

# U.S. Natural Gas Production Set a Record High in February: Platts Bentek

Highest Production Since Platts Bentek Began Tracking in 2005  
- Production Averaged 73.3 Bcf/d in February, up 2% from January -

PR Newswire  
DENVER

DENVER, March 22, 2016 [/PRNewswire/](#) -- Natural gas production in the lower 48 United States averaged 73.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in February, which is up nearly 1.4 Bcf/d, compared to the January average, according to [Platts Bentek](#), an analytics and forecasting unit of Platts. This is the highest production on record since Platts Bentek began tracking the data in 2005. On a month-over-month basis, February natural gas production was up nearly 2% from January.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) will publish its domestic production estimates for September on or around March 31, 2016.

"The natural gas production record achieved in February is largely attributed to the Northeast, which also is still helping offset the declines seen in other major U.S. basins," said *Sami Yahya, Platts Bentek energy analyst*. "A combination of adequate demand and lack of freeze-offs helped producers push their production volumes to new highs. Typically the month of February is impacted considerably every year with a bout of freeze-offs, but this year the cold temperatures did not linger long enough to cause meaningful impact."

Northeast gas production reached nearly 23.1 Bcf/d in February, rendering an average of 22.7 Bcf/d for the month. This average was about 0.8 Bcf/d greater than the January average and about 1.5 Bcf/d more than the December 2015 average. For basins outside the Northeast, the February average was nearly flat or slightly declining from the previous month.

"While the number of active rigs in the Northeast is currently at its lowest historically, the availability of inventory wells is helping producers keep their production numbers leveled," Yahya noted. "We track the number of drilled-but-uncompleted wells in the Northeast monthly. Based on the latest numbers, the number of inventory wells has been declining steadily since November of 2015, which is a signal the producers are dipping into their inventory more than ever."

Prior to November of 2015, the Northeast had about 2700 wells in backlog inventory, whereas in January of this year, the number is barely more than 2000 wells.

"The Utica is the only place in the Northeast where the inventory numbers are not taking a steep dive," said Yahya. "The big focus now within the Utica is the drier areas, where the initial production rates of new wells are incredibly high. This means you do not need to bring online as many wells to help keep production afloat."

Platts Bentek data analysis suggests 2016 U.S. natural gas production will average approximately 71.6 Bcf/d, with some growth geared toward the end of the year. This will mark a year-on-year decline of less than 1%.

The Bentek data analysis is based on an extensive sample of near real-time production receipt data from the U.S. lower 48 interstate pipeline system. Platts' Bentek production models are highly correlated with and provide an advance glimpse of federal government statistics from the U.S. EIA.

This Bentek Energy U.S. natural gas production data estimate will be published every month covering the previous month's output activity. Bentek's dry gas production estimates are not observed data and are based on pipeline receipt nominations and certain state production data.

Bentek Energy, which specializes in energy market analytics and is recognized as the industry leader in natural gas market fundamental analysis, was acquired by Platts in 2011. For more information about natural gas supply and demand fundamentals and Bentek Energy, visit [www.bentekenergy.com](http://www.bentekenergy.com). For more information about natural gas spot price trends, or Platts, a leading global energy, petrochemical and metals information provider, visit the website at [www.platts.com](http://www.platts.com).

## CONTACT

Americas: Kathleen Tanzy, + 1 917 331 4607, [kathleen.tanzy@platts.com](mailto:kathleen.tanzy@platts.com)

*About Platts:* Platts is the leading independent provider of information and benchmark prices for the commodities and energy markets. Customers in over 150 countries look to Platts' expertise in news, pricing and analytics to deliver greater transparency

and efficiency to markets and help them make better informed trading and business decisions. Founded in 1909, Platts' coverage includes oil and gas, power, petrochemicals, metals, agriculture and shipping. A division of McGraw Hill Financial, Platts is headquartered in London and employs over 1,000 people in more than 15 offices worldwide. Additional information is available at <http://www.platts.com>.

*About McGraw Hill Financial:* McGraw Hill Financial (NYSE: MHFI) is a leading financial intelligence company providing the global capital and commodity markets with independent benchmarks, credit ratings, portfolio and enterprise risk solutions, and analytics. The Company's iconic brands include Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, S&P Capital IQ and SNL, S&P Dow Jones Indices, Platts, CRISIL and J.D. Power. The Company has approximately 20,000 employees in 31 countries. Additional information is available at [www.mhfi.com](http://www.mhfi.com).

SOURCE Platts

SOURCE: Platts

# U.S. Natural Gas Production Set a Record High in February: Platts Bentek

## Highest Production Since Platts Bentek Began Tracking in 2005

### - Production Averaged 73.3 Bcf/d in February, up 2% from January -

PR Newswire

DENVER, March 22, 2016

DENVER, March 22, 2016 /PRNewswire/ -- Natural gas production in the lower 48 United States averaged 73.3 billion cubic feet per day (Bcf/d) in February, which is up nearly 1.4 Bcf/d, compared to the January average, according to [Platts Bentek](#), an analytics and forecasting unit of Platts. This is the highest production on record since Platts Bentek began tracking the data in 2005. On a month-over-month basis, February natural gas production was up nearly 2% from January.

