



U.S. Oil Production Has Had a Remarkable Record of Consistently Beating Expectations

by: Nida Çakır Melek and Alex Gallin

March 07, 2024



Notes: Chart presents change in average annual U.S. oil production. Forecasts are based on each year's January Short-Term Energy Outlook (STEO). Realized growth is not yet available for 2024. Sources: U.S. Energy Information Administration and authors' calculations.

Over the past 14 years, U.S. oil production growth (green bars) has consistently outpaced expectations (blue bars), driven by both price and productivity surprises. U.S. oil output hit all-time highs following strong growth that exceeded expectations in the 2010s and a rapid recovery in production post-pandemic. However, recent industry trends appear to be shifting. With reduced drilling activity and a move toward industry consolidation, we may see a more measured approach to expansion, likely leading to a more predictable, though cautious, future growth trajectory.

See more research from [Charting the Economy](#).

Authors



Nida Çakır Melek

Senior Economist

Nida Çakır Melek is a senior economist in the Economic Research Department of the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City. She joined the Bank in August 2013 after receiving her Ph.D. from UCLA. She holds a B.S. degree in Mathematics from Middle East Technical University, Ankara, Turkey and an M.A. degree in Economics from Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey. Her primary areas of research are macroeconomics, international economics, and energy economics.



Alex Gallin

Research Associate

I joined the Federal Reserve Bank of Kansas City in July 2023 after graduating from Carleton College with a BA in Economics. Currently I support [Taeyoung Doh](#) and [Amaze Lusompa](#) with their research in macroeconomic forecasting and econometrics. Through my work, I have had the opportunity to improve my skills in various programming languages and to practice analyzing and presenting data. This role is perfect for those looking to participate in a collaborative environment at the intersection of economic research and policy, while developing a diverse set of technical skills.