

Table 5.2 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells

| | Wells Drilled | | | | | | | | | | | | Total Footage Drilled Thousand Feet |
|---------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|---------------|--|
| | Exploratory | | | | Development | | | | Total | | | | |
| | Crude Oil | Natural Gas | Dry | Total | Crude Oil | Natural Gas | Dry | Total | Crude Oil | Natural Gas | Dry | Total | |
| | Number | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| 1950 Total | 1,583 | 431 | 8,292 | 10,306 | 22,229 | 3,008 | 6,507 | 31,744 | 23,812 | 3,439 | 14,799 | 42,050 | 157,358 |
| 1955 Total | 2,236 | 874 | 11,832 | 14,942 | 28,196 | 3,392 | 8,620 | 40,208 | 30,432 | 4,266 | 20,452 | 55,150 | 226,182 |
| 1960 Total | 1,321 | 868 | 9,515 | 11,704 | 20,937 | 4,281 | 8,697 | 33,915 | 22,258 | 5,149 | 18,212 | 45,619 | 192,176 |
| 1965 Total | 946 | 515 | 8,005 | 9,466 | 17,119 | 3,967 | 8,221 | 29,307 | 18,065 | 4,482 | 16,226 | 38,773 | 174,882 |
| 1970 Total | 757 | 477 | 6,162 | 7,396 | 12,211 | 3,534 | 4,869 | 20,614 | 12,968 | 4,011 | 11,031 | 28,010 | 138,556 |
| 1975 Total | 982 | 1,248 | 7,129 | 9,359 | 15,966 | 6,879 | 6,517 | 29,362 | 16,948 | 8,127 | 13,646 | 38,721 | 180,494 |
| 1980 Total | 1,777 | 2,099 | 9,081 | 12,957 | 31,182 | 15,362 | 11,704 | 58,248 | 32,959 | 17,461 | 20,785 | 71,205 | 316,943 |
| 1985 Total | 1,680 | 1,200 | 8,954 | 11,834 | 33,581 | 13,124 | 12,257 | 58,962 | 35,261 | 14,324 | 21,211 | 70,796 | 314,409 |
| 1990 Total | 778 | 811 | 3,652 | 5,241 | 12,061 | 10,435 | 4,593 | 27,089 | 12,839 | 11,246 | 8,245 | 32,330 | 156,044 |
| 1995 Total | 570 | 558 | 2,024 | 3,152 | 7,678 | 7,524 | 2,790 | 17,992 | 8,248 | 8,082 | 4,814 | 21,144 | 117,156 |
| 2000 Total | 288 | 657 | 1,341 | 2,286 | 7,802 | 16,394 | 2,805 | 27,001 | 8,090 | 17,051 | 4,146 | 29,287 | 144,425 |
| 2001 Total | 357 | 1,052 | 1,733 | 3,142 | 8,531 | 21,020 | 2,865 | 32,416 | 8,888 | 22,072 | 4,598 | 35,558 | 180,141 |
| 2002 Total | 258 | 844 | 1,282 | 2,384 | 6,517 | 16,498 | 2,472 | 25,487 | 6,775 | 17,342 | 3,754 | 27,871 | 145,159 |
| 2003 Total | 350 | 997 | 1,297 | 2,644 | 7,779 | 19,725 | 2,685 | 30,189 | 8,129 | 20,722 | 3,982 | 32,833 | 177,239 |
| 2004 Total | 383 | 1,671 | 1,350 | 3,404 | 8,406 | 22,515 | 2,732 | 33,653 | 8,789 | 24,186 | 4,082 | 37,057 | 204,279 |
| 2005 Total | 539 | 2,141 | 1,462 | 4,142 | 10,240 | 26,449 | 3,191 | 39,880 | 10,779 | 28,590 | 4,653 | 44,022 | 240,307 |
| 2006 Total | 646 | 2,456 | 1,547 | 4,649 | 12,739 | 30,382 | 3,659 | 46,780 | 13,385 | 32,838 | 5,206 | 51,429 | 282,675 |
| 2007 Total | 808 | 2,794 | 1,582 | 5,184 | 12,563 | 29,925 | 3,399 | 45,887 | 13,371 | 32,719 | 4,981 | 51,071 | 301,515 |
| 2008 January | 88 | 208 | 144 | 440 | 1,111 | 2,321 | 272 | 3,704 | 1,199 | 2,529 | 416 | 4,144 | 25,306 |
| February | 82 | 230 | 107 | 419 | 1,080 | 2,261 | 247 | 3,588 | 1,162 | 2,491 | 354 | 4,007 | 24,958 |
| March | 66 | 216 | 127 | 409 | 1,132 | 2,363 | 271 | 3,766 | 1,198 | 2,579 | 398 | 4,175 | 26,226 |
| April | 68 | 189 | 130 | 387 | 1,177 | 2,415 | 281 | 3,873 | 1,245 | 2,604 | 411 | 4,260 | 26,920 |
| May | 88 | 206 | 124 | 418 | 1,317 | 2,449 | 240 | 4,006 | 1,405 | 2,655 | 364 | 4,424 | 27,947 |
| June | 63 | 195 | 139 | 397 | 1,428 | 2,540 | 299 | 4,267 | 1,491 | 2,735 | 438 | 4,664 | 28,739 |
