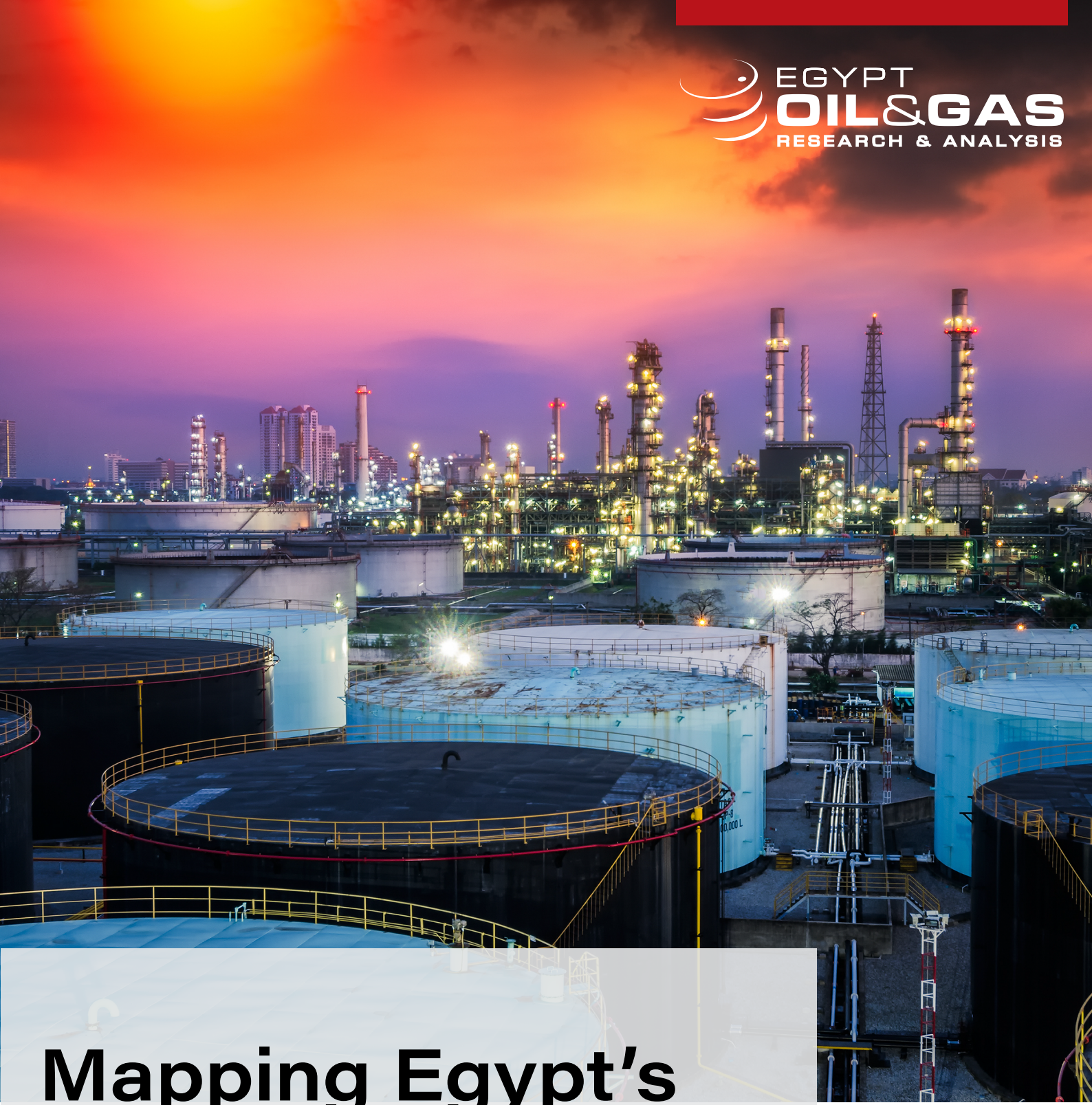
EGYPT OIL&GAS
RESEARCH & ANALYSIS



Mapping Egypt's Crude Oil Sector

Upstream and Trade Dynamics

MAY
2025

Mapping Egypt's Crude Oil Sector
Upstream and Trade Dynamics

By Nermeen Kamal & Abdullah Mostafa

Egypt's petroleum sector continues to play a vital role in the nation's economy, with production hubs serving as key contributors to the country's energy landscape.

