

Barnett Shale Fact Sheet

Background

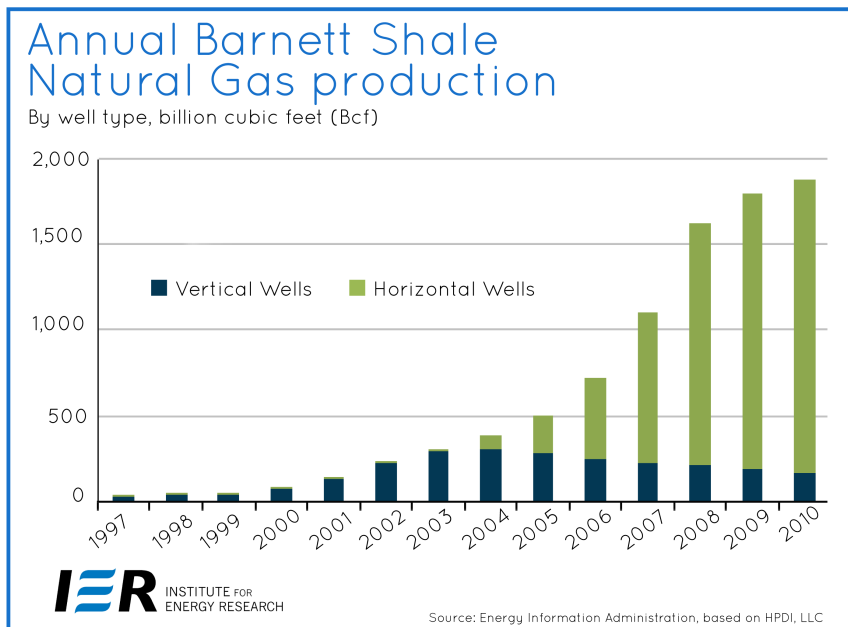
The Barnett Shale is a geological formation north of Dallas, Texas that contains an estimated **40 trillion cubic feet of technically recoverable natural gas reserves**.¹ Barnett was the first unconventional shale formation to yield large quantities of natural gas, demonstrating that shale gas could be produced profitably by using hydraulic fracturing and horizontal drilling. Currently, it is one of the most active shale formations with 15,000 wells drilled in the formation to date.

Production Growth

- In 1993, the Barnett Shale produced just 11 billion cubic feet of natural

gas per year—the same amount that is produced in two days time today.²

- The Barnett produced 1.93 trillion cubic feet of natural gas in 2011, or 5.3 billion cubic feet per day. This is a 190% increase over production levels just five years before.³
- Since 2003, the Barnett Shale has produced over 11 trillion cubic feet of natural gas.⁴
- Over 15,000 wells have been drilled in the Barnett to date.⁵
- Last year, over 1,200 permits were issued to drill wells in the Barnett with a total of 237 operators.⁶



Economic Impacts

- According to a 2011 economic impact analysis by the Perryman Group, approximately 38 percent of the North Texas region's economic growth since 2001 is attributable to production in the Barnett.⁷
- In 2011, Barnett production added an estimated \$11.1 billion to the region's economy and supported over 100,000 jobs.⁸
- For Texas as a whole, Barnett production added almost \$13.7 billion to the state's economy in 2011 and supported over 119,000 jobs.⁹
- Local and state tax revenue from Barnett Shale activity is estimated to have totaled \$1.6 billion for 2011.¹⁰

Geography

The Barnett Shale covers more than 5,000 square miles and stretches across 24 counties in Texas.^{xi} It has a depth between 5,000 and 8,000 feet, with a thickness that ranges from 100 to 500 feet.^{xii}

Barnett Shale Formation



¹ U.S. Energy Information Administration, Review of Emerging Resources: U.S. Shale Gas and Shale Oil Plays, <http://205.254.135.7/analysis/studies/usshalegas/>.

² Railroad Commission of Texas, Barnett Shale Gas Well Production 1993-2011,
http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/barnettshale/NewarkEastField_1993-2011.pdf

³ Railroad Commission of Texas, Barnett Shale,
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/data/fielddata/barnettshale.pdf>.

⁴ Powell Shale Digest, February 28, 2012,
<http://www.barnettshalenews.com/documents/2012/Barnett%20Shale%20Passes%2011%20Trillion%20Cubic%20Feet%20Gas%20+%206%20BCFGPD%202-28-2012.pdf>

⁵ Railroad Commission of Texas, Barnett Shale,
<http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/data/fielddata/barnettshale.pdf>.

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Perryman Group, Impact of the Barnett Shale on Business Activity in the Surrounding Region and Texas, <http://www.fortworthchamber.com/BarnettShaleStudy11.pdf>.

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

^{xi} *Id.*

^{xii} Halliburton, The Barnett Shale,
http://www.halliburton.com/public/solutions/contents/Shale/related_docs/Barnett.pdf