

Synthetic natural gas (SNG): (Also referred to as substitute natural gas) A manufactured product, chemically similar in most respects to **natural gas**, resulting from the conversion or reforming of **hydrocarbons** that may easily be substituted for or interchanged with pipeline-quality natural gas.

Thermal conversion factor: A factor for converting data between physical units of measure (such as **barrels**, **cubic feet**, or **short tons**) and thermal units of measure (such as **British thermal units**, calories, or joules); or for converting data between different thermal units of measure. See **Btu conversion factor**.

Total energy consumption: **Primary energy consumption** in the **end-use sectors**, plus **electricity sales to ultimate customers** and **electrical system energy losses**. Also includes **other energy losses** throughout the energy system.

Transportation sector: An energy-consuming sector that consists of all vehicles whose primary purpose is transporting people and/or goods from one physical location to another. Included are automobiles; trucks; buses; motorcycles; trains, subways, and other rail vehicles; aircraft; and ships, barges, and other waterborne vehicles. Vehicles whose primary purpose is not transportation (e.g., construction cranes and bulldozers, farming vehicles, and warehouse tractors and forklifts) are classified in the sector of their primary use. See **End-use sectors** and **Energy-use sectors**.

Underground storage: The storage of **natural gas** in underground reservoirs at a different location from which it was produced.

Unfinished oils: All oils requiring further processing, except those requiring only mechanical blending. Unfinished oils are produced by partial refining of **crude oil** and include **naphthas** and lighter oils, **kerosene** and light gas oils, heavy gas oils, and residuum.

Unfractionated streams: Mixtures of unsegregated **natural gas liquids** components, excluding those in **plant condensate**. This product is extracted from **natural gas**.

Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.): A political entity that consisted of 15 constituent republics: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Estonia, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Lithuania, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, and Uzbekistan. The U.S.S.R. ceased to exist as of December 31, 1991.

United States: The 50 states and the District of Columbia. **Note:** The United States has varying degrees of jurisdiction over a number of territories and other political entities outside the 50 states and the District of Columbia, including Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, Johnston Atoll, Midway Islands, Wake Island, and the Northern Mariana Islands. EIA data programs may include data from some or all of these areas in U.S. totals. For these programs, data products will contain notes explaining the extent of geographic coverage included under the term "United States."

Uranium: A heavy, naturally radioactive, metallic element (atomic number 92). Its two principally occurring isotopes are uranium-235 and uranium-238. Uranium-235 is indispensable to the nuclear industry because it is the only isotope existing in nature, to any appreciable extent, that is fissionable by thermal neutrons. Uranium-238 is also important because it absorbs neutrons to produce a radioactive isotope that subsequently decays to the isotope plutonium-239, which also is fissionable by thermal neutrons.

Uranium concentrate: A yellow or brown powder obtained by the milling of uranium ore, processing of in situ leach mining solutions, or as a byproduct of phosphoric acid production. See **Uranium oxide**.

Uranium ore: Rock containing uranium mineralization in concentrations that can be mined economically, typically one to four pounds of uranium oxide (U₃O₈) per ton or 0.05 percent to 0.2 percent U₃O₈.

Uranium oxide (U₃O₈): **Uranium concentrate** or **yellowcake**.

Useful thermal output: The thermal energy made available in a combined-heat-and-power system for use in any industrial or commercial process, heating or cooling application, or delivered to other end users, i.e., total thermal energy made available for processes and applications other than electrical generation.

U.S.S.R.: See **Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (U.S.S.R.)**.

Utility-scale: Generators at a site that has a total generating nameplate capacity of 1 megawatt (MW) or more.