

# Explanatory Notes

## Survey Methodology

### Description of Survey Form

The Form EIA-820, “Annual Refinery Report,” is the primary source of data in the “Refinery Capacity Report” tables. The form collects data on the consumption of purchased steam, electricity, coal, and natural gas; refinery receipts of crude oil by method of transportation; operable capacity for atmospheric crude oil distillation units and downstream units; and production capacity for selected petroleum products.

### Frame

The respondent frame consists of all operating and idle petroleum refineries, and beginning in 2024, all non-refinery operators of distillation, reforming, cracking, coking, hydrotreating and similar processes located in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and other U.S. possessions. As of January 1, 2024, there were 132 respondents in the frame.

The respondent frame is maintained by monitoring the monthly Form EIA-810, “Monthly Refinery Report,” and industry publications for changes and developments in the petroleum industry such as refinery sales, mergers and new operations.

### Collection

The Form EIA-820 is sent to respondents in January. Survey forms can be submitted by secure file transfer. Completed forms are required to be submitted by the 15th day of February of the current report year. Receipt of the reports is monitored using an automated respondent mailing list. Telephone follow-up calls are made to secure responses from those companies failing to report by February 15th.

### Processing and Micro Editing

Upon receipt, all reported data are transformed into a standard format and sent through a log-in and prescreening process to validate respondent control information and resolve any discrepancies. The data are then processed using generalized edit and imputation procedures. Automated editing procedures check current data for consistency with past data and for internal consistency (e.g., totals equal to the sums of the parts).

After the edit failures are resolved and imputation performed for nonrespondents, preliminary tables are produced and used to identify anomalies. Anomalies result in further review of respondent data which in turn may result in additional flagged data and imputation.

### Imputation and Estimation

Imputation is performed for companies that fail to file prior to the publication deadline. When nonresponse occurs, values for these companies are imputed from data reported on the most recent year’s Form EIA-820 and/or from data reported on Form EIA-810, “Monthly Refinery Report,” for that company. For most surveyed items, the value imputed for nonrespondents is the value that the company reported on the Form EIA-820 for the most recent year. For two categories of information however, the imputed value is also based on their data from the Form EIA-810 as follows:

#### Part 4: Refinery Receipts of Crude Oil by Method of Transportation

The imputation methodology for this section is based on data reported on both the monthly Form EIA-810 and the annual Form EIA-820. Annual refinery receipts of domestic and foreign crude oil for a nonrespondent are imputed by

aggregating the values for the refinery on the monthly survey. These values are allocated to the method of transportation by using the percentages reported for the refinery in the previous year.

#### **Part 5: Atmospheric Crude Oil Distillation Capacity**

Operable atmospheric crude oil distillation capacity in barrels per calendar day is collected on the monthly Form EIA-810 as of the first day of each month and on the annual Form EIA-820 as of January 1. As part of the editing process for the Form EIA-820, these two values are compared. Companies are contacted and any discrepancies are resolved by the time of publication. Imputed values for operable atmospheric crude oil distillation capacity in barrels per calendar day are taken directly from the January Form EIA-810. A barrel per stream day capacity is then derived by dividing the reported barrels per calendar day capacity by .95.

#### **Parts 6 and 7: Downstream Charge Capacity and Production Capacity**

Current year and projected year data for downstream charge capacity and production capacity are taken directly from the previous year's annual report.

#### **Macro Editing**

A comparison of the data collected on the EIA-820 with other similar data series and industry trade journals is performed each year.

#### **Dissemination**

Prior to 2006, the data collected on Form EIA-820, "Annual Refinery Report," was published in the *Petroleum Supply Annual, Volume 1*. Beginning with data for 2006, the Form EIA-820 data are published as a standalone product in the EIA publication "Refinery Capacity Report." This report contains statistics on consumption of purchased steam, electricity, coal, and natural gas; refinery receipts of crude oil by method of transportation; current and projected capacities for atmospheric crude oil distillation, downstream charge and production capacities. The "Refinery Capacity Report" can be found at:

<https://www.eia.gov/petroleum/refinerycapacity/>

### **Additional Sources of Data**

The Form EIA-820, "Annual Refinery Report," is the primary source of data in the "Refinery Capacity Report" tables. In addition, some data collected on the Form EIA-810, "Monthly Refinery Report," are included.

### **Quality**

#### **Response Rates**

The response rate for the Form EIA-820 is normally 100 percent.

#### **Non-sampling Errors**

There are two types of errors usually associated with data produced from a survey -sampling errors and nonsampling errors. Because estimates from the Form EIA-820 survey are based on a complete census of the frame of petroleum refineries, there is no sampling error in the data presented in this report. The data, however, are subject to nonsampling errors. Nonsampling errors are those which can arise from: (1) the inability to obtain data from all companies in the frame or sample (nonresponse) and the method used to account for nonresponses; (2) definitional difficulties and/or improperly

worded questions which lead to different interpretations; (3) mistakes in recording or coding the data obtained from respondents; and (4) other errors of collection, response, coverage, and estimation. Quality control procedures are employed in the collection and editing operations to minimize misrepresentation and misreporting. Nonresponse follow-up procedures are employed to reduce the number of nonrespondents, and procedures employed to impute missing data, introduce a minimal amount of error, given the relatively small volume of imputed data.

### **Resubmissions**

EIA-820 resubmissions are required whenever an error greater than 5 percent of the true value is discovered. In the event of a reporting error, company reports are updated after contact with the company and are followed up by corrected report resubmissions.

