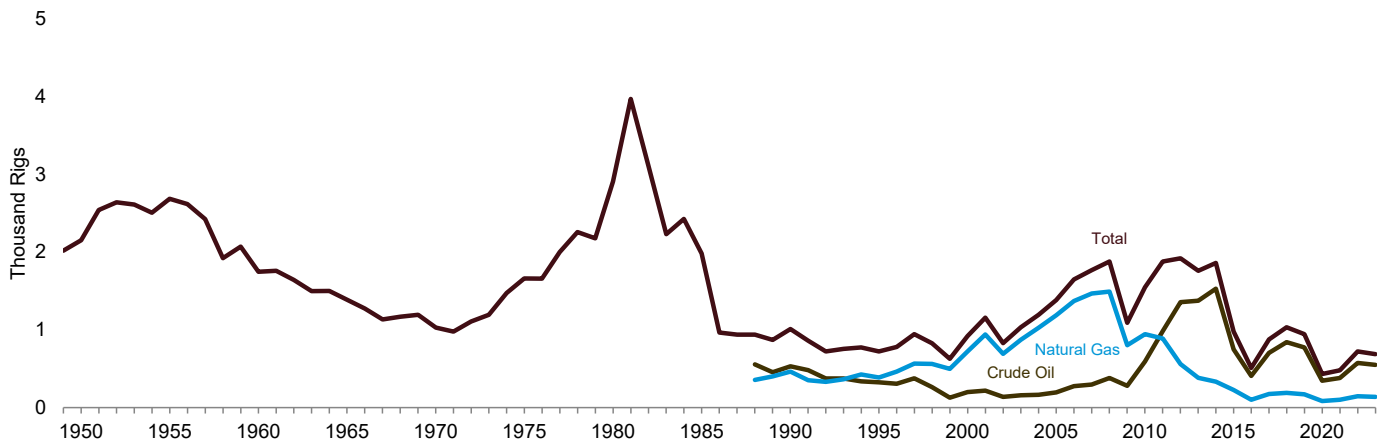


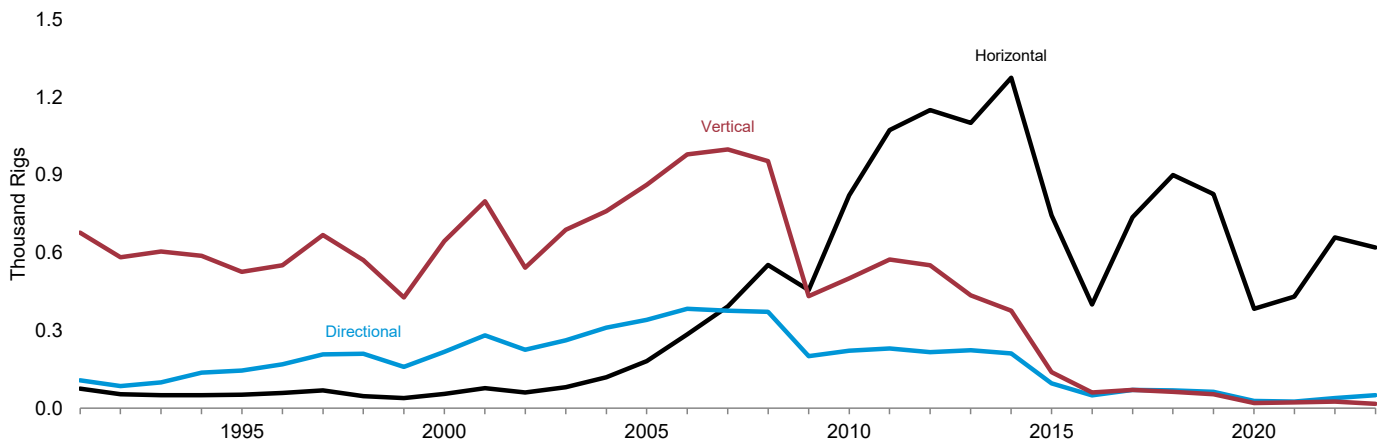
5. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Resource Development

