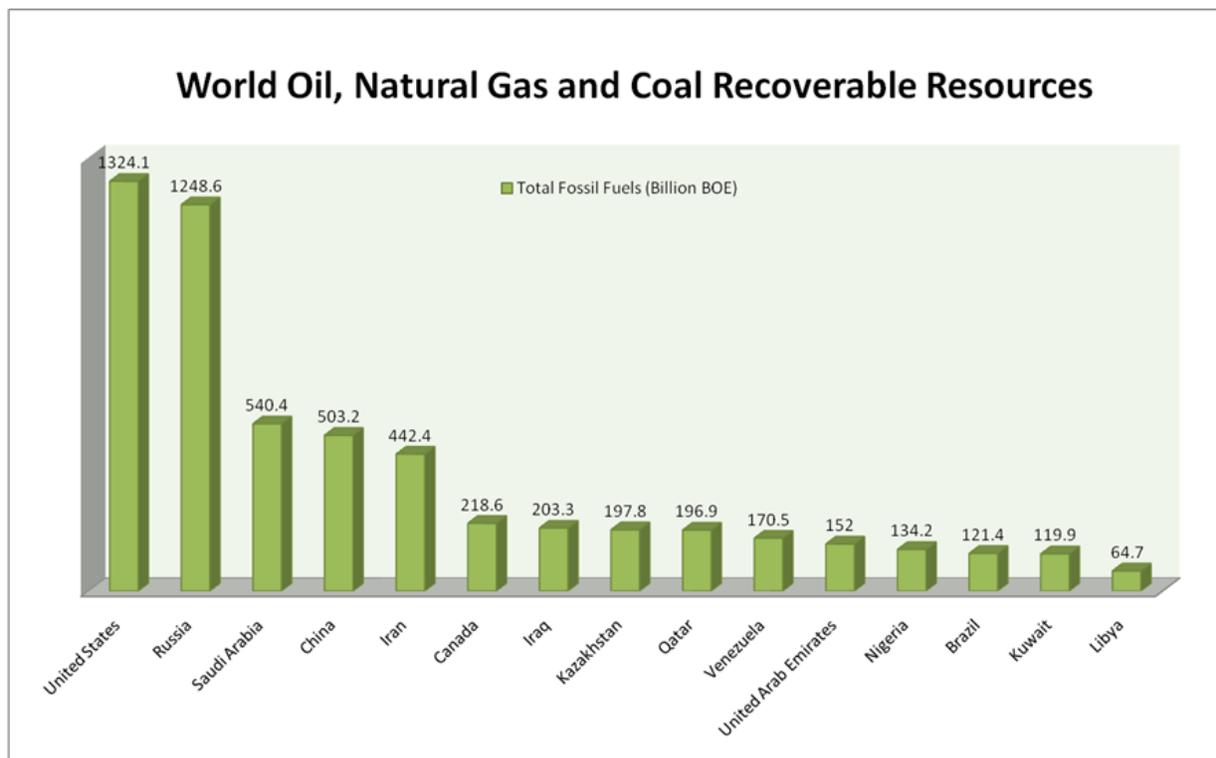


America's Vast Energy Resources

The World Energy Leader

According to a recent [Congressional Research Service \(CRS\) report](#), the United States' combined recoverable oil, natural gas and coal resources is **1.3 trillion barrels of oil equivalent** – the largest in the world.

This figure does not include the United States' oil shale and methane hydrate resources.



Source: [CRS Report](#), *U.S. Fossil Fuel Resources: Terminology, Reporting and Summary*, pg.18

Inside Content:

- Oil Resources
- Natural Gas Resources
- Coal
- Summary of U.S. Energy Resources

Oil Resources

It's often stated that the United States has just 2% of the world's oil resources – yet this is a rhetorical trick meant to mislead and underestimate America's true energy resources. The 2% figure is a narrow estimate based only on America's *proved reserves* – which is the amount of oil that has actually been discovered through drilling.

