

# Drilling Permits Issued for Exploratory (or Wildcat) Wells in Nebraska 1975 – 2025

(Number of Permits)

Year	Permits
2010	77
2011	75
2012	90
2013	83
2014	92
2015	42
2016	28
2017	29
2018	23
2019	12

Year	Permits
2020	21
2021	27
2022	11
2023	NA
2024	13
2025	9
2026	NA
2027	NA
2028	NA
2029	NA

Exploratory													
Year <sup>1</sup>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total <sup>2</sup>
2014	12	9	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	92
2013	5	5	4	5	11	10	6	6	8	10	9	4	83
2012	2	5	11	3	7	5	2	9	7	10	6	4	90
2011	9	6	7	3	9	6	4	4	5	3	10	18	75
2010	5	7	5	3	2	13	4	11	10	3	5	4	77
2009	2	0	0	7	0	2	5	3	5	4	2	5	35
2008	1	2	15	22	15	7	19	27	19	28	5	2	162
2007	1	6	17	4	11	3	13	11	5	9	12	2	88
2006	0	3	2	0	1	22	15	7	2	20	0	2	76
2005	1	1	5	4	4	6	3	2	6	3	3	4	43
2004	0	0	1	0	5	5	5	4	1	5	7	2	35
2003	3	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	3	1	1	18
2002	2	1	2	3	2	1	2	0	1	1	0	0	15
2001	1	1	2	3	0	0	0	0	6	1	4	0	15
2000	5	3	3	1	3	0	0	0	1	1	1	4	21
1999	0	0	3	0	0	1	0	2	4	6	1	1	18
1998	0	0	0	1	2	0	3	0	4	1	1	3	15
1997	6	1	5	2	3	2	0	1	2	4	5	3	34
1996	1	1	1	0	1	0	1	3	1	1	2	2	14
1995	0	1	1	2	7	0	0	5	1	4	1	2	24
1994	2	2	4	1	4	1	2	3	5	4	2	6	36
1993	3	6	5	2	1	0	12	3	7	7	5	3	54
1992	1	4	4	2	1	1	5	9	10	4	10	7	58
1991	0	1	7	8	5	4	3	5	4	6	7	6	56
1990	3	3	5	3	7	11	7	5	10	8	7	4	73
1989	4	3	4	3	5	14	3	2	4	6	6	7	61

Exploratory													
Year <sup>1</sup>	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec	Annual Total <sup>2</sup>
1988	10	7	8	6	5	5	7	8	8	7	4	6	81
1987	6	7	9	6	4	14	12	13	14	13	12	13	123
1986	22	8	8	3	5	6	2	2	8	7	7	14	92
1985	9	13	14	9	15	16	22	14	18	9	19	18	176
1984	13	14	15	10	14	17	13	25	26	31	31	26	235
1983	15	13	12	20	13	9	19	16	35	19	18	26	216
1982	26	22	27	18	15	13	13	15	18	20	27	47	261
1981	27	22	16	23	15	50	27	39	23	34	41	37	354
1980	45	21	20	19	27	17	14	13	34	41	34	24	309
1979	35	0	20	25	20	18	36	20	24	38	37	30	320
1978	26	20	21	29	21	20	24	30	31	22	20	23	275
1977	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	27	32	17	40	267
1976	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	202
1975	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	212

**Sources:** *Nebraska Oil Activity Summary*. Nebraska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission, Sidney, NE. Nebraska Department of Water, Energy, and Environment, Lincoln, NE.

**Notes:** NA = Not Available.

<sup>1</sup> Monthly numbers are not available before September, 1977, and after February, 2014.

<sup>2</sup> The annual total is compiled after corrections and updates have been made which are not reflected in the monthly reports, so the annual total will not always equal the total of the monthly numbers.