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# Crude Oil Production

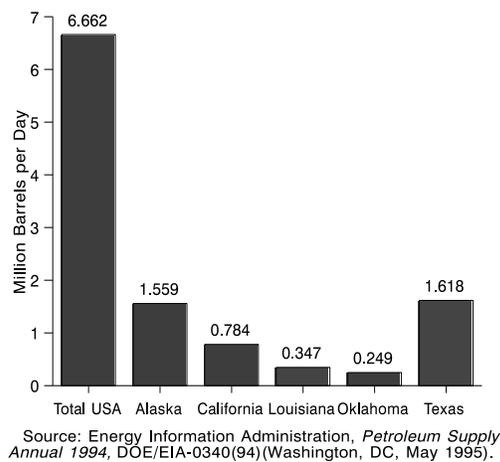
Crude oil is a product of the decayed remains of prehistoric marine animals and plants. Over centuries, organic matter and mud were subjected to extreme heat and pressures. As additional layers accumulated, the heat and pressure caused crude oil-saturated rock to form.

Crude oil, a malodorous yellow-to-black liquid, is usually found in underground reservoirs. Drilling a well to extract crude oil is a complicated process, but it is the only known way to confirm the existence of the oil. After initial exploration activities, site preparation begins. The type of rig system to be used, whether rotary or cable, is determined and erected. Then a derrick is constructed. A derrick is a tall structure above the hole which houses tools and pipes that go into the well. When completed, the drilled well will be turned into a production facility capable of bringing a steady flow of oil to the surface.

*While getting the oil out of the ground may seem complicated, moving it from the point of production to the final consumer is just as complex. Today, there are more than 200,000 miles of pipeline in the United States.*

In 1994, total domestic crude oil field production averaged 6,662,000 barrels per day, a decrease of 185,000 barrels per day from the 1993 average. The top crude oil-producing States are Texas, Alaska, California, Louisiana, and Oklahoma (Figure 1).

**Figure 1. Top Crude Oil-Producing States, 1994**



Because the uses for crude oil in its natural state are limited, almost all crude is processed into finished petroleum products at a refinery. This refining process usually involves (1) *distillation*, or separation of the hydrocarbons that make up crude oil so that the heavier products, such as asphalt, are separated from some of the lighter products, like kerosene; (2) *conversion*, or cracking of the molecules to allow the refiner to squeeze a higher percentage of light products, such as gasoline, from each barrel of oil; and (3) *treatment*, or enhancement of the quality of the product which could entail removing sulfur from such fuels as kerosene, gasoline, and heating oils. The addition of blending components to gasolines is also a part of this process.

Crude oil is measured in barrels. A 42-U.S. gallon barrel of crude oil yields slightly more than 44 gallons of petroleum products. This "process gain" is due to a reduction in the density of the crude oil during the refining process. The result is an increase in volume. In 1994, for example, one barrel of crude oil, when refined, yielded 19.11 gallons of finished motor gasoline among other petroleum products (Table 1).

**Table 1. Petroleum Products Yielded from One Barrel of Crude, 1994**

Product	Gallons
Finished Motor Gas	19.11
Distillate Fuel Oil	9.37
Kero-Type Jet Fuel	4.12
Residual Fuel Oil	2.39
Still Gas	1.93
Petroleum Coke	1.81
Liquefied Refinery Gas	1.76
Asphalt and Road Oil	1.30
Petrochemical Feedstocks	1.22
Lubricants	0.50
Special Naphthas	0.17
Kerosene	0.17
Naphtha-Type Jet Fuel	0.13
Miscellaneous Products	0.13
Finished Aviation Gasoline	0.08
Waxes	0.04
<b>Total</b>	<b>44.23</b>

Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Oil and Gas.

The United States and the former Soviet Union, along with the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC),\* accounted for 64 percent of the total crude oil produced in the world in 1994. The United States accounted for 11 percent of the world's total 1994 crude oil production, as did the former Soviet Union.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Monthly Energy Review*; *Annual Energy Review*; *Petroleum Supply Monthly*; and *Petroleum Supply Annual*.

\* OPEC comprises oil-producing and exporting countries that have organized for the purpose of negotiating with oil companies on matters of oil production, prices, and future concession rights. Algeria, Gabon, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and Venezuela are OPEC member countries. Prior to January 1, 1993, Ecuador was a member of OPEC.

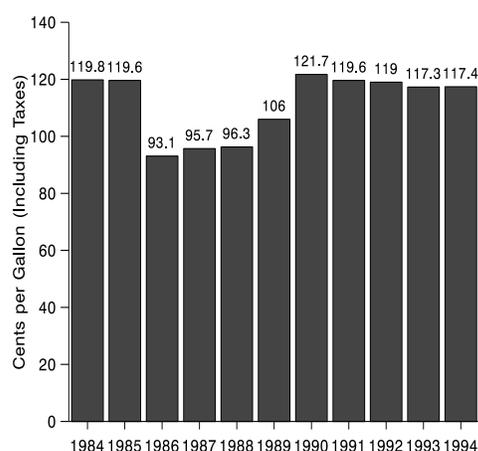
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## Crude Oil and Petroleum Product Prices

Crude oil is processed at a refinery where it is transformed into useable petroleum products. The average cost of crude oil to U.S. refineries (referred to as the "composite refiner acquisition cost") greatly affects the final cost of petroleum products. The composite refiner acquisition cost peaked in 1981 at \$35.24 per barrel. Two dramatic energy-related events of 1990 and 1991 caused a slight fluctuation in crude oil prices: the war in the Persian Gulf, which entailed the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil, and the dissolution of the Soviet Union, the world's leading oil producer. In 1990, as a result of the Persian Gulf crisis, the average cost of crude oil rose to \$22.22 per barrel. Prices have declined steadily since then. The yearly average cost of petroleum in 1994 was \$15.59 per barrel. This was due to the relatively weak world demand for petroleum, overproduction of crude oil by the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)\*, abundant world inventories, and continued improvements in global energy efficiencies.

Motor gasoline constitutes about half of the total volume of products produced from crude oil. Retail motor gasoline prices generally follow the same pattern as crude oil prices; however, prices fluctuate widely based on supply and demand conditions. Data from EIA indicate that taxes and factors other than the cost of crude oil account for more than half of the price paid by the consumer for a gallon of motor gasoline (Figure 2).

**Figure 2. Motor Gasoline Prices at the Pump, All Types, 1984-1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1994*, DOE/EIA-0384(95) (Washington, DC, July 1995).

Environmental concerns have played a key role in changing the formulation of motor gasoline. The phaseout of lead in motor gasoline was brought about by a series of 1970's initiatives aimed at reducing emissions. By 1990, leaded motor gasoline represented only 5 percent of total motor gasoline sales and had been replaced almost entirely by unleaded motor gasoline. Refining processes have been changing in order to produce high octane unleaded motor gasoline, and in response to tighter restrictions on motor gasoline volatility (RVP), which became effective in 1989. Oxygenates, such as methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE), and alcohols, such as ethanol, have become important additives for boosting the octane of motor gasoline. New specifications for oxygenated motor gasoline and reformulated motor gasoline set forth in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) will make these additives increasingly important in the future.

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The CAAA also imposed new requirements on producers, transporters, and suppliers of distillate fuel oil. Those requirements included standards for fuels designated for on-highway use of a maximum sulfur content of 0.05 percent by weight and a minimum cetane level of 40. Further, these fuels must also be colorless to clearly designate them for use on-highway. Other diesel or distillate fuels will be dyed blue. The restrictions were designed to combat emissions of sulfur oxides, and to assure the ignition performance of the diesel fuel meets the American Society for Testing and Materials standards for combustion. The CAAA standard took effect October 1, 1993, and affects about 46 percent of the total domestic demand for distillate fuel, or about 9 percent of total U.S. petroleum demand.

*Distillate fuel oil is a general classification for one of the petroleum fractions produced in conventional distillation operations. It is used primarily for space heating, on- and off-highway diesel engine fuel, and electric power generation.*

No. 2 distillate includes No. 2 fuel oil and No. 2 diesel fuel. Currently these products are physically similar; however, No. 2 diesel fuel intended for use in passenger cars is blended with kerosene to increase its liquidity during cold weather. The cost of this process, in addition to Federal, State, and local motor fuel taxes, partially explains why No. 2 diesel fuel prices are higher than those for No. 2 fuel oil.

The average U.S. sales price of No. 2 fuel oil sold to residential consumers for heating was 119.4 cents per gallon in 1981, then declined to 80.3 cents per gallon in 1987, and rebounded to 106.3 cents per gallon in 1990, then declined to 91.1 cents per gallon in 1993, and declined again in 1994 to 88.4 cents per gallon. The price data for No. 2 diesel fuel are for sales through company-operated retail outlets, include low sulfur diesel fuel only, and do not include taxes. In 1983, the price of No. 2 diesel fuel averaged 94.3 cents per gallon, dropping to 88.6 cents per gallon in 1985 and to 59.8 cents per gallon in 1986. In 1990, the price had risen to 85.2 cents per gallon, dropping to 71.1 cents per gallon in 1993, and to 67.3 cents per gallon in 1994. The sales price of No. 2 diesel through company-operated outlets has been consistently lower than No. 2 fuel oil prices but, when taxes are added, diesel is more expensive to the consumer.

Residual fuel oil is the heavy, viscous oil that remains after the other fractions have been distilled off in the refining process. It is used for generating electricity, for space heating, for industrial purposes and as fuel for ships. The average refiner's price of residual fuel oil to end users peaked at 75.6 cents per gallon in 1981. The average price was 35.2 cents per gallon in 1994.

In the late 1970's, prices of most petroleum products were subjected to Federal Government price control regulations. On January 28, 1981, all remaining product and crude oil prices were decontrolled, establishing a free market for petroleum pricing. Refiner, distributor, and retailer pricing decisions for petroleum products are now based on the operation of a free market economy and may, therefore, differ not only from region to region, but from State to State, and even from one area to another in the same State.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Monthly Energy Review*; *Annual Energy Review*; *Petroleum Marketing Monthly*; *Petroleum Marketing Annual*; and *Weekly Petroleum Status Report*.

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## Petroleum Product Consumption

When crude oil was first discovered in the United States, it was taken from natural pools on the earth's surface and was used mainly for medicinal purposes. These natural pools supplied about 3 gallons of oil a day (per pool). As the population expanded and the need for the oil grew, and as whale oil, an alternative to crude oil, became scarce as a source for lighting, the need to produce more crude oil was addressed.

