



Independent Statistics & Analysis

U.S. Energy Information
Administration

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U.S. natural gas inventories recover

The U.S. Energy Information Administration is reporting that natural gas inventories in the United States will largely recover to seasonally normal levels by October 2019, after reaching a five-year low during the same time last year. Record production and milder seasonal weather patterns have largely contributed to inventories recovering, following a colder than average winter and hotter than average summer in 2018. The 2019 natural gas injection season, which runs from April through October, started at 1.2 trillion cubic feet, the lowest storage level since 2014.

In the July *Short-Term Energy Outlook*, EIA forecasts that the natural gas injections outpaced the previous five-year average during the second quarter of 2019. EIA estimates that injections in May and June exceeded 100 billion cubic feet per week through most of both months. Assuming weather forecasts hold, EIA projects that storage levels will approach 3.8 trillion cubic feet by October 2019, an increase of 560 billion cubic feet from the same time last year.

Record natural gas production will also contribute to the recovery in inventories, as the United States remains on pace to produce an average of 94.6 billion cubic feet per day of dry natural gas in 2019—a new record.

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