded. If a lateral is drilled at the same time as the original hole it is not counted separately, but its footage is included.

Prior to the March 1985 *MER*, drilling statistics consisted of

completion data for the above types and classes of wells as reported to the American Petroleum Institute (API) during a given month. Due to time lags between the date of well completion and the date of completion reporting to the API, as-reported well completions proved to be an inaccurate indicator of drilling activity. During 1982, for example, as-reported well completions rose, while the number of actual completions fell. Consequently, the drilling statistics published since the March 1985 *MER* are Energy Information Administration (EIA) estimates produced by statistically imputing well counts and footage based on the partial data available from the API. These estimates are subject to continuous revision as new data, some of which pertain to earlier months and years, become available. Additional information about the EIA estimation methodology may be found in “Estimating Well Completions,” a feature article published in the March 1985 *MER*.