

Louisiana Energy Facts

Highlights

March 2026

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Highlights
page 1

Louisiana Natural Gas & Casinghead Production
page 1

Current Oil & Gas Data
page 2

Louisiana and the United States Average Natural Gas Prices
page 3

Louisiana Natural Gas and Casinghead Gas Production
page 3

Quick Facts
page 4



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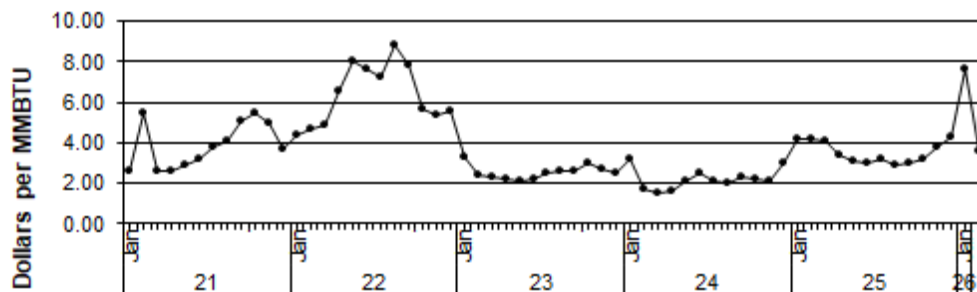
US drilling activities are experiencing decreasing rig count levels compared to last year. Baker Hughes Inc. (BHI) rigs report shows the average US drilling rig count for February 2026 was 551 rigs, down 39 rigs over last year at this time or a 6.6% decrease from last year. Rigs targeting crude oil were down 71 rigs but rigs targeting gas were up 32 rigs. The drilling in Louisiana state jurisdiction areas showed a decrease. BHI reported a February 2026 average rig count of 43 rigs, up 11 rig over last year at this time or a 34.4% increase. Rigs targeting gas increased by 1 year-over-year while the ones targeting oil increased by 11. Most of the Federal OCS drilling is in the Central Gulf, which is next to the Louisiana Coastal boundary. BHI reported a February 2026 average rig count of 8 rigs for the Central Gulf, down 2 over last year, all of them targeting oil.

Louisiana Natrual Gas Average Spot Prices

Dollars per MMBTU

Month							% Change	
	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	24/25	25/26
January	2.64	4.34	3.27	3.18 ²	4.15 ²	7.65	30.50%	84.34%
February	5.47	4.64	2.38	1.72 ²	4.19 ²	3.59	143.60%	-14.32%
March	2.57	4.88	2.31	1.49	4.12		176.51%	
April	2.61	6.57	2.16	1.60 ²	3.42		113.75%	
May	2.89	8.09	2.15	2.12 ²	3.12		47.17%	
June	3.23	7.67	2.19	2.54 ²	3.02		18.90%	
July	3.81	7.26	2.55	2.07	3.20		54.59%	
August	4.04	8.79	2.59	1.99 ²	2.91		46.23%	
September	5.12	7.82	2.65	2.28	2.97		30.26%	
October	5.48	5.68	2.99	2.20	3.20		45.45%	
November	5.02	5.37	2.71	2.12	3.79		78.77%	
December	3.72	5.52	2.52	3.01 ²	4.25		41.20%	
Year Average	3.88	6.39	2.54	2.19	3.53	5.62^{**}		

** Partial Year



Current Oil & Gas Data

Louisiana DC&E Technology Assessment Division

	SEP 25	AUG 25	JUL 25	SEP 24
PRODUCTION				
GOM CENTRAL FEDERAL OFFSHORE ^F (OCS)				
Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	56	56	53	46
Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	57	58	55	46
THE UNITED STATES TOTAL				
Crude Oil & Condensate ^C (MMB)	415	428	425	395
Natural Gas & Casinghead ^C (BCF)	3,248	3,371	3,355	3,056
IMPORTS				
U.S. Crude Oil ^C (MMB)	192	195	196	193
U.S. Natural Gas ^C (BCF)	226	238	258	247
BAKER HUGHES RIG COUNTS				
U.S. Gas ^A	118	122	114	97
U.S. Oil ^A	424	416	426	490
U.S. Offshore ^A	13	13	13	20
U.S. Total ^A	542	538	540	587
PRICES				
CRUDE OIL (\$/barrel)				
OPEC Average ^C (F.O.B.)	W	W	W	70.59
U.S. Imports Average ^C (F.O.B.)	57.18	58.96	61.90	63.80
U.S. Wellhead Average ^C	62.23	63.37	65.98	74.97
Gulf OCS Wellhead Average ^C	63.50	65.56	67.15	71.19
State Severance Wellhead Average ^E	63.75	65.79	63.32	N/A
NATURAL GAS (\$/MCF)				
U.S. City Gates Average ^C	5.11	5.18	5.16	4.20
U.S. Imports Average ^C (F.O.B.)	1.73	1.76	2.01	1.35
U.S. Spot Market Average ^D	1.28	1.73 ²	2.08	2.12
State Royalty Wellhead Average	2.68	2.80	3.02	1.85
NYMEX Henry Hub End of the Month Settle Gas Price ^B (\$/MMBTU)	2.87	3.08	3.26	1.93

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.