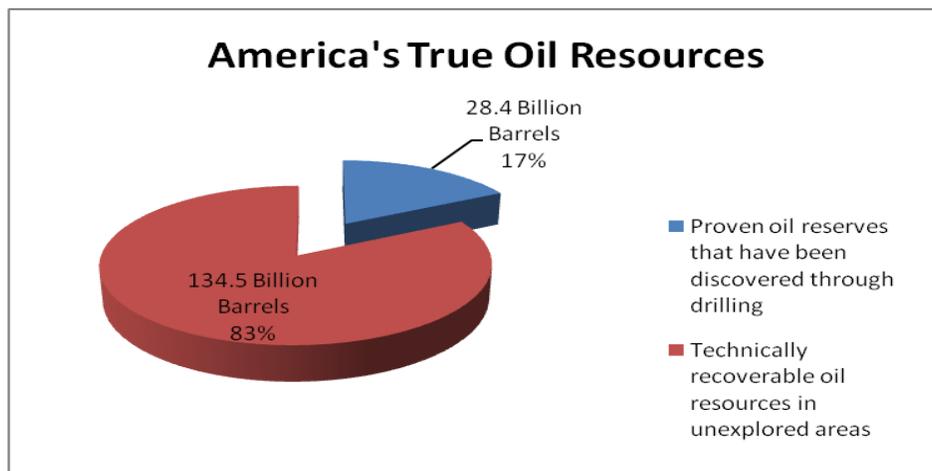
However, the [CRS report](#) shows that the U.S. has huge amounts of oil resources that exist in unexplored areas – these are known as *technically recoverable oil resources*.

Proved Oil Reserves = 28.4 billion barrels

Technically Recoverable Oil Resources = 134.5 billion barrels

Total U.S. Oil Endowment = 162.9 billion barrels of oil¹

All of the United States' oil, both discovered and in unexplored areas, must be taken into account in order to accurately reflect our nation's true oil resources. Only looking at proved oil reserves ignores 83% of the oil we know we have in the United States.



Source: [CRS Report](#), *U.S. Fossil Fuel Resources: Terminology, Reporting and Summary*, pg.10

Oil Shale

The United States' total amount of oil resources, as calculated by CRS, does not even include our oil shale resources. According to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), the U.S. holds more than half of the world's oil shale resources.

The largest known deposits of oil shale are located in a 16,000-square mile area in the Green River formation in Colorado, Utah and Wyoming.

According to [USGS estimates](#), **the region may hold more than 1.5 trillion barrels of oil** – six times Saudi Arabia's proven resources, and enough to provide the United States with energy for the next 200 years.

