

# Econ Quiz – 03/17/11

## Oil, Part III: The world's top producer of crude oil and NGPL

By Bill Pinkovitz and Colette Hershey

About 100 countries produce crude oil and NGPL (the liquid separated from natural gas during processing that is used in refining petroleum). The United States was the third largest producer of crude oil and NGPL in 2009.

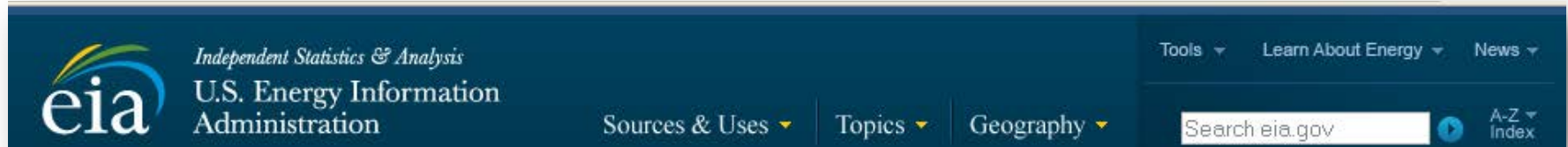
**Question:** What country was the top producer of crude oil and NGPL in 2009?

- A. Saudi Arabia
- B. China
- C. Russia
- D. Canada

The world's top producer of crude oil and NGPL

**Answer: C. Russia**

Prior to the fall of the Soviet Union, the USSR was the world's largest producer. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia claimed the top spot. Russia became the top producer in 2009 with 12.3 percent of the world's crude oil and NGPL. Saudi Arabia ranked a close second with 12.0 percent.



The answers for this week's question come from the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA). The EIA collects, analyzes, and disseminates independent and impartial energy information to promote sound policymaking, efficient markets, and public understanding of energy and its interaction with the economy and the environment.

# The world's top producer of crude oil and NGPL

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## Oil: Crude and Petroleum Products Explained

### Where Our Oil Comes From

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#### Where Is Oil Produced?

Crude oil is produced in 31 States and U.S. coastal waters. In 2009, 50% of U.S. crude oil production came from five States:

- Texas (21%)
- Alaska (12%)
- California (11%)
- North Dakota (4%)
- Louisiana (3.5%)

About one-third of U.S. crude oil was produced from wells located offshore in State and Federally administered waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Although total U.S. crude oil production has generally decreased each year since it peaked in 1970, it increased by 7% in 2009 from 2008, in large part due to a 35% increase in production in Federal waters of the Gulf of Mexico.

Natural gas plant liquids (NGPL) are liquids that are separated from natural gas at processing plants and used in petroleum refineries. Production of NGPL fluctuates with natural gas production, but their share of total U.S. petroleum production has increased from 8% in 1950 to 26% in 2009.

In 2009, the U.S. imported about 51% of the crude oil and refined petroleum products that it used. **Our answer is here!**

About 100 countries produce crude oil and NGPL; the top five producing countries in 2009, and their share of total world production:

- Russia (12.3%)
- Saudi Arabia (12.0%)
- United States (9.0%)
- Iran (5.2%)
- China (4.7%)

After the fall of the Soviet Union, Saudi Arabia became the world's top petroleum producer — until 2009, when Russia narrowly surpassed it.

#### Top Crude Oil Producing States, 2009

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration.

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#### Top Oil\* Producing Countries, 1973-2009

\*Crude oil and natural gas plant liquids.  
Source: 1973-2008 data: U.S. Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review* 2009, Tables 11.5, 11.6 (August 2010). 2009 data and Chinese NGPL Production: EIA, *International Energy Statistics*.

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This information is simply listed on the EIA Energy Explained website.

Click here to explore oil production and other energy concerns:

[http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=oil\\_where](http://www.eia.gov/energyexplained/index.cfm?page=oil_where)

There is a lot of other interesting data on the U.S. Energy Information Administration. We encourage you to explore the [EIA](#). Let us know if you find something interesting.

And don't forget to read the rest of our series on oil, which you can read on the [Econ Quiz website](#).

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