

Louisiana Energy Facts

Highlights

April 2026

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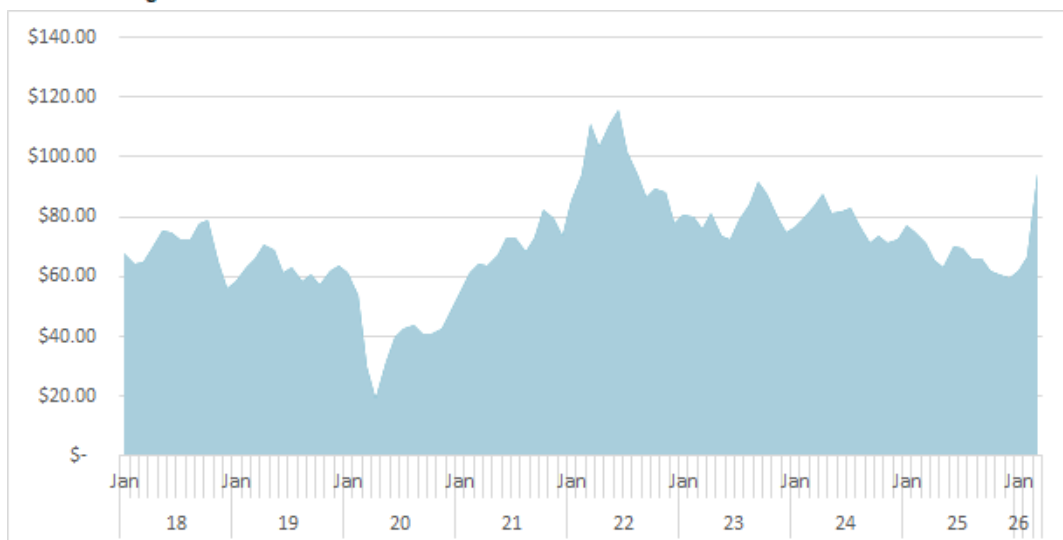
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The U.S. rig count is consistent. January averaged 545 rigs in operation, with 421 oil rigs and 124 natural gas rigs. December had 546 rigs in operation, with 420 oil rigs and 128 natural gas rigs running. The April 10, 2026 rig count was 545, with 418 oil and 127 natural gas, according to Baker Hughes. The steady state of operating rigs signals uncertainty within the drilling sector in 2026, with the majority of rigs running the Permian Basin area of west Texas and eastern New Mexico. In addition, oil prices have been increasing due to the skirmish happening in the Middle East, and technological advances, signaling yet more uncertainty for US drilling to increase for 2026 and beyond.

Light Louisiana Sweet Crude Oil Average Spot Price at St. James

Dollars per Barrel

Month							% Change	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	24/25	25/26
January	54.20	85.29	80.76	76.48	77.37	61.83	1.16%	-20.09%
February	61.17	94.11	80.37	79.48	74.53	66.71	-6.23%	-10.49%
March	64.51	110.93	76.08	83.36	71.25	94.44	-14.53%	32.55%
April	63.73	103.50	81.31	87.61	65.30		-25.47%	
May	67.25	111.22	73.62	81.48	63.31		-22.30%	
June	72.91	115.91	72.55	81.59	69.95		-14.27%	
July	73.05	102.02	79.01	83.02	69.63		-16.13%	
August	68.51	94.17	84.04	77.33	65.96		-14.70%	
September	72.95	86.26	91.60	71.52	65.81		-7.98%	
October	82.29	89.72	87.61	73.66	61.71		-16.22%	
November	79.42	88.41	80.13	71.54	60.82		-14.98%	
December	73.54	77.87	75.00	72.39	59.62		-17.64%	
Year Average	69.46	96.62	80.17	78.29	74.38	74.33 **		