¹ Includes crude oil and natural gas liquids

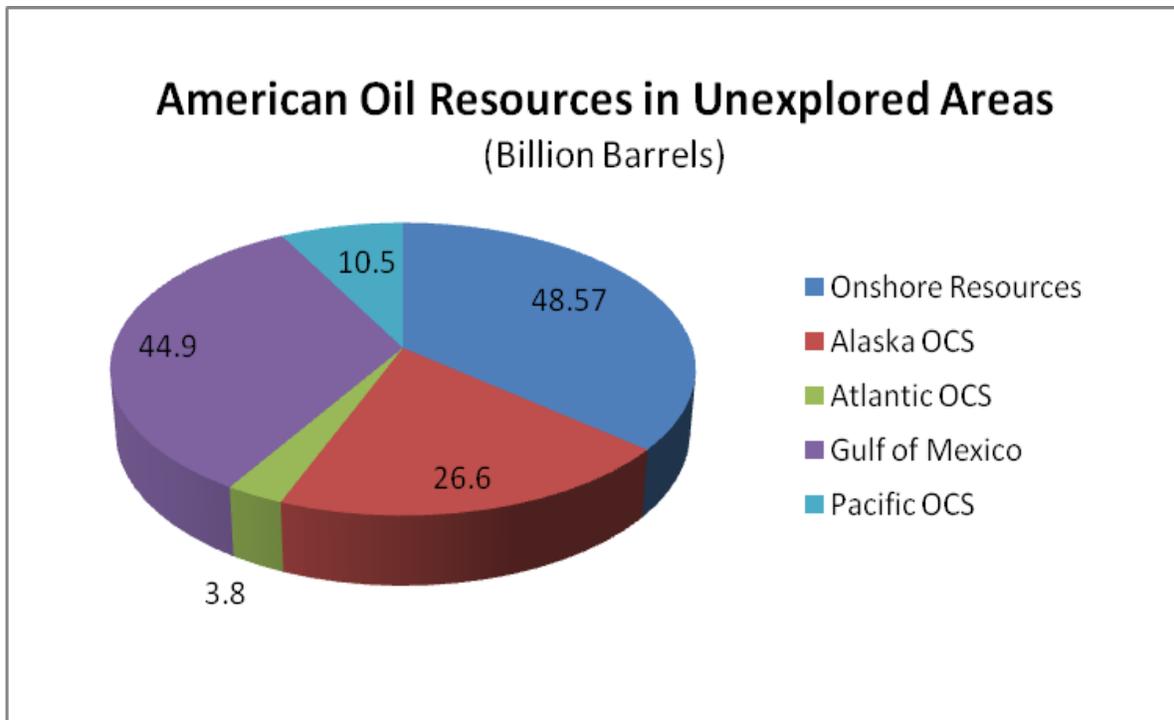
Oil Resources

Where Are Undiscovered U.S. Oil Resources Located?

The vast majority of our country's resources are in areas that have yet to be explored or produced. This means that expanding American energy production would greatly increase our domestic supply of oil and create good-paying American jobs.

Total Onshore Technically Recoverable Oil Resources = 48.6 billion barrels

Total Offshore Technically Recoverable Oil Resources = 85.8 billion barrels



Source: [CRS Report](#), *U.S. Fossil Fuel Resources: Terminology, Reporting and Summary*, pg.9

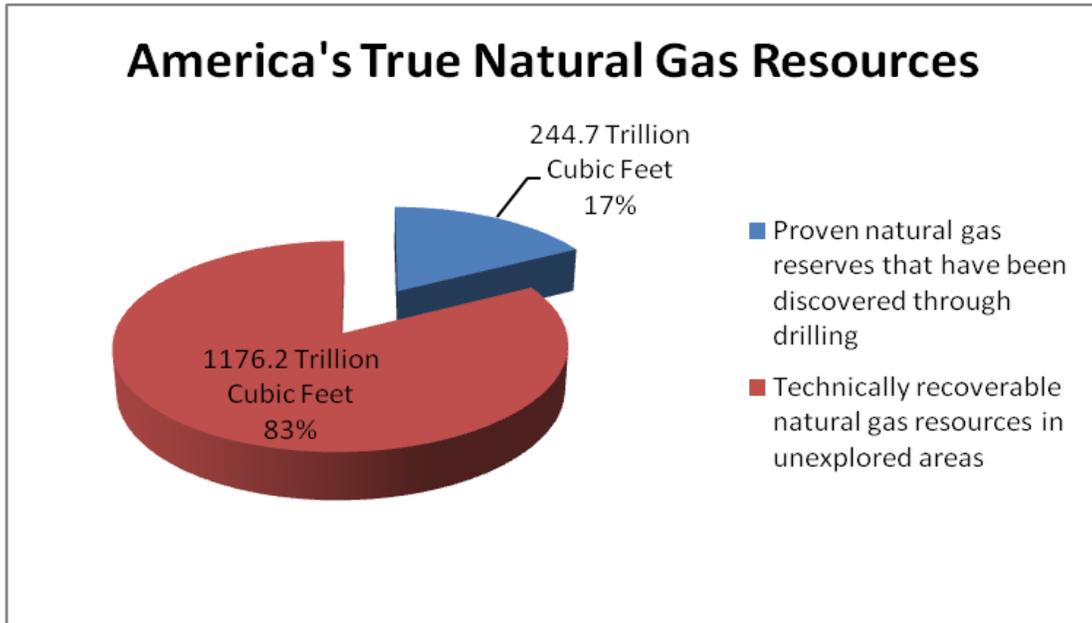
Natural Gas

The United States also has a large supply of natural gas. Once again, the vast majority of our natural gas resources are located in areas that have yet to be explored.

