



Another Inconvenient Truth - A presentation you can download

Posted by [Gail the Actuary](#) on October 30, 2007 - 8:00am

Topic: [Supply/Production](#)

Tags: [oil forecasts](#), [oil uses](#), [peak oil](#), [peak oil presentation](#) [[list all tags](#)]

There are now several movies about peak oil that a person can show to audiences who are new to the subject. But sometimes it would be helpful to have a "canned" PowerPoint presentation, or a set of prepared PDF handouts that you can discuss with newcomers or use for your own talks. In this post, I link to a short PowerPoint presentation that is intended to be an introduction to newcomers. I also offer a two-per-page handout version, that may be helpful for one-on-one discussions.

I cannot really show what the presentation looks like in HTML, but I will give the flavor of the content in the post.



Another Inconvenient Truth

An Introduction to Peak Oil

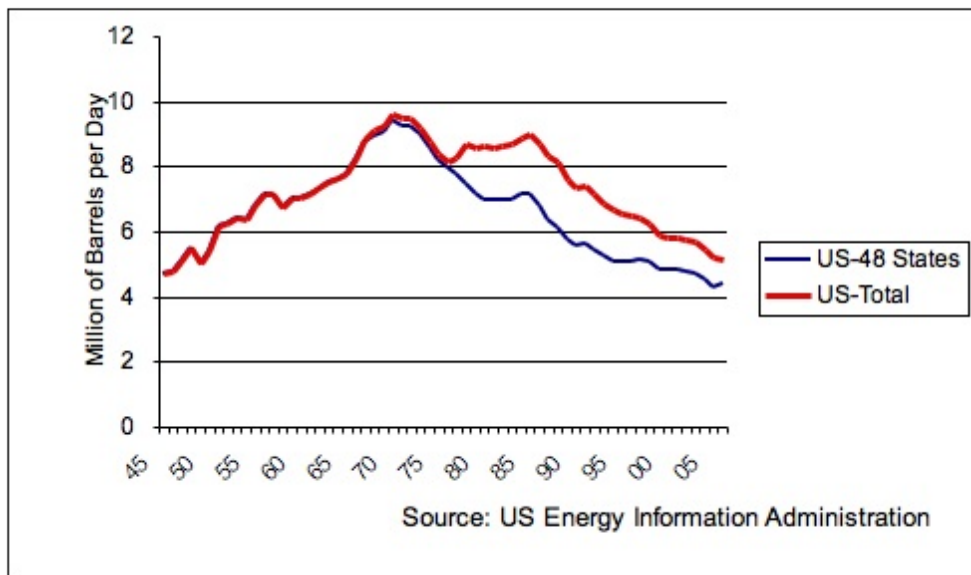
October 2007

TheOilDrum.com

The US was once the leader in world oil production



But US oil production began to decline in 1970

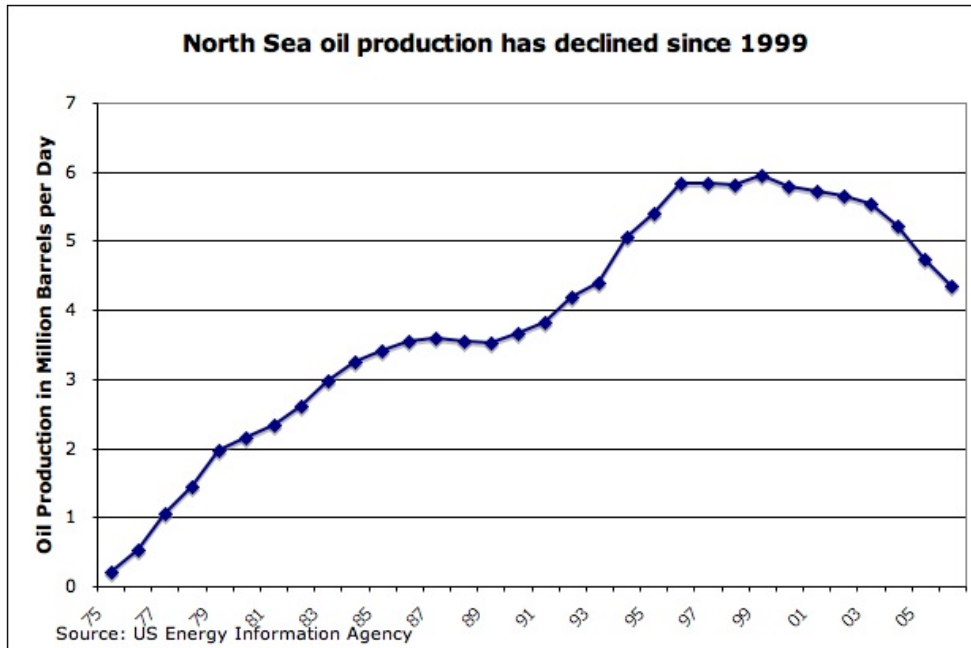


No one told the public about the decline

- US oil decline gave rise to the oil problems of the 1970s - OPEC, embargo
- Decline continues, year after year

