



# 6 Production



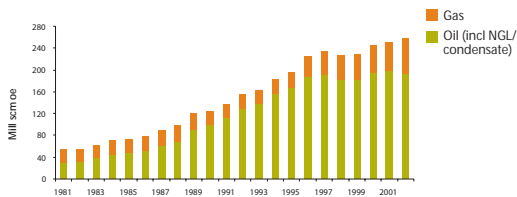


Figure 6.1 Total petroleum production 1981–2002  
(Source: MPE/NPD)

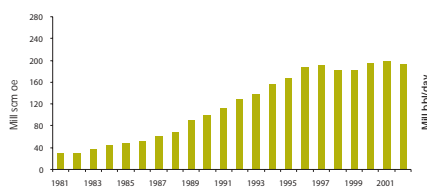


Figure 6.2 Crude oil production 1981–2002  
(Source: MPE/NPD)

## Production 2002

Petroleum production from the NCS in 2002 totalled roughly 258.7 mill scm oe. Crude oil accounted for 173.6 mill scm oe (three mill b/d) of this figure, gas for 65.4 mill scm oe and NGL (including condensate) for 19.6 mill scm oe. This represented a rise from 2001, when overall petroleum output came to 251 mill scm oe. Development of total production is illustrated in figure 6.1.

Crude oil production was regulated in the first half of 2002. During these six months, output was accordingly 150 000 b/d lower than planned.<sup>1</sup>

The Tune, Vale and Sigyn fields came on stream in 2002. Of the 45 fields in production at 31 December 2002, 40 were in the North Sea and five in the Norwegian Sea. PDOs for Byggve, Skirne and Snøhvit were approved during the year. Snøhvit represents the first Barents Sea field approved for development. A total of eight fields approved for development have yet to come on stream.

## Forecast production

Oil production (including NGL/condensate) in 2002 averaged 3.3 mill b/d oe, a reduction of 100 000 b/d oe from the year before. Figure 6.2 shows historical production of crude oil on the NCS.

Gas sales in 2002 were up by 23 per cent or roughly 12 bn scm from the year before. A future

annual sales level of 110 bn scm is regarded as a realistic scenario. See figure 6.3. The share of gas in overall petroleum output is expected to increase substantially in coming years, from about 25 per cent in 2002 to roughly 42 per cent in 2010. By contrast, oil production is expected to remain around its present level for the next few years before starting to decline gradually. Figure 6.4 shows expected petroleum output from the NCS, broken down into crude oil, NGL, condensate and gas.

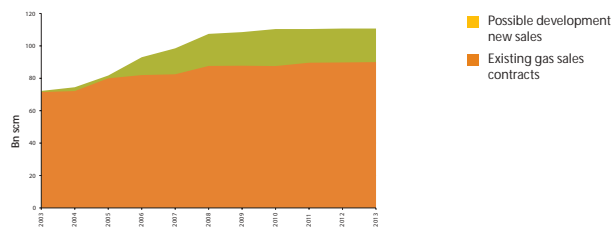


Figure 6.3 Dry gas deliveries from the NCS  
(Source: MPE/NPD)

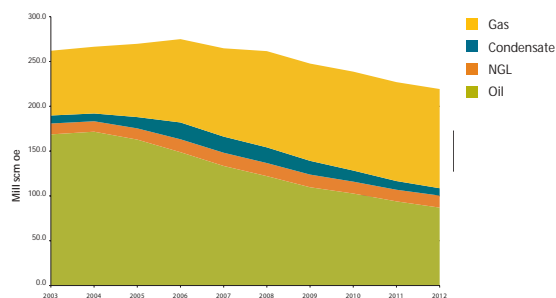


Figure 6.4 Production forecast for petroleum 2003–2012  
(Source: MPE/NPD)

<sup>1</sup> Discussed in chapter 7.

# 6

Production forecasts involve considerable uncertainties, such as the time when different fields go off plateau, how fast their output might decline and when fields now under consideration will come on stream.

Other sources of uncertainty include the development of new technology and the recovery factor for each field. In the longer term, the number and size of new discoveries and industry profitability are also likely to influence the level of production.

Table 6.1 Total petroleum production, mill scm oe. (Source: NPD)

	1971–1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	Total
Oil/NGL/cond	803.0	129.0	137.9	156.2	168.3	188.2	190.3	182.3	181.9	194.7	198.1	193.3	2 529.9
Gas	349.1	25.8	24.8	26.8	27.8	37.4	42.9	44.2	48.3	49.7	53.2	65.4	730.0
Total	1 152.1	154.8	162.7	183.0	196.1	225.6	233.2	226.5	230.2	244.4	251.3	258.7	3 259.9

(Source: NPD)

