

# **US rig count up by 18 this week**

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The number of rigs actively exploring for oil and natural gas in the U.S. increased by 18 this week to 1,738.

Houston-based Baker Hughes Inc. reported Friday that 880 rigs were exploring for gas and 851 for oil. Seven were listed as miscellaneous. A year ago, the count was 1,444.

Of the major oil- and gas-producing states, Texas gained 12 rigs, Louisiana gained eight, Colorado gained five, Arkansas and North Dakota each gained two and California and Pennsylvania each gained one.

Wyoming lost 10 rigs, Oklahoma lost three, Alaska lost two and New Mexico lost one. West Virginia was unchanged.

The rig count peaked at 4,530 in 1981, the height of the oil boom. The record low of 488 was in 1999.