The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) will publish its domestic production estimates for September on or around March 31, 2016.

"The natural gas production record achieved in February is largely attributed to the Northeast, which also is still helping offset the declines seen in other major U.S. basins," **said Sami Yahya, Platts Bentek energy analyst** "A combination of adequate demand and lack of freeze-offs helped producers push their production volumes to new highs. Typically the month of February is impacted considerably every year with a bout of freeze-offs, but this year the cold temperatures did not linger long enough to cause meaningful impact."

Northeast gas production reached nearly 23.1 Bcf/d in February, rendering an average of 22.7 Bcf/d for the month. This average was about 0.8 Bcf/d greater than the January average and about 1.5 Bcf/d more than the December 2015 average. For basins outside the Northeast, the February average was nearly flat or slightly declining from the previous month.

"While the number of active rigs in the Northeast is currently at its lowest historically, the availability of inventory wells is helping producers keep their production numbers leveled," Yahya noted. "We track the number of drilled-but-uncompleted wells in the Northeast monthly. Based on the latest numbers, the number of inventory wells has been declining steadily since November of 2015, which is a signal the producers are dipping into their inventory more than ever."

Prior to November of 2015, the Northeast had about 2700 wells in backlog inventory, whereas in January of this year, the number is barely more than 2000 wells.

"The Utica is the only place in the Northeast where the inventory numbers are not taking a steep dive," said Yahya. "The big focus now within the Utica is the drier areas, where the initial production rates of new wells are incredibly high. This means you do not need to bring online as many wells to help keep production afloat."

Platts Bentek data analysis suggests 2016 U.S. natural gas production will average approximately 71.6 Bcf/d, with some growth geared toward the end of the year. This will mark a year-on-year decline of less than 1%.

The Bentek data analysis is based on an extensive sample of near real-time production receipt data from the U.S. lower 48 interstate pipeline system. Platts' Bentek production models are highly correlated with and provide an advance glimpse of federal government statistics from the U.S. EIA.

This Bentek Energy U.S. natural gas production data estimate will be published every month covering the previous month's output activity. Bentek's dry gas production estimates are not observed data and are based on pipeline receipt nominations and certain state production data.

Bentek Energy, which specializes in energy market analytics and is recognized as the industry leader in natural gas market fundamental analysis, was acquired by Platts in 2011. For more information about natural gas supply and demand fundamentals and Bentek Energy, visit [www.bentekenergy.com](http://www.bentekenergy.com). For more information about natural gas spot price trends, or Platts, a leading global energy, petrochemical and metals information provider, visit the website at [www.platts.com](http://www.platts.com).

## CONTACT

Americas: Kathleen Tanzy, + 1 917 331 4607, [kathleen.tanzy@platts.com](mailto:kathleen.tanzy@platts.com)

**About Platts:** Platts is the leading independent provider of information and benchmark prices for the commodities and energy markets. Customers in over 150 countries look to Platts' expertise in news, pricing and analytics to deliver greater transparency and efficiency to markets and help them make better informed trading and business decisions. Founded in 1909, Platts' coverage includes oil and gas, power, petrochemicals, metals, agriculture and shipping. A division of McGraw Hill Financial, Platts is headquartered in London and employs over 1,000 people in more than 15 offices worldwide. Additional information is available at <http://www.platts.com>.

**About McGraw Hill Financial:** McGraw Hill Financial (NYSE: MHFI) is a leading financial intelligence company providing the global capital and commodity markets with independent benchmarks, credit ratings, portfolio and enterprise risk solutions, and analytics. The Company's iconic brands include Standard & Poor's Ratings Services, S&P Capital IQ and SNL, S&P Dow Jones Indices, Platts, CRISIL and J.D. Power. The Company has approximately 20,000 employees in 31 countries. Additional information is available at [www.mhfi.com](http://www.mhfi.com).

SOURCE Platts

CONTACT: Americas: Kathleen Tanzy, + 1 917 331 4607, [kathleen.tanzy@platts.com](mailto:kathleen.tanzy@platts.com); EMEA: Arnaud Humblot +44 207 176 6685, [arnaud.humblot@platts.com](mailto:arnaud.humblot@platts.com) and Alex Brog +44 207 176 7645, [alex.brog@platts.com](mailto:alex.brog@platts.com); Singapore: Platts ([platts@ryancommunication.com](mailto:platts@ryancommunication.com))

Web Site: <http://www.platts.com>

---

<https://press.spglobal.com/2016-03-22-U-S-Natural-Gas-Production-Set-a-Record-High-in-February-Platts-Bentek>