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**January Oil Production Increase Stays at 2011 Average**

BISMARCK- North Dakota is now producing 546,000 barrels of oil per day (bopd), according to preliminary data released Tuesday. That’s an increase of 11,000 bopd from December’s totals. That mark keeps pace with the average increase in production seen in 2011.

Total January crude oil production totaled 16.9 million barrels of oil. January natural gas production totaled 17.7 billion cubic feet or about 571,500 mcf a day. There were 6,600 wells producing in the month of January. That’s up nearly 200 wells from December. The average rig count held steady in January at 200.

January figures show 212 new “spuds” or new wells drilled, compared to 140 this time last year.

Monthly production totals can be found by visiting the Department of Mineral Resources, Oil and Gas Division’s website. [https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/mprindex.asp](https://www.dmr.nd.gov/oilgas/mprindex.asp)

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