## Middle East Oil

Oil production, trade, and refining in the Middle East are important for global oil markets. Three critical maritime transit points for crude oil and petroleum products are in or near the region. Conflicts within and among Middle East countries and regional militant groups have included attacks—more than 100 since 2017<sup>1</sup>—targeting oil infrastructure, including production fields, pipelines, processing and refining facilities, storage terminals, and tankers.



**Crude oil** includes crude oil, shale/tight oil, oil sands, and lease condensate or gas condensates that require further refining. **Oil products** include gasoline, diesel/gasoil, fuel oil, and other refined petroleum products. **Spare capacity** changes monthly and is defined by the Energy Information Administration as "the volume of production that can be brought on within 30 days and sustained for at least 90 days." Most spare oil production capacity is controlled by Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) members. BPD = Barrels per day. UAE = United Arab Emirates. ME = Middle East. \* Included in Other ME.

**Sources:** 1. S&P Global Commodity Insights, "Energy Security Sentinel: An Interactive Study of Geopolitical Risk and Energy Prices" (accessed December 20, 2023). 2. S&P Global, "Commodity Midstream Essentials Gold Worldwide" (accessed November 30, 2023). 3. U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), "The Strait of Hormuz Is the World's Most Important Oil Transit Chokepoint," November 21, 2023; and "Red Sea Chokepoints Are Critical for International Oil and Natural Gas Flows," December 4, 2023. 4. Energy Institute, "Statistical Review of World Energy," 72nd ed., 2023. 5. International Energy Agency, *Oil Market Report—December 2023.* Map geography: U.S. Department of State. Information prepared by Phillip Brown, Specialist in Energy Policy; Calvin DeSouza, Geospatial Information Systems Analyst; and Amber Wilhelm, Visual Information Specialist on January 4, 2024.



## **Author Information**

Phillip Brown Specialist in Energy Policy

## Disclaimer

This document was prepared by the Congressional Research Service (CRS). CRS serves as nonpartisan shared staff to congressional committees and Members of Congress. It operates solely at the behest of and under the direction of Congress. Information in a CRS Report should not be relied upon for purposes other than public understanding of information that has been provided by CRS to Members of Congress in connection with CRS's institutional role. CRS Reports, as a work of the United States Government, are not subject to copyright protection in the United States. Any CRS Report may be reproduced and distributed in its entirety without permission from CRS. However, as a CRS Report may include copyrighted images or material from a third party, you may need to obtain the permission of the copyright holder if you wish to copy or otherwise use copyrighted material.