



*Independent Statistics & Analysis*  
U.S. Energy Information  
Administration

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# 2011 Domestic Uranium Production Report

May 2012



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## Contacts

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## Preface

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The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports detailed data spanning 2003 through 2011 and summary data back to 1993 on U.S. uranium production activities in this report, *2011 Domestic Uranium Production Report*. The *Annual Energy Review* provides historical data back to 1949.

Data in this report are based primarily on information reported on Form EIA-851A, “Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)” and some information reported on Form EIA-858, “Uranium Marketing Annual Survey.” Form EIA-851A survey collects data on uranium milling and processing, uranium feed sources, employment, drilling, expenditures (for drilling, production, and land/other), and uranium mining. Form EIA-858 survey includes data collected on contracts and deliveries.

Prior editions of this report may be found:

<http://www.eia.gov/nuclear/reports.cfm>

The *Annual Energy Review* may be found:

<http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/annual/>

Definitions for terms used in this report can be found in EIA’s Energy Glossary:

<http://www.eia.doe.gov/glossary/>.

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## Drilling

U.S. uranium exploration drilling was 5,441 holes covering 3.3 million feet in 2011. Development drilling was 5,156 holes and 3.0 million feet. Combined, total uranium drilling was 10,597 holes covering 6.3 million feet, 47 percent more holes than in 2010. Expenditures for uranium drilling in the United States were \$54 million in 2011, an increase of 20 percent compared with 2010.

## Mining, Production, Shipments, and Sales

Beginning with this report, Tables 4 and 5 include County and State location of existing and planned mills and in-situ-leach (ISL) plants. A new Table 10 shows States that produced uranium from mines and States that produced and shipped uranium concentrate from facilities.

U.S. uranium mines produced 4.1 million pounds  $U_3O_8$  in 2011, 3 percent less than in 2010, from 10 mines (underground and in-situ-leach) and one other source. Five underground mines in Arizona, Colorado, and Utah produced ore containing uranium during 2011, one more than during 2010. Uranium ore is stockpiled and shipped to a mill, to be milled into uranium concentrate (a yellow or brown powder). Additionally, five ISL mining operations in Nebraska, Texas and Wyoming produced solutions containing uranium in 2011 that was processed into uranium concentrate at ISL plants.

Total production of U.S. uranium concentrate in 2011 was 4.0 million pounds  $U_3O_8$ , 6 percent less than in 2010, from six facilities: one mill in Utah (White Mesa Mill) and five ISL plants (Alta Mesa Project, Crow Butte Operation, Hobson ISR Plant/La Palangana, Smith Ranch-Highland Operation, and Willow Creek Project). Nebraska, Texas and Wyoming produced uranium concentrate at the five ISL plants in 2011.

Total shipments of uranium concentrate from U.S. mill and ISL plants were 4.0 million pounds  $U_3O_8$  in 2011, 22 percent less than in 2010. U.S. producer's sold 2.9 million pounds  $U_3O_8$  of uranium concentrate in 2011 at a weighted-average price of \$52.36 per pound  $U_3O_8$ .

## Facility Status (Mills and In-Situ-Leach Plants)

At the end of 2011, the White Mesa mill in Utah was operating with a capacity of 2,000 short tons of ore per day. Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill in Utah and Sweetwater Uranium Project in Wyoming were on standby with a total capacity of 3,750 short tons of ore per day. There is one mill (Piñon Ridge Mill) planned for Colorado.

At the end of 2011, five U.S. uranium ISL plants were operating with a combined capacity of 10.8 million pounds  $U_3O_8$  per year (Crow Butte Operation in Nebraska; Alta Mesa Project, Hobson ISR Plant/La Palangana in Texas; Smith Ranch-Highland Operation and Willow Creek Project in Wyoming). Kingsville Dome and Rosita ISL plants in Texas were on standby with a total capacity of 2.0 million pounds  $U_3O_8$  per year. Nichols Ranch ISR Project was under construction in Wyoming. There are nine ISL plants planned in Colorado, New Mexico, South Dakota, Texas, and Wyoming.

## Employment

Total employment in the U.S. uranium production industry was 1,191 person-years in 2011, an increase of 11 percent from the 2010 total. Exploration employment was 208 person-years, about the same as in 2010. Milling and processing employment was 419 person-years in 2011, and increased the most from 2010 (24 percent). Uranium mining employment was 462 person-years and increased 16 percent, while reclamation employment decreased 18 percent to 102 person-years from 2010 to 2011. Five States (Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, and Wyoming) accounted for 74 percent of total employment in the uranium production industry in 14 States: Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Nevada, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, Washington, and Wyoming.

