

Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.

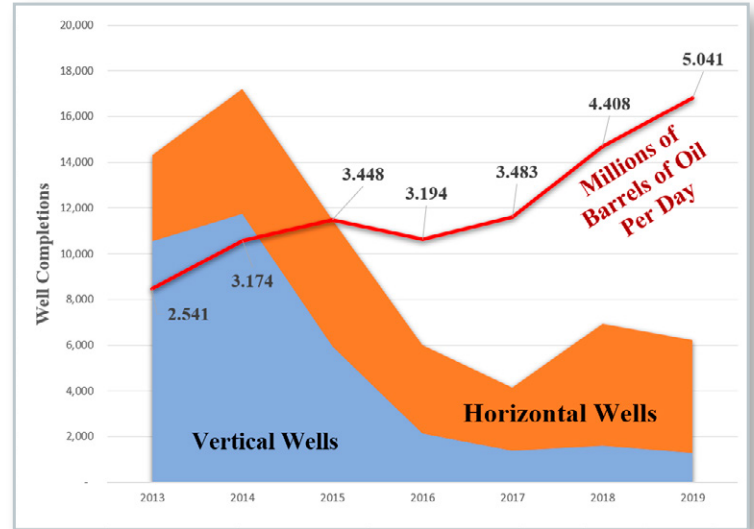
2019 Texas Oil Boom Fueled by Horizontal Wells

Texas' oil production averaged over 5 million barrels per day in 2019. This record-breaking production occurred as the number of well completions, where wells are drilled and readied for production, decreased from a peak in 2014.

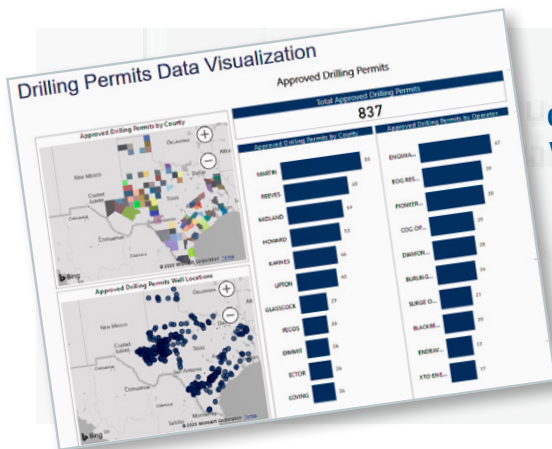
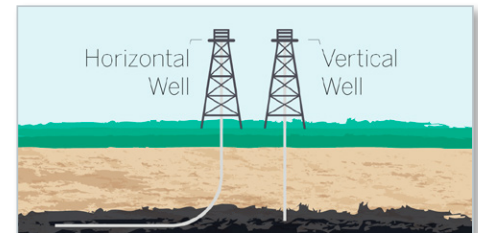
The energy industry's use of more effective drilling techniques, including horizontal wells and hydraulic fracturing, explains how the state's oil production increased while the number of new wells being brought into production decreased. Horizontal wells enable producers to access more area within an oil field than vertical wells (see graphic opposite). Combined with hydraulic fracturing, which increases well productivity, horizontal wells generally produce more than their vertical counterparts.

Between 2013 and 2019, the number of annual horizontal well completions increased from 3,766 to 4,943. During that same period, the number of annual vertical well completions declined from 10,542 to 1,283. Despite the decline on overall new well completions, the productive capacity of the new horizontal wells contributed to the state's record-breaking oil production in 2019.

Texas Well Completions & Oil Production



Source: US Energy Information Administration, RRC



Click to view our interactive maps

RRC Introduces New Interactive Data Maps

RRC has launched two more interactive data maps showing oil and gas drilling permit approvals and the number of wells spudded, which is when an operator begins drilling a well. These new maps highlight where new wells are being permitted or spudded for all Texas counties, Texas' top 10 producing counties, and the state's leading operators. Find these and other interactive data features on RRC's website at rrc.texas.gov

Visit us at rrc.texas.gov

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