



Independent Statistics & Analysis

U.S. Energy Information
Administration

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July heat wave sets new record for natural gas consumption

The U.S. Energy Information Administration estimates that natural gas consumption in the power sector set a new record in July. With temperatures across much of the country above average during July, the demand for cooling increased and the use of natural gas to generate electricity is estimated to have increased by 3% over last year. Despite the record natural gas use for electricity generation and dip in natural gas production in the Gulf of Mexico as a result of Hurricane Barry, natural inventories continue to grow steadily as natural gas production continues to outpace forecasts.

In the August *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, EIA estimates that working natural gas inventories surpassed 2.7 trillion cubic feet at the end of July. This is 4% below the five-year average and 13% higher than the same time last year.

EIA forecasts that dry natural gas production will average 91.0 billion cubic feet per day in 2019 and 92.5 billion cubic feet per day in 2020. Both would be U.S. production records. Continuing production growth and inventory builds that have out-paced the five-year average have put downward pressure on natural gas prices.

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