

Appendix A

British Thermal Unit Conversion Factors

Using Thermal Conversion Factors

The thermal conversion factors presented in the following tables can be used to estimate the heat content in British thermal units (Btu) of a given amount of energy measured in physical units, such as barrels or cubic feet. For example, 10 barrels of asphalt has a heat content of approximately 66.36 million Btu (10 barrels x 6.636 million Btu per barrel = 66.36 million Btu).

The heat content rates (i.e., thermal conversion factors) provided in this section represent the gross (or higher or upper) energy content of the fuels. Gross heat content rates are applied in all Btu calculations for the *Annual Energy Review* and are commonly used in energy calculations in the United States; net (or lower) heat content rates are typically used in European energy calculations. The difference between the two rates is the amount of energy that is consumed to vaporize water that is created during the combustion process. Generally, the difference ranges from 2 percent to 10 percent, depending on the specific fuel and its hydrogen content. Some fuels, such as unseasoned wood, can be more than 40 percent different in their gross and net heat content rates. See “Heat Content” and “British thermal unit (Btu)” in the Glossary for more information.

Thermal conversion factors for hydrocarbon mixes (Table A1) are weighted averages of the thermal conversion factors for each hydrocarbon included in the mix. For example, in calculating the thermal conversion factor for a 60-40 butane-propane mixture, the thermal conversion factor for butane is weighted 1.5 times the thermal conversion factor for propane.

In general, the annual thermal conversion factors presented in Tables A2 through A6 are computed from final annual data or from the best available data and are labeled “preliminary.” Often, the previous year’s factor is used as the preliminary value until data become available to calculate the factor appropriate to the year. The source of each factor is described in the section entitled “Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation,” which follows Table A6 in this appendix.

Table A1. Approximate Heat Content of Petroleum Products
(Million Btu per Barrel)

Asphalt	6.636
Aviation Gasoline	5.048
Butane	4.326
Butane-Propane Mixture (60 percent-40 percent)	4.130
Distillate Fuel Oil ¹	5.825
Ethane	3.082
Ethane-Propane Mixture (70 percent-30 percent)	3.308
Isobutane	3.974
Jet Fuel, Kerosene-Type	5.670
Jet Fuel, Naphtha-Type	5.355
Kerosene	5.670
Lubricants	6.065
Motor Gasoline ²	
Conventional	5.253
Oxygenated	5.150
Reformulated	5.150
Natural Gasoline	4.620
Pentanes Plus	4.620
Petrochemical Feedstocks	
Naphtha less than 401° F	5.248
Other Oils equal to or greater than 401° F	5.825
Still Gas	6.000
Petroleum Coke	6.024
Plant Condensate	5.418
Propane	3.836
Residual Fuel Oil	6.287
Road Oil	6.636
Special Naphthas	5.248
Still Gas	6.000
Unfinished Oils	5.825
Unfractionated Stream	5.418
Waxes	5.537
Miscellaneous	5.796

¹ Does not include biodiesel. See Table A3 for biodiesel heat contents.

² See Table A3 for motor gasoline weighted heat contents beginning in 1994, and for fuel ethanol heat contents.

Web Page: For related information, see http://www.eia.gov/emeu/aer/append_a.html.

Note: The values in this table are for gross heat contents. See “Heat Content” in Glossary.

Sources: See “Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation,” which follows Table A6.

Table A2. Approximate Heat Content of Petroleum Production, Imports, and Exports, Selected Years, 1949-2010
(Million Btu per Barrel)

Year	Production		Imports			Exports		
	Crude Oil ¹	Natural Gas Plant Liquids	Crude Oil ¹	Petroleum Products	Total	Crude Oil ¹	Petroleum Products	Total
1949	5.800	4.544	5.952	6.261	6.059	5.800	5.651	5.692
1950	5.800	4.522	5.943	6.263	6.080	5.800	5.751	5.766
1955	5.800	4.406	5.924	6.234	6.040	5.800	5.765	5.768
1960	5.800	4.295	5.911	6.161	6.021	5.800	5.835	5.834
1965	5.800	4.264	5.872	6.123	5.997	5.800	5.742	5.743
1970	5.800	4.146	5.822	6.088	5.985	5.800	5.811	5.810
1975	5.800	3.984	5.821	5.935	5.858	5.800	5.747	5.748
1976	5.800	3.964	5.808	5.980	5.856	5.800	5.743	5.745
1977	5.800	3.941	5.810	5.908	5.834	5.800	5.796	5.797
1978	5.800	3.925	5.802	5.955	5.839	5.800	5.814	5.808
1979	5.800	3.955	5.810	5.811	5.810	5.800	5.864	5.832
1980	5.800	3.914	5.812	5.748	5.796	5.800	5.841	5.820
1981	5.800	3.930	5.818	5.659	5.775	5.800	5.837	5.821
1982	5.800	3.872	5.826	5.664	5.775	5.800	5.829	5.820
1983	5.800	3.839	5.825	5.677	5.774	5.800	5.800	5.800
1984	5.800	3.812	5.823	5.613	5.745	5.800	5.867	5.850
1985	5.800	3.815	5.832	5.572	5.736	5.800	5.819	5.814
1986	5.800	3.797	5.903	5.624	5.808	5.800	5.839	5.832
1987	5.800	3.804	5.901	5.599	5.820	5.800	5.860	5.858
1988	5.800	3.800	5.900	5.618	5.820	5.800	5.842	5.840
1989	5.800	3.826	5.906	5.641	5.833	5.800	5.869	5.857
1990	5.800	3.822	5.934	5.614	5.849	5.800	5.838	5.833
1991	5.800	3.807	5.948	5.636	5.873	5.800	5.827	5.823
1992	5.800	3.804	5.953	5.623	5.877	5.800	5.774	5.777
1993	5.800	3.801	5.954	5.620	5.883	5.800	5.777	5.779
1994	5.800	3.794	5.950	5.534	5.861	5.800	5.777	5.779
1995	5.800	3.796	5.938	5.483	5.855	5.800	5.740	5.746
1996	5.800	3.777	5.947	5.468	5.847	5.800	5.728	5.736
1997	5.800	3.762	5.954	5.469	5.862	5.800	5.726	5.734
1998	5.800	3.769	5.953	5.462	5.861	5.800	5.710	5.720
1999	5.800	3.744	5.942	5.421	5.840	5.800	5.684	5.699
2000	5.800	3.733	5.959	5.432	5.849	5.800	5.651	5.658
2001	5.800	3.735	5.976	5.443	5.862	5.800	5.751	5.752
2002	5.800	3.729	5.971	5.451	5.863	5.800	5.687	5.688
2003	5.800	3.739	5.970	5.438	5.857	5.800	5.739	5.740
2004	5.800	3.724	5.981	5.475	5.863	5.800	5.753	5.754
2005	5.800	3.724	5.977	5.474	5.845	5.800	5.741	5.743
2006	5.800	3.712	5.980	5.454	5.842	5.800	5.723	5.724
2007	5.800	3.701	5.985	5.503	5.862	5.800	5.749	5.750
2008	5.800	3.706	5.990	5.479	5.866	5.800	5.762	5.762
2009	5.800	^R 3.692	^R 5.988	^R 5.525	^R 5.882	5.800	^R 5.737	^R 5.738
2010 ^P	5.800	3.677	5.989	5.566	5.896	5.800	5.696	5.698

