



Peak Oil Drum?

Posted by [Stuart Staniford](#) on December 2, 2005 - 6:13pm

Topic: [Site news](#)

Tags: [hubbert peak](#), [hurricanes](#), [oil prices](#), [peak oil](#) [[list all tags](#)]

[Environmental and Urban Economics](#) notes that our visits peaked in September, and speculates the decline since then is due to declining gas prices. A graph of visits to both our old and new sites shows:

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Monthly visits to the Oil Drum, both the old site (prior to August), and the new (after August). August is a sum of figures for both sites).

My own speculations about the graph would be that the rapid growth of the early months represent both growth in awareness of Peak Oil, and growth in awareness of TOD within the Peak Oil community. I think September was primarily driven by hurricane related traffic. Our hurricane coverage was linked to by some of the largest blogs and even the MSM (such as [MSNBC](#)). It was not surprising to see a falloff after Katrina/Rita.

I would agree with EUE that gas price declines may explain part of the October to November decline. Another factor could have been that Prof G. was obliged to spend too much of his time on his real life for a while - he normally does a lot of behind the scenes stuff to promote the site and to keep our content fresh and topical (he reports that things are slowly returning to normal).

Overall, I'm not worried. Just as oil prices are going to be volatile across the peak, interest in peak oil websites will be volatile month-to-month too. As long as we are basically right about oil peaking, interest will overall get stronger and stronger until such time as we are substantially past peak and society has figured out basically what it is going to do in response.



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