

Trends in World Oil Production 1974 - 2009

John H. Walsh
Energy Advisor

World oil production was 79.984 million barrels per day (bpd) in 2009 according to the *BP Statistical Review of World Energy* available on the Web at www.bp.com. Production fell -2.6% as compared to the previous year.

In this note, world oil output is considered as coming from four major producing zones because of the markedly different circumstances pertaining in each. The area chart in Figure 1 shows total world oil output as summed from: (1) the OPEC group of producing nations; (2) the U.S.A.; (3) the Eastern Europe/C.I.S. nations (but not including new members of the expanded European Union); and (4) the remainder (calculated by difference) which is termed here the Rest-of-World (R-O-W). Production in the U.S.A. grew by +7.0% to 7.196 million barrels per day. In the countries of eastern Europe and Asia, production increased +2.74% to 13.460 mbpd due in part to gains in the Caspian Sea and other regions in Central Asia. Oil consumption fell -4.8% in the Russian Federation but increased +6.7% in China and +3.7% in India.

Production in the R-O-W nations as defined here fell by 376,000 barrels per day in 2009 as compared to a 312,000 bpd decrease in 2008. Production in this category has decreased every year of the past six. Growth was rapid up to 1985, the one year R-O-W production actually exceeded that of the OPEC nation. After a period of more moderate growth, there was a major increase in 1994 followed by a period of slow gains before the present period of successive slow losses. As illustrated in Figure 1, the latter grouping's share in world output has now fallen from the high of 37.43% reached in 2002 to 32.79% in 2009.

Production from the OPEC nations was no doubt restricted by the increase in output from the R-O-W nations during the decade of the 1990s but that situation has now changed until very recently. Production data from these two sectors has been plotted together in Figure 2 to permit closer comparison. Since 1985, OPEC production has generally increased and re-

mained higher than that of the R-O-W group but, until 1997, production from the latter grouping of nations was rising more rapidly. The gap between OPEC and R-O-W production widened each year but one between 2003 and 2008 but narrowed in 2009 due to the recession. OPEC production fell -7.3% in 2009 to 33.076 million bpd.

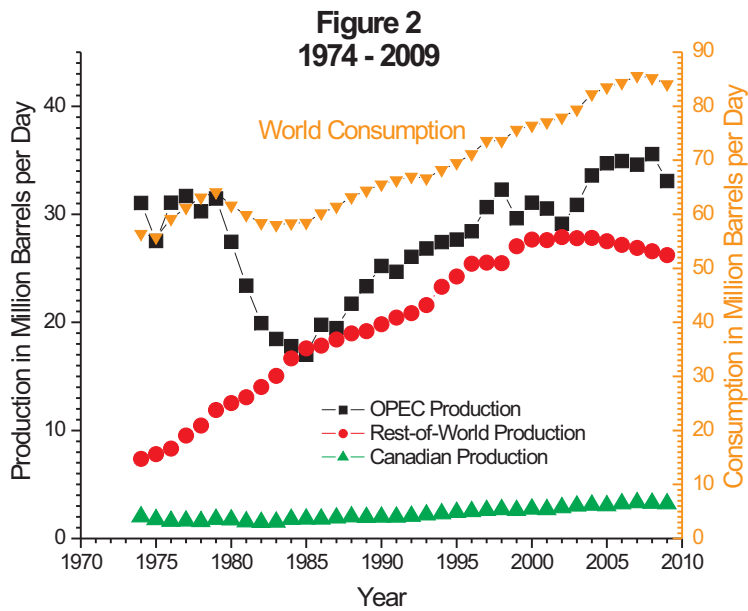
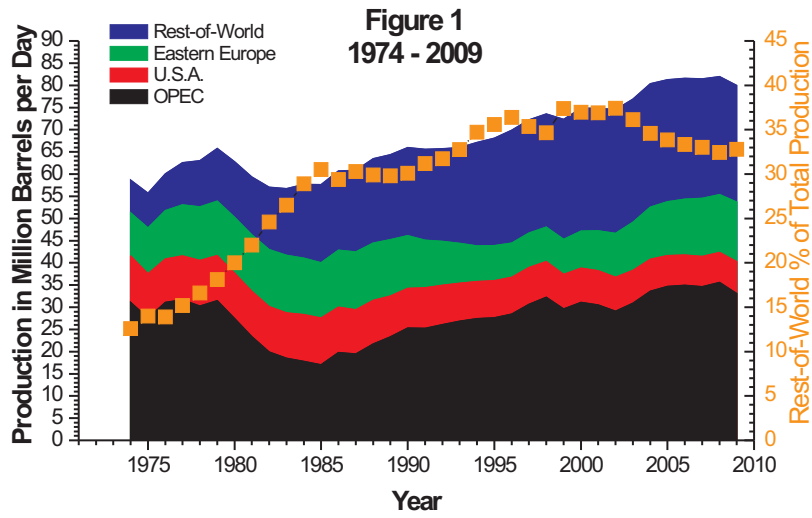
Canadian oil production was also plotted in Figure 2. Output fell -1.0% to 3.212 million bpd which accounted for 4.1% of the world's total production in 2009. Capacity is steadily growing from oil sands surface mining and *in-situ* facilities in Alberta, and from conventional production in the eastern offshore. Oil sands production is expected to grow steadily to reach four to five mbpd in the 2030s. This additional output will more than off-set the continuing decline in output of the lighter oils from the Western Canada Sedimentary Basin. Canada is among the diminishing number of nations that will increase production during the next decades.

World oil consumption is also shown in Figure 2 on the separate scale to the right. By 1989, it too had recovered from its previous peak in 1979, but growth was uncertain between 1990 and 1993. Consumption decreased to 84.077 million bpd in 2009 down -1.7% from the previous year.

Published world reserves of oil (including the oil sands) were reported as 1476.4 gigabarrels at the end of 2009. The *BP Statistical Review*, unlike the *Oil and Gas Journal*, makes only a partial allowance for the oil sands of Alberta at 143.3 gigabarrels; this figure includes 27.1 GB 'under active development.'

This author, using a novel parabolic projection technique, expects the peak in world conventional oil production to occur in the period 2015-20. (J.H. Walsh, *Procedure for the Parabolic Projection of Geological Assessments of Conventional Oil and Gas Resources with Examples*, (Revised January 2004) posted on the Web at pages.ca.inter.net/~jhwash/wpara1.html)

Trends in World Oil Production
1974 - 2009



June 2010

19 Lambton Avenue, Ottawa, Ontario, K1M 0Z6
Tel: 613-745-6279
E-Mail: jhwalsh@ca.inter.net
Web Site: <http://pages.ca.inter.net/~jhwalsh/index.html>