

## Natural Gas

**Note 1. Natural Gas Production.** Final annual data are from the U.S. Energy Information Administration's (EIA) *Natural Gas Annual (NGA)*.

Data for the two most recent months presented are estimated. Some of the data for earlier months are also estimated or computed. For a discussion of computation and estimation procedures, see EIA's *Natural Gas Monthly (NGM)*.

Monthly data are considered preliminary until after publication of the NGA. Preliminary monthly data are gathered from reports to the Interstate Oil Compact Commission and the U.S. Minerals Management Service. Volumetric data are converted, as necessary, to a standard pressure base of 14.73 psia (pounds per square inch absolute) at 60° Fahrenheit. Unless there are major changes, data are not revised until after publication of the NGA.

Differences between annual data in the NGA and the sum of preliminary monthly data (January–December) are allocated proportionally to the months to create final monthly data.

**Note 2. Natural Gas Plant Liquids Production.** Natural gas plant liquids (NGPL) production is the reduction in volume of natural gas resulting from the removal of natural gas liquid constituents at natural gas processing plants—these natural gas plant liquids are transferred to petroleum supply.

Annual data are from EIA's *Natural Gas Annual (NGA)*, where they are estimated on the basis of the type and quantity of liquid products extracted from the gas stream and the calculated volume of such products at standard conditions. For a detailed explanation of the calculations used to derive estimated NGPL production, see the NGA.

Through 2006, preliminary monthly data are estimated on the basis of NGPL production as an annual percentage of marketed production. Beginning in 2007, preliminary monthly data are estimated on the basis of NGPL production reported on Form EIA-816, "Monthly Natural Gas Liquids Report."

Monthly data are revised and considered final after publication of the NGA. Final monthly data are estimated by allocating annual NGPL production data to the months on the basis of total natural gas marketed production data from the NGA.

**Note 3. Supplemental Gaseous Fuels.** Supplemental gaseous fuels are any substances that, introduced into or commingled with natural gas, increase the volume available for disposition. Such substances include, but are not limited to, propane-air, refinery gas, coke oven gas, still gas, manufactured gas, biomass gas, and air or inert gases added for Btu stabilization.

Annual data beginning with 1980 are from EIA's *Natural Gas Annual (NGA)*. Unknown quantities of supplemental gaseous fuels are included in consumption data for 1979 and earlier years. Monthly data are considered preliminary until after publication of the NGA. Monthly estimates are based on

the annual ratio of supplemental gaseous fuels to the sum of dry gas production, net imports, and net withdrawals from storage. The ratio is applied to the monthly sum of the three elements to compute a monthly supplemental gaseous fuels figure.

Although the total amount of supplemental gaseous fuels consumed is known for 1980 forward, the amount consumed by each energy-use sector is estimated by EIA. These estimates are used to create natural gas (without supplemental gaseous fuels) data for Tables 1.3, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4, and 2.6 (note: to avoid double-counting in these tables, supplemental gaseous fuels are accounted for in their primary energy category: "Coal," "Petroleum," or "Biomass"). It is assumed that supplemental gaseous fuels are commingled with natural gas consumed by the residential, commercial, other industrial, and electric power sectors, but are not commingled with natural gas used for lease and plant fuel, pipelines and distribution, or vehicle fuel. The estimated consumption of supplemental gaseous fuels by each sector (residential, commercial, other industrial, and electric power) is calculated as that sector's natural gas consumption (see Table 4.3) divided by the sum of natural gas consumption by the residential, commercial, other industrial, and electric power sectors (see Table 4.3), and then multiplied by total supplemental gaseous fuels consumption (see Table 4.1). For estimated sectoral consumption of supplemental gaseous fuels in Btu, the residential, commercial, and other industrial values in cubic feet are multiplied by the "End-Use Sectors" conversion factors (see Table A4), and the electric power values in cubic feet are multiplied by the "Electric Power Sector" conversion factors (see Table A4). Total supplemental gaseous fuels consumption in Btu is calculated as the sum of the Btu values for the sectors.

**Note 4. Natural Gas Storage.** Natural gas in storage at the end of a reporting period may not equal the quantity derived by adding or subtracting net injections or withdrawals from the quantity in storage at the end of the previous period. Injection and withdrawal data from the FERC-8/EIA-191 survey may be adjusted to correspond to data from Form EIA-176 for publication of EIA's *Natural Gas Annual (NGA)*.

Total underground storage capacity, which includes both active and inactive fields, at the end of each calendar year since 1975 (first year data were available), in billion cubic feet, was:

1975 ...	6,280	1989 ...	8,120	2003 ...	8,206
1976 ...	6,544	1990 ...	7,794	2004 ...	8,255
1977 ...	6,678	1991 ...	7,993	2005 ...	8,268
1978 ...	6,890	1992 ...	7,932	2006 ...	8,330
1979 ...	6,929	1993 ...	7,989	2007 ...	8,402
1980 ...	7,434	1994 ...	8,043	2008 ...	8,499
1981 ...	7,805	1995 ...	7,953	2009 ...	8,656
1982 ...	7,915	1996 ...	7,980	2010 ...	8,764
1983 ...	7,985	1997 ...	8,332	2011 ...	8,849
1984 ...	8,043	1998 ...	8,179	2012 ...	8,991
1985 ...	8,087	1999 ...	8,229	2013 ...	9,173
1986 ...	8,145	2000 ...	8,241	2014 ...	9,233
1987 ...	8,124	2001 ...	8,182	2015 ...	9,231
1988 ...	8,124	2002 ...	8,207	2016 ...	9,239

Through 1990, monthly underground storage data are collected from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Form FERC-8 (interstate data) and EIA Form EIA-191 (intrastate data). Beginning in 1991, all data are collected on the revised Form EIA-191. Injection and withdrawal data from the EIA-191 survey may be adjusted to correspond to data from Form EIA-176 following publication of EIA's NGA.

