

Stripper Oil Wells in Nebraska 2012

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 1,553 stripper oil wells in 2012 (0.38 percent of the nation's reported 409,593 stripper wells). Shown in the table below, these 1,553 stripper wells produced 1,545,886 barrels of oil or 61.5 percent of [Nebraska's oil production](#). Using 2012's average [wellhead oil price](#) in Nebraska of \$84.95 per barrel, without the stripper oil wells' production, an additional \$131 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 268.7 million barrels of oil (or 17.2 percent of the total 1.56 billion barrels of oil produced in the United States) saving \$25.4 billion on additional imports to the nation. (The [nation's average wellhead oil price](#) in 2012 was \$94.52 per barrel.)

Rank

Twenty-eight states produce oil from stripper wells: Alabama, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Colorado, Illinois, Indiana, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan, Mississippi, Missouri, Montana, Nebraska, Nevada, New Mexico, New York, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Utah, Virginia, West Virginia, and Wyoming. Within this group, in 2012, Nebraska was ranked 11th 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 – 2012

| Year | Number of Stripper Wells | Production (Barrels) | Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells | Average Daily Production per Well (Barrels) | Percent of Total Crude Oil Production |
|------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 2012 | 1,553 | 1,545,886 | NA | 2.70 | 61.50% |
| 2011 | 1,516 | 1,596,257 | NA | NA | NA |
| 2010 | 1,452 | 1,407,979 | NA | NA | NA |
| 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% |
| Year | Number of Stripper Wells | Production (Barrels) | Plugged and Abandoned Stripper Wells | Average Daily Production per Well (Barrels) | Percent of Total Crude Oil Production |

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|------|--------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|---|
| 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% |
| 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.