¹ Includes lease condensate.

R=Revised. P=Preliminary.

Note: The values in this table are for gross heat contents. See "Heat Content" in Glossary.

Web Page: For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#appendices>.

Sources: See "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows Table A6.

Table A3. Approximate Heat Content of Petroleum Consumption and Biofuels Production, Selected Years, 1949-2010
(Million Btu per Barrel)

Year	Total Petroleum ¹ Consumption by Sector						Liquefied Petroleum Gases Consumption ⁶	Motor Gasoline Consumption ⁷	Fuel Ethanol ⁸	Fuel Ethanol Feedstock Factor ⁹	Biodiesel	Biodiesel Feedstock Factor ¹⁰
	Residential	Commercial ²	Industrial ²	Transportation ^{2,3}	Electric Power ^{4,5}	Total ²						
1949	R5.484	R5.813	R5.957	5.465	6.254	5.649	4.011	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1950	R5.473	R5.817	R5.953	5.461	6.254	5.649	4.011	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1955	R5.469	R5.781	R5.881	R5.407	6.254	5.591	4.011	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1960	R5.417	R5.781	R5.818	R5.387	6.267	5.555	4.011	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1965	R5.364	R5.760	R5.748	R5.386	6.267	5.532	4.011	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1970	R5.260	R5.708	R5.595	5.393	6.252	5.503	63.779	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1975	R5.253	R5.649	R5.513	5.392	6.250	5.494	3.715	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1976	R5.277	R5.672	R5.523	R5.396	6.251	5.504	3.711	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1977	R5.285	R5.682	R5.539	R5.401	6.249	5.518	3.677	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1978	R5.287	R5.665	R5.536	R5.405	6.251	5.519	3.669	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1979	R5.365	R5.717	R5.409	R5.429	6.258	5.494	3.680	5.253	NA	NA	NA	NA
1980	R5.321	R5.751	R5.366	R5.441	6.254	5.479	3.674	5.253	3.563	6.586	NA	NA
1981	R5.283	R5.693	R5.299	R5.433	6.258	5.448	3.643	5.253	3.563	6.562	NA	NA
1982	R5.266	R5.698	R5.247	R5.423	6.258	5.415	3.615	5.253	3.563	6.539	NA	NA
1983	R5.140	R5.591	R5.254	R5.416	6.255	5.406	3.614	5.253	3.563	6.515	NA	NA
1984	R5.307	R5.657	R5.207	5.418	6.251	5.395	3.599	5.253	3.563	6.492	NA	NA
1985	R5.263	R5.598	R5.199	R5.423	6.247	5.387	3.603	5.253	3.563	6.469	NA	NA
1986	R5.268	R5.632	R5.269	R5.426	6.257	5.418	3.640	5.253	3.563	6.446	NA	NA
1987	R5.239	R5.594	R5.233	5.429	6.249	5.403	3.659	5.253	3.563	6.423	NA	NA
1988	R5.257	R5.597	R5.228	5.433	6.250	5.410	3.652	5.253	3.563	6.400	NA	NA
1989	R5.194	R5.549	R5.219	R5.438	6.240	5.410	3.683	5.253	3.563	6.377	NA	NA
1990	R5.145	R5.553	R5.253	5.442	6.244	5.411	3.625	5.253	3.563	6.355	NA	NA
1991	R5.094	R5.528	R5.167	R5.441	6.246	5.384	3.614	5.253	3.563	6.332	NA	NA
1992	R5.124	R5.513	R5.168	R5.443	6.238	5.378	3.624	5.253	3.563	6.309	NA	NA
1993	R5.102	2.R5.505	2.R5.178	5.436	6.230	5.379	3.606	5.253	3.563	6.287	NA	NA
1994	R5.098	R5.515	R5.150	5.424	6.213	5.361	3.635	5.230	3.563	6.264	NA	NA
1995	R5.063	R5.478	R5.121	5.417	6.188	5.341	3.623	5.215	3.563	6.242	NA	NA
1996	R4.998	R5.433	R5.114	5.420	6.195	5.336	3.613	5.216	3.563	6.220	NA	NA
1997	R4.989	R5.391	R5.120	5.416	6.199	5.336	3.616	5.213	3.563	6.198	NA	NA
1998	R4.975	R5.365	R5.137	5.413	6.210	5.349	3.614	5.212	3.563	6.176	NA	NA
1999	R4.902	R5.291	R5.092	5.413	6.205	5.328	3.616	5.211	3.563	6.167	NA	NA
2000	R4.908	R5.316	R5.057	R5.422	6.189	5.326	3.607	5.210	3.563	6.159	NA	NA
2001	R4.937	R5.325	R5.142	5.412	6.199	5.345	3.614	5.210	3.563	6.151	5.359	5.433
2002	R4.886	R5.293	R5.093	R5.411	6.173	5.324	3.613	5.208	3.563	6.143	5.359	5.433
2003	R4.907	R5.307	R5.142	R5.409	6.182	5.340	3.629	5.207	3.563	6.116	5.359	5.433
2004	R4.953	R5.328	R5.144	R5.421	6.192	5.350	3.618	5.215	3.563	6.089	5.359	5.433
2005	R4.916	R5.364	R5.178	R5.427	6.188	5.365	3.620	5.218	3.563	6.063	5.359	5.433
2006	R4.894	R5.310	R5.160	5.431	6.143	5.353	3.605	5.218	3.563	6.036	5.359	5.433
2007	R4.850	R5.298	R5.127	R5.434	6.151	5.346	3.591	5.219	3.563	6.009	5.359	5.433
2008	R4.732	R5.175	R5.149	5.426	6.123	5.339	3.600	5.218	3.563	5.983	5.359	5.433
2009	R4.691	R5.266	R5.018	5.414	6.105	R5.301	R3.558	5.218	3.563	5.957	5.359	5.433
2010	E4.701	E5.280	E5.014	E5.420	P6.085	P5.300	P3.558	P5.218	P3.561	5.930	5.359	5.433