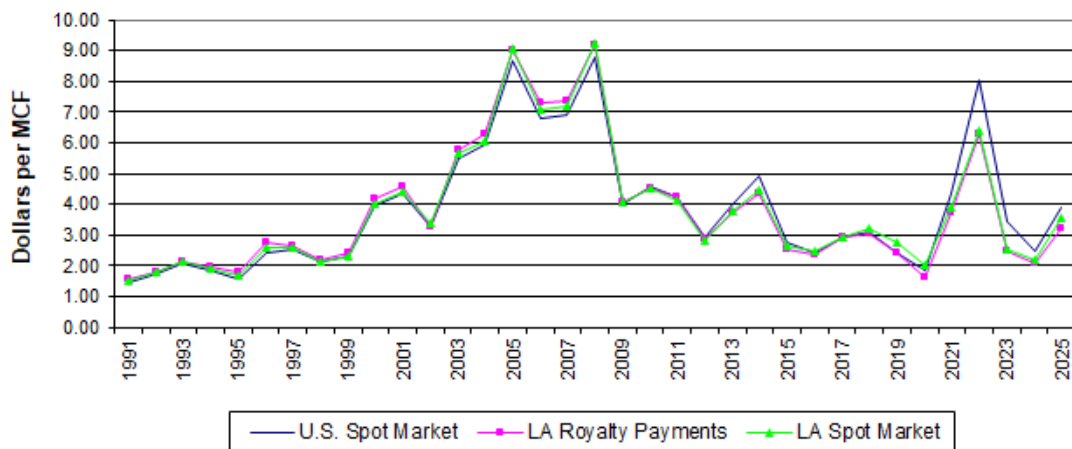
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NATURAL GAS AVERAGE PRICES (Dollars per MCF)

	UNITED STATES			LOUISIANA	
	Spot Market ^D	Foreign Imports ^C	City Gate ^C	Royalty Payments	Spot Market ^D
2003	5.48	5.17	5.85	5.74	5.66
2004	5.94	5.81	6.65	6.29	6.08
2005	8.67	8.12	8.67	9.03	9.05
2006	6.81	6.88	8.61	7.30	7.08
2007	6.89	6.87	8.16	7.34	7.17
2008	8.80	8.70	9.18	9.16	9.21
2009	4.00	4.19	6.48	4.05	4.07
2010	4.58	4.52	6.18	4.54	4.55
2011	4.26	4.24	5.63	4.24	4.11
2012	2.93	2.88	4.73	2.88	2.82
2013	3.98	3.83	4.88	3.71	3.80
2014	4.89	5.30	5.71	4.35	4.44
2015	2.76	2.99	4.26	2.55	2.67
2016	2.39	2.24	3.86	2.37	2.49
2017	2.93	2.69	4.29	2.91	2.94
2018	3.11	2.81	4.30	3.07 ²	3.21
2019	2.44	2.50	3.92	2.27 ²	2.73
2020	1.87	2.07 ²	3.43 ²	1.69 ²	2.16
2021	4.33	3.78 ²	6.02 ²	2.63 ²	3.88 ²
2022	8.03	6.33 ²	6.87 ²	3.88 ²	6.39 ²
2023	3.46	3.32 ²	5.56 ²	2.42 ²	2.54 ²
2024	2.45	2.06	4.25 ²	2.36 ²	2.19 ²
2025	3.87	2.86	4.85 ²	3.16	3.53



Quick Facts

February 2026

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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)

	Feb 26	Jan 26	Feb 25
Louisiana Natural Gas ^D (\$/MMBTU)	3.60	8.68	4.26
NYMEX Henry Hub Last Settle Gas Price ^B (\$/MMBTU)	3.59	7.65	4.23
Louisiana Sweet Crude - St. James ^B (\$/Barrel)	66.71	61.83	74.53
	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25
North Louisiana ^A	28	31	18
South Louisiana Inland Waters ^A	3	2	1
South Louisiana Inland ^A	3	2	2
Louisiana State Offshore	0	1	0
Louisiana Federal OCS Offshore	7	8	10
Total Louisiana ^A (OCS included)	41	44	31
	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25
Louisiana Crude Oil & Condensate (MMB)	2.5 ¹	2.4 ¹	2.1 ²
Louisiana Natural Gas & Casinghead (BCF)	325.8 ¹	317.3 ¹	287.5 ²
	Jan 26	Dec 25	Jan 25
Total Louisiana Oil and Gas	52	56	27
Louisiana Wildcats	0	1	0
Louisiana Offshore (Wildcats included)	0	0	0