Proved Natural Gas Reserves = 244.7 trillion cubic feet

Technically Recoverable Natural Gas Resources = 1,176.2 trillion cubic feet

Total U.S. Natural Gas Endowment = 1420.9 trillion cubic feet



Source: [CRS Report](#), *U.S. Fossil Fuel Resources: Terminology, Reporting and Summary*, pg.10

Shale Gas

The CRS numbers above do not include shale gas resources. Exploration and production of shale gas is increasing, though it's still considered an unconventional energy source. [CRS](#) reports that the Potential Gas Committee estimated that the United States has **616 trillion cubic feet** of potential natural gas resources in the form of shale gas.

Methane Hydrates

The CRS numbers also don't include methane hydrates. Natural gas in the form of methane hydrates is not yet commercially viable, but has the potential to be a new a source of energy.

According to [CRS](#), "the mean in-place gas hydrate resource for the entire United States is estimated to **be 320,000 trillion cubic feet of gas**, with approximately half of this resource occurring offshore of Alaska and most of the remainder occurring beneath the continental margins of the lower 48 states."

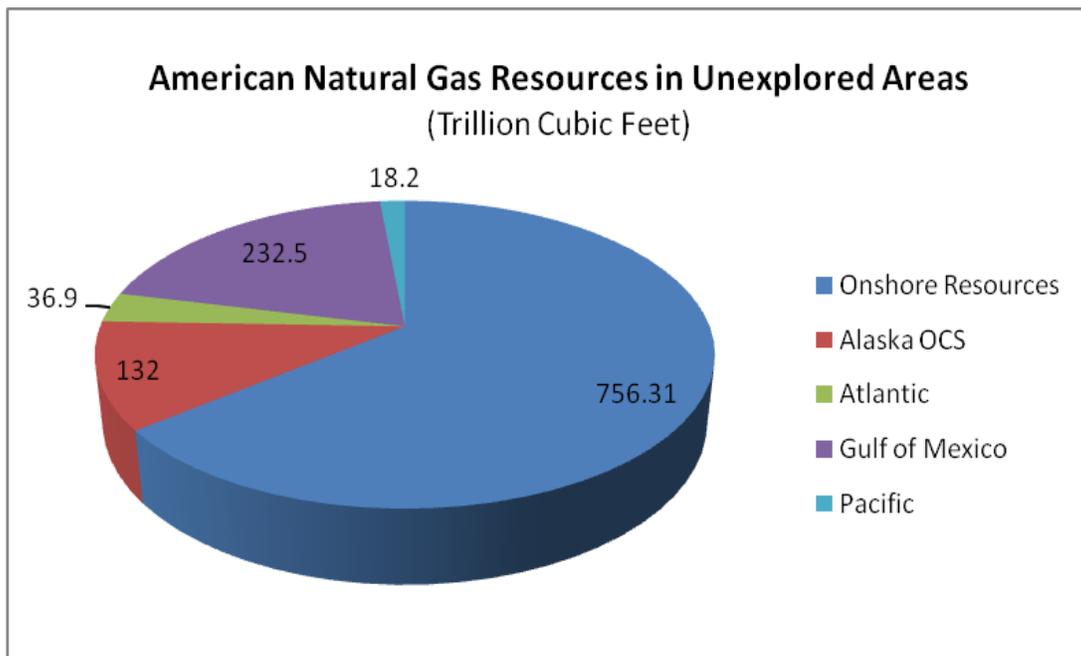
Natural Gas

Where Are Undiscovered U.S. Natural Gas Resources Located?