## Expenditures

Total expenditures for land, exploration, drilling, production, and reclamation were \$319 million in 2011, 15 percent more than in 2010. Expenditures for U.S. uranium production, including facility expenses, were the largest category of expenditures at \$169 million in 2011 and were up by 27 percent from the 2010 level. Uranium exploration expenditures were \$44 million and increased 26 percent from 2010 to 2011. Expenditures for land were \$20 million in 2011, a 3-percent decrease compared with 2010. Reclamation expenditures were \$34 million, a 25-percent decrease compared with 2010.

**Table 1. U.S. uranium drilling activities, 2003-2011**

Year	Exploration Drilling		Development Drilling		Exploration and Development Drilling	
	Number of Holes	Feet (thousand)	Number of Holes	Feet (thousand)	Number of Holes	Feet (thousand)
2003	NA	NA	NA	NA	W	W
2004	W	W	W	W	2,185	1,249
2005	W	W	W	W	3,143	1,668
2006	1,473	821	3,430	1,892	4,903	2,713
2007	4,351	2,200	4,996	2,946	9,347	5,146
2008	5,198	2,543	4,157	2,551	9,355	5,093
2009	1,790	1,051	3,889	2,691	5,679	3,742
2010	2,439	1,460	4,770	3,444	7,209	4,904
2011	5,441	3,322	5,156	3,003	10,597	6,325

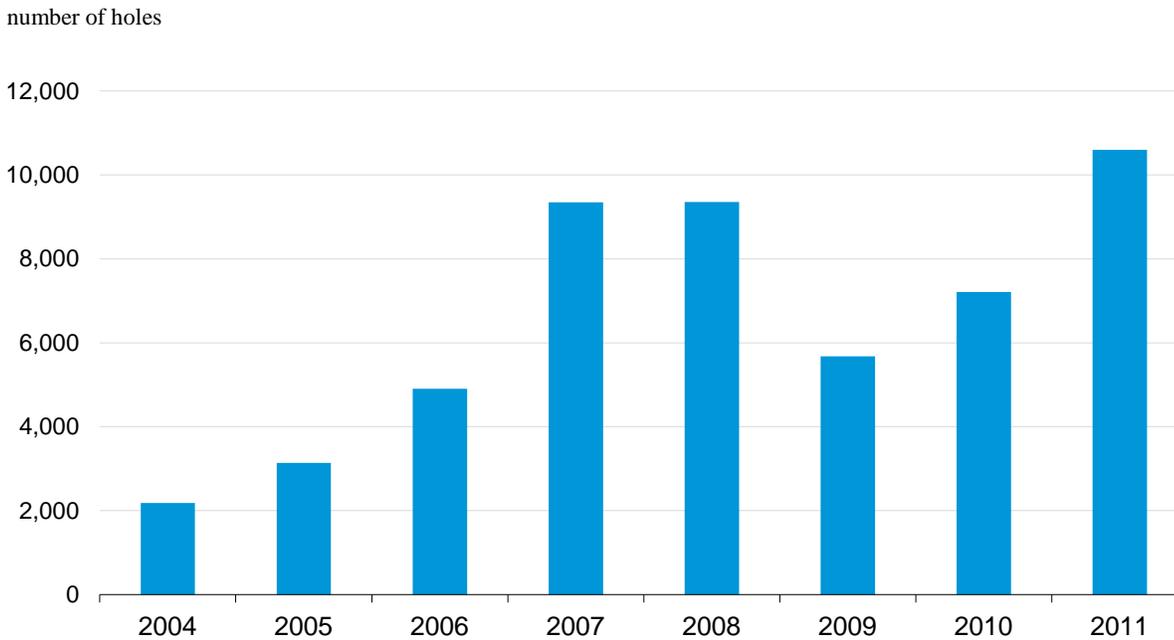
NA = Not available.