Current Oil & Gas Data

Louisiana DC&E Technology Assessment Division

	OCT 25	SEP 25	AUG 25	OCT 24
PRODUCTION				
GOM CENTRAL FEDERAL OFFSHORE ^F (OCS)				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	61	56	56	53
Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	61	57	58	56
THE UNITED STATES TOTAL				
Crude Oil & Condensate ^C (MMB)	429	415	428	416
Natural Gas & Casinghead ^C (BCF)	3,329	3,248	3,371	3,189
IMPORTS				
U.S. Crude Oil ^C (MMB)	182	192	195	197
U.S. Natural Gas ^C (BCF)	233	226	238	254
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNTS				
U.S. Gas ^A	121	118	122	101
U.S. Oil ^A	427	424	416	485
U.S. Offshore ^A	17	13	13	18
U.S. Total ^A	548	542	538	586
PRICES				
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel)				
OPEC Average ^C (F.O.B.)	63.46	W	W	71.44
U.S. Imports Average ^C (F.O.B.)	53.17	57.18	58.96	65.17
U.S. Wellhead Average ^C	58.89	62.23	63.37	70.39
Gulf OCS Wellhead Average ^C	58.94	63.50	65.56	70.52
State Severance Wellhead Average ^E	60.78	63.75	65.79	77.31
NATURAL GAS (\$/MCF)				
U.S. City Gates Average ^C	4.34	5.11	5.18	4.08
U.S. Imports Average ^C (F.O.B.)	1.92	1.73	1.76	1.60
U.S. Spot Market Average ^D	3.00	1.28	1.73	2.32
State Royalty Wellhead Average	2.70	2.68	2.80	1.79
NYMEX Henry Hub End of the Month Settle Gas Price ^B (\$/MMBTU)	2.84	2.87	3.08	2.59

Key

1	Estimated	MCF	Thousand Cubic Feet
2	Revised	MMB	Million Barrels
BCF	Billion Cubic Feet	N/A	Not Available
BTU	British Thermal Unit	OCS	Outer Continental Shelf
F.O.B	Free on Board	MMBTU	Million British Thermal Units

Data Sources

A	Oil & Gas Journal	D	Natural Gas Week
B	Wall Street Journal	E	LA Dept of Revenue
C	U. S. Dept. of Energy	F	BOEM

Note: Unless otherwise specified, data is from the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources and excludes Federal OCS.

Note from the Editors

Louisiana Energy Facts is published monthly by the Louisiana Department Conservation & Energy, Office of Energy, as a public service to individuals interested in Louisiana energy activities. Content includes recent oil, gas and other energy statistics and a brief analysis of current trends.

Louisiana Energy Facts articles provide insight and information on subjects of special interest to our readers, and may announce relevant, forthcoming publications.

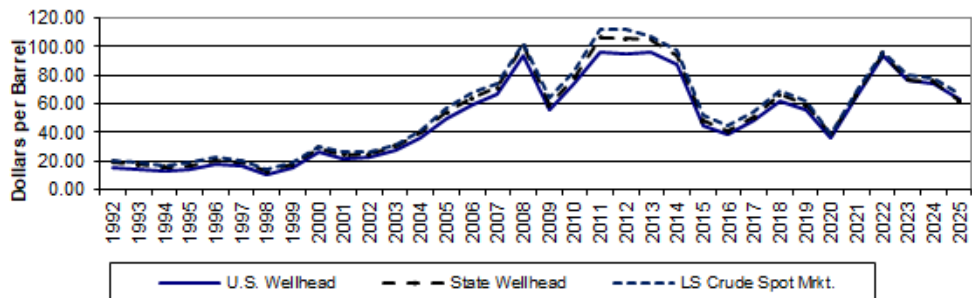
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Louisiana Energy Facts

Average Crude Oil Prices (Dollars/Barrel)

