



U.S. Energy Information Administration

Independent Statistics and Analysis

[Home](#) > [Nuclear](#) > Domestic Uranium Production Report

Domestic Uranium Production Report

Data for 2009

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Drilling

U.S. uranium exploration drilling was 1,790 holes covering 1.1 million feet in 2009. Development drilling was 3,889 holes and 2.7 million feet. Combined, total uranium drilling was 5,679 holes covering 3.7 million feet. Expenditures for exploration activities were \$24 million in 2009, and \$35 million for drilling activities.

Fig. 1. U.S. Uranium Drilling by Number of Holes

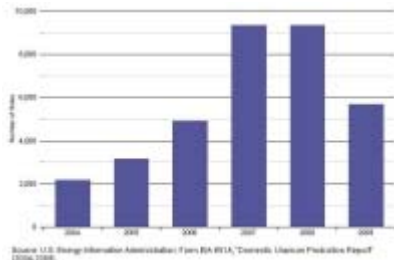
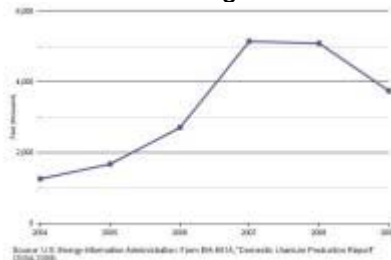


Fig. 2. U.S. Uranium Drilling in Footage




Mining

U.S. uranium mines produced 4.1 million pounds U_3O_8 in 2009, 7 percent more than in 2008. Fourteen underground mines produced ore containing uranium during 2009, four more than during 2008. Four in-situ-leach mining operations produced solutions containing uranium, two less than during 2008. Overall during part or all of 2009, there were 18 U.S. mines that produced uranium to be processed into uranium concentrate (a yellow or brown powder obtained by the milling of uranium ore or processing of in-situ-leach mining solutions).

Production and Shipments

Total production of U.S. uranium concentrate (yellowcake) in 2009 was 3.7 million pounds U_3O_8 , 5 percent below the 2008 level, from one U.S. mill (White Mesa Mill) and four in-situ-leach plants (Alta Mesa Project, Crow Butte Operation, Kingsville Dome, and Smith Ranch-Highland Operation). All but one were in production for the entire year. Kingsville Dome produced uranium concentrate during the first half of 2009. Shipments of uranium concentrate from these facilities were 3.6 million pounds U_3O_8 in 2009, 12 percent below the 2008 level.

(All Figures and Tables also available in [printer-friendly format](#) )

Tables

1. U.S. Uranium Drilling Activities, 2003 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
2. U.S. Uranium Mine Production and Number of Mines and Sources, 2003 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
3. U.S. Uranium Concentrate Production and Shipments, 2003 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
4. U.S. Uranium Mills by Owner, Capacity, and Operating Status at End of the Year, 2005 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
5. U.S. Uranium In-Situ-Leach Plants by Owner, Capacity, and Operating Status at End of the Year, 2005 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
6. Employment in the U.S. Uranium Production Industry by Category, 2003 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
7. Employment in the U.S. Uranium Production Industry by State, 2003 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Formats

8. U.S. Uranium Expenditures, 2003 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
9. Summary Production Statistics of the U.S. Uranium Industry, 1993 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)

Figures

1. U.S. Uranium Drilling by Number of Holes, 2004 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
2. U.S. Uranium Drilling in Footage, 2004 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
3. Employment in the U.S. Uranium Production Industry by Category, 2004 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
4. U.S. Uranium Expenditures, 2004 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
5. U.S. Mine Production of Uranium, 1993 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
6. U.S. Uranium Concentrate Production and Shipments, 1993 - 2009 [html](#) [pdf](#)
7. Employment in the U.S. Production Industry, 1993 - [html](#) [pdf](#)

Formats


Facilities

2009

At the end of 2009, one U.S. uranium mill was operating with a capacity of 2,000 short tons of ore per day. Three other existing U.S. mills with a total capacity of 4,150 short tons of ore per day were on standby. There was one planned mill under development.