Figure 5.1 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Activity Measurements

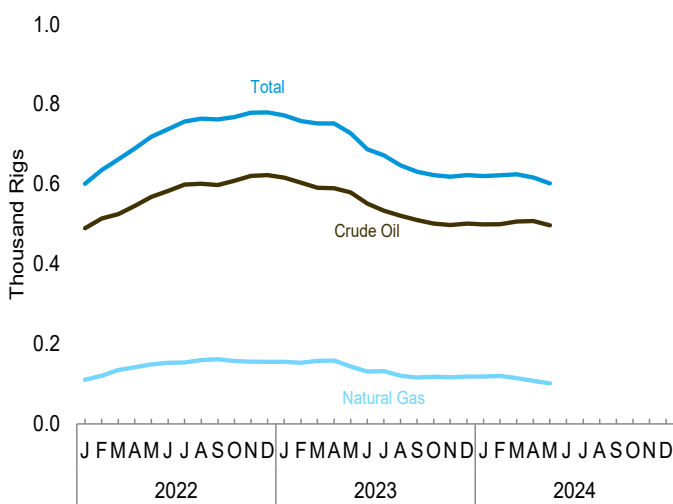
Rotary Rigs in Operation by Type, 1949–2023



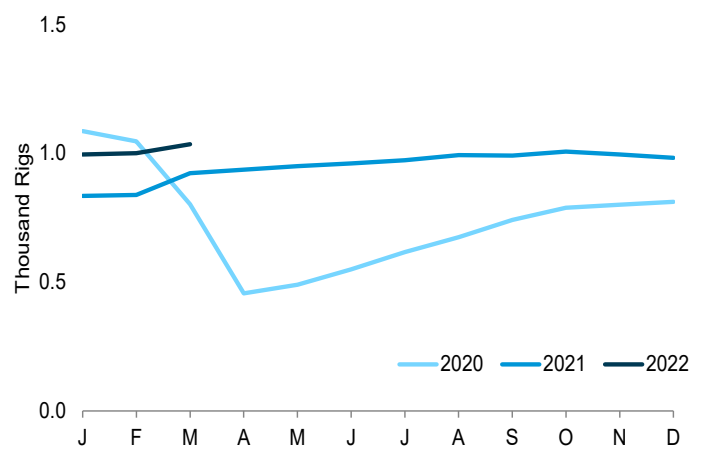
Rotary Rigs in Operation by Trajectory, 1991–2023



Rotary Rigs in Operation by Type, Monthly



Active Well Service Rig Count, Monthly



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

Sources: Table 5.1.

Table 5.1 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Drilling Activity Measurements
(Number of Rigs)

