



Independent Statistics & Analysis
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Domestic Uranium Production Report First-Quarter 2020

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Introduction

In this report, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) reports U.S. uranium production from 1996 through the first quarter of 2020. Data in this report are based on information reported on Form EIA-851A, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)*, and Form EIA-851Q, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly)*.

Previous issues of this report are available on the [EIA website](#).

Definitions for terms used in this report are available in EIA's [Energy Glossary](#).

First-quarter 2020

U.S. production of uranium concentrate (U_3O_8) in the first quarter of 2020 was 8,098 pounds, down 79% from the fourth quarter of 2019 and down 86% from the first quarter of 2019. During the first quarter of 2020, four U.S. uranium facilities produced uranium, one less than in the fourth quarter of 2019.

U.S. uranium in-situ leach plants in production (state)

- Lost Creek Project (Wyoming)
- Nichols Ranch In-Situ Recovery (ISR) Project (Wyoming)
- Ross Central Processing Plant (CPP) (Wyoming)
- Smith Ranch-Highland Operation (Wyoming)

Table 1. Total production of uranium concentrate in the United States, 1996 to first-quarter 2020pounds U₃O₈

| Calendar-year quarter | First quarter | Second quarter | Third quarter | Fourth quarter | Calendar-year total |
|-----------------------|---------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|---------------------|
| 1996 | 1,734,427 | 1,460,058 | 1,691,796 | 1,434,425 | 6,320,706 |
| 1997 | 1,149,050 | 1,321,079 | 1,631,384 | 1,541,052 | 5,642,565 |
| 1998 | 1,151,587 | 1,143,942 | 1,203,042 | 1,206,003 | 4,704,574 |
| 1999 | 1,196,225 | 1,132,566 | 1,204,984 | 1,076,897 | 4,610,672 |
| 2000 | 1,018,683 | 983,330 | 981,948 | 973,585 | 3,975,545 |
| 2001 | 709,177 | 748,298 | 628,720 | 553,060 | 2,639,256 |
| 2002 | 620,952 | 643,432 | 579,723 | 500,000 | 2,344,107 |
| 2003 | 400,000 | 600,000 | 400,000 | 600,000 | 2,000,000 |
| 2004 | 600,000 | 400,000 | 588,738 | 600,000 | 2,282,406 |
| 2005 | 709,600 | 630,053 | 663,068 | 686,456 | 2,689,178 |
| 2006 | 931,065 | 894,268 | 1,083,808 | 1,196,485 | 4,105,626 |
| 2007 | 1,162,737 | 1,119,536 | 1,075,460 | 1,175,845 | 4,533,578 |
| 2008 | 810,189 | 1,073,315 | 980,933 | 1,037,946 | 3,902,383 |
| 2009 | 880,036 | 982,760 | 956,657 | 888,905 | 3,708,358 |
| 2010 | 876,084 | 1,055,102 | 1,150,725 | 1,146,281 | 4,228,192 |
| 2011 | 1,063,047 | 1,189,083 | 846,624 | 892,013 | 3,990,767 |
| 2012 | 1,078,404 | 1,061,289 | 1,048,018 | 957,936 | 4,145,647 |
| 2013 | 1,147,031 | 1,394,232 | 1,171,278 | 946,301 | 4,658,842 |
| 2014 | 1,242,179 | 1,095,011 | 1,468,608 | 1,085,534 | 4,891,332 |
| 2015 | 1,154,408 | 789,980 | 774,541 | 624,278 | 3,343,207 |
| 2016 | 626,522 | 745,306 | 818,783 | 725,947 | 2,916,558 |
| 2017 | 450,215 | 726,375 | 643,212 | 622,987 | 2,442,789 |
| 2018 | 226,780 | 365,421 | 527,064 | 328,680 | 1,447,945 |
| P2019 | 58,481 | 44,569 | 32,211 | 38,614 | 173,875 |
| P2020 | 8,098 | - | - | - | 8,098 |

E = Estimated data P = Preliminary data NA = Not available -- = Not applicable

Notes: The reported fourth-quarter 2002 production amount was adjusted by rounding to the nearest 100,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data. This adjustment also affects the 2002 annual production. The reported production amounts in 2003 and the first, second, and fourth quarters of 2004 were adjusted by rounding to the nearest 200,000 pounds to avoid disclosure of individual company data. The reported 2004 total is the actual production for 2004. Totals may not equal the sum of components because of independent rounding.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual), and Form EIA-851Q, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly)*