¹ Petroleum products supplied, including natural gas plant liquids and crude oil burned directly as fuel. Quantity-weighted averages of the petroleum products included in each category are calculated by using heat content values shown in Table A1.

² Beginning in 1993, includes fuel ethanol blended into motor gasoline.

³ Beginning in 2009, includes renewable diesel fuel (including biodiesel) blended into distillate fuel oil.

⁴ Electricity-only and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants within the NAICS 22 category whose primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public. Through 1988, data are for electric utilities only; beginning in 1989, data are for electric utilities and independent power producers.

⁵ Electric power sector factors are weighted average heat contents for distillate fuel oil, petroleum coke, and residual fuel oil; they exclude other liquids.

⁶ There is a discontinuity in this time series between 1966 and 1967; beginning in 1967, the single constant factor is replaced by a quantity-weighted factor—quantity-weighted averages of the major components of liquefied petroleum gases are calculated by using heat content values shown in Table A1.

⁷ There is a discontinuity in this time series between 1993 and 1994; beginning in 1994, the single constant factor is replaced by a quantity-weighted factor—quantity-weighted averages of the major components of motor gasoline, including fuel ethanol, are calculated by using heat content values shown in Table A1.

⁸ Includes denaturant (petroleum added to ethanol to make it undrinkable). Fuel ethanol factors are weighted average heat contents for undenatured ethanol (3.539 million Btu per barrel), pentanes plus used as denaturant (4.620 million Btu per barrel), and conventional motor gasoline used as denaturant (5.253

million Btu per barrel). The factor for 2009 is used as the estimated factor for 1980-2008.

⁹ Corn input to the production of undenatured ethanol (million Btu corn per barrel undenatured ethanol), used as the factor to estimate total biomass inputs to the production of undenatured ethanol. Observed ethanol yields (gallons undenatured ethanol per bushel of corn) are 2.5 in 1980, 2.666 in 1998, 2.68 in 2002, and 2.764 in 2009; yields in other years are estimated. Corn is assumed to have a gross heat content of 0.392 million Btu per bushel. Undenatured ethanol is assumed to have a gross heat content of 3.539 million Btu per barrel.

¹⁰ Soybean oil input to the production of biodiesel (million Btu soybean oil per barrel biodiesel), used as the factor to estimate total biomass inputs to the production of biodiesel. It is assumed that 7.65 pounds of soybean oil are needed to produce one gallon of biodiesel, and 5.433 million Btu of soybean oil are needed to produce one barrel of biodiesel. Soybean oil is assumed to have a gross heat content of 16,909 Btu per pound, or 5.483 million Btu per barrel. Biodiesel is assumed to have a gross heat content of 17,253 Btu per pound, or 5.359 million Btu per barrel.

R=Revised. P=Preliminary. E=Estimate. NA=Not available.

Notes: • Residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation petroleum heat contents are revised beginning in 1949 due to a change in the estimation methodology. • The heat content values in this table are for gross heat contents. See "Heat Content" in Glossary.

Web Page: For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#appendices>.

Sources: See "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows Table A6.

Table A4. Approximate Heat Content of Natural Gas, Selected Years, 1949-2010
(Btu per Cubic Foot)

Year	Production		Consumption ¹			Imports	Exports
	Marketed	Dry	End-Use Sectors ²	Electric Power Sector ³	Total		
1949	1,120	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035	--	1,035
1950	1,119	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035	--	1,035
1955	1,120	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035
1960	1,107	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035	1,035
1965	1,101	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032	1,032
1970	1,102	1,031	1,031	1,031	1,031	1,031	1,031
1975	1,095	1,021	1,020	1,026	1,021	1,026	1,014
1976	1,093	1,020	1,019	1,023	1,020	1,025	1,013
1977	1,093	1,021	1,019	1,029	1,021	1,026	1,013
1978	1,088	1,019	1,016	1,034	1,019	1,030	1,013
1979	1,092	1,021	1,018	1,035	1,021	1,037	1,013
1980	1,098	1,026	1,024	1,035	1,026	1,022	1,013
1981	1,103	1,027	1,025	1,035	1,027	1,014	1,011
1982	1,107	1,028	1,026	1,036	1,028	1,018	1,011
1983	1,115	1,031	1,031	1,030	1,031	1,024	1,010
1984	1,109	1,031	1,030	1,035	1,031	1,005	1,010
1985	1,112	1,032	1,031	1,038	1,032	1,002	1,011
1986	1,110	1,030	1,029	1,034	1,030	997	1,008
1987	1,112	1,031	1,031	1,032	1,031	999	1,011
1988	1,109	1,029	1,029	1,028	1,029	1,002	1,018
1989	1,107	1,031	1,031	³ 1,028	1,031	1,004	1,019
1990	1,105	1,029	1,030	1,027	1,029	1,012	1,018
1991	1,108	1,030	1,031	1,025	1,030	1,014	1,022
1992	1,110	1,030	1,031	1,025	1,030	1,011	1,018
1993	1,106	1,027	1,028	1,025	1,027	1,020	1,016
1994	1,105	1,028	1,029	1,025	1,028	1,022	1,011
1995	1,106	1,026	1,027	1,021	1,026	1,021	1,011
1996	1,109	1,026	1,027	1,020	1,026	1,022	1,011
1997	1,107	1,026	1,027	1,020	1,026	1,023	1,011
1998	1,109	1,031	1,033	1,024	1,031	1,023	1,011
1999	1,107	1,027	1,028	1,022	1,027	1,022	1,006
2000	1,107	1,025	1,026	1,021	1,025	1,023	1,006
2001	1,105	1,028	1,029	1,026	1,028	1,023	1,010
2002	1,106	1,027	1,029	1,020	1,027	1,022	1,008
2003	1,106	1,028	1,029	1,025	1,028	1,025	1,009
2004	1,104	1,026	1,026	1,027	1,026	1,025	1,009
2005	1,104	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,025	1,009
2006	1,103	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,028	1,025	1,009
2007	1,104	1,029	1,030	1,027	1,029	1,025	1,009
2008	1,100	1,027	1,027	1,027	1,027	1,025	1,009
2009	^R 1,101	^R 1,025	^R 1,025	1,025	^R 1,025	1,025	1,009
2010	^E 1,101	^E 1,024	^E 1,025	^P 1,022	^E 1,024	^E 1,025	^E 1,009