W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

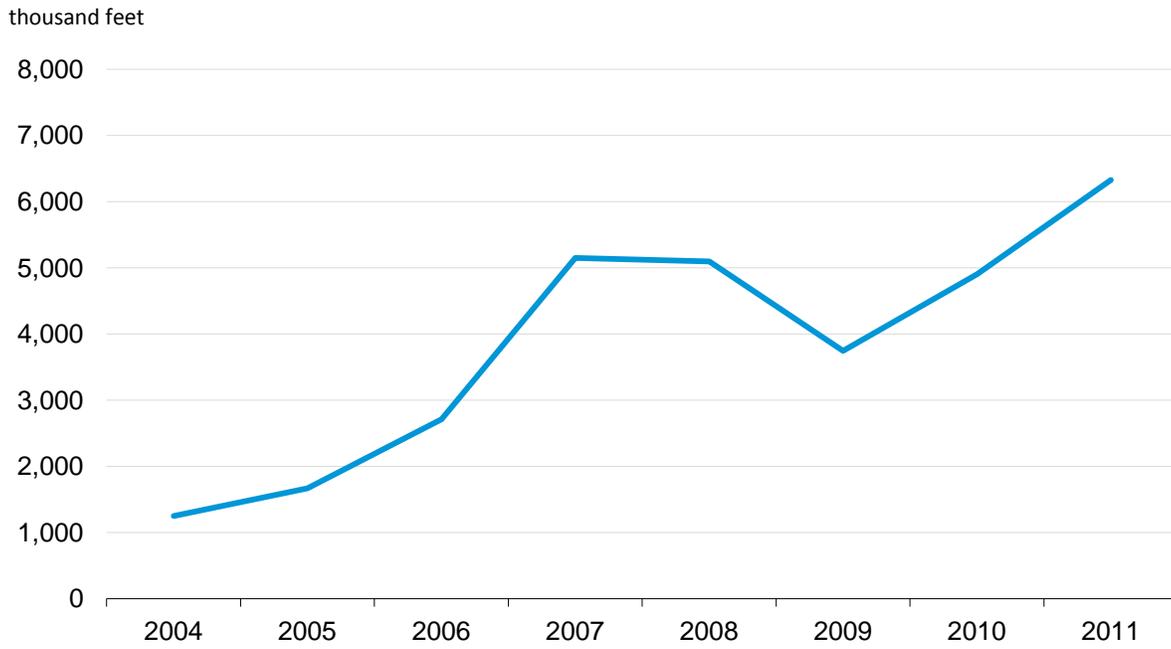
Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Figure 1. U.S. uranium drilling by number of holes, 2004-2011**



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2004-2011).

**Figure 2. U.S. uranium drilling in footage, 2004-2011**



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2004-2011).

**Table 2. U.S. uranium mine production and number of mines and sources, 2003-2011**

Production / Mining Method	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Underground</b> (estimated contained thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Open Pit</b> (estimated contained thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>In-Situ Leaching</b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	2,681	4,259	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Other<sup>1</sup></b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Total Mine Production</b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	<b>E2,200</b>	<b>2,452</b>	<b>3,045</b>	<b>4,692</b>	<b>4,541</b>	<b>3,879</b>	<b>4,145</b>	<b>4,237</b>	<b>4,114</b>
<b>Number of Operating Mines</b>									
Underground	1	2	4	5	6	10	14	4	5
Open Pit	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
In-Situ Leaching	2	3	4	5	5	6	4	4	5
Other Sources <sup>1</sup>	1	1	2	1	1	1	2	1	1
<b>Total Mines and Sources</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>11</b>

<sup>1</sup> Other includes, in various years, mine water, mill site cleanup and mill tailings, and well field restoration as sources of uranium.

E = Estimated data.

W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Notes: Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding. Table does not include byproduct production and sources. The 2003 annual production amount was estimated by rounding to the nearest 200,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Table 3. U.S. uranium concentrate production, shipments, and sales, 2003-2011**

Activity at U.S. Mills and In-Situ-Leach Plants	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Estimated contained U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> (thousand pounds)</b>									
Ore from Mines and Stockpiles Fed to Mills <sup>1</sup>	0	W	W	W	0	W	W	W	W
Other Feed Materials <sup>2</sup>	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Total Mill Feed</b>	<b>W</b>								
<b>Uranium Concentrate Produced at U.S. Mills</b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Uranium Concentrate Produced at U.S. In-Situ-Leach Plants</b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W	W
<b>Total Uranium Concentrate Production</b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	E2,000	2,282	2,689	4,106	4,534	3,902	3,708	4,228	3,991
<b>Total Uranium Concentrate Shipped from U.S. Mills and In-Situ-Leach Plants</b> (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	E1,600	2,280	2,702	3,838	4,050	4,130	3,620	5,137	4,000
<b>Total Uranium Concentrate Sales by U.S. Producers<sup>3</sup></b>									
Deliveries (thousand pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	W	3,786	3,602	3,656	2,044	2,684	2,870
Weighted-Average Price (dollars per pound U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	W	W	W	28.98	42.11	43.81	36.61	37.59	52.36

<sup>1</sup> Uranium ore "Fed to Mills" in any year can include: ore mined and shipped to a mill during the same year, ore that was mined during a prior year and later shipped from mine-site stockpiles, and/or ore obtained from drawdowns of stockpiles maintained at a mill site.