The final monthly and annual storage and withdrawal data for 1980–2015 include both underground and liquefied natural gas (LNG) storage. Annual data on LNG additions and withdrawals are from Form EIA-176. Monthly data are estimated by computing the ratio of each month's underground storage additions and withdrawals to annual underground storage additions and withdrawals and applying the ratio to the annual LNG data.

**Note 5. Natural Gas Balancing Item.** The balancing item for natural gas represents the difference between the sum of the components of natural gas supply and the sum of components of natural gas disposition. The differences may be due to quantities lost or to the effects of data reporting problems. Reporting problems include differences due to the net result of conversions of flow data metered at varying temperature and pressure bases and converted to a standard temperature and pressure base; the effect of variations in company accounting and billing practices; differences between billing cycle and calendar period time frames; and imbalances resulting from the merger of data reporting systems that vary in scope, format, definitions, and type of respondents.

**Note 6. Natural Gas Consumption.** Natural gas consumption statistics include data for the following: "Residential Sector": residential deliveries; "Commercial Sector": commercial deliveries, including to commercial combined-heat-and-power (CHP) and commercial electricity-only plants; "Industrial Sector": lease and plant fuel use, and other industrial deliveries, including to industrial CHP and industrial electricity-only plants also includes the relatively small amount of natural gas consumption for non-combustion use (see Tables 1.11a and 1.11b); "Transportation Sector": pipelines and distribution use, and vehicle fuel use; and "Electric Power Sector": electric utility and independent power producer use.

Final data for series other than "Other Industrial CHP" and "Electric Power Sector" are from EIA's *Natural Gas Annual* (NGA). Monthly data are considered preliminary until after publication of the NGA. For more detailed information on the methods of estimating preliminary and final monthly data, see EIA's *Natural Gas Monthly*.

**Note 7. Natural Gas Consumption, 1989–1992.** Prior to 1993, deliveries to nonutility generators were not separately collected from natural gas companies on Form EIA-176, "Annual Report of Natural and Supplemental Gas Supply and Disposition." As a result, for 1989–1992, those volumes are probably included in both the industrial and electric power sectors and double-counted in total consumption. In 1993, 0.28 trillion cubic feet was reported as delivered to nonutility generators.

**Note 8. Natural Gas Data Adjustments, 1993–2000.** For 1993–2000, the original data for natural gas delivered to industrial consumers (now "Other Industrial" in Table 4.3) included deliveries to both industrial users and independent power producers (IPPs). These data were adjusted to remove the estimated consumption at IPPs from "Other Industrial" and include it with electric utilities under "Electric Power Sector." (To estimate the monthly IPP consumption, the monthly pattern for Other Industrial CHP in Table 4.3 was used.)

For 1996–2000, monthly data for several natural gas series shown in EIA's Natural Gas Navigator (see [http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng\\_cons\\_sum\\_dcu\\_nus\\_m.htm](http://www.eia.gov/dnav/ng/ng_cons_sum_dcu_nus_m.htm)) were not reconciled and updated to be consistent with the final annual data in EIA's *Natural Gas Annual*. In the *Monthly Energy Review*, monthly data for these series were adjusted so that the monthly data sum to the final annual values. The Table 4.1 data series (and years) that were adjusted are: Gross Withdrawals (1996, 1997), Marketed Production (1997), NGPL Production (1997, 1998, 2000), Dry Gas Production (1996, 1997), Supplemental Gaseous Fuels (1997–2000), Balancing Item (1997–2000), and Total Consumption (1997–2000). The Table 4.3 data series (and years) that were adjusted are: Lease and Plant Fuel (1997–2000), Total Industrial (1997–2000), Pipelines and Distribution (2000), Total Transportation (2000), and Total Consumption (1997–2000).

**Note 9. Natural Gas Imports and Exports.** The United States imports natural gas via pipeline from Canada and Mexico; and imports liquefied natural gas (LNG) via tanker from Algeria, Australia, Brunei, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, Norway, Oman, Peru, Qatar, Trinidad and Tobago, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. In addition, small amounts of LNG arrived from Canada in 1973 (667 million cubic feet), 1977 (572 million cubic feet), 1981 (6 million cubic feet), 2013 (555 million cubic feet), 2014 (132 million cubic feet), 2015 (437 million cubic feet), 2016 (924 million cubic feet), and 2017 (1,276 million cubic feet). Also, small amounts of compressed natural gas (CNG) were imported from Canada in 2014 forward. The United States exports natural gas via pipeline to Canada and Mexico; and exports LNG via tanker to Argentina, Barbados, Brazil, Chile, China, Dominican Republic, Egypt, India, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kuwait, Malta, Pakistan, Portugal, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Taiwan, Thailand, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and United Kingdom. Also, small amounts of LNG have gone to Mexico since 1998 and to Canada in 2007 and 2012 forward. Small amounts of CNG have been exported to Canada since 2013.

Annual and final monthly data are from the annual EIA Form FPC-14, "Annual Report for Importers and Exporters of Natural Gas," which requires data to be reported by month for the calendar year.

Preliminary monthly data are EIA estimates. For a discussion of estimation procedures, see EIA's *Natural Gas Monthly*. Preliminary data are revised after publication of EIA's *U.S. Imports and Exports of Natural Gas*.