| July | 79 | 163 | 171 | 413 | 1,439 | 2,695 | 344 | 4,478 | 1,518 | 2,858 | 515 | 4,891 | 29,140 |
| August | 67 | 165 | 144 | 376 | 1,448 | 2,735 | 379 | 4,562 | 1,515 | 2,900 | 523 | 4,938 | 28,942 |
| September | 52 | 166 | 164 | 382 | 1,488 | 2,667 | 355 | 4,510 | 1,540 | 2,833 | 519 | 4,892 | 28,960 |
| October | 80 | 243 | 173 | 496 | 1,549 | 2,841 | 373 | 4,763 | 1,629 | 3,084 | 546 | 5,259 | 31,505 |
| November | 97 | 192 | 160 | 449 | 1,361 | 2,418 | 334 | 4,113 | 1,458 | 2,610 | 494 | 4,562 | 29,276 |
| December | 67 | 172 | 132 | 371 | 1,206 | 2,196 | 313 | 3,715 | 1,273 | 2,368 | 445 | 4,086 | 26,222 |
| Total | 897 | 2,345 | 1,715 | 4,957 | 15,736 | 29,901 | 3,708 | 49,345 | 16,633 | 32,246 | 5,423 | 54,302 | 334,141 |
| 2009 January | 80 | 171 | 99 | 350 | 1,192 | 2,253 | 250 | 3,695 | 1,272 | 2,424 | 349 | 4,045 | 28,077 |
| February | 62 | 125 | 88 | 275 | 991 | 1,925 | 195 | 3,111 | 1,053 | 2,050 | 283 | 3,386 | 25,440 |
| March | 59 | 146 | 88 | 293 | 867 | 1,771 | 210 | 2,848 | 926 | 1,917 | 298 | 3,141 | 25,304 |
| April | 36 | 68 | 93 | 197 | 755 | 1,396 | 205 | 2,356 | 791 | 1,464 | 298 | 2,553 | 21,406 |
| May | 47 | 90 | 80 | 217 | 584 | 1,136 | 156 | 1,876 | 631 | 1,226 | 236 | 2,093 | 20,055 |
| June | 44 | 91 | 75 | 210 | 804 | 1,297 | 189 | 2,290 | 848 | 1,388 | 264 | 2,500 | 16,301 |
| July | 40 | 100 | 101 | 241 | 789 | 1,188 | 217 | 2,194 | 829 | 1,288 | 318 | 2,435 | 13,543 |
| August | 49 | 84 | 88 | 221 | 867 | 1,372 | 207 | 2,446 | 916 | 1,456 | 295 | 2,667 | 15,970 |
| September | 61 | 71 | 96 | 228 | 945 | 1,170 | 207 | 2,322 | 1,006 | 1,241 | 303 | 2,550 | 15,547 |
| October | 55 | 79 | 78 | 212 | 966 | 1,167 | 222 | 2,355 | 1,021 | 1,246 | 300 | 2,567 | 17,261 |
| November | 38 | 83 | 85 | 206 | 931 | 1,133 | 199 | 2,263 | 969 | 1,216 | 284 | 2,469 | 16,236 |
| December | 34 | 98 | 84 | 216 | 894 | 1,074 | 213 | 2,181 | 928 | 1,172 | 297 | 2,397 | 16,424 |
| Total | 605 | 1,206 | 1,055 | 2,866 | 10,585 | 16,882 | 2,470 | 29,937 | 11,190 | 18,088 | 3,525 | 32,803 | 231,562 |
| 2010 January | 55 | 91 | 81 | 227 | 898 | 1,264 | 169 | 2,331 | 953 | 1,355 | 250 | 2,558 | 15,304 |
| February | 44 | 71 | 67 | 182 | 871 | 1,096 | 144 | 2,111 | 915 | 1,167 | 211 | 2,293 | 16,862 |
| March | 59 | 85 | 88 | 232 | 1,062 | 1,224 | 216 | 2,502 | 1,121 | 1,309 | 304 | 2,734 | 15,102 |
| April | 49 | 78 | 77 | 204 | 1,173 | 1,152 | 249 | 2,574 | 1,222 | 1,230 | 326 | 2,778 | 17,904 |
| May | 48 | 107 | 86 | 241 | 1,282 | 1,208 | 255 | 2,745 | 1,330 | 1,315 | 341 | 2,986 | 17,987 |
| June | 61 | 100 | 90 | 251 | 1,385 | 1,250 | 302 | 2,937 | 1,446 | 1,350 | 392 | 3,188 | 19,408 |
| July | 46 | 103 | 105 | 254 | 1,386 | 1,443 | 390 | 3,219 | 1,432 | 1,546 | 495 | 3,473 | 20,847 |
| August | 56 | 104 | 94 | 254 | 1,434 | 1,402 | 314 | 3,150 | 1,490 | 1,506 | 408 | 3,404 | 22,923 |
| September | 57 | 73 | 88 | 218 | 1,374 | 1,358 | 268 | 3,000 | 1,431 | 1,431 | 356 | 3,218 | 23,037 |
| October | 75 | 87 | 117 | 279 | 1,502 | 1,463 | 283 | 3,248 | 1,577 | 1,550 | 400 | 3,527 | 22,123 |
| November | 62 | 114 | 103 | 279 | 1,400 | 1,352 | 263 | 3,015 | 1,462 | 1,466 | 366 | 3,294 | 24,561 |
| December | 57 | 92 | 70 | 219 | 1,317 | 1,379 | 243 | 2,939 | 1,374 | 1,471 | 313 | 3,158 | 23,189 |
| Total | 669 | 1,105 | 1,066 | 2,840 | 15,084 | 15,591 | 3,096 | 33,771 | 15,753 | 16,696 | 4,162 | 36,611 | 239,247 |