*Did you know that approximately 3,000 products are made from an oily substance known as petroleum? Ink, crayons, bubble gum, dishwashing liquids, deodorant, eyeglasses, records, tires, ammonia, and heart valves are just a few examples.*

In Titusville, Pennsylvania, using the same technology as they used to drill for water, producers excavated the first successful oil well in 1859. As crude oil became ample, refineries sprang up to process it into useable petroleum products. The main product was kerosene, which began replacing whale oil as the prime source of illumination. Other main petroleum products refined out of a typical 42-gallon barrel (industry standard) were greases and lubricants. Today, there are many refined products, the major ones being motor gasoline, distillate fuel oil, and kerosene jet fuel. These major petroleum products heat homes and businesses and supply power to automobiles, transportation systems, and other industries.

In 1994, total U.S. demand for petroleum was 17.7 million barrels per day, of which 8.1 million barrels per day, or 46.9 percent, was from net imports (imports minus exports). Falling crude oil prices, high refinery runs and declining domestic crude oil production resulted in this highest import dependency level since 1977. Imports nearly doubled between 1970 and 1973, the year of the Arab oil embargo, rising to nearly 6.3 million barrels per day, with crude oil accounting for more than half. Net imports averaged more than 6 million barrels per day. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)\* sources supplied almost 3 million barrels per day (net) of crude oil and products in 1973, or approximately 17 percent of total U.S. demand. The growth in imports was due largely to economic growth, rising personal income, and greater numbers of automobiles which stimulated demand for oil, just as domestic crude oil production, which had peaked at 9.6 million barrels per day in 1970, began to decline. In 1978, the year of peak demand, the average demand was 18.8 million barrels per day, of which 42.5 percent, or 8 million barrels per day, was from net imports.

*Did you know that motor gasoline is the petroleum industry's principal refined product? A record 7.6 million barrels per day were consumed in 1994.*

Distillate fuel oil consists of diesel fuels and fuel oils. Diesel fuels furnish power to diesel engines, such as those used in heavy construction equipment, trucks, buses, tractors, trains, and some automobiles. No. 2 fuel oil is

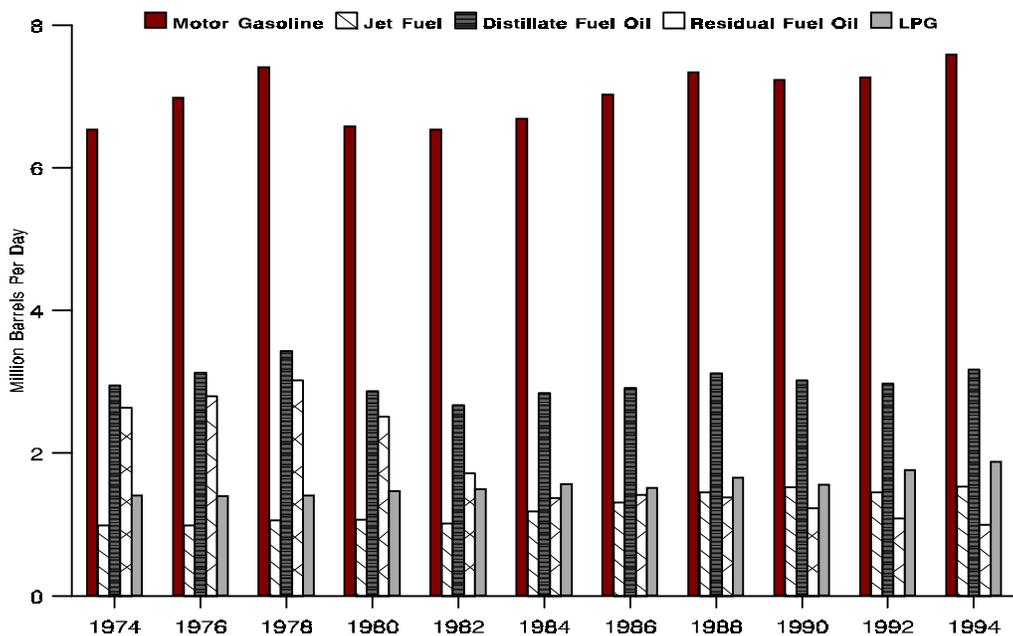
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utilized in the central heating of homes and small buildings. Distillate fuel oil consumption for 1994 was 3.2 million barrels per day, a 5.9-percent decrease from the 1978 high of 3.4 million barrels per day.

Residual fuel oil is heavier than distillate fuel oil: i.e., it has a higher density, viscosity, and boiling point. It is used mainly by electric utilities, large apartment and commercial buildings, and industries that maintain kilns, open-hearth furnaces, and steam boilers. Residual fuel use has declined since 1977 reaching a consumption level in 1994 of 1 million barrels per day, a 68-percent decrease from the 1977 high of 3.1 million barrels per day (Figure 3). Conservation efforts and fuel-switching are the two main reasons cited for the drop in consumption. In 1992, the three countries that consumed the most petroleum products were the United States (17 million barrels per day), Japan (5.4 million barrels per day), and Russia (4.3 million barrels per day).

**Figure 3. Petroleum Products Consumption in the United States, 1974-1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(95/04) (Washington, DC, April 1995).

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Monthly Energy Review*; *Annual Energy Review*; *Petroleum Marketing Monthly*; and *International Energy Annual*.

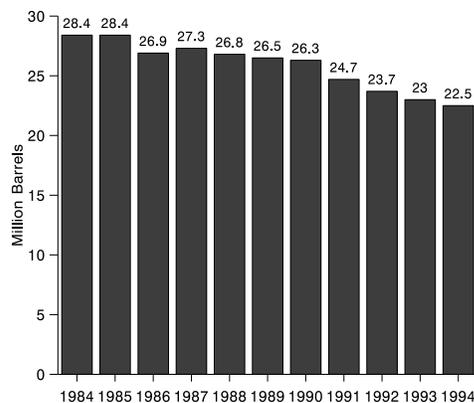
## Petroleum Reserves

Proved reserves of crude oil are the estimated quantities that geological and engineering data demonstrate, with responsible certainty, can be recovered in future years from known reservoirs, assuming existing economic and operating conditions. Proved reserves make up the domestic production base and are the primary source of oil and gas used in the United States. Total proved reserves of crude oil in the United States, as of year-end 1994,

are 22.4 billion barrels, a 2-percent decrease from that of 1993 (Figure 4). Thirty-one States have crude oil reserves. The top five are Texas, with 5.8 billion barrels; Alaska, with 5.8 billion barrels; California, with 3.6 billion barrels; New Mexico, with 718 million barrels; and Oklahoma, with 689 million barrels. In addition, there are substantial crude oil reserves in the Federal Offshore fields: 2.1 billion barrels in the Gulf of Mexico and 653 million barrels in the Pacific.

*Offshore refers to that geographic area that lies seaward of the coastline. In general, the coastline is the line of ordinary low water along with that portion of the coast that is in direct contact with the open sea or the line marking the seaward limit of inland water.*

**Figure 4. U.S. Crude Oil Proved Reserves, 1978-1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves 1994 Annual Report*, DOE/EIA-0216(94) (Washington, DC, October 1995).

Reserve, are not considered proved reserves. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve was created to diminish the impact of disruptions in petroleum supplies and to carry out obligations of the United States under the International Energy Program. In 1975, Public Law 94-163 (the Energy Policy and Conservation Act) established the Strategic Petroleum Reserve of up to 1 billion barrels of petroleum supplies. These petroleum stocks are to be maintained by the Federal Government for use during periods of major supply interruptions. At the end of December 1994, there were 592 million barrels of crude oil in the Reserve.

Estimates of proved crude oil reserves do not include the following: (1) "indicated additional reserves," a category of oil that is reported separately and may become available from known reservoirs through the application of improved recovery techniques using current technology; (2) natural gas liquids (including lease condensate); (3) oil of doubtful recovery because of uncertainty as to geology, reservoir characteristics, or economic factors; (4) oil that may occur in undrilled prospects; and (5) oil that may be recovered from oil shales, coal, Gilsonite (asphalt), and other such sources.

Volumes of crude oil placed in underground storage, such as those in the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, are not considered proved reserves. The Strategic Petroleum Reserve was created to diminish the impact of disruptions in petroleum supplies and to carry out obligations of the United States under the International Energy Program. In 1975, Public Law 94-163 (the Energy Policy and Conservation Act) established the Strategic Petroleum Reserve of up to 1 billion barrels of petroleum supplies. These petroleum stocks are to be maintained by the Federal Government for use during periods of major supply interruptions. At the end of December 1994, there were 592 million barrels of crude oil in the Reserve.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves Annual Report* and *Annual Energy Review*.

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# Propane

Propane, also known as "bottled gas," is a colorless paraffinic hydrocarbon. As a liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), it is classified along with ethane, butane, ethylene, butylene and propylene.

With a chemical formula of C<sub>3</sub>H<sub>8</sub> and a molecular weight of 44.094, propane occurs in both liquid and gaseous forms. At normal temperature and atmospheric pressure, it is a gas, while slight changes in pressure or temperature cause it to become a liquid. Although it is actually nontoxic and odorless, a foul-smelling sulfur-containing compound known as ethyl mercaptan is added to propane so that leaks can be easily detected.

Propane along with other LPG's can be produced at either petroleum refineries or at natural gas processing plants. After production, propane is then shipped from the refineries and processing plants to distribution terminals and underground storage facilities by pipeline and from there can be carried by truck, rail, barge or tanker.

Propane is normally stored and transported in its compressed liquid form, and is often supplied in portable steel cylinders or tanks. By opening a valve to reduce pressure in the storage container, the liquid is vaporized into a gas for use.

Of 94 million households in the United States, 8.2 million depend on propane for one use or another. The following is an outline of propane use in the major sectors of the United States.

**Residential:** Propane use by homeowners has mainly been for space heating, clothes drying and recreational outdoor cooking. Additionally, it is the principal heating fuel for mobile homes, as well as in rural areas of the United States where natural gas service is not available.

**Commercial:** Restaurants and caterers use propane for cooking and warming food, while warehouse owners have long chosen it to fuel forklifts.

**Agricultural:** Farmers have found propane useful to dry crops, warm greenhouses and chicken coops, burn weeds, and sterilize milking equipment.

**Transportation:** Owners of fleets of vehicles have found clean burning propane to be an alternative fuel for use in internal combustion engines. Propane is high in octane and releases negligible amounts of emissions. When burned, propane leaves no ash and produces practically no sulfur oxides since its combustion products (carbon dioxide and water vapor) are easily absorbed into the atmosphere. For this reason, it is often used in vehicles which are run indoors or in mines.