¹ Consumption factors are for natural gas, plus a small amount of supplemental gaseous fuels.

² Residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation sectors.

³ Electricity-only and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants within the NAICS 22 category whose primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public. Through 1988, data are for electric utilities only; beginning in 1989, data are for electric utilities and independent power producers.

R=Revised. P=Preliminary. E=Estimate. -- =Not applicable.

Note: The values in this table are for gross heat contents. See "Heat Content" in Glossary.

Web Page: For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#appendices>.

Sources: See "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows Table A6.

Table A5. Approximate Heat Content of Coal and Coal Coke, Selected Years, 1949-2010
(Million Btu per Short Ton)

Year	Coal									Coal Coke
	Production ¹	Waste Coal Supplied ²	Consumption					Imports	Exports	Imports and Exports
			Residential and Commercial Sectors	Industrial Sector		Electric Power Sector ^{4,5}	Total			
				Coke Plants	Other ³					
1949	24.916	NA	24.263	26.797	24.612	23.761	24.793	25.000	26.759	24.800
1950	25.090	NA	24.461	26.798	24.820	23.937	24.989	25.020	26.788	24.800
1955	25.201	NA	24.373	26.794	24.821	24.056	24.982	25.000	26.907	24.800
1960	24.906	NA	24.226	26.791	24.609	23.927	24.713	25.003	26.939	24.800
1965	24.775	NA	24.028	26.787	24.385	23.780	24.537	25.000	26.973	24.800
1970	23.842	NA	23.203	26.784	22.983	22.573	23.440	25.000	26.982	24.800
1975	22.897	NA	22.261	26.782	22.436	21.642	22.506	25.000	26.562	24.800
1976	22.855	NA	22.774	26.781	22.530	21.679	22.498	25.000	26.601	24.800
1977	22.597	NA	22.919	26.787	22.322	21.508	22.265	25.000	26.548	24.800
1978	22.248	NA	22.466	26.789	22.207	21.275	22.017	25.000	26.478	24.800
1979	22.454	NA	22.242	26.788	22.452	21.364	22.100	25.000	26.548	24.800
1980	22.415	NA	22.543	26.790	22.690	21.295	21.947	25.000	26.384	24.800
1981	22.308	NA	22.474	26.794	22.585	21.085	21.713	25.000	26.160	24.800
1982	22.239	NA	22.695	26.797	22.712	21.194	21.674	25.000	26.223	24.800
1983	22.052	NA	22.775	26.798	22.691	21.133	21.576	25.000	26.291	24.800
1984	22.010	NA	22.844	26.799	22.543	21.101	21.573	25.000	26.402	24.800
1985	21.870	NA	22.646	26.798	22.020	20.959	21.366	25.000	26.307	24.800
1986	21.913	NA	22.947	26.798	22.198	21.084	21.462	25.000	26.292	24.800
1987	21.922	NA	23.404	26.799	22.381	21.136	21.517	25.000	26.291	24.800
1988	21.823	NA	23.571	26.799	22.360	20.900	21.328	25.000	26.299	24.800
1989	21.765	² 10.391	23.650	26.800	22.347	⁴ 20.898	21.307	25.000	26.160	24.800
1990	21.822	9.303	23.137	26.799	22.457	20.779	21.197	25.000	26.202	24.800
1991	21.681	10.758	23.114	26.799	22.460	20.730	21.120	25.000	26.188	24.800
1992	21.682	10.396	23.105	26.799	22.250	20.709	21.068	25.000	26.161	24.800
1993	21.418	10.638	22.994	26.800	22.123	20.677	21.010	25.000	26.335	24.800
1994	21.394	11.097	23.112	26.800	22.068	20.589	20.929	25.000	26.329	24.800
1995	21.326	11.722	23.118	26.800	21.950	20.543	20.880	25.000	26.180	24.800
1996	21.322	12.147	23.011	26.800	22.105	20.547	20.870	25.000	26.174	24.800
1997	21.296	12.158	22.494	26.800	22.172	20.518	20.830	25.000	26.251	24.800
1998	21.418	12.639	21.620	27.426	23.164	20.516	20.881	25.000	26.800	24.800
1999	21.070	12.552	23.880	27.426	22.489	20.490	20.818	25.000	26.081	24.800
2000	21.072	12.360	25.020	27.426	22.433	20.511	20.828	25.000	26.117	24.800
2001	¹ 20.772	12.169	24.909	27.426	22.622	20.337	20.671	25.000	25.998	24.800
2002	20.673	12.165	22.962	27.426	22.562	20.238	20.541	25.000	26.062	24.800
2003	20.499	12.360	22.242	27.425	22.468	20.082	20.387	25.000	25.972	24.800
2004	20.424	12.266	22.324	27.426	22.473	19.980	20.290	25.000	26.108	24.800
2005	20.348	12.093	22.342	26.279	22.178	19.988	20.246	25.000	25.494	24.800
2006	20.310	12.080	22.066	26.271	22.050	19.931	20.181	25.000	25.453	24.800
2007	20.340	12.090	22.069	26.329	22.371	19.909	20.168	25.000	25.466	24.800
2008	20.208	12.121	21.887	26.281	22.348	19.713	19.977	25.000	25.399	24.800
2009	^R 19.969	^R 11.862	^R 22.059	26.334	21.893	^R 19.521	^R 19.742	25.000	25.633	24.800
2010 ^P	20.192	11.755	21.254	26.296	21.909	19.612	19.858	25.000	25.713	24.800