	Rotary Rigs in Operation ^{a,b}							Active Well Service Rig Count ^d	
	By Location ^c		By Type ^c		By Trajectory ^c				
	Onshore	Offshore	Crude Oil	Natural Gas	Horizontal	Directional	Vertical		Total ^c
1950 Average	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,154	NA
1955 Average	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,686	NA
1960 Average	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,748	NA
1965 Average	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,388	NA
1970 Average	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,028	NA
1975 Average	1,554	106	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,660	2,486
1980 Average	2,678	231	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	2,909	4,089
1985 Average	1,774	206	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	1,980	4,716
1990 Average	902	108	532	464	NA	NA	NA	1,010	3,658
1995 Average	622	101	323	385	52	145	526	723	3,041
2000 Average	778	140	197	720	55	217	645	918	2,692
2005 Average	1,290	93	194	1,186	181	341	862	1,383	2,222
2010 Average	1,514	31	591	943	822	222	501	1,546	1,854
2011 Average	1,846	32	984	887	1,074	230	574	1,879	2,075
2012 Average	1,871	48	1,357	558	1,151	216	552	1,919	2,113
2013 Average	1,705	56	1,373	383	1,102	224	435	1,761	2,064
2014 Average	1,804	57	1,527	333	1,275	211	376	1,862	2,024
2015 Average	943	35	750	226	744	95	139	978	1,481
2016 Average	486	23	408	100	400	49	60	509	1,061
2017 Average	856	20	703	172	737	70	70	876	1,187
2018 Average	1,013	19	841	190	900	69	63	1,032	1,292
2019 Average	920	23	774	169	826	63	54	943	1,253
2020 Average	417	15	345	85	384	28	20	433	738
2021 Average	464	14	380	98	431	25	22	478	949
2022 January	583	18	490	111	543	35	23	601	995
February	622	14	514	121	578	32	26	636	1,000
March	649	12	525	135	605	34	24	662	1,035
April	677	13	546	142	632	32	25	690	NA
May	701	17	568	149	657	37	25	719	NA
June	723	16	583	153	673	39	27	738	NA
July	740	16	599	154	687	41	29	757	NA
August	746	18	601	160	695	39	30	764	NA
September	747	16	598	162	694	44	24	762	NA
October	754	14	609	157	704	42	23	768	NA
November	763	16	621	156	711	45	23	779	NA
December	763	16	623	155	708	45	26	780	NA
Average	708	15	574	147	659	39	25	723	NA
2023 January	756	16	616	155	701	47	24	772	NA
February	742	16	604	153	698	42	18	758	NA
March	736	17	591	158	691	47	14	752	NA
April	733	19	590	159	685	48	19	752	NA
May	707	21	580	144	657	52	19	728	NA
June	667	20	551	131	617	51	18	687	NA
July	654	19	534	132	602	52	18	672	NA
August	629	18	521	121	576	52	19	647	NA
September	613	19	510	116	561	55	15	631	NA
October	600	23	501	118	556	52	15	623	NA
November	599	20	498	117	552	54	13	619	NA
December	603	20	501	119	561	49	13	623	NA
Average	669	19	549	135	620	50	17	687	NA
2024 January	601	20	499	119	561	48	12	620	NA
February	603	20	500	120	560	50	13	622	NA
March	603	22	507	115	559	53	13	625	NA
April	598	19	508	108	555	50	13	617	NA
May	582	20	497	101	544	42	17	602	NA
5-Month Average	597	20	502	112	555	48	14	617	NA
2023 5-Month Average	735	18	596	154	687	47	18	752	NA
2022 5-Month Average	648	15	529	132	604	34	25	663	NA

^a Data are for rigs drilling for crude oil, rigs drilling for natural gas, and other rigs (not shown separately) drilling for miscellaneous purposes, such as service wells, injection wells, and stratigraphic tests.

^b Rotary rigs in operation are reported weekly on Fridays. Monthly data are averages of 4- or 5-week reporting periods. Multi-month data are averages of the reported weekly data over the covered months. Annual data are averages of 52- or 53-week reporting periods. Published data are rounded to the nearest whole number.

^c Not shown under "By Type" are other rigs drilling for miscellaneous purposes, such as service wells, injection wells, and stratigraphic tests. Therefore, the sum of "Crude Oil" and "Natural Gas" may not equal "Total" values. In addition, for "By Location," "By Type," and "By Trajectory," the sum of the components in each category may not equal "Total" values due to independent rounding.

