



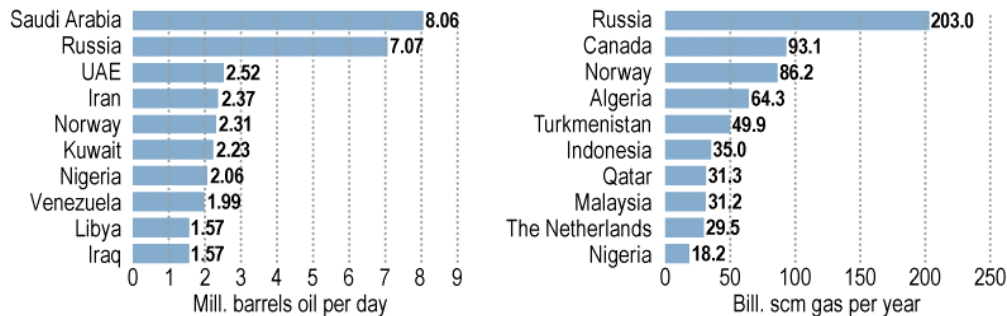
# NORWAY Oil & Gas Sector

Information for jobseekers

## HISTORY

In the late 1950s, few believed that the Norwegian continental shelf could hold large oil and gas deposits. With the discovery of gas at Groningen in the Netherlands in 1959, geologists revised their thinking on the petroleum potential of the North Sea. With the Ekofisk discovery in 1969, the Norwegian oil adventure began. Petroleum is Norway's largest industry and account for 24 percent of value creation in the country.

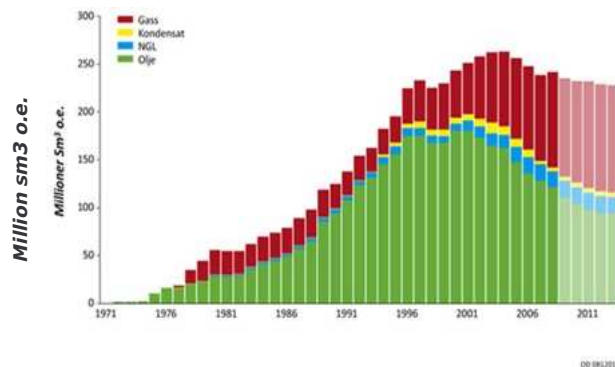
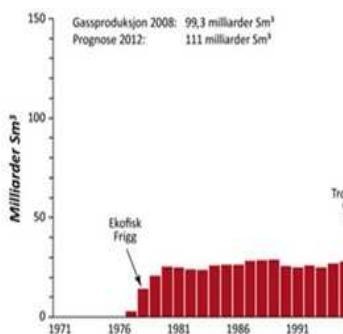
Norwegian oil and gas output in an international context:



Leading oil exporters in 2007 (oil includes NGL and condensate) and gas exporters in 2006

## WHAT ABOUT THE FUTURE?

By 2009, Norway has produced and delivered 38 percent of the expected total oil & gas resources on the Norwegian continental shelf. While 25 per cent are reserves yet to be developed, 25 per cent are undiscovered resources, two thirds of which are expected to be gas and one third oil. Production has peaked, slowing by around 10 per cent per annum as new projects have been delayed and projections adjusted along with the international climate of financial recession. The projected level of activity now sees a reduced rate of growth in the medium to long term.



Production forecast

## Job market trends

Despite the recessionary climate, there is still a demand for **senior and highly skilled** personnel in the broader petroleum industry. Various skilled candidates will also be able to find work in land-based industry, as unemployment in Norway remains the lowest of all European countries at less than a third of the EU27 average.

### **How to find vacancies**

Virtually all job vacancies published in Norway can be found in the NAV database; [www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no), [www.finn.no](http://www.finn.no) and <http://eures.europa.eu>. NAV EURES Service Centre: +47 800 33 166. You can also contact your nearest EURES advisor for information. It makes things easier if you have thought about what kind of job you are looking for and where in Norway you want to live, before contacting the Service Centre or Norwegian EURES advisors.

Most oil and gas companies have their own websites, and these often post vacancies not found elsewhere. Find them with the Norwegian Yellow Pages [www.gulesider.no](http://www.gulesider.no). An estimated 50 to 70 per cent of all vacant jobs are **never advertised**. The only way to come across them is by contacting prospective employers at the 'right' time.

For general information about living and working in Norway and on jobseeking, please visit [www.eures.no](http://www.eures.no).