¹ Beginning in 2001, includes a small amount of refuse recovery (coal recaptured from a refuse mine, and cleaned to reduce the concentration of noncombustible materials).

² Waste coal (including fine coal, coal obtained from a refuse bank or slurry dam, anthracite culm, bituminous gob, and lignite waste) consumed by the electric power and industrial sectors. Beginning in 1989, waste coal supplied is counted as a supply-side item to balance the same amount of waste coal included in "Consumption."

³ Includes transportation. Excludes coal synfuel plants.

⁴ Electricity-only and combined-heat-and-power (CHP) plants within the NAICS 22 category whose

primary business is to sell electricity, or electricity and heat, to the public. Through 1988, data are for electric utilities only; beginning in 1989, data are for electric utilities and independent power producers.

⁵ Electric power sector factors are for anthracite, bituminous coal, subbituminous coal, lignite, waste coal, and, beginning in 1998, coal synfuel.

R=Revised. P=Preliminary. NA=Not available.

Note: The values in this table are for gross heat contents. See "Heat Content" in Glossary.

Web Page: For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#appendices>.

Sources: See "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows Table A6.

Table A6. Approximate Heat Rates for Electricity, and Heat Content of Electricity, Selected Years, 1949-2010
(Btu per Kilowatthour)

Year	Approximate Heat Rates ¹ for Electricity Net Generation			Heat Content ⁶ of Electricity ⁷
	Fossil Fuels ^{2,3}	Nuclear ⁴	Geothermal ⁵	
1949	15,033	--	--	3,412
1950	14,030	--	--	3,412
1955	11,699	--	--	3,412
1960	10,760	11,629	23,200	3,412
1965	10,453	11,804	22,182	3,412
1970	10,494	10,977	21,606	3,412
1975	10,406	11,013	21,611	3,412
1976	10,373	11,047	21,611	3,412
1977	10,435	10,769	21,611	3,412
1978	10,361	10,941	21,611	3,412
1979	10,353	10,879	21,545	3,412
1980	10,388	10,908	21,639	3,412
1981	10,453	11,030	21,639	3,412
1982	10,454	11,073	21,629	3,412
1983	10,520	10,905	21,290	3,412
1984	10,440	10,843	21,303	3,412
1985	10,447	10,622	21,263	3,412
1986	10,446	10,579	21,263	3,412
1987	10,419	10,442	21,263	3,412
1988	10,324	10,602	21,096	3,412
1989	10,432	10,583	21,096	3,412
1990	10,402	10,582	21,096	3,412
1991	10,436	10,484	20,997	3,412
1992	10,342	10,471	20,914	3,412
1993	10,309	10,504	20,914	3,412
1994	10,316	10,452	20,914	3,412
1995	10,312	10,507	20,914	3,412
1996	10,340	10,503	20,960	3,412
1997	10,213	10,494	20,960	3,412
1998	10,197	10,491	21,017	3,412
1999	10,226	10,450	21,017	3,412
2000	10,201	10,429	21,017	3,412
2001	² 10,333	10,443	21,017	3,412
2002	10,173	10,442	21,017	3,412
2003	10,241	10,421	21,017	3,412
2004	10,022	10,427	21,017	3,412
2005	9,999	10,436	21,017	3,412
2006	9,919	10,436	21,017	3,412
2007	9,884	10,485	21,017	3,412
2008	9,854	10,453	21,017	3,412
2009	^R 9,760	^R 10,460	21,017	3,412
2010	^E 9,760	^E 10,460	^E 21,017	3,412

¹ The values in columns 1-3 of this table are for net heat rates. See "Heat Rate" in Glossary.

² Used as the thermal conversion factors for hydro, geothermal, solar thermal/photovoltaic, and wind electricity net generation to approximate the quantity of fossil fuels replaced by these sources. Through 2000, also used as the thermal conversion factors for wood and waste electricity net generation at electric utilities; beginning in 2001, Btu data for wood and waste at electric utilities are available from surveys.

³ Through 2000, heat rates are for fossil-fueled steam-electric plants at electric utilities. Beginning in 2001, heat rates are for all fossil-fueled plants at electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers.

⁴ Used as the thermal conversion factors for nuclear electricity net generation.

⁵ Technology-based heat rates for geothermal electricity net generation. Beginning with the *Annual*

Energy Review 2010, the technology-based geothermal heat rates are no longer used as thermal conversion factors in Btu calculations in this report but are retained on this table for purposes of comparison.

⁶ See "Heat Content" in Glossary.

⁷ The value of 3,412 Btu per kilowatthour is a constant. It is used as the thermal conversion factor for electricity retail sales, and electricity imports and exports.

R=Revised. E=Estimate. -- =Not applicable.

Web Page: For all data beginning in 1949, see <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/#appendices>. Sources: See "Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation," which follows this table.

Thermal Conversion Factor Source Documentation

Approximate Heat Content of Petroleum and Natural Gas Plant Liquids

Asphalt. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) adopted the thermal conversion factor of 6.636 million British thermal units (Btu) per barrel as estimated by the Bureau of Mines and first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1956*.

Aviation Gasoline. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 5.048 million Btu per barrel as adopted by the Bureau of Mines from the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation publication *Competition and Growth in American Energy Markets 1947–1985*, a 1968 release of historical and projected statistics.