Notes: • Data are estimates. • For 1960–1969, data are for well completion reports received by the American Petroleum Institute during the reporting year; for all other years, data are for well completions in a given year. • Through 1989, these well counts include only the original drilling of a hole intended to discover or further develop already discovered crude oil or natural gas resources. Other drilling activities, such as drilling an old well deeper, drilling of laterals from the original well, drilling of service and injection wells, and drilling for resources other than crude oil or natural gas are excluded. Beginning in 1990, a new well is defined as the first hole in the ground whether it is lateral or not. Due to the methodology used to estimate ultimate well counts from the available partially reported data, the counts shown on this page are frequently revised. See Note, "Crude Oil and

Natural Gas Exploratory and Development Wells," at end of section. • Geographic coverage is the 50 states and the District of Columbia.

Web Page: See <http://www.eia.gov/totalenergy/data/monthly/#crude> (Excel and CSV files) for all available annual data beginning in 1949 and monthly data beginning in 1973.

Sources: • **1949–1965:** Gulf Publishing Company, *World Oil*, "Forecast-Review" issue. • **1966–1969:** American Petroleum Institute (API), *Quarterly Review of Drilling Statistics for the United States*, annual summaries and monthly reports. • **1970–1989:** U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) computations based on well reports submitted to the API. • **1990 forward:** EIA computations based on well reports submitted to IHS, Inc., Denver, CO.

Data for 2011 forward in this table have been removed while EIA evaluates the quality of the data and the estimation methodology.