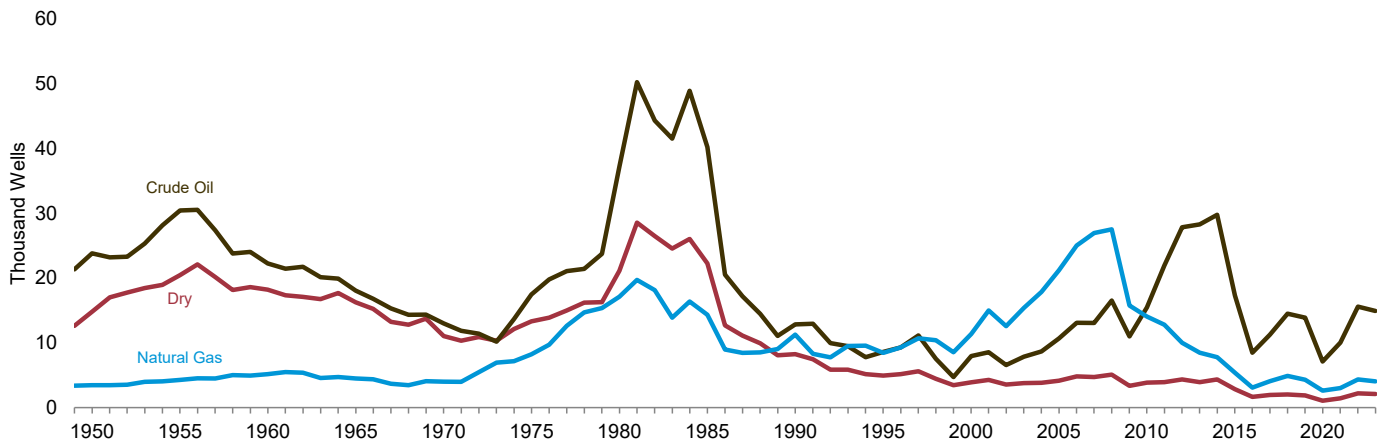
^d The number of rigs doing true workovers (where tubing is pulled from the well), or doing rod string and pump repair operations, and that are, on average, crewed and working every day of the month.

NA=Not available.
Note: 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.

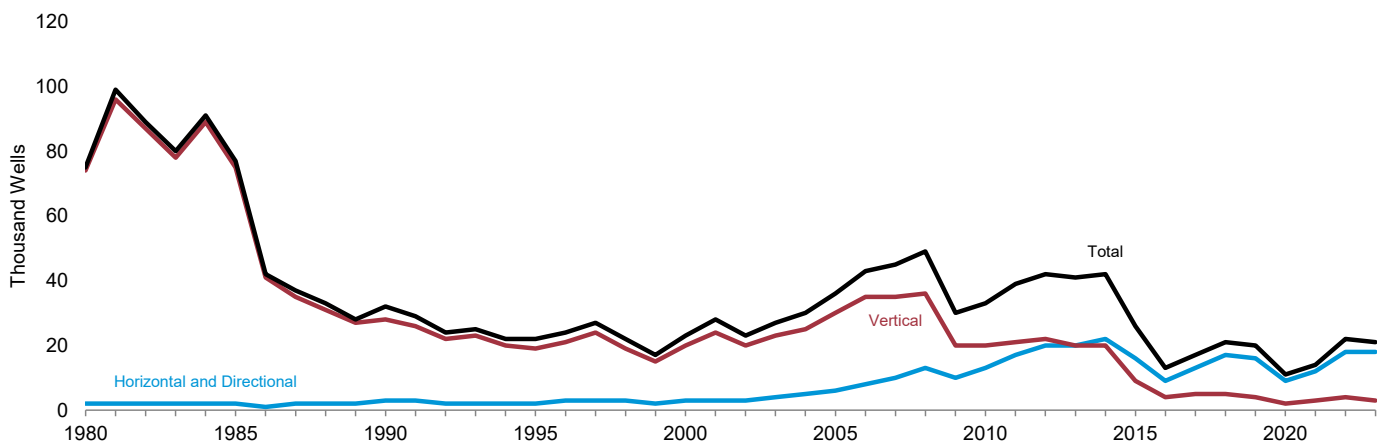
Sources: • **Rotary Rigs in Operation:** Baker Hughes, Inc., Houston, TX, "North America Rig Count," used with permission. See <http://phx.corporate-ir.net/phoenix.zhtml?c=79687&p=irol-reports>. • **Active Well Service Rig Count:** Energy Workforce & Technology Council, Houston, TX.