Butane. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 4.326 million Btu per barrel as published in the *California Oil World and Petroleum Industry*, First Issue, April 1942.

Butane-Propane Mixture. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines calculation of 4.130 million Btu per barrel based on an assumed mixture of 60 percent butane and 40 percent propane. See **Butane** and **Propane**.

Crude Oil Exports. Assumed by EIA to be 5.800 million Btu per barrel or equal to the thermal conversion factor for crude oil produced in the United States. See **Crude Oil Production**.

Crude Oil Imports. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for each type of crude oil imported weighted by the quantities imported. Thermal conversion factors for each type were calculated on a foreign country basis, by determining the average American Petroleum Institute (API) gravity of crude oil imported from each foreign country from Form ERA-60 in 1977 and converting average API gravity to average Btu content by using National Bureau of Standards, Miscellaneous Publication No. 97, *Thermal Properties of Petroleum Products*, 1933.

Crude Oil Production. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 5.800 million Btu per barrel as reported in a Bureau of Mines internal memorandum, “Bureau of Mines Standard Average Heating Values of Various Fuels, Adopted January 3, 1950.”

Distillate Fuel Oil. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 5.825 million Btu per barrel as reported in a Bureau of Mines internal

memorandum, “Bureau of Mines Standard Average Heating Values of Various Fuels, Adopted January 3, 1950.”

Ethane. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 3.082 million Btu per barrel as published in the *California Oil World and Petroleum Industry*, First Issue, April 1942.

Ethane-Propane Mixture. EIA calculation of 3.308 million Btu per barrel based on an assumed mixture of 70 percent ethane and 30 percent propane. See **Ethane** and **Propane**.

Isobutane. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 3.974 million Btu per barrel as published in the *California Oil World and Petroleum Industry*, First Issue, April 1942.

Jet Fuel, Kerosene-Type. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 5.670 million Btu per barrel for “Jet Fuel, Commercial” as published by the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation in the report *Competition and Growth in American Energy Markets 1947–1985*, a 1968 release of historical and projected statistics.

Jet Fuel, Naphtha-Type. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 5.355 million Btu per barrel for “Jet Fuel, Military” as published by the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation in the report *Competition and Growth in American Energy Markets 1947–1985*, a 1968 release of historical and projected statistics.

Kerosene. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 5.670 million Btu per barrel as reported in a Bureau of Mines internal memorandum, “Bureau of Mines Standard Average Heating Values of Various Fuels, Adopted January 3, 1950.”

Liquefied Petroleum Gases Consumption. • 1949–1966: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Mines, Mineral Industry Surveys, “Crude Petroleum and Petroleum Products, 1956,” Table 4 footnote, constant value of 4.011 million Btu per barrel. • 1967 forward: Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all liquefied petroleum gases consumed (see Table A1) weighted by the quantities consumed. The component products of liquefied petroleum gases are ethane (including ethylene), propane (including propylene), normal butane (including butylene), butane-propane mixtures, ethane-propane mixtures, and isobutane. For 1967–1980, quantities consumed are from EIA, Energy Data Reports, “Petroleum Statement, Annual,” Table 1. For 1981 forward, quantities consumed are from EIA, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, Table 2.

Lubricants. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 6.065 million Btu per barrel as estimated by the Bureau of Mines and first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1956*.

Miscellaneous Products. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 5.796 million Btu per barrel as estimated by the Bureau of Mines and first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1956*.

Motor Gasoline Consumption. • 1949–1993: EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 5.253 million Btu per barrel for “Gasoline, Motor Fuel” as published by the Texas Eastern Transmission Corporation in Appendix V of *Competition and Growth in American Energy Markets 1947–1985*, a 1968 release of historical and projected statistics. • 1994 forward: EIA calculated national annual quantity-weighted average conversion factors for conventional, reformulated, and oxygenated motor gasolines (see Table A3). The factor for conventional motor gasoline is 5.253 million Btu per barrel, as used for previous years. The factors for reformulated and oxygenated gasolines, both currently 5.150 million Btu per barrel, are based on data published in Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Mobile Sources, National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory report EPA 420-F-95-003, “Fuel Economy Impact Analysis of Reformulated Gasoline.” See **Fuel Ethanol (Denatured)**.

Natural Gas Plant Liquids Production. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for each natural gas plant liquid produced weighted by the quantities produced.

Natural Gasoline. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 4.620 million Btu per barrel as estimated by the Bureau of Mines and first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1956*.

Pentanes Plus. EIA assumed the thermal conversion factor to be 4.620 million Btu or equal to that for natural gasoline. See **Natural Gasoline**.

Petrochemical Feedstocks, Naphtha less than 401° F. Assumed by EIA to be 5.248 million Btu per barrel, equal to the thermal conversion factor for special naphthas. See **Special Naphthas**.

Petrochemical Feedstocks, Other Oils equal to or greater than 401° F. Assumed by EIA to be 5.825 million Btu per barrel, equal to the thermal conversion factor for distillate fuel oil. See **Distillate Fuel Oil**.

Petrochemical Feedstocks, Still Gas. Assumed by EIA to be 6.000 million Btu per barrel, equal to the thermal conversion factor for still gas. See **Still Gas**.

Petroleum Coke. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 6.024 million Btu per barrel as reported in Btu per short ton in the Bureau of Mines internal memorandum, “Bureau of Mines Standard Average Heating Values of Various Fuels, Adopted January 3, 1950.” The Bureau of Mines calculated this factor by dividing 30.120 million Btu per short ton, as given in the referenced Bureau of Mines internal memorandum, by 5.0 barrels per short ton, as given in the Bureau of Mines Form 6-1300-M and successor EIA forms.

Petroleum Consumption, Commercial Sector. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all petroleum products consumed by the commercial sector weighted by the estimated quantities consumed by the commercial sector. The quantities of petroleum products consumed by the commercial sector are estimated in the State Energy Data System—see documentation at http://www.eia.gov/emeu/states/sep_use/notes/use_petrol.pdf.