The majority of the United States' undiscovered natural gas resources are located in unexplored areas onshore.

Total Onshore Technically Recoverable Natural Gas Resources = 756.31 trillion cubic feet

Total Offshore Technically Recoverable Natural Gas Resources = 419.8 trillion cubic feet



Source: [CRS Report](#), *U.S. Fossil Fuel Resources: Terminology, Reporting and Summary*, pg.9

Coal

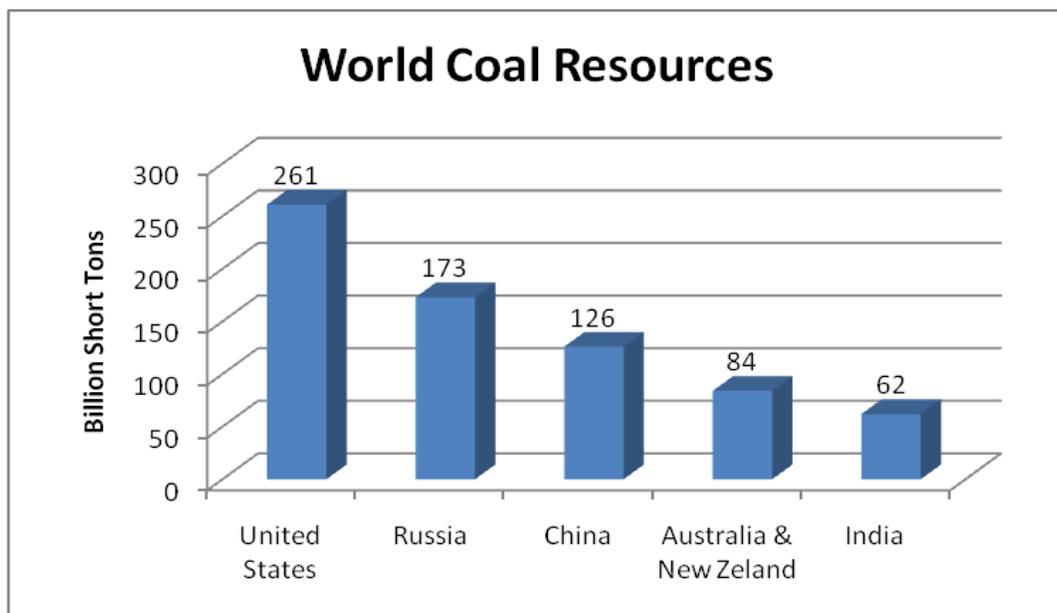
The United States has the world's largest supply of coal. However, only a little over 50% of our coal resources are currently available to be produced through mining.

Total U.S. coal reserves = 488 billion short tons

U.S. coal reserves that can actually be produced through mining = 261 billion short tons

Note: One short ton = 2,000 pounds.

The United States produces and consumes just 1 billion short tons of coal per year - meaning our country has enough coal reserves to last hundreds of years.



Source: [CRS Report](#), *U.S. Fossil Fuel Resources: Terminology, Reporting and Summary*, pg.17

Summary of U.S. Energy Resources

Total U.S. Oil and Natural Gas

- 162.9 billion barrels of oil
- 1420.9 trillion cubic feet

Outer Continental Shelf (Offshore)

- 85.8 billion barrels of oil
- 419.8 trillion cubic feet of natural gas

Onshore

- 48.6 billion barrels of oil
- 756.31 trillion cubic feet of natural gas

Coal

- 488 billion short tons, of which 261 billion short tons is recoverable through mining

Oil Shale

- More than 1.5 trillion barrels of oil

Shale Gas

- 616 trillion cubic feet

Methane Hydrates

- 320,000 trillion cubic feet of gas

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<http://naturalresources.house.gov>

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