Three U.S. uranium in-situ-leach plants were operating at the end of 2009, with a combined capacity of 7.5 million pounds U_3O_8 per year. Six other existing U.S. in-situ-leach plants with a total capacity of 4.2 million pounds U_3O_8 per year were on standby or permitted and licensed. There were eight planned in-situ-leach plants under development or partially permitted and licensed.

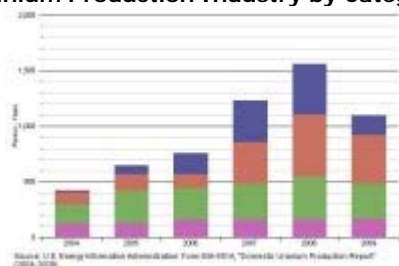
Other Reports

- [Domestic Uranium Production Report - Quarterly](#)
- [Uranium Marketing Annual Report](#)
- [2008 Domestic Uranium Production Report](#) 
- [Archive](#)

Employment

Total employment in the U.S. uranium production industry was 1,096 person-years for 2009, a decrease of 30 percent from the 2008 total. Exploration employment decreased the most (62 percent). Uranium mining, milling and processing employment decreased 20 percent, while reclamation employment rose 5 percent from 2008 to 2009. Eight States (Arizona, Colorado, Nebraska, New Mexico, Texas, Utah, Washington and Wyoming) accounted for 99 percent of total employment of the uranium production industry in 2009.

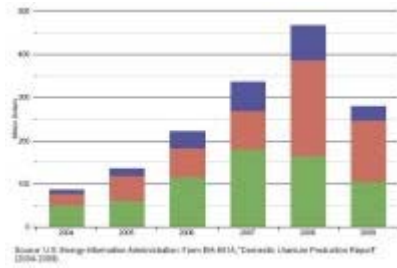
Fig. 3. Employment in the U.S. Uranium Production Industry by Category



Expenditures

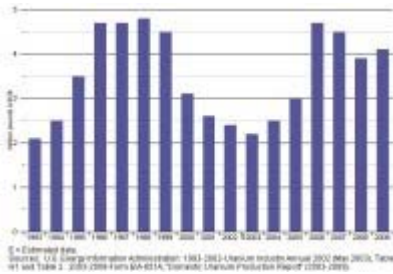
Total expenditures for land, exploration, drilling, production, and reclamation were \$281 million in 2009, 40 percent less than in 2008. Expenditures on U.S. uranium production, including facility expenses, were the largest category of expenditures at \$141 million in 2009, down 36 percent from 2008. Uranium exploration and drilling expenditures decreased 55 percent from 2008 to 2009. Expenditures for land were \$17 million, a 73 percent decrease compared with 2008.

Fig. 4. U.S. Uranium Expenditures

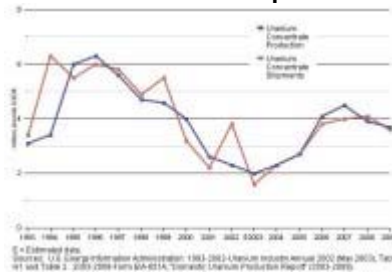


Summary Production Statistics of the U.S. Uranium Industry, 1993-2009

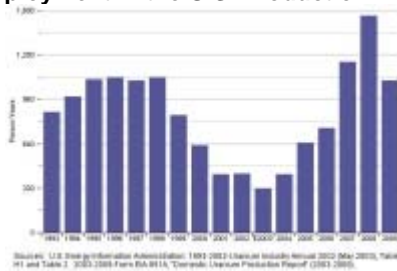
5. U.S. Mine Production of Uranium



6. U.S. Uranium Concentrate Production and Shipments



7. Employment in the U.S. Production Industry



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