Petroleum Consumption, Electric Power Sector. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all petroleum products consumed by the electric power sector weighted by the quantities consumed by the electric power sector. Data are from Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms.

Petroleum Consumption, Industrial Sector. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all petroleum products consumed by the industrial sector weighted by the estimated quantities consumed by the industrial sector. The quantities of petroleum products consumed by the industrial sector are estimated in the State Energy Data System—see documentation at http://www.eia.gov/emeu/states/sep_use/notes/use_petrol.pdf.

Petroleum Consumption, Residential Sector. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all petroleum products consumed by the residential sector weighted by the estimated quantities consumed by the residential sector. The quantities of petroleum products consumed by the residential sector are estimated in the State Energy Data System—see documentation at http://www.eia.gov/emeu/states/sep_use/notes/use_petrol.pdf.

Petroleum Consumption, Total. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all petroleum products consumed weighted by the quantities consumed.

Petroleum Consumption, Transportation Sector. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for all petroleum products consumed by the transportation sector weighted by the estimated quantities consumed by the transportation sector. The quantities of petroleum products consumed by the

transportation sector are estimated in the State Energy Data System—see documentation at http://www.eia.gov/emeu/states/sep_use/notes/use_petrol.pdf.

Petroleum Products Exports. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for each petroleum product exported weighted by the quantities exported.

Petroleum Products Imports. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for each petroleum product imported weighted by the quantities imported.

Plant Condensate. Estimated to be 5.418 million Btu per barrel by EIA from data provided by McClanahan Consultants, Inc., Houston, Texas.

Propane. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 3.836 million Btu per barrel as published in the *California Oil World and Petroleum Industry, First Issue*, April 1942.

Residual Fuel Oil. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 6.287 million Btu per barrel as reported in the Bureau of Mines internal memorandum, “Bureau of Mines Standard Average Heating Values of Various Fuels, Adopted January 3, 1950.”

Road Oil. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 6.636 million Btu per barrel, which was assumed to be equal to that of asphalt (see **Asphalt**) and was first published by the Bureau of Mines in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1970*.

Special Naphthas. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines thermal conversion factor of 5.248 million Btu per barrel, which was assumed to be equal to that of the total gasoline (aviation and motor) factor and was first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1970*.

Still Gas. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines estimated thermal conversion factor of 6.000 million Btu per barrel, first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1970*.

Total Petroleum Exports. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for crude oil and each petroleum product exported weighted by the quantities exported. See **Crude Oil Exports** and **Petroleum Products Exports**.

Total Petroleum Imports. Calculated annually by EIA as the average of the thermal conversion factors for each type of crude oil and petroleum product imported

weighted by the quantities imported. See **Crude Oil Imports** and **Petroleum Products Imports**.

Unfinished Oils. EIA assumed the thermal conversion factor to be 5.825 million Btu per barrel or equal to that for distillate fuel oil (see **Distillate Fuel Oil**) and first published it in EIA’s *Annual Report to Congress, Volume 3, 1977*.

Unfractionated Stream. EIA assumed the thermal conversion factor to be 5.418 million Btu per barrel or equal to that for plant condensate (see **Plant Condensate**) and first published it in EIA’s *Annual Report to Congress, Volume 2, 1981*.

Waxes. EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 5.537 million Btu per barrel as estimated by the Bureau of Mines and first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1956*.

Approximate Heat Content of Biofuels

Biodiesel. EIA estimated the thermal conversion factor for biodiesel to be 5.359 million Btu per barrel, or 17,253 Btu per pound.

Biodiesel Feedstock. EIA used soybean oil input to the production of biodiesel (million Btu soybean oil per barrel biodiesel) as the factor to estimate total biomass inputs to the production of biodiesel. EIA assumed that 7.65 pounds of soybean oil are needed to produce one gallon of biodiesel, and 5.433 million Btu of soybean oil are needed to produce one barrel of biodiesel. EIA also assumed that soybean oil has a gross heat content of 16,909 Btu per pound, or 5.483 million Btu per barrel.

Ethanol (Undenatured). EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 3.539 million Btu per barrel published in “Oxygenate Flexibility for Future Fuels,” a paper presented by William J. Piel of the ARCO Chemical Company at the National Conference on Reformulated Gasolines and Clean Air Act Implementation, Washington, D.C., October 1991.

Fuel Ethanol (Denatured). • 1981–2008: EIA used the 2009 factor. • 2009 forward: Calculated by EIA as the annual quantity-weighted average of the thermal conversion factors for undenatured ethanol (3.539 million Btu per barrel), pentanes plus used as denaturant (4.620 million Btu per barrel), and conventional motor gasoline used as denaturant (5.253 million Btu per barrel). The quantity of ethanol consumed is from EIA’s *Petroleum Supply Annual (PSA)* and *Petroleum Supply Monthly (PSM)*, Table 1, data for renewable fuels and oxygenate plant net production of fuel ethanol. The quantity of pentanes plus used as denaturant is from PSA/PSM, Table 1, data for renewable fuels and oxygenate plant net production of pentanes plus, multiplied by -1. The quantity of conventional motor gasoline and

motor gasoline blending components used as denaturant is from *PSA/PSM*, Table 1, data for renewable fuels and oxygenate plant net production of conventional motor gasoline and motor gasoline blending components, multiplied by -1.

Fuel Ethanol Feedstock. EIA used corn input to the production of undenatured ethanol (million Btu corn per barrel undenatured ethanol) as the annual factor to estimate total biomass inputs to the production of undenatured ethanol. U.S. Department of Agriculture observed ethanol yields (gallons undenatured ethanol per bushel of corn) were 2.5 in 1980, 2.666 in 1998, 2.68 in 2002, and 2.764 in 2009; EIA estimated the ethanol yields in other years. EIA also assumed that corn has a gross heat content of 0.392 million Btu per bushel.

Approximate Heat Content of Natural Gas

Natural Gas Consumption, Electric Power Sector. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of natural gas consumed by the electric power sector by the quantity consumed. Data are from Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms.