<sup>2</sup> Includes for various years uranium from mill cleanup, mine water, tailings water, and other materials.

<sup>3</sup> Sales of U.S.-origin uranium only.

E = Estimated data.

W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Notes: The 2003 annual amounts were estimated by rounding to the nearest 200,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011) and Form EIA-858, "Uranium Marketing Annual Survey" (2003-2011).

**Table 4. U.S. uranium mills by owner, location, capacity, and operating status at end of the year, 2007-2011**

Mill Owner	Mill Name	County, State (existing and <i>planned</i> locations)	Milling Capacity (short tons of ore per day)	Operating Status at End of the Year				
				2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cotter Corporation	Canon City Mill	Fremont, Colorado	400	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby	Reclamation
Denison White Mesa LLC	White Mesa Mill	San Juan, Utah	2,000	Operating-Processing Alternate Feed	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Energy Fuels Resources Corporation	Piñon Ridge Mill	Montrose, Colorado	500	-	Developing	Developing	Developing	Permitted And Licensed
Kennecott Uranium Company/Wyoming Coal Resource Company	Sweetwater Uranium Project	Sweetwater, Wyoming	3,000	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby
Uranium One Americas, Inc.	Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill	Garfield, Utah	750	Changing License To Operational	Changing License To Operational	Standby	Standby	Standby
<b>Total Milling Capacity:</b>			<b>6,650</b>					

- = No data reported.

Notes: Milling capacity for 2011. An operating status of "Operating" indicates the mill was producing uranium concentrate at the end of the period.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2007-2011).

**Table 5. U.S. uranium in-situ-leach plants by owner, location, capacity, and operating status at end of the year, 2007-2011**

In-Situ-Leach Plant Owner	In-Situ-Leach Plant Name	County, State (existing and planned locations)	Production Capacity (pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> per year)	Operating Status at End of the Year				
				2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cameco	Crow Butte Operation	Dawes, Nebraska	1,000,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Hydro Resources, Inc.	Crownpoint	McKinley, New Mexico	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed
Hydro Resources, Inc.	Church Rock	McKinley, New Mexico	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed
Lost Creek ISR, LLC	Lost Creek Project	Sweetwater, Wyoming	2,000,000	-	Developing	Developing	Developing	Partially Permitted And Licensed
Mestena Uranium LLC	Alta Mesa Project	Brooks, Texas	1,000,000	Producing	Producing	Producing	Producing	Producing
Power Resources, Inc. dba Cameco Resources	Smith Ranch-Highland Operation	Converse, Wyoming	5,500,000	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating	Operating
Powertech Uranium Corp	Centennial Project	Weld, Colorado	-	-	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped
Powertech Uranium Corp	Dewey Burdock Project	Fall River and Custer, South Dakota	-	-	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped	Undeveloped
South Texas Mining Venture	Hobson ISR Plant	Karnes, Texas	1,000,000	Under Construction	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Operational	Operating
South Texas Mining Venture	La Palangana	Duval, Texas	1,000,000	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Operating	Operating
Strata Energy Inc.	Ross	Crook, Wyoming	-	-	-	-	-	Developing
URI, Inc.	Kingsville Dome	Kleberg, Texas	1,000,000	Producing	Producing	Standby	Standby	Standby
URI, Inc.	Rosita	Duval, Texas	1,000,000	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby	Standby
URI, Inc.	Vasquez	Duval, Texas	800,000	Producing	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration	Restoration
Uranerz Energy Corporation	Nichols Ranch ISR Project	Johnson and Campbell, Wyoming	2,000,000	-	Developing	Developing	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Under Construction
Uranium Energy Corp.	Goliad ISR Uranium Project	Goliad, Texas	1,000,000	-	Partially Permitted And Licensed			
Uranium One Americas, Inc.	Jab and Antelope	Sweetwater, Wyoming	2,000,000	-	Developing	Developing	Developing	Developing
Uranium One Americas, Inc.	Moore Ranch	Campbell, Wyoming	500,000	-	Developing	Partially Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed	Permitted And Licensed
Uranium One USA, Inc.	Texas Operations	Duval, Texas	0	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclamation	Reclaimed
Uranium One USA, Inc.	Willow Creek Project (Christensen Ranch and Irigaray)	Campbell and Johnson, Wyoming	1,300,000	Changing License to Operational	Standby	Standby	Operational	Producing
<b>Total Production Capacity:</b>			<b>23,100,000</b>					

- = No data reported.

