

ABOUT BAKU, AZERBAIJAN

Azerbaijan is emerging as an important exporter of oil and natural gas and as a transport corridor between Europe and Central Asia. Its strategic location bordering the Caspian Sea has attracted significant international interest in developing its oil and natural gas reserves.

Azerbaijan gained independence from the Soviet Union in 1991. In the 19th century, this part of the Russian empire experienced an unprecedented oil boom which attracted international investment. By the beginning of the 20th century Azerbaijan was supplying almost half of the world's oil.



With oil production in decline in most countries outside OPEC, Azerbaijan is seen as one of the few non-OPEC countries capable of increasing its output significantly over the next few years.

Today, Caspian oil is flowing through pipelines running from its capital in Baku, through Georgia to the Turkey, providing world countries with ready access to a vast new source of supply.

Azerbaijan's proven crude oil reserves are estimated at 7 billion barrels in January 2009 by the Oil and Gas Journal. The country's largest hydrocarbon basins are located offshore in the Caspian Sea, particularly the Azeri Chirag Guneshli (ACG) fields, which accounted for over 80 percent of Azerbaijan's total oil output in 2008.

Source: Energy Information Administration
<http://www.eia.doe.gov/cabs/Azerbaijan/Full.html>