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**Industrial:** Vulcanizing of rubber and metal cutting are some of the industrial uses.

**Utilities:** Propane is frequently used as a back-up fuel during peak generating periods or peak shaving periods by electric utilities. Natural gas utilities use a propane-air mixture as a supplemental fuel during periods of peak demand.

**Chemical:** Propane has a significant part in the manufacture of petrochemical feedstock, aerosol propellants, solvents, and synthetic rubber.

Almost 90 percent of the U.S. supply of propane is derived from domestic production. Of the total, nearly half is produced at natural gas processing plants, and about 41 percent is produced at petroleum refineries. The remaining 10 percent comes from foreign sources. Import levels for 1994 totaled 45.4 million barrels while U.S. exports of propane were 8.8 million barrels. (A barrel contains 42 gallons.)

By December 1994, nationwide primary stocks--stocks held at refineries, bulk terminals, gas processing plants, and pipelines--were at 46 million barrels, a level that was slightly above the average adequate supply range for that time of year. During the warmer months, however, inventories can be as high as 60 million barrels--as seen in September 1994--while the demands of the winter heating season bring a drawdown of propane stocks.

When propane stocks are low, propane prices tend to rise. Such a typical supply/demand relationship was evidenced by 1994's refiner propane prices to end users which, excluding taxes, began the year at almost 64 cents per gallon, hovered in the mid 40's in the summer, and then rose to about 52 cents a gallon by December.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Winter Fuels Report*, *Petroleum Supply Monthly*, *Petroleum Supply Annual*, *Petroleum Marketing Monthly*, *Petroleum Marketing Annual*, *The Value of Underground Storage in Today's Natural Gas Industry*, and *U.S. Petroleum Industry, Past as Prologue: 1970-1992*.

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## Reformulated Motor Gasoline

On January 1, 1995, motorists in designated areas throughout the United States began using a new cleaner motor gasoline designed to significantly reduce the pollutants emitted by motor vehicles. This gasoline, produced through an improved refining and blending formula, is known as reformulated gasoline or RFG. The sale of RFG is mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAAA) and will be implemented through regulations promulgated by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

RFG contains certain oxygen additives called oxygenates. Frequently used oxygenates include methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) and ethanol. While oxygenates have been used in some fuels as octane enhancers since the 1970's, a widespread oxygenated fuel program began in 1992 in 39 urban areas. This program was also required by the CAAA in cities with high carbon monoxide pollution. Oxygenates increase the combustion efficiency of gasoline thereby reducing vehicle emissions of carbon monoxide.

The use of RFG is required in several severe ozone "nonattainment areas." Additionally, 85 less severe ozone nonattainment areas in the United States (excluding California) are eligible to voluntarily participate in the RFG program. As of December 1994, 39 Northeast localities that previously volunteered petitioned the EPA to withdraw. After reviewing each request, the EPA granted a temporary stay of the RFG

*Initial rumors and denials of massive withdrawals of counties and States from the reformulated gasoline program prompted widespread swings in the unleaded gasoline contracts on the New York Mercantile Exchange the week of December 12, 1994.*

requirements in the following areas that are currently designated as ozone nonattainment areas: Maine--Counties of Hancock and Waldo; New York--Counties of Albany, Erie, Greene, Jefferson, Montgomery, Niagara, Rensselaer, Saratoga, and Schenectady; and Pennsylvania--Counties of Adams, Allegheny, Armstrong, Beaver, Berks, Blair, Butler, Cambria, Carbon, Columbia, Cumberland, Dauphin, Erie, Fayette, Lackawanna, Lancaster, Lebanon, Lehigh, Luzerne, Mercer, Monroe, Northhampton, Somerset, Perry, Washington, Westmoreland, Wyoming, and York. These areas reported acceptable ozone levels for the last 3 years of measurement, and the EPA was in the process of redesignating them as attainment areas. The stay will be in effect through July 1, 1995, which provides the EPA adequate review time before taking final action on these opt-out requests.

The regulations implementing the RFG program were issued as part of a two-phase program. Phase I will be implemented in two stages using the Simple Model and the Complex Model. The Simple Model of Phase I may be used from January 1, 1995, through December 31, 1997, and requires that gasoline meets the certain fuel content specifications and/or performance standards as set forth by the

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EPA. The Complex Model of Phase I may be used as early as the beginning of 1995, but becomes mandatory January 1, 1998. The Complex Model expands the performance standards that a refiner must meet in order to certify its fuel as RFG based on oxygenate type, sulfur content, olefin content and fuel distillation. Though refiners are allowed to choose either the Simple or the Complex Model for the 1995-1997 period, they must remain consistent with the model they choose. Switching back and forth between models will not be permitted.

The introduction of RFG as a new product represents challenges to refiners in the form of additional processing steps plus blending components, and to distributors in the form of increased product segregation. It is believed that the production of RFG will require significant changes to be made to present refinery operations. Industry estimates for these capital investments have run as high as \$4 billion.

The most visible impact on consumers in the affected areas will be a modest increase in the per gallon price of reformulated gasoline over conventional grades. There will be no discernable difference in engine performance. RFG will have no adverse effect on car performance or engine durability. Any effect on gas mileage will be modest. Studies by the EPA have shown that the vapors given off by cleaner gasoline at the pump are no more noxious than the previous gasoline formula. Motorists traveling outside of a geographic area using RFG may fill their tanks up with the older gasoline with no effect on engine or driving. Since the new RFG has a higher oxygen level than conventional gasoline, RFG will burn with less evaporation. It will reduce ozone (smog)-forming compounds and toxic chemicals such as benzene in fuel by 15 percent to 17 percent. In fact, in the first year, the new cleaner fuel will reduce smog producing emissions by 305,000 tons, which is the equivalent of removing 8.1 million cars from U.S. roads. Nearly 1.3 million tons of smog-producing emissions will be removed from the air in the first 5 years. By the year 2000, RFG will reduce toxic emissions by 20 percent to 22 percent and nitrogen oxides by 5 percent to 7 percent.

In January 1995, production of RFG averaged about 1.7 million barrels per day. Stocks at the end of January were 39.5 million barrels while imports averaged 90 thousand barrels per day. Because of the recent withdrawals of counties in Maine, New York, and Pennsylvania, EIA estimates an approximate 200 thousand-barrel-per-day reduction resulting in an anticipated January 1995 RFG demand of 1.9 million barrels per day.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *The Energy Information Administration's Assessment of Reformulated Gasoline*; *Short-Term Energy Outlook*; *Petroleum Marketing Monthly*; and *Weekly Petroleum Status Report*.

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## Coal Production

Coal, a fossil fuel like petroleum and natural gas, is a sedimentary organic rock that contains more than 50 percent carbonaceous material by weight. It is composed largely of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, and sulfur, with smaller amounts of other materials ranging from aluminum to zirconium.

Coal had its beginning as plants that grew in swamps millions of years ago. Geological processes working over vast spans of time compressed and altered the plant remains, increasing the percentage of carbon present, thereby producing the different ranks of coal: lignite, subbituminous, bituminous, and anthracite.

In the United States, lignite is mined chiefly in Texas, North Dakota, and Louisiana; and subbituminous coal is mined principally in Wyoming. Bituminous coal is mined mostly in the Appalachian and Interior Regions, while anthracite, the highest ranking coal, is mined only in northeastern Pennsylvania. About 62 percent of the coal produced in the Nation is bituminous coal.

*In 1993, Wyoming was the Nation's leading coal-producing State with production of 237,092 thousand short tons, which was about 23 percent of the national total. West Virginia ranked second, with 161,776 thousand short tons, and Kentucky was third, with 161,642 thousand short tons. Together, these three States accounted for 54 percent of total U.S. coal production.*

U.S. coal production reached a record 1,034 million short tons. This surpasses the previous coal production record set in 1990 by 4 million short tons. Coal production for States east of the Mississippi River rose to 566 million short tons. The States with the greatest increase in production were West Virginia, Kentucky, and Pennsylvania. Production in these States surged when the United Mine Workers of America strike ended in December 1993. Only three States showed production declines: Alabama, Tennessee, and Virginia. The eastern States had a combined net loss of 109 mines and 3,664 miners. Miner productivity in

this region rose 5 percent in 1994 to 3.28 short tons per miner per hour, a healthy increase compared with 1993's 1-percent gain.

*Total U.S. productivity in 1994 reached 5.0 short tons per miner per hour. The average number of miners working daily fell to 97,500. The average mine price of coal fell for the 12th consecutive year to \$19.41 per short ton.*

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Coal production west of the Mississippi River reached a record 467 million short tons, despite 12 fewer mines in the region and 158 fewer miners. Wyoming's and Montana's coal output accounted for most of the gain. Miner productivity in the region increased by 9 percent to 13.22 short tons per miner per hour.

In 1994, there were 203 mines in the United States that produced 1 million or more short tons. They produced 70 percent of the total national production, although they represented only 9 percent of active mines. The Nation's largest coal mine, located in Campbell County, Wyoming, continued to be the Black Thunder Mine, with over 31 million short tons produced. Of the 203 large mines, 131 mines east of the Mississippi River produced about 272 million short tons, and 72 mines west of the Mississippi River produced 455 million short tons.

Federal and Indian lands have become increasingly important sources of coal. The 321 million short tons produced from these lands in 1994 accounted for about 31 percent of the total U.S. coal output. Federal coal lands produced 293 million short tons in 10 States, and Indian coal lands yielded 29 million short tons in three States.

*An Indian coal lease is granted to a mining company to produce coal from Indian lands in exchange for royalties and other revenues. A Federal coal lease is granted to a mining company from land owned and administered by the Federal Government in exchange for royalties and other revenues.*

Preliminary numbers show that world coal production increased from 4.3 billion short tons in 1982 to 4.9 billion short tons in 1993. The major producers were China, the United States, and Russia. These three leading producers accounted for about 53 percent of the total produced in 1993.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Annual Energy Review*; *Weekly Coal Production*; *Coal Industry Annual*; *Coal Data: A Reference*; *Monthly Energy Review*; and *International Energy Annual*.

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## Coal Prices

In the early 1900's, coal was the Nation's major fuel source, supplying almost 90 percent of its energy needs. Later, coal's importance declined, mainly because petroleum and natural gas were cost effective and efficient. However, at the present time, coal is the primary source used for electricity generation because it is now far cheaper than other fossil fuels and is also more abundant in the United States. In 1994, coal receipts at the electric utilities totaled a record 832 million short tons. Over 80 percent of the coal produced in the United States in 1994 was delivered to domestic power plants. Of the total coal consumed in the United States, 88 percent was used for generating electricity—accounting for over 56 percent of the total electricity produced.