YEAR	UNITED STATES			LOUISIANA			
	IMPORTS F.O.B. ^c	REFINERY DOMESTIC ACQUISITION ^c	U.S. WELLHEAD ^c	DOE WELLHEAD ^c	STATE WELLHEAD ^d	FEDERAL OCS ^c	SPOT MARKET
2000	26.27	28.26	26.72	29.03	28.10	27.59	30.29
2001	20.46	22.95	21.84	24.51	26.23	23.29	25.84
2002	22.63	24.10	22.51	24.84	25.17	23.49	26.18
2003	25.86	28.53	27.56	30.52	30.28	28.72	31.20
2004	33.75	36.98	36.77	40.48	38.34	37.07	41.47
2005	47.60	50.24	50.28	54.05	54.62	49.78	56.86
2006	57.03	60.24	59.69	64.23	63.55	60.80	67.44
2007	66.36	67.94	66.52	71.63	64.14	67.40	74.60
2008	90.32	94.74	94.04	100.89	104.86	99.10	102.29
2009	57.78	59.29	56.35	59.18	52.78	58.22	64.28
2010	74.19	76.69	74.71	78.25	75.24	77.06	82.72
2011	101.66	101.87	95.73	106.20	101.40	105.65	112.24
2012	99.78	100.93	94.52	105.97	107.46	105.95	111.79
2013	96.56	100.49	95.99	105.18	106.75	103.29	107.35
2014	85.65	92.02	87.39	94.13	96.84	93.33	96.83
2015	41.91	48.39	44.39	48.43	55.93	47.67	52.36
2016	36.37	40.66	38.29	41.08	38.92	38.63	44.89
2017	45.58	50.68	48.05	50.37	50.44	48.46	54.10
2018	56.31	64.38	61.40	66.65	68.54	65.97	69.69
2019	54.15	59.33	55.55	59.47	61.22	59.46	62.69
2020	32.79	40.41	36.74	38.04	39.99	38.10	38.72
2021	62.03	68.87	65.73	66.83	61.28	65.80	69.46
2022	85.97	97.44	93.97	95.24	95.30	93.12	96.62
2023	67.71	74.41	76.08	77.19	77.01	76.99	80.17
2024	68.50	74.19	74.53	75.85	75.34	75.87	78.29
2025	58.63	65.04	63.54	64.96	61.64	64.10	67.11



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SPOT MARKET PRICES

Louisiana Natural Gas^D (\$/MMBTU)
 NYMEX Henry Hub Last Settle Gas Price^B(\$/MMBTU)
 Louisiana Sweet Crude - St. James^B (\$/Barrel)

BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNTS

North Louisiana^A
 South Louisiana Inland Waters^A
 South Louisiana Inland^A
 Louisiana State Offshore
 Louisiana Federal OCS Offshore
 Total Louisiana^A (OCS included)

PRODUCTION (State Jurisdiction Only)

Louisiana Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)
 Louisiana Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)

DRILLING PERMITS (State Jurisdiction Only)

Total Louisiana Oil and Gas
 Louisiana Wildcats
 Louisiana Offshore (Wildcats included)

	Mar 26	Feb 26	Mar 25
Louisiana Natural Gas ^D (\$/MMBTU)	2.96	3.60	4.04
NYMEX Henry Hub Last Settle Gas Price ^B (\$/MMBTU)	3.06	3.59	4.13
Louisiana Sweet Crude - St. James ^B (\$/Barrel)	95.04	66.71	71.25
	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25
North Louisiana ^A	28	28	18
South Louisiana Inland Waters ^A	2	3	2
South Louisiana Inland ^A	5	3	2
Louisiana State Offshore	0	0	0
Louisiana Federal OCS Offshore	8	7	10
Total Louisiana ^A (OCS included)	43	41	32
	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25
Louisiana Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	2.4 ¹	2.5 ¹	2.4
Louisiana Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	284.2 ¹	325.8 ¹	278.6
	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25
Total Louisiana Oil and Gas	29	52	41
Louisiana Wildcats	2	0	2
Louisiana Offshore (Wildcats included)	0	0	0