Notes: Production capacity for 2011. An operating status of "Operating" indicates the in-situ-leach plant usually was producing uranium concentrate at the end of the period. Hobson ISR Plant processed uranium concentrate that came from La Palangana. Hobson and La Palangana are part of the same project. ISR stands for in-situ recovery. Christensen Ranch and Irigaray are part of the Willow Creek Project.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2007-2011).

**Table 6. Employment in the U.S. uranium production industry by category, 2003-2011**

person-years

Year	Exploration	Mining	Milling	Processing	Reclamation	Total
2003	W	W	W	W	117	321
2004	18	108	W	W	121	420
2005	79	149	142	154	124	648
2006	188	121	W	W	155	755
2007	375	378	107	216	155	1,231
2008	457	558	W	W	154	1,563
2009	175	441	W	W	162	1,096
2010	211	400	W	W	125	1,073
2011	208	462	W	W	102	1,191

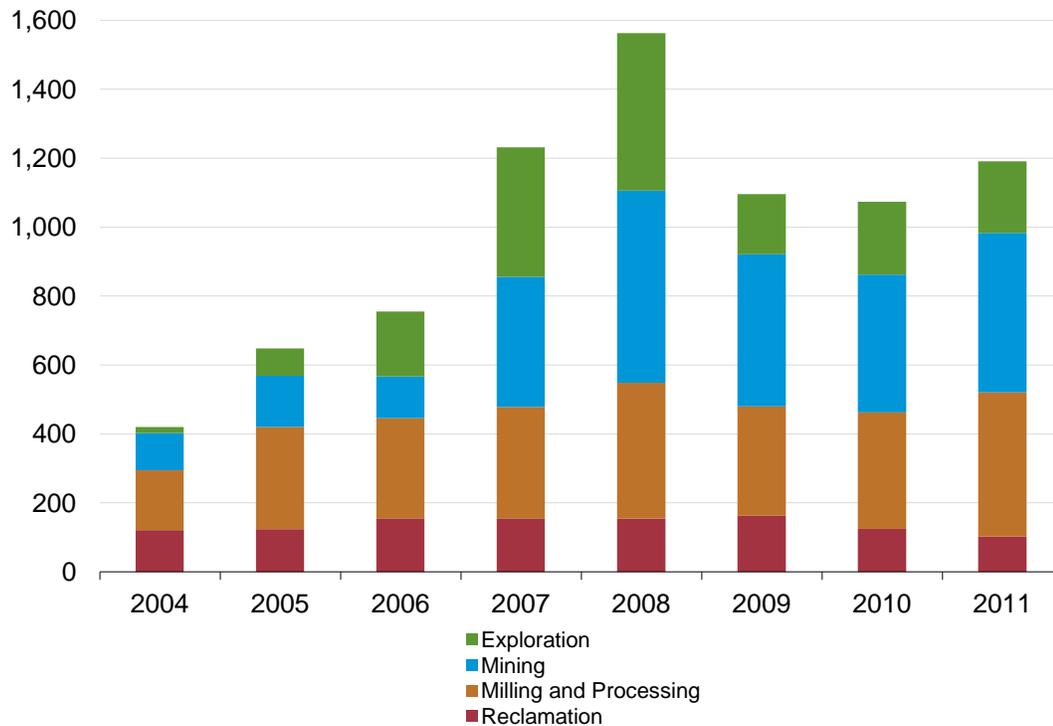
W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Figure 3. Employment in the U.S. uranium production industry by category, 2004-2011**

person-years



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2004-2011).

**Table 7. Employment in the U.S. uranium production industry by state, 2003-2011**

person-years

State(s)	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Wyoming	134	139	181	195	245	301	308	348	424
Colorado and Texas	48	140	269	263	557	696	340	292	331
Nebraska and New Mexico	92	102	123	160	149	160	159	134	127
Arizona, Utah, and Washington	47	40	75	120	245	360	273	281	W
Alaska, Michigan, Nevada, and South Dakota	0	0	0	16	25	30	W	W	W
California, Montana, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, and Virginia	0	0	0	0	9	17	W	W	W
<b>Total</b>	<b>321</b>	<b>420</b>	<b>648</b>	<b>755</b>	<b>1,231</b>	<b>1,563</b>	<b>1,096</b>	<b>1,073</b>	<b>1,191</b>

W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Note: Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Table 8. U.S. uranium expenditures, 2003-2011**

million dollars

Year	Drilling	Production	Land and Other				Total Expenditures
			Total Land and Other	Land	Exploration	Reclamation	
2003	W	W	31.3	NA	NA	NA	W
2004	10.6	27.8	48.4	NA	NA	NA	86.9
2005	18.1	58.2	59.7	NA	NA	NA	136.0
2006	40.1	65.9	115.2	41.0	23.3	50.9	221.2
2007	67.5	90.4	178.2	77.7	50.3	50.2	336.2
2008	81.9	221.2	164.4	65.2	50.2	49.1	467.6
2009	35.4	141.0	104.0	17.3	24.2	62.4	280.5
2010	44.6	133.3	99.5	20.2	34.5	44.7	277.3
2011	53.6	168.8	96.8	19.6	43.5	33.7	319.2

Drilling: All expenditures directly associated with exploration and development drilling.

