Oil: See *Crude oil*.

Olefinic hydrocarbons (olefins): Unsaturated hydrocarbon compounds with the general formula C\(_n\)H\(_{2n}\) containing at least one carbon-to-carbon double-bond. Olefins are produced at crude oil refineries and petrochemical plants and are not naturally occurring constituents of oil and natural gas. Sometimes referred to as alkenes or unsaturated hydrocarbons. Excludes aromatics.

Olefins: See *Olefinic hydrocarbons (olefins)*.

OPEC: See *Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries*.

Operable unit (nuclear): In the United States, a nuclear generating unit that has completed low-power testing and been issued a full-power operating license by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, or equivalent permission to operate.

Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD): An international organization helping governments tackle the economic, social and governance challenges of a globalized economy. Its membership comprises about 30 member countries. With active relationships with some 70 other countries, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and civil society, it has a global reach. For details about the organization, see http://www.oecd.org.


Other hydrocarbons: Materials received by a refinery and consumed as a raw material. Includes hydrogen, coal tar derivatives, gilsonite. Excludes natural gas used for fuel or hydrogen feedstock.

Oxygenates: Substances which, when added to gasoline, increase the amount of oxygen in that gasoline blend. Ethanol, Methyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (MTBE), Ethyl Tertiary Butyl Ether (ETBE), and methanol are common oxygenates.

PAD Districts: Petroleum Administration for Defense Districts. Geographic aggregations of the 50 states and the District of Columbia into five districts for the Petroleum Administration for Defense in 1950. The districts were originally instituted for economic and geographic reasons as Petroleum Administration for War (PAW) Districts, which were established in 1942.

Paraffinic hydrocarbons: Saturated hydrocarbon compounds with the general formula C\(_n\)H\(_{2n+2}\) containing only single bonds. Sometimes referred to as alkanes or natural gas liquids.

Pentanes plus: A mixture of liquid hydrocarbons, mostly pentanes and heavier, extracted from natural gas in a gas processing plant. Pentanes plus is equivalent to natural gasoline.

Petrochemical feedstocks: Chemical feedstocks derived from refined or partially refined petroleum fractions, principally for use in the manufacturing of chemicals, synthetic rubber, and a variety of plastics.

Petroleum: A broadly defined class of liquid hydrocarbon mixtures. Included are crude oil, lease condensate, unfinished oils, refined products obtained from the processing of crude oil, and natural gas plant liquids. *Note:* Volumes of finished petroleum products include nonhydrocarbon compounds, such as additives and detergents, after they have been blended into the products.

Petroleum coke: A residue high in carbon content and low in hydrogen that is the final product of thermal decomposition in the condensation process in cracking. This product is reported as marketable coke or catalyst coke. The conversion is 5 barrels (of 42 U.S. gallons each) per short ton. See *Petroleum coke, Catalyst* and *Petroleum coke, marketable*.

Petroleum coke, catalyst: The carbonaceous residue that is deposited on the catalyst used in many catalytic operations (e.g., catalytic cracking). Carbon is deposited on the catalyst, thus deactivating the catalyst. The catalyst is reactivated.