

FAQs for Survey Form EIA-856

Monthly Foreign Crude Oil Acquisition Report

What is the Form EIA-856?

The Form EIA-856 *Monthly Foreign Crude Oil Acquisition Report* is designed to collect data on the cost and quantities of foreign crude oil (by country of origin) acquired for importation into the [United States](#), including U.S. territories and possessions.

Is reporting data on Form EIA-856 mandatory?

This report is mandatory pursuant to Section 13(b) of the Federal Energy Administration Act of 1974 (Public Law 93-275) and must be completed by all firms that acquired 500,000 barrels or more of foreign crude oil in the report month for importation into the United States.

How does EIA identify companies that must respond to Form EIA-856?

Form EIA-856 must be completed by all firms that acquired more than 500,000 barrels of foreign crude oil in the report month for importation into the United States.

What will the information collected be used for?

The data are used by the Department of Energy, the International Energy Agency (IEA), other Federal agencies, and industry analysts for forecasting and analytical purposes. Data are initially published in the following figures and tables of the [Petroleum Marketing Monthly](#) (PMM):

- PMM Highlights ([PDF](#))
- Table 1: Crude Oil Prices ([PDF](#))
- Table 21: F.O.B. Costs of Imported Crude Oil by Selected Country ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))
- Table 22: Landed Costs of Imported Crude Oil by Selected Country ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))
- Table 23: F.O.B. Costs of Imported Crude Oil by API Gravity ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))
- Table 24: Landed Costs of Imported Crude Oil by API Gravity ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))
- Table 25: Percentages of Total Imported Crude Oil by API Gravity ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))
- Table 26: F.O.B. Costs of Imported Crude Oil for Selected Crude Streams ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))
- Table 27: Landed Costs of Imported Crude Oil for Selected Crude Streams ([PDF](#) and [HTML](#))

The PMM is released electronically each month. These statistics are widely used to inform the public and policymakers about current crude oil prices. [Register for email notification](#) for this and other EIA products by signing up for our subscriptions.

Form Questions

Should I inform you of a change in the contact person in our company for Form EIA-856?

Yes. Whenever there is a change in the contact person for Form EIA-856 at your company please contact the EIA Survey Support Team at eia4usa@eia.gov or call 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. ET. The contact person should be the most knowledgeable person about your reported data.

Should I inform you if our company is sold, merged with another company, or buys another company?

Yes. Whenever there is any change in ownership, please inform the EIA Survey Support Team at eia4usa@eia.gov or call 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) Monday through Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. ET.

What is the reference month?

This is the calendar month to which the reported cost and volume information relates. We ask that the EIA-856 be submitted to EIA no later than 30 calendar days after the close of each reference month (e.g., if the reference month is March 2025, the EIA-856 report must be submitted to EIA by April 30, 2025.)

If I am unable to find a crude stream code for the crude oil my company is importing in Appendix A, Crude Stream Codes, what should I do?

Please contact the EIA Survey Support Team at eia4usa@eia.gov or call 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) and provide the name of the crude oil stream, the country of origin, the approximated API gravity and sulfur content and we will assist in creating a crude stream code.

Do we have to report imported crude oil on Form EIA-856 we purchased from a second vendor after it entered the United States?

No. The company that imports the crude oil into the United States should report the cargo on the Form EIA-856.

Submission

What is the reporting deadline?

Every month reports are due no later than 30 calendar days after the close of the reference month. For example, if the reference month is March 2025, the report must be submitted to EIA by April 30, 2025.

How do I submit the form?

The form can be downloaded in XLS format on the EIA website, which can be accessed from <http://www.eia.gov/survey/#eia-856>. Respondents must use the [EIA's Secure File Transfer system](#) to submit their data. With this Internet-based option, EIA uses security protocols to protect the

information against unauthorized access during transmission. EIA does not accept email, fax, or paper forms.

Resubmission

Am I required to submit revised data?

Resubmissions are required:

- If cargos (or a portion of a cargo) of foreign crude oil which were acquired and reported in a previous month and were subsequently sold or delivered on exchange in the report month and/or are no longer intended for importation into the United States.
- If the price previously reported in column (m) or (o), either on the original report or on a prior resubmission, changes by plus or minus five percent (+5%), or if the quantity reported in column (l), either on the original report or on a prior resubmission, changes by plus or minus five percent (+5%).
- For errors in all other columns, except column (n), for which resubmissions are required for material changes only.

Each resubmission will establish a new base to which the five percent threshold would be applied in determining whether subsequent resubmissions are required (i.e., in applying the five percent threshold, the sum or net of all changes to the previously reported price or volume should be used). A retroactive price adjustment which changes the price(s) of any previously reported transaction(s) by plus or minus five percent (+5%) would necessitate a resubmission of that (those) transaction(s).

All revisions must be submitted within 120 days after the cargo was originally reported. However, EIA must be notified of significant changes discovered after 120 days and will determine if a resubmission is needed. For each transaction that is revised, report all data elements, even those elements that did not change. For the elements that are changed, enter the corrected value/information. In correcting volumes or prices, enter the full (i.e., corrected) volume or price, not the net change.

Contact EIA

Who do I contact if I have technical questions on completing the form?

Call the EIA Survey Support Team at 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) or email to eia4usa@eia.gov.

I have questions about the form. How do I request help?

If you have any questions about this U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) survey after reading the instructions, please contact the EIA Survey Support Team Contact Center at 1-855-EIA-4USA (1-855-342-4872) or send an email to eia4usa@eia.gov.