U.S. Shale Gas & Federal Lands

The United States has been the largest producer of natural gas since the advent of shale gas in the mid-2000s. Most of the rise in production has been on private lands, not federal. Thus, federal government revenue has not seen an equivalent rise. Shale gas production has mostly taken place on private lands, with the largest contribution coming from the Marcellus shale in Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and Ohio. Of the top five producers and revenue generators from federal lands, no state is a top-five producer of overall U.S. gas production.



Western states account for most natural gas production on federal lands and revenues. Data is from 2022, the latest year of available data for all categories.

bcf - billion cubic feet

*Gross production - Full well-stream volume, including all natural gas plant liquids and all nonhydrocarbon gases, but excluding lease condensate. Also includes amounts delivered as royalty payments or consumed in field operations.

Notes: 1. Office of Natural Resources Revenue (ONRR), Query Natural Resources Revenue Data. 2. Energy Information Administration, Natural Gas Gross Withdrawals and Production, Natural Gas Gross Withdrawals (eia.gov). 3. Production of natural gas on federal land accounts for 8% of total U.S. gross gas production. Map geography created by CRS using data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration, U.S. Geological Survey, and ESRI.



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