Table 2. Number of uranium mills and plants producing uranium concentrate in the United States

| End of | Uranium concentrate processing facilities | | | | Total |
|--------------------------|---|--|--------------------------------------|--|-------|
| | Mills conventional milling ¹ | Mills - other operations ² | In-situ-leach plants ³ | Byproduct recovery plants ⁴ | |
| 1996 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 2 | 9 |
| 1997 | 0 | 3 | 6 | 2 | 11 |
| 1998 | 0 | 2 | 6 | 1 | 9 |
| 1999 | 1 | 2 | 4 | 0 | 7 |
| 2000 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 0 | 6 |
| 2001 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 2002 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 3 |
| 2003 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 0 | 2 |
| 2004 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| 2005 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 2006 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| 2007 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| 2008 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| 2009 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 0 | 4 |
| 2010 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 5 |
| 2011 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| 2012 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| 2013 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| 2014 | 0 | 0 | 7 | 0 | 7 |
| 2015 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |
| 2016 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| 2017 | 0 | 1 | 6 | 0 | 7 |
| 2018 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 0 | 6 |
| 2019 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 0 | 5 |
| First quarter of 2020 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 0 | 4 |

¹ Milling uranium-bearing ore

² Not milling ore, but producing uranium concentrate from other (non-ore) materials

³ Not including in-situ-leach plants that only produced uranium concentrate from restoration

⁴ Uranium concentrate as a byproduct from phosphate production

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)*, and Form EIA-851Q, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly)*

Table 3. U.S. uranium mills and heap leach facilities by owner, location, capacity, and operating status

| Owner | Mill and heap leach ¹ facility name | County, state (existing and planned locations) | Capacity (short tons of ore per day) | Operating status at end of | | | |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| | | | | 2019 | First-quarter 2020 | Second-quarter 2020 | Third-quarter 2020 |
| Anfield Resources Inc. | Shootaring Canyon Uranium Mill | Garfield, Utah | 750 | standby | standby | | |
| EFR White Mesa LLC | White Mesa Mill | San Juan, Utah | 2,000 | standby | standby | | |
| Energy Fuels Wyoming Inc | Sheep Mountain | Fremont, Wyoming | 725 | undeveloped | undeveloped | | |
| Kennecott Uranium Company/Wyoming Coal Resource Company | Sweetwater Uranium Project | Sweetwater, Wyoming | 3,000 | standby | standby | | |
| Total capacity | | | 6,475 | | | | |

¹ Heap leach solutions: The separation, or dissolving-out from mined rock, of the soluble uranium constituents by the natural action of percolating a prepared chemical solution through mounded (heaped) rock material. The mounded material usually contains low-grade mineralized material and/or waste rock produced from open pit or underground mines. The solutions are collected after percolation is completed, and the solutions are processed to recover the valued components.

- = No data reported

Notes: Capacity for the first-quarter of 2020. An operating status of *operating* indicates the mill usually was producing uranium concentrate at the end of the period.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration: Form EIA-851A, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)*, and Form EIA-851Q, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly)*

Table 4. U.S. uranium in-situ leach plants by owner, location, capacity, and operating status

| In-situ-leach plant owner | In-situ-leach plant name | County, state (existing and planned locations) | Production capacity (pounds U ₃ O ₈ per year) | Operating status at end of | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2019 | First-quarter 2020 | Second-quarter 2020 | Third-quarter 2020 | Fourth-quarter 2020 |
| AUC LLC | Reno Creek | Campbell, Wyoming | 2,000,000 | partially permitted and licensed | partially permitted and licensed | | | |
| Azarga Uranium Corp | Dewey Burdock Project | Fall River and Custer, South Dakota | 1,000,000 | partially permitted and licensed | partially permitted and licensed | | | |
| Cameco | Crow Butte Operation | Dawes, Nebraska | 1,000,000 | standby | standby | | | |
| Hydro Resources, Inc. | Church Rock | McKinley, New Mexico | 1,000,000 | partially permitted and licensed | partially permitted and licensed | | | |
| Hydro Resources, Inc. | Crownpoint | McKinley, New Mexico | 1,000,000 | partially permitted and licensed | partially permitted and licensed | | | |
| Lost Creek ISR LLC | Lost Creek Project | Sweetwater, Wyoming | 2,000,000 | operating | operating | | | |
| Mestena Uranium LLC | Alta Mesa Project | Brooks, Texas | 1,500,000 | standby | standby | | | |
| Power Resources, Inc. doing business as Cameco Resources | Smith Ranch-Highland Operation | Converse, Wyoming | 5,500,000 | operating | operating | | | |
| South Texas Mining Venture | Hobson ISR Plant | Karnes, Texas | 1,000,000 | standby | standby | | | |
| South Texas Mining Venture | La Palangana | Duval, Texas | 1,000,000 | standby | standby | | | |
| Strata Energy Inc | Ross CPP | Crook, Wyoming | 375,000 | standby | standby | | | |

Table 4. U.S. uranium in-situ-leach plants by owner, location, capacity, and operating status (cont.)

