

Stripper Oil Wells in Nebraska 2009

The [Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission \(IOGCC\)](#) defines [stripper wells](#) as those wells producing 10 [barrels](#) of oil or less per day. Stripper oil wells produce marginal oil which is oil produced from wells that operate on the lower edge of profitability.

Nebraska had 1,463 stripper oil wells in 2009 (0.37 percent of the nation's reported 394,202 stripper wells). Shown in the table below, these 1,463 stripper wells produced 1,434,068 barrels of oil or 64 percent of [Nebraska's oil production](#). Using 2009's average [wellhead oil price](#) in Nebraska of \$50.93 per barrel, without the stripper oil wells' production, an additional \$73 million would have been spent on crude oil imports.

While each individual well in Nebraska contributed only a small amount of oil (2.70 barrels a day, on average), combined with the rest of the nation, stripper well production was over 275 million barrels of oil (or 20.48 percent of the total 1.34 billion barrels of oil produced in the United States) saving \$15.5 billion on additional imports to the nation. (The nation's average wellhead oil price in 2009 was \$56.35 per barrel.)

Rank

Twenty-seven states produce oil from stripper wells: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Within this group, in 2009, Nebraska was ranked tenth highest in average daily production per well, 19th highest in oil production from stripper wells, and 21st highest in the number of stripper oil wells.

Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells

Many states have programs that allow a well to temporarily stop production. These [idle wells](#) are not included in the abandoned well column of the table below; only wells that have been permanently plugged are included. Also, [orphaned wells](#) are not included in the table's abandoned well figures. These are wells that are not producing, have not been plugged, and whose owners are either insolvent or cannot be located.

Stripper Oil Wells in Nebraska, 1970 – 2009

Year	Number of Stripper Wells	Production (Barrels)	Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells	Average Daily Production per Well (Barrels)	Percent of Total Crude Oil Production
2009	1,463	1,434,068	NA	2.70	64.05%
2008	1,471	1,644,062	27	3.10	68.69%
2007	1,473	1,634,975	20	3.04	70.01%
2006	1,487	1,579,404	15	2.91	68.29%
2005	1,478	1,598,224	19	2.96	66.22%
2004	1,450	1,654,195	54	3.12	65.98%
2003	1,423	1,651,923	80	3.18	59.96%
2002	1,451	1,717,983	100	3.24	61.82%
2001	1,475	1,765,208	83	3.28	60.42%
2000	1,483	1,831,497	67	3.37	61.97%
1999	1,498	1,828,293	66	3.34	68.70%
1998	1,646	2,113,098	90	3.52	66.54%
1997	1,699	2,366,278	66	3.82	70.91%
1996	1,004	1,948,710	112	5.30	55.00%
1995	1,114	1,899,004	36	4.67	50.06%
1994	1,185	2,147,655	50	4.97	50.92%
1993	1,274	2,214,607	65	4.76	45.49%
1992	1,209	2,023,359	55	4.59	36.96%
1991	1,190	1,871,474	43	4.31	32.09%
1990	1,269	2,011,219	60	4.34	34.15%
1989	1,247	2,110,732	43	4.64	33.87%
1988	1,505	2,446,275	30	4.44	40.92%
1987	1,589	2,687,697	39	4.63	44.13%
1986	1,637	2,617,159	45	4.38	36.87%
1985	1,716	2,947,347	36	4.71	42.45%
1984	1,707	2,974,420	36	4.76	45.97%
1983	1,672	3,417,977	18	5.60	53.52%
1982	1,585	2,878,602	15	4.97	41.89%
1981	1,414	2,510,329	11	4.86	37.63%
1980	1,223	2,236,500	18	5.00	35.84%
Year	Number of Stripper Wells	Production (Barrels)	Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells	Average Daily Production per Well (Barrels)	Percent of Total Crude Oil Production

Year	Number of Stripper Wells	Production (Barrels)	Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells	Average Daily Production per Well (Barrels)	Percent of Total Crude Oil Production
1979	1,037	1,865,695	17	4.93	30.74%
1978	987	NA	59	NA	NA
1977	919	NA	14	NA	NA
1976	812	NA	10	NA	NA
1975	638	NA	9	NA	NA
1974	577	NA	74	NA	NA
1973	526	NA	72	NA	NA
1972	417	NA	50	NA	NA
1971	484	NA	50	NA	NA
1970	437	NA	47	NA	NA
Year	Number of Stripper Wells	Production (Barrels)	Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells	Average Daily Production per Well (Barrels)	Percent of Total Crude Oil Production

Sources: "marginal wells: fuel for economic growth." Interstate Oil and Gas Compact Commission, Oklahoma City, OK. Nebraska Energy Office, Lincoln, NE.

Notes: The number of wells is estimated for 1997. NA = no data available.

This table was updated on July 2, 2015.