Production: All expenditures for mining, milling, processing of uranium, and facility expense.

Land and Other: All expenditures for land; geological research; geochemical and geophysical surveys; costs incurred by field personnel in the course of exploration, reclamation and restoration work; and overhead and administrative charges directly associated with supervising and supporting field activities.

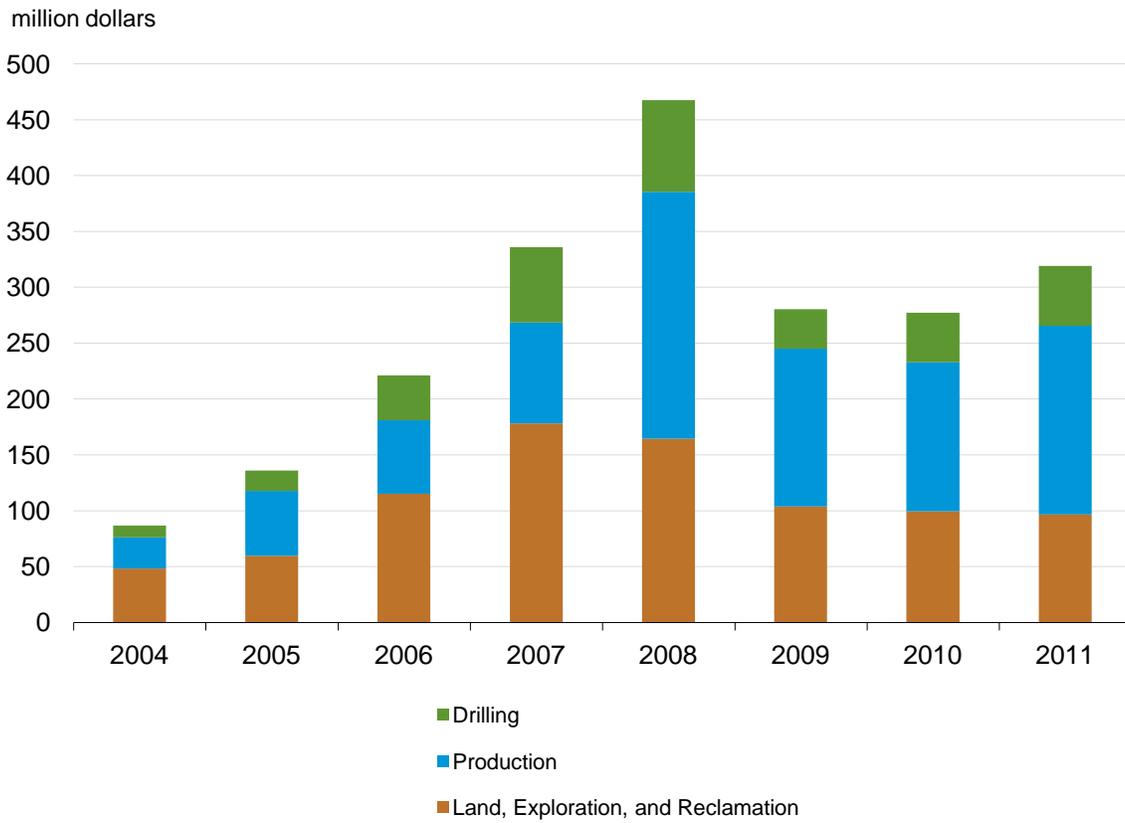
NA = Not available.

W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Notes: Expenditures are in nominal U.S. dollars. Totals may not equal sum of components because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Figure 4. U.S. uranium expenditures, 2004-2011**



Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2004-2011).