As global energy markets experience volatility, Egypt's oil industry faces the dual challenge of sustaining output levels while adapting to evolving market conditions. Strategic exploration programs and the management of brownfields remain central to maintaining the sector's resilience in an increasingly competitive environment. In recent years, the industry has prioritized investments in brownfield development and refinery optimization to enhance operational efficiency.

These efforts reflect Egypt's commitment to balancing domestic energy requirements with its export-oriented strategy. By focusing on resource allocation and long-term planning, the sector aims to strengthen its position as a key player in the regional energy market.

This report provides a comprehensive overview of Egypt's crude oil sector performance during fiscal years (FYs) 2022/23–2023/24.

Key highlights include stable annual production and the main contributing regions. Exploration activities led to significant discoveries, adding to the country's reserves.

In addition to the efforts made in brownfield development and refinery optimization to maintain production and exports. Finally, covering the latest strategic initiatives including new petroleum agreements and digital bid rounds for mature fields aimed at sustaining production and attracting investment.

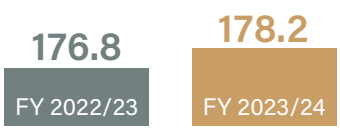
Crude Oil Production Trends

Egypt is a long-established crude oil producer, with production activity back in 1886 when the first crude oil well was drilled, according to the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources (MoPMR).

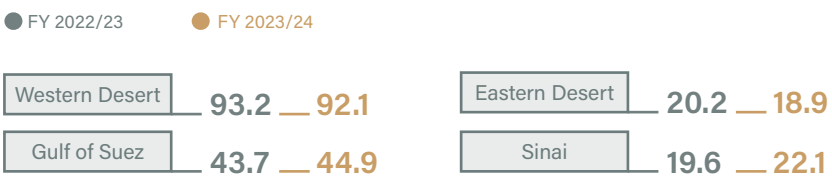
Total crude oil production exceeded 354.95 million barrels (mmbbl) across FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24, averaging around 177.5 mmbbl annually. The increase in crude oil production in FY 2023/24 was mainly driven by bringing 16 new crude oil fields into production.

The Western Desert continues to be Egypt's main crude oil-producing region, accounting 52.7% of total national crude oil production in FY 2022/23 and decreased to 51.7% in FY 2023/24, followed by Gulf of Suez contributing 24.7%, and 25.2%, respectively .The remaining output was contributed by the Eastern Desert and the Sinai Peninsula, according to data from the Egyptian General Petroleum Corporation (EGPC).

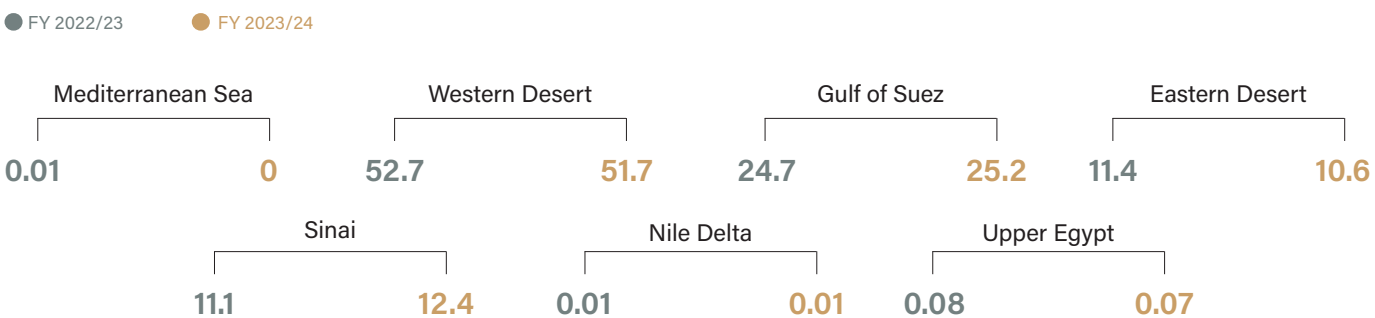
Annual Crude Oil Production (mmbbl)