### **Working offshore**

Please note that only 35 percent of oil industry staff work offshore. Also, most service and equipment companies appoint skilled personnel in occupations that combine onshore and offshore work. In order to be admitted for work on oil rigs, you must have attended specific safety courses. Please note that a **safety course alone does not** qualify for jobs offshore. Also, many offshore environments use Norwegian language, meaning that candidates must have knowledge of a Scandinavian language to qualify.

Safety courses are held at schools approved by the Oil Industry Association, which is responsible for safety offshore. The homepage list of all schools and courses: [www.olf.no](http://www.olf.no) and [www.nutec.no](http://www.nutec.no). Courses are expensive and usually conducted in Norwegian. A few are offered in English. In addition to the safety course, a medical certificate confirming fitness for work on oil installations is required.

For reasons relating to language (and thus occupational safety), Norwegians who meet the requirements for offshore vacancies will often be preferred to foreigners. There are, however, no hard and fast rules, and it may still be possible to find work through one's network even without a formal skills set. In such cases, experience would be essential.

### **Wages and taxes**

Wages in the industry vary depending on your experience and on the discipline. A mechanical engineer (onshore) with 1-3 years' experience may start with a salary of NOK 450,000 (€52,500 – see exchange rates). Senior engineers will naturally earn more.

Taxes usually amount to around 30-36 percent and increase progressively with one's salary.

### **Language requirements**

The working languages in the industry are Norwegian and English. Knowledge of a Scandinavian language is a benefit and often a requirement. Employers will require at least a minimum of English fluency in order to function in the workplace. To find language courses you may contact the Norwegian embassy/consulate in your country.

### **"Know before you go"**

NAV EURES has published informative brochures and a DVD about living and working in Norway, available in English, German and Polish. Order your copy by sending an e-mail to [nav@granada.no](mailto:nav@granada.no) or by contacting your nearest EURES advisor. The "Living and Working in Norway" brochure (.pdf) can be downloaded from [www.eures.no](http://www.eures.no).

### **Links – 'Living & Working'**

[www.visitnorway.com](http://www.visitnorway.com) – Official Travel Guide  
[www.norway.no](http://www.norway.no) – Public Sector Gateway  
[www.udi.no](http://www.udi.no) – Immigration Directorate

### **Useful internet sites – petroleum industry**

[www.sua.no](http://www.sua.no) – Service Centre for Foreign Workers  
[www.npd.no](http://www.npd.no) – Norwegian Petroleum Directorate  
[www.olf.no](http://www.olf.no) – Oil Industry Association  
[www.offshore.no](http://www.offshore.no) – online journal  
[www.offshore247.com](http://www.offshore247.com) – online journal  
[www.oilinfo.no](http://www.oilinfo.no) – Online Journal, job vacancies  
[www.petrojobb.no](http://www.petrojobb.no) – Job vacancies  
[www.nav.no](http://www.nav.no) – Public Employment Service, vacancies (also [www.nav.no/english](http://www.nav.no/english))  
[www.nokut.no](http://www.nokut.no) – Norwegian Agency for Quality Assurance in Education (accreditation of foreign education).

### **Oil and Gas companies:**

BP - [www.bp.no](http://www.bp.no)  
ConocoPhillips Norge AS - [www.conocophillips.no](http://www.conocophillips.no)  
DONG Norge - [www.dong.dk](http://www.dong.dk)  
Esso Norge - [www.exxonmobil.no](http://www.exxonmobil.no)  
Gaz de France Norge - [www.gazdefrance.com](http://www.gazdefrance.com)  
Marathon Petroleum Company - [www.marathon.com](http://www.marathon.com)  
Eni Norge as - [www.eni.no](http://www.eni.no)  
A/S Norske Shell - [www.shell.no](http://www.shell.no)  
Petoro AS - [www.petoro.no](http://www.petoro.no)  
StatoilHydro as - [www.statoilhydro.com](http://www.statoilhydro.com)  
Talisman Energy Norge AS - [www.talisman-energy.com](http://www.talisman-energy.com)  
Total Norge as - [www.total.no](http://www.total.no)  
Aibel as - [www.aibel.no](http://www.aibel.no)  
Halliburton as - [www.halliburton.com](http://www.halliburton.com)  
Aker Solutions - [www.akersolutions.com](http://www.akersolutions.com)

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*(Statistics source: Norwegian Petroleum Directorate/Ministry of Petroleum and Energy)*