

Oil and Gas



Oil and gas is one of Saskatchewan's leading industries.

In 2013, oil and gas production value totalled \$14.2 billion.

- Saskatchewan's upstream oil and gas industry provides an estimated 36,000 person years of employment (direct and indirect).
- In 2013-14, the industry is expected to contribute approximately \$1.6 billion in revenue to the provincial economy.
- Saskatchewan ranked first in Canada for oil and gas investment in the Fraser Institute's 2013 Global Petroleum Survey.
- Remaining recoverable reserves are 1.9 trillion cubic feet (53.4 billion cubic metres).
- Improvements to horizontal oil well drilling and completion techniques have greatly improved production from formations such as the Bakken (southeast Saskatchewan), the Lower Shaunavon (southwest) and the Viking (west-central).
- Other opportunities exist in shale gas in central and east-central Saskatchewan along with an estimated 2.7 million hectares of oil sands potential adjacent to the massive Athabasca deposit.

Our Competitive Edge

- Saskatchewan is Canada's second-largest oil producer, accounting for 15% of total crude oil production.
- The province is the sixth-largest oil-producing jurisdiction in North America behind only Alberta, Texas, North Dakota, Alaska and California.
- An estimated 29,900 oil wells produced 177.9 million barrels (28.3 million cubic metres) worth \$13.7 billion in 2013. Remaining recoverable reserves are 1.1 billion barrels (174.8 million cubic metres).
- Saskatchewan is the third-largest natural gas-producing province. In 2013, gas production was 195.8 billion cubic feet (5.5 billion cubic metres) valued at \$480 million.

Innovation and Opportunity

- Opportunities abound in exploration, extraction, processing and refining; an estimated \$4.9 billion was spent in exploration and development in 2013.
- An extensive network of pipelines and rail ensures quick turnaround from drilling to market.
- Saskatchewan has a crude oil refining capacity of approximately 109,000 barrels (17,323 cubic metres) per day and heavy crude oil upgrading capacity of approximately 137,000 barrels (21,773 cubic metres) per day.



Enhanced Oil Recovery (EOR) Techniques

- Currently less than 13% of the 48.3 billion barrels (7.7 billion cubic metres) of oil in-place is recoverable based on current and expected conditions. With approximately 87% of the oil remaining in the ground, there is excellent potential for the use of EOR methods and new technologies.
- New technologies like polymer floods and carbon dioxide (CO₂) injection have the potential to increase investment and resource recoveries in Saskatchewan.
- The Petroleum Technology Research Centre (PTRC) is currently undertaking the Aquistore Project, which is the first industrial-scale deep saline formation CO₂ storage project in Canada.
- Two major CO₂ flood projects have been implemented in the province; one in the Weyburn Unit by Cenovus Energy Inc. and one in the Midale Unit by Apache Canada. Together these projects are projected to recover 222 million barrels (35.3 million cubic metres) of incremental oil, lengthen each unit's operating life by at least 25 years and provide underground storage for approximately 35 million tonnes of CO₂.

The Investment Climate

- High exploration and development potential
- Public land sales (competitive bidding by sealed tender) held six times a year
- Excellent land access to drilling sites
- Lower drilling costs due to shallower drilling depths and well-defined geology
- Technological advances allow greater oil production at a lower cost
- Affordable land prices – lower overall business and industrial costs
- Central North American location with excellent transportation services and access to markets

The Bottom Line

Tax and Royalty Structures

- Stable, competitive royalty rates – among the lowest in Canada – developed in partnership with industry and which are sensitive to price and production rates
- Low 'fourth tier' royalties and freehold production taxes applicable to all newly drilled conventional oil and gas wells
- Drilling incentives for new horizontal oil wells, deep oil wells and exploratory oil and gas wells
- Reduced royalty/freehold production tax rates for incremental oil produced due to enhanced oil recovery projects

Support and Infrastructure

- Over a 40-year history of supplying goods and services to the oil and gas industry in Canada and around the world.
- Access to extensive crude oil and natural gas gathering systems connected to interprovincial and international pipeline networks
- Leading-edge research and development (R&D) capabilities through the PTRC, the Saskatchewan Research Council and the International Test Centre for Carbon Dioxide Capture
- Qualifying R&D field projects are eligible for a 30% to 50% royalty credit under the Saskatchewan Petroleum Research Incentive
- Streamlined and responsive regulatory system
- Producers have access to extensive geological data (the most complete core lab in Canada), seismic data, well location maps and well data
- Hard-working, skilled, reliable and productive workforce

For more information, contact:

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