Top Producing Areas (mmbbl)



Share of Producing Areas (%)



Crude Oil Exploration & Development

New Drilled Wells

Egypt's petroleum sector achieved production growth during the FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24, with drilling operations reaching new milestones. The country successfully commissioned 287 new crude oil wells in 2023/24 compared to 351 in FY 2022/23, comprising both exploratory and development projects.

This expansion brought Egypt's total active crude oil wells to 3,548, including 207 flowing wells operating under natural pressure.

The new infrastructure contributed substantially to national output, adding a combined production capacity of 212,000 barrels per day (bbl/d).

This development reinforces Egypt's position as a key regional producer while optimizing its existing well inventory, according to the EGPC annual report.

Crude Oil Wells Development in FY 2023/24

	Number	Initial Oil Production (bbl/d)
Exploratory	41	35,600
Development	241	176,400
Total	287	212,000

Latest International Bid Rounds

Egypt's international bid rounds for crude oil exploration serve as a strategic mechanism to attract foreign investment, enhance hydrocarbon reserves, and boost the country's energy sector.

Managed by the Egyptian Upstream Gateway (EUG), these bid rounds offer exploration and production rights across onshore and offshore blocks in regions such as the Western Desert, Eastern Desert, and Gulf of Suez.

By opening its energy market through competitive and transparent bidding processes, Egypt aims to accelerate exploration activities and support domestic energy security.

The 2023 international bid round, as announced by EUG, featured 23 open blocks for exploration across the Western Desert, Eastern Desert, Gulf of Suez, and Red Sea.

These bid rounds were offered by EGPC and the South Valley Egyptian Petroleum Holding Company (GANOPE).

Specifically, it featured four blocks in the Red Sea, seven in the Gulf of Suez, two in the Eastern Desert, and 10 in the Western Desert, which closed on February 25, 2024, according to EUG.

Offered Crude Oil Blocks for Exploration — Announcement Date | Closing Date | Location | Block

Ganope	April 2025	May 4, 2025	Gulf of Suez	East Gebel El Zeit, East Shedwan
EGPC	April 2025	May 4, 2025	Western Desert	South Fayoum
	March 2025			Wadi Sannur
	December 2024		Gulf of Suez	East Badri
	2024		Western Desert	Bir El Nus, N. Bir El Nus, South East Bahariya, SW. Badr El Din, Wadi El Natrun and South Sitra

Brownfields Development Updates

Egypt possesses substantial potential in brownfields. These fields, primarily located in the Gulf of Suez, the Western Desert, and parts of the Eastern Desert, still hold considerable reserves that can be unlocked through enhanced oil recovery (EOR) techniques, infrastructure upgrades, and digital optimization.

The Egyptian government is increasingly focusing on revitalizing these assets to maximize recovery rates, extend field life, and improve operational efficiency.

In March 2023, a notable move to revitalize mature assets, the EGPC launched its first-ever digital international brownfield bid round.

This initiative was implemented in eight brownfield sites located in the Gulf of Suez and the Eastern Desert, EUG.

In December 2023, ADES Holding Company, in partnership with a leading local exploration and production (E&P) firm, signed a Letter of Award (LOA) with EGPC for a 10-year service contract targeting key oil brownfields in Egypt.