**Table 9. Summary production statistics of the U.S. uranium industry, 1993-2011**

Item	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	E2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
<b>Exploration and Development</b>																			
Surface Drilling (million feet)	1.1	0.7	1.3	3.0	4.9	4.6	2.5	1.0	0.7	W	W	1.2	1.7	2.7	5.1	5.1	3.7	4.9	6.3
Drilling Expenditures (million dollars) <sup>1</sup>	5.7	1.1	2.6	7.2	20.0	18.1	7.9	5.6	2.7	W	W	10.6	18.1	40.1	67.5	81.9	35.4	44.6	53.6
<b>Mine Production of Uranium</b>																			
(million pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	2.1	2.5	3.5	4.7	4.7	4.8	4.5	3.1	2.6	2.4	2.2	2.5	3.0	4.7	4.5	3.9	4.1	4.2	4.1
<b>Uranium Concentrate Production</b>																			
(million pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	3.1	3.4	6.0	6.3	5.6	4.7	4.6	4.0	2.6	2.3	2.0	2.3	2.7	4.1	4.5	3.9	3.7	4.2	4.0
<b>Uranium Concentrate Shipments</b>																			
(million pounds U <sub>3</sub> O <sub>8</sub> )	3.4	6.3	5.5	6.0	5.8	4.9	5.5	3.2	2.2	3.8	1.6	2.3	2.7	3.8	4.0	4.1	3.6	5.1	4.0
<b>Employment</b>																			
(person-years)	871	980	1,107	1,118	1,097	1,120	848	627	423	426	321	420	648	755	1,231	1,563	1,096	1,073	1,191

<sup>1</sup> Expenditures are in nominal U.S. dollars.

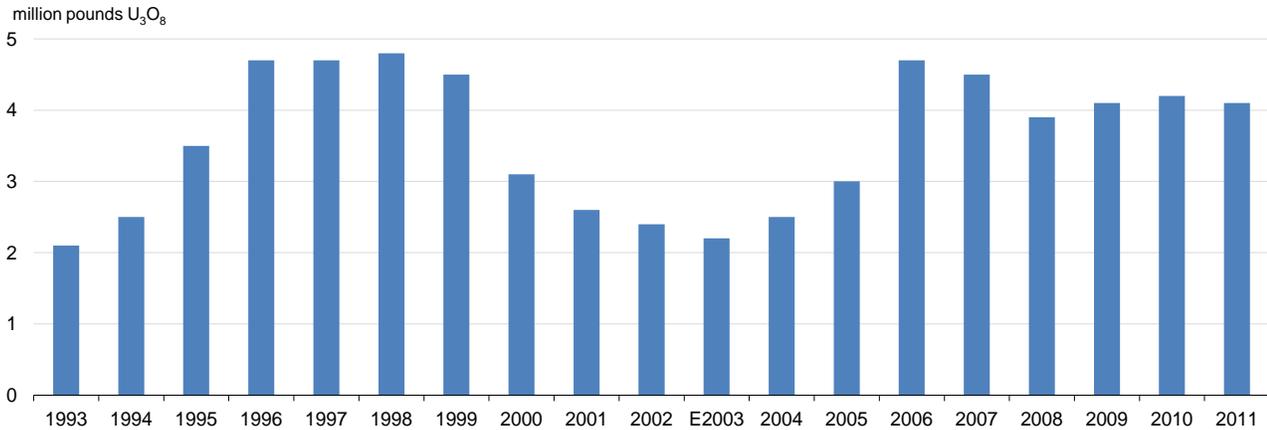
E = Estimated data.

W = Data withheld to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Note: The 2003 annual production and shipment amounts were estimated by rounding to the nearest 200,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data.

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table H1 and Table 2. 2003-2011-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