During the early 1970's, natural gas was the least expensive fuel used to generate electricity. In 1973 (the first year in which such data were recorded), electric utilities paid, on the average, about 34 cents per million Btu of natural gas, 41 cents per million Btu of coal, and 79 cents per million Btu of petroleum. Since 1976, however, coal has been the least expensive fossil fuel used to generate electricity. In 1994, on a dollars-per-million-Btu basis, petroleum was the most expensive fossil fuel (\$2.48), natural gas was second (\$2.23), and coal was least expensive (\$1.36). Although these figures show that the cost of generating electricity from coal has increased significantly, it is still lower than the cost of generating electricity from either natural gas or petroleum.

One factor affecting the quantity, quality, and cost of coal delivered to the electric utilities in 1994 was the severe winter weather east of the Mississippi which disrupted the rail, barge, and truck network used to transport coal. Another factor was the electric utilities entered 1994 with the lowest beginning-of-year-stock levels since 1975. The average spot-market price for coal delivered to the electric utilities was \$26.26 per short ton.

The average coal export price for 1994 was \$39.93 per short ton. Coal exports in 1994 totaled 71 million short tons, a 4-percent decrease from 1993. The primary reasons for the decline were reduced demand for metallurgical coal by Canada, Japan, and the Netherlands, and the reduced demand for steam coal by European countries. The total coal imports for 1994 rose to a record annual level

**Table 2. Average Mine Price of U.S. Coal, 1984-1994**

Year	Dollars per Short Ton
1984	25.61
1985	25.20
1986	23.79
1987	23.07
1988	22.07
1989	21.82
1990	21.76
1991	21.49
1992	21.03
1993	19.85
1994	19.41

Source: Energy Information Administration, Office of Coal, Nuclear, Electric and Alternate Fuels.

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of 7.6 million short tons, 3.8 percent more than 1993. The average coal import price for 1994 was \$30.21 per short ton, up 1.1 percent compared with \$29.89 per short ton for 1993.

Another important use of coal is to produce coke, which is used in smelting iron ore to make steel. The average price paid for the special type of coal used to make coke generally declined in the early 1980's. From 1991 to 1994, it decreased from \$48.88 per short ton to \$46.56 per short ton.

The average mine price per short ton of coal in 1994 was \$19.41. This was a drop of 2 percent from 1993 and the 12th straight year of decline. Because coal is so abundant, and as long as it remains relatively low priced, power plants will continue to use it rather than the two other major fossil fuels—petroleum and natural gas—to generate electricity.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Plants*; *Electric Power Monthly*; *Coal Industry Annual*; *Quarterly Coal Report*; and *Coal Data: A Reference*.

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## Coal Demand

During 1994, a record 930 million short tons of coal was consumed in the United States. The greatest demand for coal was by electricity generating plants that burn coal to produce electricity. In 1994, 817 million short tons were used by electric utilities, accounting for 88 percent of coal consumed in the United States. About 56 percent of the electricity generated was by coal-fired plants. Each ton of coal consumed at an electric power plant produces about 2,000 kilowatthours of electricity. A pound of coal supplies enough electricity to light ten 100-watt bulbs for about an hour.

The second largest sector of coal demand was for industrial use, which amounted to 75 million short tons in 1994. Some industries that used coal included cement, chemicals, paper, and primary metals. Cement plants use about a ton of coal for each 3.5 tons of cement produced. Small amounts of coal are also used to manufacture a number of everyday products such as photographic film base, carbon and graphite electrodes, varnishes, perfumes, dyes, plastics, paints, and inks.

Coal exports in 1994, about 8 percent of demand, totaled 75 million short tons, a 4-percent decrease from 1993 and the lowest level since 1979. The leading destinations for U.S. coal exports were Japan, Canada, Italy, and Brazil, together accounting for 45 percent of the total. West Virginia was the leading source of U.S. coal distributed abroad during 1994, with foreign shipments totaling 36 million short tons, representing 50 percent of total foreign distributions.

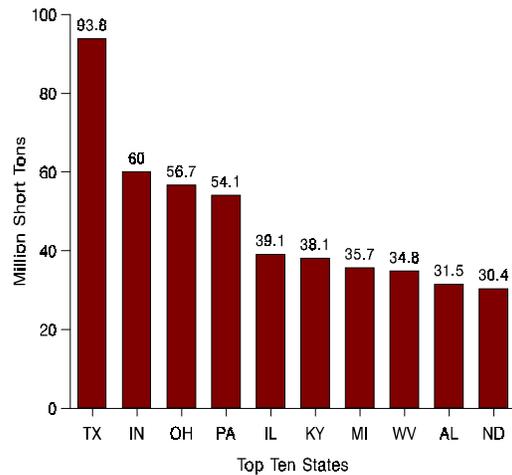
In 1994, 32 million short tons were consumed by coke plants. Coal is converted into coke through a process known as "carbonization." Coke is then used in smelting iron ore to produce steel. Both the number of coke plants and the amount of coal carbonized have declined since 1973. There are presently about half as many coke plants as there were a decade ago. The residential and commercial sectors consumed a small percentage of coal for building heating, using 6 million short tons in 1994.

Over 584 million short tons of coal transported within the United States in 1994 were moved by rail. River barge shipping in the inland waterways system was the next most prevalent mode, carrying about 130 million short tons. Slightly more coal was shipped by truck than was carried by tramway, conveyors and coal slurry pipeline. The Nation's only coal slurry pipeline, the 273-mile-long Black Mesa line, carries about 4.5 million tons of coal annually. The slurry is composed of half water and half finely ground coal and delivers coal from a mine in Arizona to a power plant in southern Nevada.

Texas led all States in coal consumption in 1994, using 93.8 million short tons. Indiana and Ohio were second and third, respectively (Figure 5). These three States accounted for almost 23 percent of the total U.S. coal consumption for the year. North Dakota, which ranked tenth in coal use, is the site of one coal gasification plant that uses 18,000 tons of lignite per day to produce about 160 million cubic feet per day of synthetic natural gas.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Coal Industry Annual*; *Quarterly Coal Report*; *Coal Data: A Reference*; and *Monthly Energy Review*.

**Figure 5. Coal Consumption, 1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Coal Industry Annual 1994*, DOE/EIA-0584(94) (Washington, DC, October 1995).

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## Coal Reserves

In the United States, there are vast deposits of coal--more extensive than those of natural gas and petroleum, the other major fossil fuels. Total U.S. coal resources in the ground are estimated to be 4 trillion tons, of which 1.7 trillion tons are identified resources. Identified resources include the demonstrated reserve base (DRB), which comprises coal resources that have been mapped within specified levels

of reliability and accuracy and which occur in coal beds meeting minimum criteria for thickness and depth from the surface that generally support economic mining under current technologies.

*As of January 1, 1993, the DRB contained an estimated 474 billion short tons. Because of property rights, land use conflicts, and physical and environmental restrictions, some coal in the DRB may not be available and accessible for mining.*

The actual proportion of minable coal resources that can be recovered economically from undisturbed deposits varies from less than 40 percent in some underground mines to more than 90 percent at some surface mines. In some underground mines, much of the coal may be left untouched as pillars needed to prevent surface collapse. Adverse geologic features, such as folding, faulting, and interlayered rock strata, limit the amount of coal that can be recovered at some underground and surface mines. EIA's most recent estimate is that nearly 56 percent of the DRB may be recoverable. Currently, it is estimated that U.S. recoverable coal reserves total 264 billion short tons.

Coal "rank" refers to the degree of alteration, or "coalification", the organic source material in coal has attained. There are four major ranks of coal in the U.S. classification scheme, from highest to lowest: anthracite, bituminous, subbituminous, and lignite. In the United States, coal rank is classified according to its heating value, its fixed carbon and volatile matter content, and, to some extent, its agglomerating characteristics (or caking properties during combustion). Of the four ranks, bituminous coal accounts for over half (51 percent) of the DRB. Bituminous coal is concentrated primarily east of the Mississippi River, with the greatest amounts in Illinois, Kentucky, and West Virginia. All subbituminous coal (38 percent of the DRB) is west of the Mississippi River, with most of it in Montana and Wyoming. Lignite, the lowest-rank coal, accounts for about 9 percent of the DRB and is found mostly in Montana, Texas, and North Dakota. Anthracite, the highest-rank coal, makes up less than 2 percent of the DRB and is concentrated almost entirely in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Current world recoverable reserves are estimated to be 1.1 trillion short tons. It is estimated that the United States possesses nearly one-fourth of the world's recoverable coal reserves, about the same as the former Soviet Union. China (16 percent), Australia (9 percent), Germany (7 percent), South Africa (5 percent), and Poland (4 percent) also have significant amounts of recoverable coal reserves.

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EIA obtains new information and data updates largely through its Coal Reserves Data Base program initiated in 1990. That program has encouraged the participation of State agencies in revising coal resource and reserves estimates in their respective State. Since 1990, new DRB and recoverable reserve estimates have been developed by State geological and mining agencies and the EIA through cooperative agreements in Ohio, Wyoming, New Mexico, eastern Kentucky, and Illinois. These projects include improved analyses of coal quality, accessibility, and recoverability in the study areas. In addition to updating the core resource data, they result in improved estimates of the heat and sulfur content and typical net recovery of the reserves.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *U.S. Coal Reserves: An Update by Heat and Sulfur Content*; *Coal Data: A Reference*; *International Energy Annual*; *Coal Industry Annual*; and *Annual Energy Review*.

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## Natural Gas Production

Natural gas, a combustible gaseous mixture of hydrocarbons, mostly methane, is produced from wells drilled into underground reservoirs of porous rock. When the gas is first withdrawn from the well, it may contain liquid hydrocarbons and nonhydrocarbon gases. The natural gas is separated from these components near the site of the well or at a natural gas processing plant. The gas is then considered "dry" and is sent through pipelines to a local distribution company, and, ultimately, to the consumer.

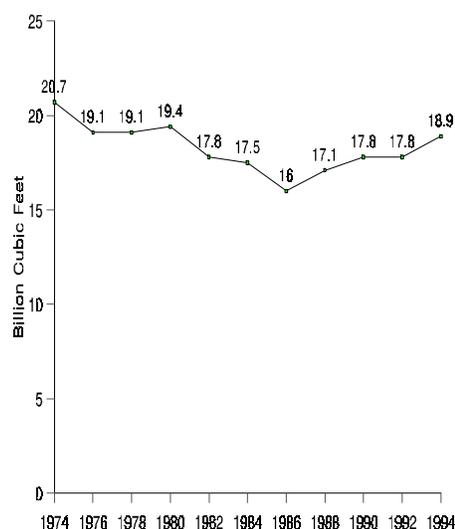
In 1994, dry natural gas production accounted for 29 percent of total U.S. energy production and was produced from over 280,000 wells located in 33 of the 50 States and in Federal waters in the Gulf of Mexico and off the coast of California. Out of total U.S. production of 18.8 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), Texas led all States with 6 Tcf, followed by Louisiana with 5 Tcf and Oklahoma with 1.8 Tcf.