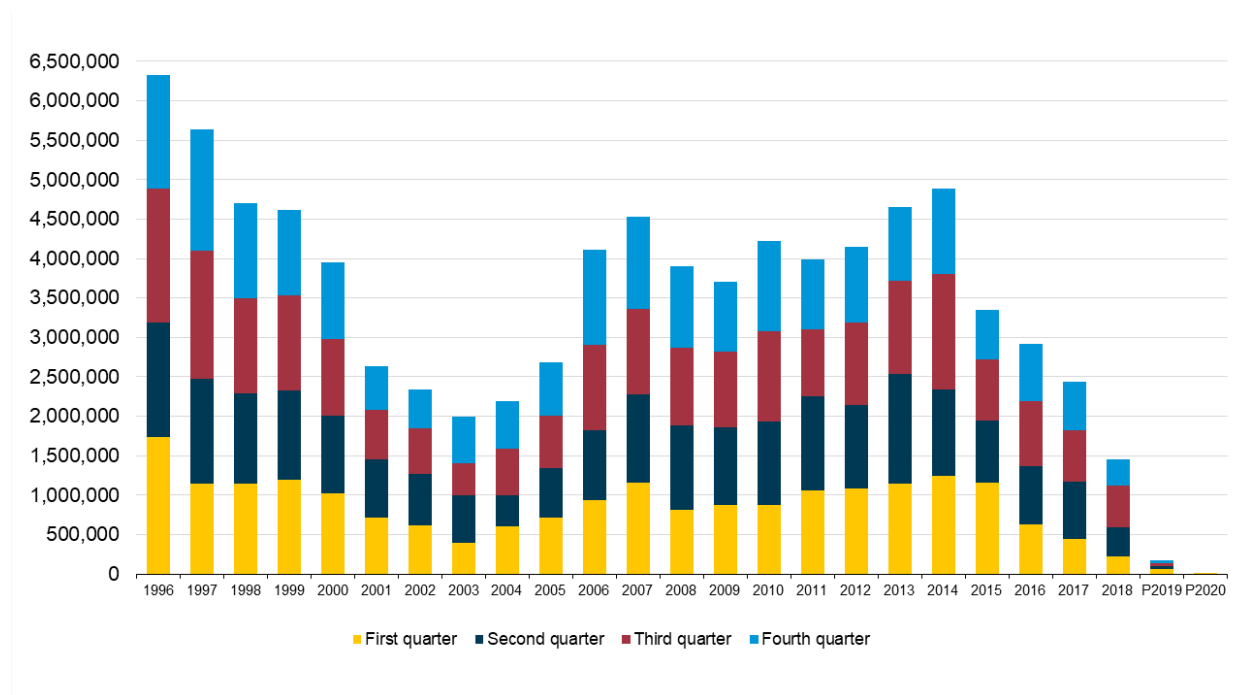
| In-situ-leach plant owner | In-situ-leach plant name | County, state (existing and planned locations) | Production capacity (pounds U ₃ O ₈ per year) | Operating status at end of | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|---------------------|
| | | | | 2019 | First-quarter 2020 | Second-quarter 2020 | Third-quarter 2020 | Fourth-quarter 2020 |
| Uranerz Energy Corporation (An Energy Fuels company) | Nichols Ranch ISR Project | Johnson and Campbell, Wyoming | 2,000,000 | operating | operating | | | |
| Uranium Energy Corp. | Goliad ISR Uranium Project | Goliad, Texas | 1,000,000 | partially permitted and licensed | partially permitted and licensed | | | |
| Uranium One Americas, Inc. | Jab and Antelope | Sweetwater, Wyoming | 2,000,000 | developing | developing | | | |
| Uranium One Americas, Inc. | Moore Ranch | Campbell, Wyoming | 500,000 | partially permitted and licensed | partially permitted and licensed | | | |
| Uranium One USA, Inc. | Willow Creek Project (Christensen Ranch and Irigaray) | Campbell and Johnson, Wyoming | 1,300,000 | standby | standby | | | |
| Total Production Capacity | | | 24,175,000 | | | | | |

Notes: Production capacity for the first quarter of 2020. An operating status of *operating* indicates the in-situ-leach plant usually was producing uranium concentrate at the end of the period. Hobson ISR Plant processed uranium concentrate that came from La Palangana. Hobson and La Palangana are part of the same project. ISR stands for *in-situ recovery*. Christensen Ranch and Irigaray are part of the Willow Creek Project. Uranerz Energy has a tolling arrangement with Cameco Resources. Uranium is first processed at the Nichols Ranch plant and then transported to the Smith Ranch-Highland Operation plant for final processing into uranium concentrate. CPP stands for *central processing plant*.

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-851A, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)*, and Form EIA-851Q, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly)*

Figure 1. Uranium concentrate production in the United States, 1996 to first-quarter 2020

pounds U3O8



P = Preliminary data

Source: U.S. Energy Information Administration, Form EIA-851A, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Annual)*, and Form EIA-851Q, *Domestic Uranium Production Report (Quarterly)*