### **Revision Policy**

The “Refinery Capacity Report” reflects EIA’s final data on refinery capacity and will be revised only if, in EIA’s judgment, a revision is expected to substantively affect understanding of the U.S. refinery capacity.

## **Confidentiality**

Information on operable atmospheric crude oil distillation capacity, downstream charge capacity, and production capacity reported on Parts 5, 6, and 7 of Form EIA-820 are not considered confidential and are published in the “Refinery Capacity Report.” All other information reported on Form EIA-820 (i.e. Parts 3 and 4 and respondent information) will be protected and not disclosed to the public to the extent that it satisfies the criteria for exemption under the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA), 5 U.S.C. §552, the DOE regulations, 10 C.F.R. §1004.11, implementing the FOIA, and the Trade Secrets Act, 18 U.S.C. §1905.

The Federal Energy Administration Act requires the EIA to provide company-specific data to other Federal agencies when requested for official use. The information reported on this form may also be made available, upon request, to another component of the Department of Energy (DOE); to any Committee of Congress, the General Accountability Office, or other Federal agencies authorized by law to receive such information. A court of competent jurisdiction may obtain this information in response to an order. The information may be used for any nonstatistical purposes such as administrative, regulatory, law enforcement, or adjudicatory purposes.

Company specific data are also provided to other DOE offices for the purpose of examining specific petroleum operations in the context of emergency response planning and actual emergencies.

Disclosure limitation procedures are not applied to the statistical data published from this survey’s information. Thus, there may be some statistics that are based on data from fewer than three respondents, or that are dominated by data from one or two large respondents. In these cases, it may be possible for a knowledgeable person to estimate the information reported by a specific respondent.

## **Refinery Capacity History**

Refinery capacity data collection was begun in 1918 by the Bureau of Mines, then in the Department of Commerce, and was operated on a voluntary basis until 1980. In 1980, the mandatory Energy Information Administration (EIA) Form EIA-177, “Capacity of Petroleum Refineries,” was implemented. Information on refining capacity was expanded to include not only current year operations, but two-year projections, and refinery input/production data. Working storage capacity data was also added to the form and product categories were added for total coverage. Information on refinery downstream facilities was expanded to include a breakdown of thermal operations and to add vacuum distillation, catalytic hydrorefining and hydrotreating. Production capacity was also added to include information on isomerization, alkylation, aromatics, asphalt/road oil, coking, lubricants and hydrogen.

In 1983, the form was revised to improve the consistency and quality of the data collected by the EIA and redesignated as Form EIA-820, "Annual Refinery Report." Two sections for data previously reported monthly were added: (1) refinery receipts of crude oil by method of transportation, and (2) fuels consumed for all purposes at refineries. Also, the second year projections on refining capacity were eliminated. As a result of a study conducted by the EIA evaluating motor gasoline data collected by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and by the EIA, motor gasoline blending plants were included for the first time in the respondent frame in order to produce more accurate statistics on the production of motor gasoline.

In 1987, the form was revised to reduce respondent burden and to better reflect current refinery operations through updated terminology. Information on projected input/production of refinery processing facilities was deleted. Several categories under catalytic hydrotreating were combined: naphtha and reformer feeds were combined into a single category as well as residual fuel oil and "other." Thermal cracking types, gas oil and "other" were also combined into a single category. Catalytic reforming types, conventional and bi-metallic were replaced with low and high pressure processing units. Two new categories were added: fuels solvent deasphalting was added to downstream charge capacity and sulfur recovery was added to production capacity.

In 1994, the form was revised to enable EIA to calculate utilization rates for certain downstream processing units and to reflect storage capacity of fuels mandated by the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990. Additions to the form included calendar day downstream charge capacity for fluid and delayed coking, catalytic cracking, and catalytic hydrocracking. Also storage capacity categories for reformulated, oxygenated, and other finished motor gasoline were added, as well as oxygenate storage capacity and separate categories for high and low sulfur distillate fuel oil.

In 1995, motor gasoline blending plants were dropped from the survey frame, since by this time, the only section of the form that applied to them was working and shell storage capacity. Also in 1995, a decision was made to no longer collect storage capacity from shutdown refineries; therefore, these refineries were also eliminated from the survey frame.

In 1996, the survey was moved to a biennial schedule (every other year) and was renamed "Biennial Refinery Report." The survey was not conducted for January 1, 1996 or January 1, 1998. Respondents were not required to submit data for crude oil and petroleum products consumed at refineries during 1995 and 1997. These data are available from the Form EIA-810, "Monthly Refinery Report." The requirement to submit data for refinery consumption of natural gas, coal, and purchased steam and electricity on the Form EIA-820 remained.

In 2000, the survey was moved to an annual schedule.

In 2004, the survey form was amended to reflect the increasing emphasis on the removal of sulfur from transportation fuels.

In 2009, natural gas used as feedstock for hydrogen plant production was added to the form. Also, isooctane production capacity was added.

In 2010, the survey form was amended to reflect the increasing use of bio-fuels. Storage capacities of biomass-based diesel fuel, other renewable diesel fuel and other renewable fuels were added to the form. Also, barrels per calendar day capacity of the catalytic reformer was added; previously this was only collected on a stream day basis.

In 2011, storage capacity data was removed from the form. Storage capacity is now being collected as of March 31 on the Form EIA-810, "Monthly Refinery Report."

In 2024, the frame was amended to include non-refinery operators of distillation, reforming, cracking, coking, hydrotreating and similar processes.