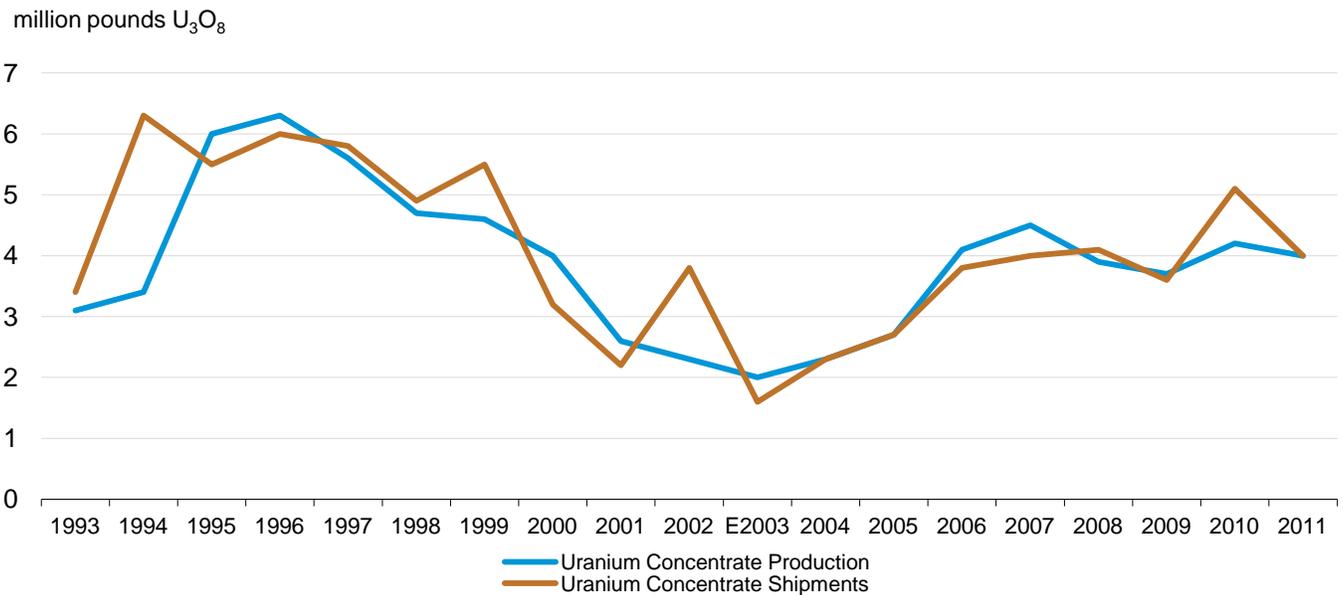
**Figure 5. U.S. mine production of uranium, 1993-2011**



E = Estimated data.

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table H1 and Table 2. 2003-2011-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

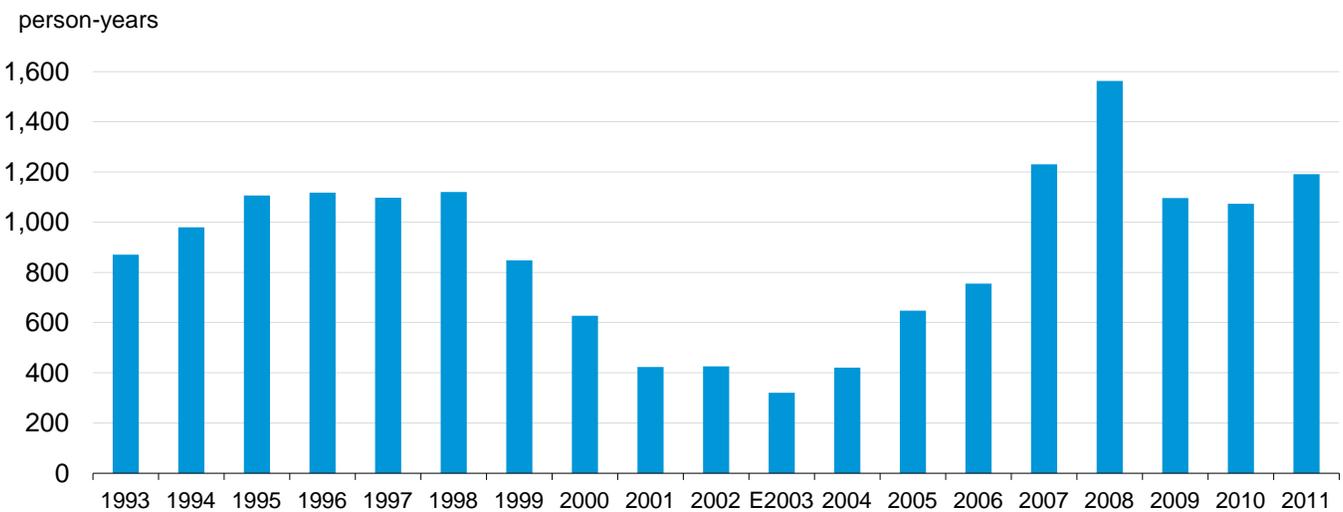
**Figure 6. U.S. uranium concentrate production and shipments, 1993-2011**



E = Estimated data.

Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table H1 and Table 2. 2003-2011-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Figure 7. Employment in the U.S. production industry, 1993-2011**



Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration: 1993-2002-Uranium Industry Annual 2002 (May 2003), Table H1 and Table 2. 2003-2011-Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2003-2011).

**Table 10. States with U.S. uranium mine production and concentrate production and shipments, 2011**

Uranium Mine Production		Uranium Concentrate Production and Shipments	
U.S. Underground Mines	U.S. In-Situ-Leach Mines	U.S. Mills	U.S. In-Situ-Leach Plants
Arizona	Nebraska	Utah	Nebraska
Colorado	Texas		Texas
Utah	Wyoming		Wyoming

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, "Domestic Uranium Production Report" (2011).