

*Our mission is to serve Texas by our stewardship of natural resources and the environment, our concern for personal and community safety, and our support of enhanced development and economic vitality for the benefit of Texans.*

## Permian Basin Update

The Permian Basin is Texas' most prolific oil and gas producing formation. As of November, the Permian Basin accounts for 68% of Texas' oil production, 40% of gas production, and 59% of drilling activity permits issued by the Railroad Commission in 2019.

Between 2014 and 2019 production substantially increased within the Permian, catapulting the basin to national and global prominence. Two factors explain this trend. The first involves the use of horizontal drilling and multi-stage hydraulic fracturing completions, enabling greater production from completed wells. Second, the Permian hosts extensive oil and gas resources. Recent US Geological Survey (USGS) assessments of the Midland and Delaware basins within the Permian found an estimated mean of over 66 billion barrels of oil, nearly 300 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, and 21 billion barrels of natural gas liquids.

As of November 2019 seven out of Texas' top ten oil producing counties are within the Permian. The leading county, Midland, produced 13.4 million barrels of oil in August according to preliminary RRC reports.