After reaching a peak of 21.7 Tcf in 1973, U.S. production declined as low as 16.1 Tcf in 1986. Since then, production has increased each year except 1991. By the year 2015, production is expected to range between 22.5 Tcf and 26.8 Tcf (Figure 6).

In addition to natural gas production, the U.S. gas supply is augmented by imports from Canada and Algeria and by supplemental gaseous fuels. Supplemental gas supplies, which in 1994 totaled 111 billion cubic feet (Bcf), include refinery gas, propane-air mixtures, and synthetic natural gas, which is manufactured from petroleum hydrocarbons or from coal. The single largest source of synthetic gas is the Great Plains Synfuels Plant in Beulah, North Dakota, which in 1994 produced 57 Bcf of gas from coal.

Imports of natural gas in 1994 totaled 2.6 Tcf, or over 12 percent of total U.S. consumption. The vast majority of these imports, almost 2.5 Tcf, arrive from Canada via pipeline. Gas imported from Algeria, 51 Bcf in 1994, is first cooled to -260 degrees Fahrenheit at which point the gas becomes a liquid. (As a liquid, over 600 cubic feet of natural gas can occupy the same amount of space that one cubic foot of natural gas would at standard conditions.) The liquefied natural gas (LNG) is then transported to the United States on specially designed ships.

**Figure 6. U.S. Dry Natural Gas Production, 1974-1994 (Billion Cubic Feet)**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(95/04)(Washington, DC, April 1995).

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Worldwide production of natural gas is dominated by the United States and Russia, whose combined production accounted for 53 percent of the 76 Tcf produced in 1993.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Monthly Energy Review*; *Natural Gas Annual*; *International Energy Annual*; and *Annual Energy Outlook*.

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## Natural Gas Prices

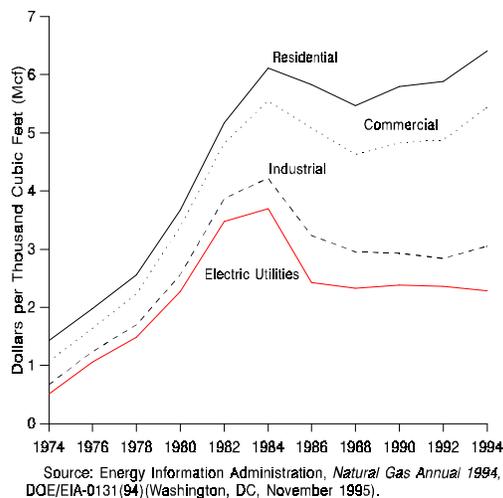
The Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978 (NGPA) mandated the phased decontrol of the wellhead price of "new gas" supplies (generally natural gas from wells drilled after 1976) and continued price control of "old gas" (generally natural gas dedicated to interstate commerce prior to enactment of the NGPA) and certain categories of incentive-priced natural gas. On January 1, 1985, new natural gas prices were decontrolled pursuant to the NGPA. Certain additional volumes of new onshore production were decontrolled on July 1, 1987.

On July 26, 1989, the President signed legislation to remove all remaining natural gas wellhead price controls by 1993. This action was significant, particularly for an industry that historically has been subject to extensive regulation. It continues the trend toward increased operation of free market forces in the natural gas industry. To allow ample time for contracts to be renegotiated, Congress adopted a phase-in schedule for decontrol. In general, price controls will be eliminated when current contracts between producers and buyers expire. All natural gas covered by expired, terminated, or new contracts signed after enactment of the bill was immediately decontrolled. Natural gas produced from any wells drilled after enactment of the bill was decontrolled on May 15, 1991. On January 1, 1993, all price controls on the first sale of natural gas were removed.

In April 1992, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued Order 636 which restructured the interstate pipeline industry. Interstate pipeline companies were required to separate (or "unbundle") all of their services. Gas purchases are essentially free from regulation, while transportation and storage remain subject to FERC jurisdiction. Costs associated with the restructuring of the natural gas industry will continue to affect consumer prices through 1998. These costs include take-or-pay settlement costs and the general transition costs of Order 636. Natural gas markets are becoming less and less regulated, however, the end-use markets are still generally under the control of the various State utility commissions.

Natural gas is extracted from the ground by a producing company. From the well, it may go to a gas processing plant for removal of liquid hydrocarbons, sulfur, carbon dioxide or other components which naturally occur with the methane. Next a pipeline carries the gas to a local distribution company. The local distribution company, in turn, delivers the natural gas to the end user. A large end user may purchase the natural gas directly from a producer, a natural gas broker or marketer, or a pipeline company. In any event, in most cases, the gas is physically delivered through the pipeline system to the local distribution company and then to the customer. Data is collected from companies who physically move natural gas. If these companies do not sell natural gas, they do not have a price. The prices shown in the commercial sector represent only 80 percent of total natural gas delivered and only 25 percent of natural gas delivered to the industrial sector. Prices for the residential sector represent almost 100 percent of natural gas delivered in 1994 (Figure 7).

**Figure 7. Average Price of Natural Gas Delivered to U.S. Customers, 1974-1994**



The average price of natural gas is different for the four end-use sectors: residential, commercial, industrial, and electric utilities. Some of the major factors that influence the end-use sector prices are the amount of natural gas sold, the distribution costs, and the price of competing fuels. During 1973, the critical year of the Arab oil embargo, the residential sector paid an average price of \$1.29 per thousand cubic feet; the commercial sector, 94 cents per thousand cubic feet; the industrial sector, 50 cents per thousand cubic feet; and the electric utilities, 38 cents per thousand cubic feet.

During 1994, the residential sector remained the highest paying sector, its price averaging \$6.41 per thousand cubic feet. The average commercial sector price was \$5.44 per thousand cubic feet,

the industrial sector price was \$3.05 per thousand cubic feet, and the electric utilities sector price was \$2.28 per thousand cubic feet.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Natural Gas Annual*; *Natural Gas Monthly*; and *Natural Gas Issues and Trends*.

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## Natural Gas Consumption

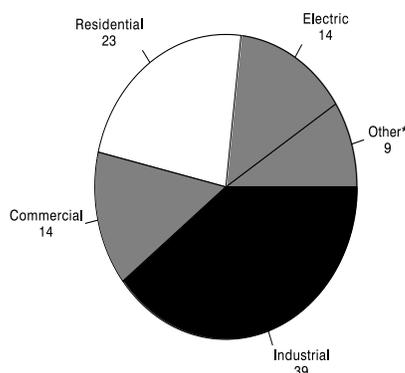
For centuries, natural gas has been used in various parts of the world. The Chinese, 2,000 years ago, piped natural gas through bamboo poles from shallow wells. They then burned the gas to heat large pans to evaporate sea water for salt. It is believed that the first commercial use of natural gas in the western world was for street lighting in Genoa, Italy, in 1802.

*Natural gas is best known as the fuel that produces the blue flame that heats our food, our water, and our homes and buildings. It is also used to generate electricity, provide heat for industrial processes, and is used as a raw material to produce petrochemicals.*

In 1994, U.S. natural gas consumption was over 20 trillion cubic feet (Tcf), which was about 25 percent of all U.S. energy consumption. Industrial sector consumption was 8.2 Tcf, or 39 percent of total gas consumption. Residential sector consumption was 4.9 Tcf, 23 percent of the total, and commercial sector consumption was 2.9 Tcf, 14 percent. Electric utilities, which burned 3 Tcf of gas

to generate electricity, accounted for 14 percent of total gas consumption. In addition, 1.9 Tcf, or 9 percent of the total, was used in producing, processing, and transporting natural gas (Figure 8). By the year 2015, U.S. natural gas consumption is projected to range between 26 Tcf and 31 Tcf, with most of the increase being used for electricity generation.

**Figure 8. U.S. Natural Gas Consumption 1994—Percent**



\* Producing, processing, and transporting.  
Source: Energy Information Administration, *Natural Gas Monthly*, DOE/EIA-0130(95/10)(Washington, DC, October 1995).

In 1993, world natural gas consumption was 75.5 Tcf. Russia, which consumed 15.9 Tcf, and the United States, which consumed 20.3 Tcf, accounted for 48 percent of the total. By the year 2010, total world consumption is expected to range between 99 Tcf and 116 Tcf.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Monthly Energy Review*; *Natural Gas Monthly*; *Natural Gas Annual*; *International Energy Annual*; *Annual Energy Outlook*; and *International Energy Outlook*.



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## Natural Gas Reserves

The most common theory about how natural gas was created holds that it was formed by the underground decomposition of organic matter (dead plants and animals). If the organic matter is buried deeply enough, much of the carbon and hydrogen is converted to methane, the major component of natural gas. (The chemical formula for methane is CH<sub>4</sub>--that is, one molecule of methane contains one carbon atom and four hydrogen atoms.) Large volumes of methane have been subsequently trapped in the subsurface of the Earth at places where the right geological conditions occurred at the right times. Such a place is called a reservoir.

Proved reserves of natural gas are estimated quantities that analyses of geological and engineering data have demonstrated to be economically recoverable in future years from known reservoirs. Produced natural gas placed in temporary underground storage is not included in proved reserves. It is not necessary that production, gathering, or transportation facilities be actually installed or operative for a reservoir to be considered proved. It is assumed that production will be initiated if and when economically justified.

*"Wet after lease separation" is the term used to describe the volume of natural gas remaining after removal of lease condensate, a mixture consisting primarily of pentanes and heavier hydrocarbons.*

As of December 31, 1994, the estimated U.S. total proved reserves, wet after lease separation, were 171,939 billion cubic feet (Bcf). Of those 171,939 Bcf, non-associated gas (natural gas not in contact with significant quantities of crude oil) accounted for 141,539

Bcf. The remaining natural gas occurred with crude oil, either as free gas (associated) or in solution with crude oil (dissolved), and accounted for 30,400 Bcf. Estimated proved reserves of dry natural gas in the United States were 163,837 Bcf. (Dry natural gas is the volume of natural gas that remains after the economically liquefiable hydrocarbon portion has been removed from the gas stream at a natural gas processing plant.) Dry natural gas reserves increased 0.9 percent in 1994, a gain of 1,422 Bcf. Coalbed methane accounted for over 6 percent of reserves and 16 percent of production in 1994.