Under this agreement, the consortium will assume operational responsibilities and drive production enhancement at two fields of the Suez Oil Company (SUCO), five of Offshore Shukheir Oil Company (OSOCO) fields—two of Egypt's strategic brownfield sites, and one within the Eastern Desert's Wadi El Sahl development area.

The contract also includes a provision for a 10-year extension, underscoring the long-term commitment to maximizing recovery from brownfield, according to the ADES press release.

EUG Brownfields Updated Bid Rounds — Location | Announcement Date | Closing Date | Block

Gulf of Suez	August 2024	December 2024	West Gharib-HNW
		January 2025	West Gharib- G, North Shadwan-1, North Shadwan-2 and North Shadwan-3
	April 2025	May 2025	North July
			West Kanayies K, North October Offshore, El Mansoura, SE El Mansoura & El Qantra, ESMA-2 & ESMA-3, Wadi Dara and Abu-Sennan

Approved Crude Oil Draft Laws

The Egyptian Cabinet remains consistently committed to endorsing new petroleum draft laws and approving exploration and production agreements, particularly those involving EGPC and various IOCs. These agreements aim to facilitate the exploration, development, and exploitation of hydrocarbon resources across several promising regions in Egypt, including frontier and underexplored areas, according to MoPMR.

Key Law Drafts Agreements

2 February 8, 2024

EGPC, IOCs & NOCs

Western Delta, Mediterranean Sea & the Gulf of Suez

Exploiting oil in the deep offshore areas

Providing additional investments for development operations to increase production in the WDDM & Extend the development contracts by 10 years and add new sectors in the Northwest October area

4 March 7, 2024

EGPC, Apache Khalda Corporation LDC & Tharwa Petroleum Company

Siwa & Western Desert

EGPC & IPR Transoil Corporation

Yidma/Alamein Concession, in the Western Desert

Exploring and exploiting oil

EGPC & HBS International Egypt Ltd.

Southwestern El Alamein in the Western Desert

EGPC & NPIC

East Ghazalat in the Western Desert

Searching for and exploiting oil

Prominent Discoveries & Significant Oil Fields

Crude Oil Discoveries

The Egyptian petroleum sector maintained strong exploration performance, with crude oil representing 75.6% of total discoveries in FY 2022/23 and 79.1% in FY 2023/24 (77.4% average). This growing share demonstrates Egypt's strategic prioritization of crude oil exploration even as global markets shifted toward gas and renewables - a trend reflected in reduced international investment in oil exploration elsewhere.

Total Crude Oil Discoveries

FY 2022/23 **59**

FY 2023/24 **53**

The Western Desert confirmed its dominance with 45 crude oil discoveries, 85% of Egypt's total, while other regions accounted for the remaining 15%. These figures demonstrate the Western Desert's continued leadership in crude oil exploration activity, according to the EGPC annual report.

Crude Oil Reserves Additions

Egypt's exploration efforts yielded 37 mmbbl of new crude oil reserves in FY 2022/23, increasing to 45 mmbbl in FY 2023/24, a 21.6% year-on-year (YoY) growth. This demonstrates sustained success in reserve replacement despite global market challenges.

In FY 2023/24, the Gulf of Suez contributed significantly to reserve growth with 22.5 mmbbl of new additions, achieved through enhanced recovery from existing fields via advanced techniques like gas injection in its high-permeability reservoirs.

The Western Desert accounted for 17.55 mmbbl of reserve additions through successful exploration campaigns, according to the EGPC annual report.