Figure 5.2 Crude Oil and Natural Gas Wells and Footage Drilled

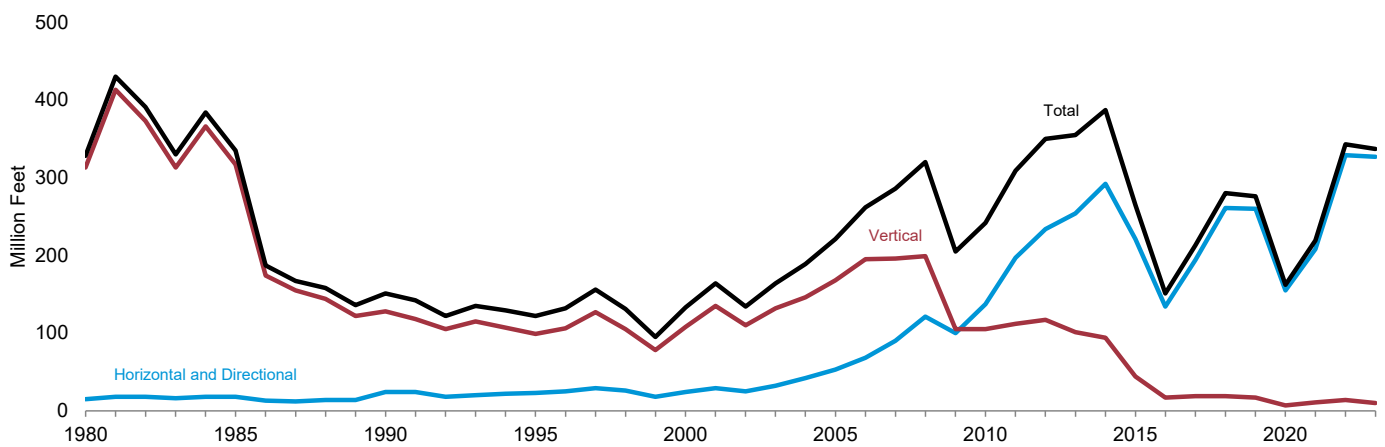
Wells Drilled by Type, 1949–2023



Wells Drilled by Trajectory, 1980–2023



Footage Drilled by Trajectory, 1980–2023



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

Sources: Table 5.2.

Crude Oil and Natural Gas Resource Development

Note. Crude Oil and Natural Gas Wells. The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) considers six well types in the *Monthly Energy Review* (MER): “completed for crude oil,” “completed for natural gas,” “dry hole,” “vertical,” “horizontal and directional,” and “total.” Wells that produce both crude oil and natural gas are categorized by the state. EIA includes both developmental wells and exploratory wells in the six well types, but excludes all other classes of wells drilled in connection with the search for producible hydrocarbons. If a lateral well (such as a service well, stratigraphic test well, observation well, etc.) is drilled at the same time as the original hole, EIA does not separately count the lateral well. However, EIA includes all of the well footage. EIA counts only horizontal wells after the first lateral is drilled and does not count pilot holes.

Prior to the March 1985 MER, drilling statistics consisted of completion data for crude oil, natural gas, and dry wells as reported to the American Petroleum Institute (API) during a given month. Due to time lags between the date of well completion and the date of completion reporting to the API, as-reported well completions were an inaccurate indicator of drilling activity. For example, in 1982, as-reported well completions increased, while the number of actual completions decreased. As a result, for 1973 forward, the data shown in this section are revised estimates based on the partial data available from IHS Markit. EIA continuously revises these estimates as new data become available. Each month, EIA estimates the latest 36 months of wells using the rig count and a 3-month average wells per rig ratio. EIA applies three conditions to the result: 1) if the model result is less than the actual reported value, then EIA uses the reported value, and 2) the published total well count is the maximum of the modeled total, or the sum of modeled oil, gas, and dry, or the sum of modeled horizontal and vertical well counts, and 3) the modeled component well counts are prorated so that they add exactly to the total published well count. EIA uses a similar process to estimate drilled footage using a 6-month average footage-per-well ratio. Because there is no reported dry rig count data, EIA estimates the number of dry wells using a 6-month average dry-wells-to-total-wells ratio, which EIA then applies to the modeled total wells. In general, the most recent 12 months of estimated well counts will have the highest errors because they are the farthest from the average well-per-rig ratio used in the model (at least 25 months).