In addition to proved natural gas reserves there are large volumes of natural gas classified as undiscovered recoverable resources. Those resources are expected to exist because the geologic settings are favorable. Over half of all onshore undiscovered gas resources are located in the Alaska and Gulf Coast regions. Over one-third of all undiscovered gas resources are estimated to be in Federal offshore areas, primarily near Alaska, in the Gulf of Mexico, and along the Atlantic Coast.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *U.S. Crude Oil, Natural Gas, and Natural Gas Liquids Reserves* and *Annual Energy Review*.



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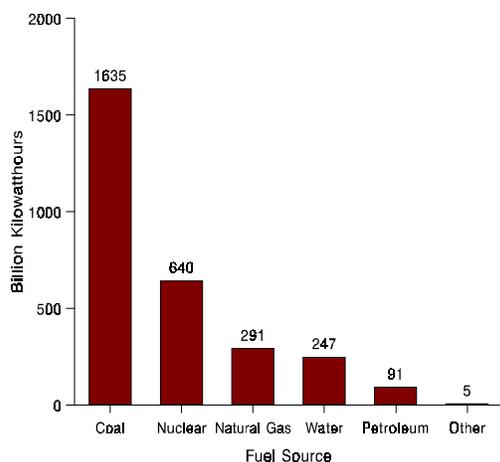
## Electricity Generation

Consumers expect electricity to be available whenever they plug in an appliance, turn a switch, or open a refrigerator. Satisfying these instantaneous demands requires an uninterrupted flow of electricity. In order to meet this requirement, utilities operate several types of electric generating units, powered by different fuel sources: coal, uranium, water, natural gas, petroleum, and nonwater renewable energy sources.

*Coal was the fuel used to generate the largest share (56 percent) of electricity in 1994, 1,635 billion kilowatt-hours (kWh). [This is over one and a half times the annual electricity consumption of all U.S. households (1,006 billion kWh).] Natural gas was used to generate 291 billion kWh (10 percent), and petroleum accounted for 91 billion kWh (3 percent).*

Steam-electric generating units burn fossil fuels such as coal, natural gas, and petroleum. The steam turns a turbine that produces electricity through an electrical generator. Natural gas and petroleum are also burned in gas turbine generators where the hot gases produced from combustion are used to turn the turbine, which in turn spins the generator to produce electricity. Additionally, petroleum is burned in generating units with internal-combustion engines. The combustion occurs inside cylinders of the engine, which is connected to the shaft of the generator. The mechanical energy provided from the engine drives the generator to produce energy.

**Figure 9. U.S. Net Electricity Generation, 1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1994*, DOE/EIA-0384(94) (Washington, DC, July 1995).

In nuclear-powered generating units, the boiler is replaced by a reactor in which the fission of uranium is used to make steam to drive the turbine. Nuclear generating units accounted for the second largest share (22 percent) of electricity generation in the United States in 1994, 640 billion kWh (Figure 9).

Hydroelectric power units use flowing water to spin a turbine connected to a generator. In a falling water system, water is accumulated in reservoirs created by dams, then released through conduits to apply pressure against the turbine blades to drive the generator. In a run-of-the-river system, the force of the river current applies the pressure to the turbine blades to produce electricity. In 1994, hydroelectric generation had the third largest

share (8 percent) of electricity production at 247 billion kWh.

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Nonwater renewable sources of electricity generation presently contribute only small amounts (less than 1 percent) to total power production. These sources include geothermal, refuse, waste heat, waste steam, solar, wind, and wood. Electricity generation from these sources in 1994 totaled 5 billion kWh. Electric utility generation in 1994 was 2,911 billion kWh, 1 percent greater than the 1993 total of 2,883 billion kWh.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Annual Energy Review*; *Electric Power Monthly*; and *Electric Power Annual*.

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## Electricity Prices

Electricity prices, or rates, are the fees an electric utility company charges its customers for service. An electric bill is computed on the basis of the individual customer's rate, the level of consumption, and other charges, such as taxes and fuel adjustments.

Electric utility companies charge their customers different rates, depending on the type of customer and on the customer's electricity needs. That collection of rates is called a tariff. The tariff is designed to provide the privately owned electric utility with enough income to allow investors to earn a cash return and cover operation and maintenance costs. Most of the larger utilities operate as regulated franchises, meaning that the prices they charge are subject to public review, often by a State public utility commission.

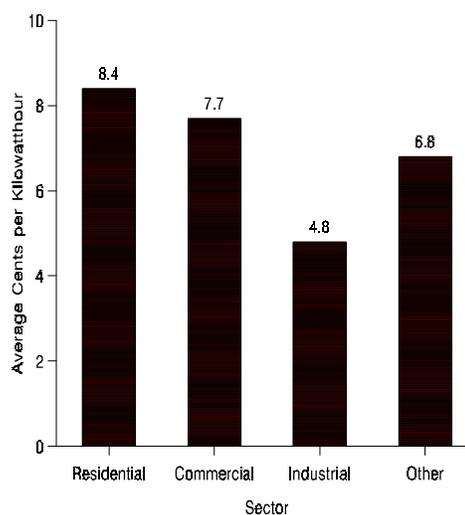
Publicly owned electric utilities are nonprofit, local government agencies established to provide service to their communities and nearby consumers at cost, returning excess funds to the consumer in the form of community contributions, more economic and efficient facilities, and lower rates. Publicly owned electric utilities (which number approximately 2,000) include municipals, public power districts, State authorities, irrigation districts, and other State organizations.

There are approximately 950 cooperative electric utilities in the United States currently doing business in 47 States. These utilities are owned by their members and are established to provide electricity to those members.

Average retail prices of electricity are calculated by dividing utility revenue by retail sales. The resulting measurement is the cost, or average revenue per kilowatthour, of electricity sold. (A kilowatthour is equal to 1 watt of power supplied to an electric circuit steadily for 1,000 hours.)

Electric utilities usually offer three primary classes of service: residential, commercial, and industrial. The average price per kilowatthour for residential consumers is generally higher than for any other sector due in part to higher costs associated with serving many consumers who use relatively small amounts of electricity. The industrial sector has the lowest rates due to the economies of serving a few consumers who use relatively large amounts of electricity (Figure 10).

**Figure 10. Average Retail Prices of Electricity, 1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Electric Sales and Revenue 1994*, DOE/EIA-0540(94) (Washington, DC, November 1995).

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Because of the type and availability of capacity and the cost of fuel, the average price for electricity differs across U.S. Census divisions. The New England and Middle Atlantic Census Divisions tend to have an average price that is higher than average because of their reliance on petroleum, whereas the East and West South Central Divisions rely on gas-fired generation and the East North Central and South Atlantic Divisions rely on coal-fired generation. Petroleum is generally a more expensive energy source than coal and natural gas. Because the Mountain Census Division relies on less expensive, locally mined coal, the price in this region is usually below the national average for all classes of consumers.

During the first half of the century, the national average price of electricity decreased as more efficient generating units were brought into service. This general trend has continued. The average real price of electricity to all sectors in 1994 (that is, the price adjusted to reflect the purchasing power of the dollar) was 20 percent below the price in 1960. However, the apparent stability in electricity prices masked fluctuations that occurred throughout the period. For example, following the oil embargo in 1973 and 1974, electricity prices increased rapidly because of escalation in the costs of fuel, labor, materials, capital, and services to electric utilities.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Annual Energy Review*; *Electric Sales and Revenue*; and *Electric Power Annual*.

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## Electricity Sales

The electric utility industry began in 1882 with the establishment of Thomas Edison's power station in New York City. The use of electricity has been growing ever since. It is vital to virtually every aspect of our economy.

Electricity sales can be defined as the number of kilowatthours (1 kWh=1,000 watthours) sold during a given period of time. Sales are normally classified according to the type of customer or service using the electricity, such as residential, commercial, industrial, transportation, and "other" which includes public street and highway lighting.

In 1994, U.S. electric utilities generated 2,910,712 gigawatthours (1 GWh=1 billion watthours) of electricity and sold an estimated 2,934,563 GWh to their consumers. This amount represents about a 2-percent increase over 1990, when total sales were about 2,704,672 GWh. In 1973, by contrast, total sales were 1,712,909 GWh.

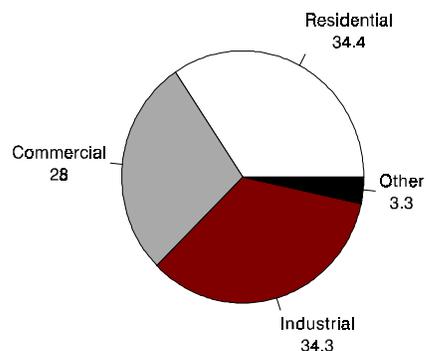
Since 1980, sales to residential consumers have been increasing at an average rate of 2 percent per year. Residential consumers, in 1994, purchased 1,008,482 GWh, an increase of 1 percent over the amount purchased the previous year. The 1994 residential sales accounted for 34 percent of total sales. Among the nine Census divisions, the South Atlantic Division had the largest annual sales to residential consumers, both in 1994 (237,790 GWh) and in 1993 (235,787 GWh).

Since 1980, sales to commercial consumers have been increasing at an average annual rate of 4.2 percent. The South Atlantic Division realized the largest volume of commercial sales in 1994 (176,978 GWh).

Industrial consumers in 1994 purchased 34 percent of sales to consumers, or 1,007,981 GWh, about 0.3 percent more than in 1993 (Figure 11). Other sales (public street and highway lighting, sales to public authorities, and sales to railroads and railways) were 97,830 GWh, over 3 percent of total sales to all consumers and slightly less than the amount sold for similar purposes in 1993.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Electric Power Annual*; *Electric Power Monthly*; and *Annual Energy Review*.

**Figure 11. Share of Electricity Sales, 1994—Percent**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1994*, DOE/EIA-0384(94) (Washington, DC, July 1995).



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## Electricity Capability

The United States has the largest electrical system in the world, with over twice the generating capability of any other country. (Capability is a measure of the steady hourly output that a generating system is able to supply.) Electricity capability in the United States at the end of 1994 was 764 gigawatts (GW). (One gigawatt is equal to 1 million kilowatts.) Of this total capability, 703 GW were owned by utilities and 61 GW were owned by nonutility sources such as industrial plants, independent power producers, and cogenerators (generating facilities that produce electricity and another form of useful thermal energy used for industrial, commercial, heating, or cooling purposes).

