

British Thermal Unit 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 *Monthly 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% to 10%, depending on the specific fuel and its hydrogen content. Some fuels, such as unseasoned wood, can be more than 40% different in their gross and net heat content rates. See "Heat Content" and "British Thermal Unit (Btu)" in the Glossary for more information.

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 labeled "preliminary." Often, the current year's factors are labeled "estimate," and are set equal to the previous year's values until data become available to calculate the factors. 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 and Other Liquids
(Million Btu per Barrel, Except as Noted)

Commodity	Heat Content	Commodity	Heat Content
Asphalt and Road Oil	6.636	Kerosene	5.670
Aviation Gasoline (Finished)	5.048	Lubricants	6.065
Aviation Gasoline Blending Components	5.048	Motor Gasoline (Finished)—see Tables A2 and A3	
Biodiesel (Biomass-Based Diesel Fuel)	5.359	Motor Gasoline Blending Components (MGBC)	
Crude Oil—see Table A2		Through 2006	5.253
Distillate Fuel Oil—see Table A3 for averages		Beginning in 2007	5.222
15 ppm sulfur and under	5.770	Other Renewable Diesel Fuel	5.494
Greater than 15 ppm to 500 ppm sulfur	5.817	Other Renewable Fuels	5.359
Greater than 500 ppm sulfur	5.825	Oxygenates (excluding Fuel Ethanol)	4.247
Fuel Ethanol—see Table A3		Petrochemical Feedstocks	
Hydrocarbon Gas Liquids		Naphtha Less Than 401°F	5.248
Natural Gas Liquids		Other Oils Equal to or Greater Than 401°F	5.825
Ethane	2.783	Petroleum Coke—see Table A3 for averages	
Propane	3.841	Total, through 2003	6.024
Normal Butane	4.353	Catalyst, beginning in 2004	^a 6.287
Isobutane	4.183	Marketable, beginning in 2004	5.719
Natural Gasoline (Pentanes Plus)	4.638	Residual Fuel Oil	6.287
Refinery Olefins		Special Naphthas	5.248
Ethylene	2.436	Still Gas	
Propylene	3.835	Through 2015	^b 6.000
Butylene	4.377	Beginning in 2016	^a 6.287
Isobutylene	4.355	Unfinished Oils	5.825
Hydrogen	^a 6.287	Waxes	5.537
Jet Fuel, Kerosene Type	5.670	Miscellaneous Products	5.796
Jet Fuel, Naphtha Type	5.355	Other Hydrocarbons	5.825

^a Per residual fuel oil equivalent barrel (6.287 million Btu per barrel).

^b Per fuel oil equivalent barrel (6.000 million Btu per barrel).

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

Web Page: <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/#appendices>.

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