Regional Contribution in Crude Oil Reserves in FY 2023/24

Gulf of Suez **50%**

Western Desert **39%**

Significant Oil Fields

Field	Meleiha Field	Alamein/Yidma Development Lease	Abu Rudeis Sidri Field
	Operated by Agiba Petroleum Company in the Western Desert, the Meleiha concession has become a model for integrated field development. The field's success stems from its advanced seismic interpretation capabilities, which identified the high-potential Emry Deep prospect. Strategic consolidation through the 2021 merger of Meleiha and Meleiha Deep concessions has extended the asset's productive life while optimizing operational efficiency, according to Eni Press Releases, Wood Mackenzie.	Western Desert Operating Petroleum Co. (WEPCO) has demonstrated technical excellence in this Western Desert asset through innovative Enhanced Oil Recovery applications. The lease's achievements highlight Egypt's growing expertise in deep formation targeting, particularly in the Kharita formation at depths exceeding 13,000 feet, showcasing the sector's technological maturation, according to IPR Press Release & Wood Mackenzie.	Belayim Petroleum Company (Petrobel) continues to maximize value from this Gulf of Suez asset through systematic appraisal drilling optimization. The field's development approach balances immediate production needs with long-term reservoir management, particularly evident in the Sidri sector's performance, according to Eni's Press Releases.
Operator	Agiba (Eni 76%/Lukoil 24%)	WEPCO (EGPC 50%/IPR 50%)	Petrobel (Eni/EGPC JV)
Key Metrics	▪ +8,500 boe/d (From 3 wells in 2022 campaign) ▪ 16-field cluster ▪ License secured to 2036 (2041 option	▪ 6,150 bbl/d combined (From Alamein 48-K + West AY-1X wells) ▪ Record 13,166 ft drilling depth	▪ 200 mmbbl original in-place volume ▪ 5,000 bbl/d sustained flow

Crude Oil Export Dynamics

Egypt's Crude oil exports declined by 8.7% in FY 2023/24 due to domestic production bottlenecks and increased refinery utilization for local fuel supply; their relative importance within Egypt's hydrocarbon export basket grew substantially.

The changing export profile reflects strategic adaptations to challenging market conditions. Despite the petroleum exports decline, European markets still maintain their position as key destinations, demonstrating continued demand despite overall export volume reductions. Meanwhile, domestic energy policy decisions to prioritize crude allocation to refineries helped stabilize the sector while awaiting new production from recent Western Desert and Gulf of Suez discoveries to come online, according to the Central Bank of Egypt (CBE) Economic Reports.

Crude Oil Export Performance

Value ($ billion) Share of Total Petroleum Export (%)



	Value ($ billion)	Share of Total Petroleum Export (%)
FY 2022/23	2.3	17
FY 2023/24	2.1	37

Egypt's crude oil exports maintain a diversified yet concentrated market structure, with European partners, Italy and Greece, collectively representing the largest share of shipments. While these two Mediterranean destinations account for over 60% of exports, Asian markets - particularly India and China - continue to hold significant positions in Egypt's export portfolio. The relative decline in volumes to Asia reflects both increased European demand due to energy security concerns post-Russia-Ukraine war and Egypt's strategic prioritization of nearer Mediterranean markets to optimize shipping costs and supply chain efficiency, according to the Central Agency for Public Mobilization and Statistics (CAPMAS). This balanced trade orientation allows Egypt to maintain stable revenue streams while navigating evolving global energy dynamics.

Top 5 Export Destinations by Value ($ million)

FY 2022/23 FY 2023/24



Italy 705.3 741.9



Greece 683.6 648.6



India 402.7 249.8



China 265 131.8



Spain 242

Egypt's crude oil sector has demonstrated remarkable resilience amid evolving global market dynamics. Over FYs 2022/23 and 2023/24, stable production levels, led by areas like the Western Desert and Gulf of Suez, reaffirmed Egypt's status as a regional oil producer. Despite a contraction in new exploration agreements and investment inflows, the sector continued to deliver noteworthy exploration results, with growing crude oil reserves and discoveries, particularly in brownfields. Strategic initiatives—such as digital bid rounds and targeted development contracts—highlight Egypt's commitment to revitalizing brownfields, enhancing recovery rates, and pushing exploration activities.



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