In order to meet the growing demand for electricity and to offset retirements of existing capacity, a projected 132 GW of new capacity will be needed between 1992 and 2010. Of this amount, utilities are expected to add 78 GW and nonutility producers (excluding cogenerators) 54 GW. These capacity needs are in addition to other means suppliers plan to meet the capacity needs. These include extending the service life of many existing units, repowering of existing capacity, more extensive utilization of existing capacity, growing purchases of power from cogenerators, and increased imports of electricity from Canada and Mexico. The amount of net electricity imports and purchases from nonutilities increased over 113 percent between 1990 and 1994, from 118 billion kilowatthours (kWh) to 252 billion kWh, accounting in 1994 for 9 percent of the electricity needed by utilities to meet customer demand. Net imports from Canada and Mexico alone are expected to double between 1992 and 2010.

Renewable energy for electricity is dominated by hydropower; however, because the best resources for hydropower have already been developed, hydropower capacity is expected to increase only slightly. The contribution of other renewable resources, such as wind, solar, geothermal, municipal solid waste, and biomass (primarily wood), to electricity supply is projected to increase, particularly between 2005 and 2010. Improved technology, higher fuel prices, increased capacity needs, and externality costs are expected to combine to make wind energy more attractive especially after 2005. Photovoltaic and solar thermal electricity will become increasingly important through 2010 primarily for high-value uses, both disconnected from the transmission grid and on the grid. Municipal solid waste (MSW) electricity generation is a byproduct of waste management and its contribution to electricity supply could be affected by legal issues, with plants seeking to obtain guaranteed fuel supplies through local ordinances that direct the flow of waste. Environmental issues

*The provisions of the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) focus primarily on reducing energy demand. Efficiency standards for electric motors, lights, and other equipment are required. By complying with EPACT, businesses and municipalities are expected to improve energy efficiency through the installation of energy-efficient lighting and appliances, increased building efficiency, and support of energy efficiency in process-related industries.*

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could also have adverse effects on MSW plants. Geothermal energy is limited geographically to those areas with easily accessible high-temperature hydrothermal resources (hot water and steam). Biomass electricity generation by utility, independent, and industrial power producers is the largest single renewable category outside of hydroelectric power.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Annual Energy Outlook*; *Electric Power Annual*; and *World Nuclear Outlook*.

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## Nuclear Power Generation

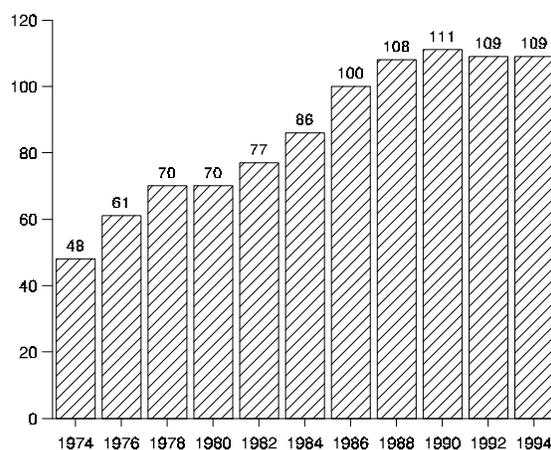
Electricity has been generated by burning fossil fuels (coal, oil, and gas) since before the turn of the century. For over three decades, however, a nonfossil fuel, uranium, has also been used to produce electricity. The first nuclear power plant went into commercial operation in 1957 at Shippingport, Pennsylvania. Since then, the use of nuclear-generated electricity has grown substantially in the United States. By the end of 1994, there were 109 units in operation that produced 640 billion net kilowatthours, or 22 percent of total U.S. electricity generation (Figure 12).

Uranium occurs in nature in combination with small amounts of other elements. Economically recoverable uranium deposits have been discovered principally in the western United States, Australia, Canada, Africa, and South America. A ton of uranium ore mined in the United States yields about 7 pounds of uranium oxide ( $U_3O_8$ ). Uranium ore must be chemically processed, enriched, and formed into pellets before it can be used as a fuel.

Uranium fuel pellets are loaded into hollow tubes called fuel rods. Hundreds of fuel rods form fuel assemblies that, along with control rods, are placed into a nuclear reactor core and then submerged in water. Like fossil fuels, the resulting uranium fuel produces heat that turns water into steam. The steam turns blades in a turbine connected to an electrical generator. However, heat is produced differently in a nuclear reactor than in a fossil fuel powerplant.

The nucleus of an atom consists of combinations of protons and neutrons--each of about equal weight. Energy in a nuclear reactor is derived from a process called nuclear fission, in which a neutron strikes the nucleus of a uranium atom and is absorbed. The absorption of the neutron makes the nucleus unstable, causing it to split into two atoms of lighter elements and release heat and new neutrons. The heat is used to produce electricity, while the neutrons can potentially be absorbed by other atoms of uranium, resulting in more nuclear fissions. This continuing process of fissioning is called a chain reaction. It is sustained because, for every atom of uranium fissioned by a neutron, new neutrons are released to continue the process.

**Figure 12. Operable Nuclear Units in the United States, 1974-1994**



Source: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review 1994*, DOE/EIA-0384(94) (Washington, DC, July 1995).

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The United States has more nuclear generating capacity than any other country in the world; next is France, third is Japan, and fourth is the Commonwealth of Independent States. Worldwide, growth in nuclear power has slowed and this trend is expected to continue. While no nuclear reactors have been ordered in the U.S. since 1978, several countries, notably France, Japan, and South Korea, continue to have ambitious nuclear construction programs. Concerns about issues such as high level waste disposal, decommissioning expenses when reactors are retired, and the use of nuclear reactors to relieve possible global warming associated with fossil-fuel based generation will influence the future level of growth of nuclear power worldwide.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Annual Energy Review*; *Electric Power Annual*; and *World Nuclear Outlook*.

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## Renewable Energy

While supplies of fossil fuels and uranium are limited and irreplaceable, renewable energy sources--such as sun (solar), wind, water (hydropower), wood and other plant material (biomass), waste, and the heat of the earth (geothermal)--are practically inexhaustible or can be regenerated or recycled.

*Even though renewable energy currently contributes only a small portion of the Nation's energy supply, its importance is expected to increase in the future.*

Some renewable energy sources, such as wood and other biomass, can be burned directly to provide heat for homes or fuel for boilers. Some biomass is converted to alcohol and used as automobile fuel. Solar collectors, which are often seen on rooftops, are used for space heating, hot water, and to heat swimming pools. All renewable energy sources, however, can be used to generate electricity. Among the renewable sources powering electricity generation, hydropower provides by far the largest contribution to United States energy supplies. In 1994, hydroelectric generation yielded about 260,298 gigawatthours (GWh) of electricity, 8 percent of all electricity generated in the country. (A watthour is a unit of electrical energy equal to 1 watt of power steadily supplied to or taken from an electric circuit for 1 hour. A gigawatthour equals a billion watthours.)

Other renewable sources--wood, waste, geothermal, wind, and solar--were responsible for about 81,000 GWh, representing about 2 percent of total generation. Nearly 89 percent of this electricity was generated by independent power producers and sold to electric utilities; the remaining 11 percent was generated by the utilities themselves.

The sun is expected to radiate energy at a fairly constant rate for a few billion years. The electromagnetic waves from the sun can be converted to other forms of energy, such as heat and electricity, which can be utilized by people. In order for solar energy to be used extensively, certain major problems must be dealt with. The sun does not shine steadily: when it is shining, it is not always at the same intensity; and some of the rays are bent or reflected by water droplets and dust particles in the atmosphere. The sun's rays have to fall on a relatively large area in order for enough usable energy to be collected. Where high temperatures are required, a "concentrating collector" can be used to focus the rays that fall on a large area onto a much smaller area.

The major economic applications of solar energy at present are for heating residences and other buildings. Solar energy can also be converted into usable electricity either by means of a photovoltaic cell (based on the element silicon) or by using solar radiation to heat a fluid which, in turn, drives a turbine connected to a conventional electric generator. In 1994, solar energy was used to produce about 827 gigawatthours of electricity.

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The wind has been used as a source of energy for centuries. From 1880 to 1930, over 6 million windmills generated electric power in the western United States. The rising cost of fossil fuels, coupled with technological advances in windmill design, has made wind an attractive alternative energy source in the last decade. The North Central and South Central Regions offer the most land for potential economic wind energy development.

Wood and waste used by electric utilities for producing electricity include wood chips, sawdust, garbage, chemically inert gas, bagasse (plant refuse), and sewerage plant gas. Wood once supplied up to 90 percent of the energy needs of our country. In recent times, the demand for wood rose and fell with the price of fossil fuels. In 1994, biomass was used to generate nearly 60,000 gigawatthours of electricity, almost totally in the industrial sector.

Geothermal energy is heat generated by natural processes beneath the earth's surface. It is recovered as steam and hot water. The steam is harnessed to run generators. Most of the potential for using geothermal energy in the United States is in California, other far western States, and the Gulf Coast States. By far, the largest geothermal facilities now in operation are at the Geysers in northern California. Unfortunately, output from the Geysers has decreased considerably in recent years. However, increased output from nonutility facilities has more than offset this loss.

The use of renewable energy sources in the United States is not expected to approach that of the major energy sources in the near future. However, under appropriate conditions and for special purposes, renewable energy sources are proving to be of great value.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Renewable Energy Annual*; *Annual Energy Review*; *Monthly Energy Review*; *Electric Power Annual*; and *Electric Power Monthly*.

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## Degree-Days

Freezing winter weather or a long, sweltering summer--either one can increase your utility bills. But how much of the rise in the cost is a result of the weather? You can find out by using a unit of measure called the "degree-day."

A degree-day compares the outdoor temperature to a standard of 65 degrees Fahrenheit (F): the more extreme the temperature, the higher the number of degree-days. Thus, degree-day measurements can be used to describe the effect of outdoor temperature on the amount of energy needed for space heating or cooling. Hot days, which may require the use of energy for cooling, are measured in cooling degree-days. On a day with a mean temperature of 80 degrees F, for example, 15 cooling degree-days would be recorded. Cold days are measured in heating degree-days. For a day with a mean temperature of 40 degrees F, 25 heating degree-days would be recorded. Two such cold days would result in a total of 50 heating degree-days for the 2-day period.

*Technically, a degree-day is a 1-degree F difference between 65 degrees F and the mean outdoor air temperature on a given day.*

By studying degree-day patterns in your area, you can evaluate the increases or decreases in your heating or air-conditioning bills from year to year. In some areas, degree-day information is published in the local newspapers, usually in the weather section. Information may also be available from your local utility. Its public relations department may be able to tell you the number of degree-days in the last billing period and how it compares to the number of degree-days in previous billing periods. You may also be able to obtain degree-day totals for longer periods.