Natural Gas Consumption, End-Use Sectors. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of natural gas consumed by the end-use sectors (residential, commercial, industrial, and transportation) by the quantity consumed. Data are from Form EIA-176, “Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition.”

Natural Gas Consumption, Total. • 1949–1962: EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor of 1,035 Btu per cubic foot as estimated by the Bureau of Mines and first published in the *Petroleum Statement, Annual, 1956*. • 1963–1979: EIA adopted the thermal conversion factor calculated annually by the American Gas Association (AGA) and published in *Gas Facts*, an AGA annual publication. • 1980 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the total heat content of natural gas consumed by the total quantity consumed.

Natural Gas Exports. • 1949–1972: Assumed by EIA to be equal to the thermal conversion factor for dry natural gas consumed (see **Natural Gas Consumption, Total**). • 1973 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of natural gas exported by the quantity exported. For 1973–1995, data are from Form FPC-14, “Annual Report for Importers and Exporters of Natural Gas.” Beginning in 1996, data are from U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, *Natural Gas Imports and Exports*.

Natural Gas Imports. • 1949–1972: Assumed by EIA to be equal to the thermal conversion factor for dry natural gas consumed (see **Natural Gas Consumption, Total**). • 1973 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of natural gas imported by the quantity imported. For 1973–1995, data are from Form FPC-14, “Annual Report for Importers and Exporters of Natural Gas.” Beginning in 1996, data are from U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Fossil Energy, *Natural Gas Imports and Exports*.

Natural Gas Production, Dry. Assumed by EIA to be equal to the thermal conversion factor for dry natural gas consumed. See **Natural Gas Consumption, Total**.

Natural Gas Production, Marketed. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of dry natural gas produced (see **Natural Gas Production, Dry**) and natural gas plant liquids produced (see **Natural Gas Plant Liquids Production**) by the total quantity of marketed natural gas produced.

Approximate Heat Content of Coal and Coal Coke

Coal Coke Imports and Exports. EIA adopted the Bureau of Mines estimate of 24.800 million Btu per short ton.

Coal Consumption, Electric Power Sector. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal consumed by the electric power sector by the quantity consumed. Data are from Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms.

Coal Consumption, Industrial Sector, Coke Plants. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal consumed by coke plants by the quantity consumed. Data are from Form EIA-5, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Coke Plants.”

Coal Consumption, Industrial Sector, Other. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal consumed by manufacturing plants by the quantity consumed. Data are from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Manufacturing Plants.”

Coal Consumption, Residential and Commercial Sectors. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal consumed by the residential and commercial sectors by the quantity consumed. Through 1999, data are from Form EIA-6, “Coal Distribution Report.” Beginning in 2000, data are for commercial combined-

heat-and-power (CHP) plants from Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms.

Coal Consumption, Total. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the total heat content of coal consumed by all sectors by the total quantity consumed.

Coal Exports. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of steam coal and metallurgical coal exported by the quantity exported. Data are from U.S. Department of Commerce, Bureau of the Census, “Monthly Report EM 545.”

Coal Imports. • 1949–1963: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal imported by the quantity imported. • 1963 forward: Assumed by EIA to be 25.000 million Btu per short ton.

Coal Production. Calculated annually by EIA to balance the heat content of coal supply (production and imports) and the heat content of coal disposition (exports, stock change, and consumption).

Waste Coal Supplied. Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the total heat content of waste coal supplied by the quantity supplied. For 1989–1997, data are from Form EIA-867, “Annual Nonutility Power Producer Report.” For 1998–2000, data are from Form EIA-860B, “Annual Electric Generator Report—Nonutility.” For 2001 forward, data are from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Manufacturing Plants”; Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report”; and predecessor forms.

Approximate Heat Rates for Electricity

Electricity Net Generation, Fossil Fuels. There is no generally accepted practice for measuring the thermal conversion rates for power plants that generate electricity from hydro, geothermal, solar thermal, photovoltaic, and wind energy sources. Therefore, EIA calculates a rate factor that is equal to the annual average heat rate factor for fossil-fueled power plants in the United States. By using that factor, it is possible to evaluate fossil fuel requirements for replacing those sources during periods of interruption, such as droughts. The heat content of a kilowatthour of

electricity produced, regardless of the generation process, is 3,412 Btu. • 1949–1955: The weighted annual average heat rate for fossil-fueled steam-electric power plants in the United States, as published by EIA in *Thermal-Electric Plant Construction Cost and Annual Production Expenses—1981* and *Steam-Electric Plant Construction Cost and Annual Production Expenses—1978*. • 1956–1988: The weighted annual average heat rate for fossil-fueled steam-electric power plants in the United States, as published in EIA, *Electric Plant Cost and Power Production Expenses 1991*, Table 9. • 1989–2000: Calculated annually by EIA by using heat rate data reported on Form EIA-860, “Annual Electric Generator Report” (and predecessor forms); and net generation data reported on Form EIA-759, “Monthly Power Plant Report.” The computation includes data for all electric utility steam-electric plants using fossil fuels. • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using fossil fuels.

Electricity Net Generation, Geothermal. • 1960–1981: Calculated annually by EIA by weighting the annual average heat rates of operating geothermal units by the installed nameplate capacities as reported on Form FPC-12, “Power System Statement.” • 1982 forward: Estimated annually by EIA on the basis of an informal survey of relevant plants.

Electricity Net Generation, Nuclear. • 1957–1984: Calculated annually by dividing the total heat content consumed in nuclear generating units by the total (net) electricity generated by nuclear generating units. The heat content and electricity generation were reported on Form FERC-1, “Annual Report of Major Electric Utilities, Licensees, and Others”; Form EIA-412, “Annual Report of Public Electric Utilities”; and predecessor forms. For 1982, the factors were published in EIA, *Historical Plant Cost and Annual Production Expenses for Selected Electric Plants 1982*, page 215. For 1983 and 1984, the factors were published in EIA, *Electric Plant Cost and Power Production Expenses 1991*, Table 13. • 1985 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using the heat rate reported on Form EIA-860, “Annual Electric Generator Report” (and predecessor forms), and the generation reported on Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report” (and predecessor forms).

