



## Bringing the OPEC production numbers per well up to date

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Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

Tags: [oil production](#), [saudi arabia](#), [well count](#) [[list all tags](#)]

If one goes to the [OPEC Annual Statistical Bulletin](#) there are a couple of additional tables, one listing the amount of crude produced each year, and one listing the number of producing wells in the country at the time. Now this latter includes those that are flowing and those that are on artificial lift (which usually means at the stripper level), but if one takes the two numbers and divides one by the other, then the values obtained can be tabulated, to update the table I presented the other day.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Algeria	607	620	600	521	652
Indonesia	136	133	124	138	125
Iran	2,845	2,523	2,440	2,646	2,605
Iraq	na				
Kuwait	2,543	2,419	2,183	2,219	2,336
Libya	938	856	802	933	1,006
Qatar	1,561	1,432	1,216	1,199	1,329
Saudi Arabia	3,854	3,602	3,338	3,461	3,618
UAE	1,445	1,500	1,341	1,454	1,555
Venezuela	186	186	214	229	250

There are a couple of comments, however, that make these numbers only a guideline. Firstly there is a big difference in some countries between the flowing and the artificial lift. The obvious example is Indonesia, where the ratio is around 9:1 for artificial lift. This had significantly lowered the oil/well numbers relative to those that Matt Simmons quoted.

The second difference relates to Saudi Arabia. The confusion there relates to the Neutral Zone, between SA and Kuwait. The oil for this is shared, and the share shows up in the production of each country. However the number of wells and rigs are separated out for that zone. I included them in the Saudi number - since SA is tagged to the zone in the table, but it may not be totally accurate. But you know the assumption.

Now there are arguments that can be made that this does not reflect the actual production from new wells, but only the average. I accept that, and for that reason this is only a guide, and it also must be considered that the well number includes stripper, conventional, horizontal and MRC each of which will have a different range. Increased average values show the impact of the horizontal and MRC wells, though it is not clear, given the average numbers of wells that are drilled/year that all the wells in a given country are being drilled MRC. (If the average is more than 7 say it is unlikely that they are).



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