By studying degree-day patterns for the United States, you can better understand changes in the U.S. energy consumption. Degree-day data for U.S. regions or the country as a whole usually are population-weighted, since hot or cold weather in a densely populated area affects energy use more than the same weather in a sparsely populated area.

EIA provides information about degree-days in its publication *Monthly Energy Review*. A degree-day table lists the population-weighted degree-days that occur in each region of the United States. It compares monthly and year-to-date totals to similar totals for previous periods. The degree-day table on the next page shows that, in the Middle Atlantic States, January 1995 was warmer than January 1994 (Table 3). In January 1995, 961 heating degree-days were recorded, down from 1,352 degree-days (colder than normal) in January 1994. On the other hand, the South Atlantic States were warmer in January 1994 (721 heating degree-days) than in January 1995 (577 heating degree-days).

The data show that, on average, the United States was colder in January 1994 than in January 1995, and colder than normal in 1994, but warmer than normal in 1995. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) is another source of information about degree-days for the country as a whole.

**Table 3. Heating Degree-Days by Census Divisions**

Census Divisions	January 1 through January 31					Cumulative July 1 through January 31				
	Normal <sup>a</sup>	1994	1995	Percent Change		Normal <sup>a</sup>	1994	1995	Percent Change	
				Normal to 1995	1994 to 1995				Normal to 1995	1994 to 1995
<b>New England</b> Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont	1,262	1,464	1,036	-17.9	-29.2	3,702	4,010	3,262	-11.9	-18.7
<b>Middle Atlantic</b> New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania	1,170	1,352	961	-17.9	-28.9	3,301	3,522	2,836	-14.1	-19.5
<b>East North Central</b> Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Ohio, Wisconsin	1,315	1,488	1,199	-8.8	-19.4	3,717	4,020	3,267	-12.1	-18.7
<b>West North Central</b> Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota	1,398	1,533	1,292	-7.6	-15.7	3,994	4,298	3,563	-10.8	-17.1
<b>South Atlantic</b> Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Maryland, and the District of Columbia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Virginia, West Virginia	670	721	577	-13.9	-20.0	1,754	1,864	1,477	-15.8	-20.8
<b>East South Central</b> Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi, Tennessee	844	932	755	-10.5	-19.0	2,223	2,432	1,895	-14.8	-22.1
<b>West South Central</b> Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas	620	571	509	-17.9	-10.9	1,497	1,592	1,243	-17.0	-21.9
<b>Mountain</b> Arizona, Colorado, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, Utah, Wyoming	991	861	881	-11.1	2.3	3,136	3,121	2,984	-4.8	-4.4
<b>Pacific<sup>b</sup></b> California, Oregon, Washington	573	483	501	-12.6	3.7	1,800	1,730	1,870	3.9	8.1
<b>U.S. Average<sup>b</sup></b>	<b>948</b>	<b>1,014</b>	<b>826</b>	<b>-12.9</b>	<b>-18.5</b>	<b>2,672</b>	<b>2,826</b>	<b>2,376</b>	<b>-11.1</b>	<b>-15.9</b>

<sup>a</sup> "Normal" is based on calculations of data from 1961 through 1990.

<sup>b</sup> Excludes Alaska and Hawaii.

Source: Energy Information Administration, *Monthly Energy Review*, DOE/EIA-0035(95/2)(Washington, DC, February 1995).

More information on this subject can be found in the EIA publication *Monthly Energy Review* or from the National Climatic Center, Federal Building, Asheville, NC, 28801.

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## Apples, Oranges, and Btu

Assume that you have been assigned the responsibility of purchasing fuel for a large electric utility company. The 1994 average prices of fuel delivered to electric utilities were \$28.03 per short ton of coal, \$15.70 per 42-gallon barrel of oil, and \$2.28 per thousand cubic feet of natural gas. Tons, barrels, cubic feet--how do you compare apples and oranges?

*To make meaningful comparisons of energy commodities, you must convert physical units of measure (such as weight or volume) and the energy content of each fuel to comparable units. One practical way to compare different fuels is to convert them into British thermal units (Btu). The Btu is a precise measure of energy--the amount of energy required to raise the temperature of 1 pound of water 1 degree Fahrenheit.*

A single Btu is insignificant in terms of the Nation's energy consumption, or even in terms of energy use in a single household. One Btu is approximately equal to the energy released in the burning of a wood match. The average single-family household consumed 98 million Btu of energy in a recent year. So on the family level, 1 million Btu is a meaningful quantity.

Billions, trillions, and quadrillions of Btu are used to measure quantities of energy larger than those consumed by typical households. (Written out, 1 quadrillion is a 1 and 15 zeros.) To put those quantities in perspective, 1 million Btu equals about 8 gallons of motor gasoline. One billion Btu equals all the electricity that 30 average Americans use in 1 year. One trillion Btu is equal to 474 100-ton railroad cars of coal intended for electric utilities. And 1 quadrillion Btu is equal to 470 thousand barrels of oil every day for 1 year. In 1994, the Nation used 88 quadrillion Btu of energy: 35 quadrillion Btu of petroleum, 21 quadrillion Btu of natural gas, 20 quadrillion Btu of coal, and 12 quadrillion Btu of other energy sources.

British thermal units are useful for more than just calculating volumes of consumption. Price equivalents are usually expressed in cents per million Btu, and the homeowner often thinks of Btu in terms of dollars and cents. In 1994, a ton of coal used to generate electricity cost more than twice as much as a barrel of oil. The barrel of oil, however, contained about 6.2 million Btu, while the ton of coal contained 21 million Btu, over three times as much energy. On a Btu basis, coal was cheaper. (Of course, cost is not the only consideration in selecting a fuel. Environmental restrictions, equipment costs, and other factors must also be taken into account.)

By use of the Btu, it is possible to compare prices not only for different forms of fuel, but also for different products from the same fuel. For example, motor gasoline contains an average of 5.25 million Btu per barrel, while jet fuel (kerosene-type) contains 5.67 million Btu per barrel. At \$31.00 per barrel for motor gasoline and \$22.43 per barrel for jet fuel in 1994, motor gasoline costs \$5.90 per million Btu and jet fuel costs \$3.96 per million Btu. By itself, a single Btu does not mean very

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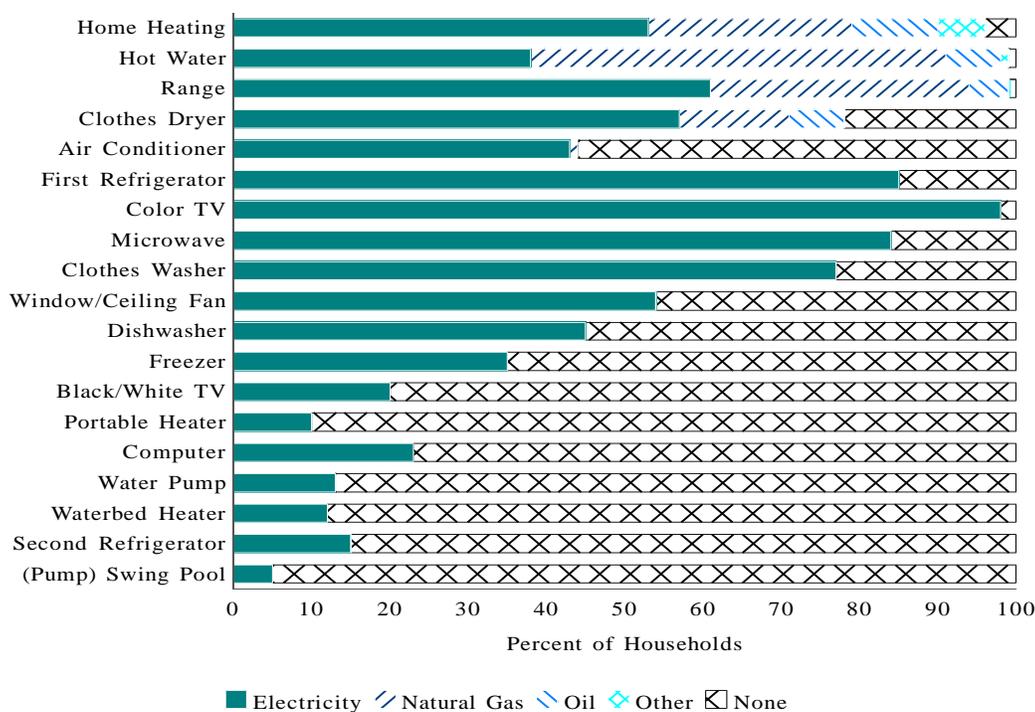
much. For the average consumer who uses millions of Btu per year, however, it is a term well worth knowing.

More information on this subject can be found in the following EIA publications: *Monthly Energy Review*; *Annual Energy Review*; *State Energy Data Report*; *Household Energy Consumption and Expenditures*; and *Cost and Quality of Fuels for Electric Utility Plants*.

## Residential Uses of Energy

Surprisingly, most U.S. households (55 percent) wash dishes by hand. Only 45 percent of U.S. households use automatic dishwashers, but almost all households have hot running water for washing and cleaning, use a range or oven for cooking, and use a refrigerator for storing food. Very few households (1 percent) do not heat their homes because they live in warm areas such as Hawaii. All but 1 percent of households use a TV, and for most, it is a color television. More than half of U.S. households use a clothes washer at home (77 percent) and a clothes dryer (71 percent), have air conditioning (68 percent), cook with a microwave oven (84 percent), and are cooled by a window or ceiling fan (54 percent). Less than half of U.S. households use a food freezer that is separate from their refrigerator (35 percent), use a portable space heater (12 percent), a personal computer (23 percent), a water pump for their own water (13 percent), a water-bed heater (12 percent), a second refrigerator (14 percent), or a swimming pool at home (5 percent) (Figure 13).

**Figure 13. Types of Energy Use by Households**



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Gas is the predominant energy source for home heating (58 percent) and for heating water (56 percent). Gas is also used for cooking and for drying clothes. Fewer than 1 percent cool their homes by burning gas. It may seem strange that one can cool anything by burning gas, but the process of cooling with gas is different from cooling with electricity. When cooling with gas, the gas is burned to boil off a cooling agent. With electricity cooling, a different cooling agent is used that works after it is compressed into a liquid form. Electricity is the most versatile energy source in a home. It is used for every purpose listed in the graph. Oil is now being used only for heating homes and for heating water.

More information on this subject can be found in the EIA publication *Household Energy Consumption and Expenditures*.