- Decline occurred even with improving technology
- We began to import more oil and moved to a "service" economy
- Truth was too embarrassing to tell

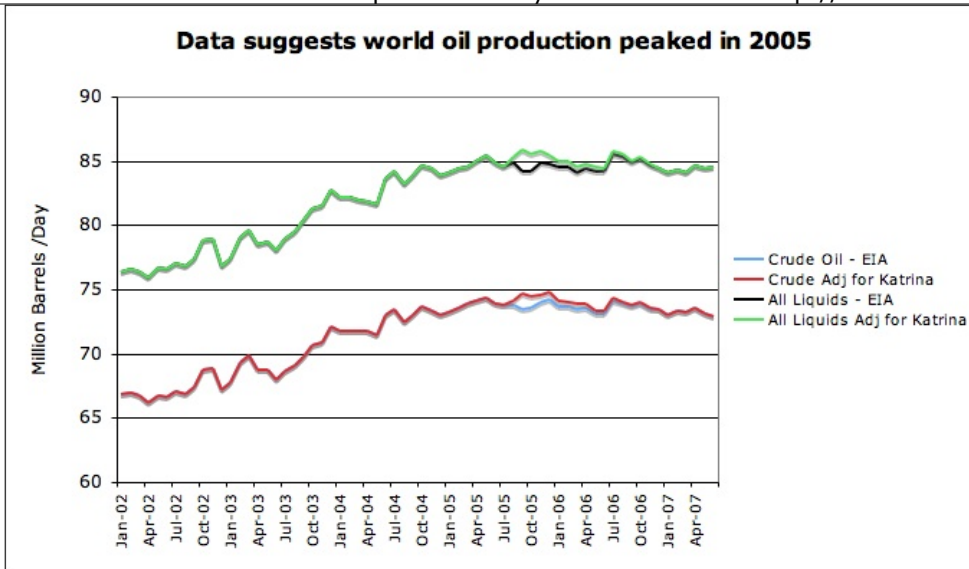
One by one, other sites have begun to decline also



Soon, world oil production will begin to decline

- Date not yet certain
- Association for the Study of Peak Oil-USA says "Before 2015"
- Case Western Reserve survey of oil experts says "highly likely" by 2010
- Several experts say 2005 or 2006
- Data suggests peak may be past

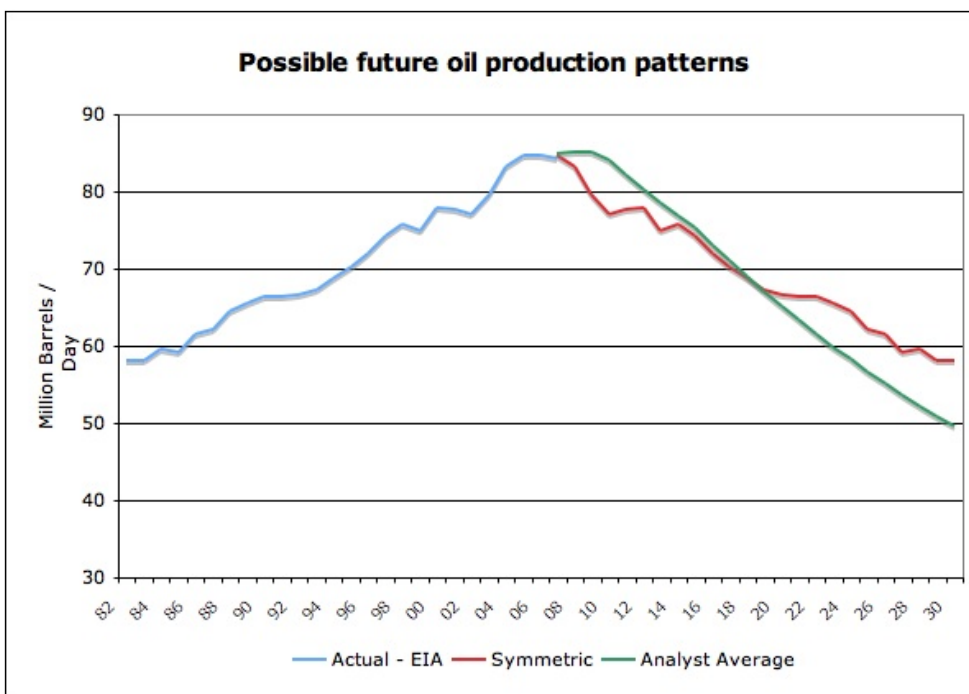
Peak may have occurred about the time of Hurricane Katrina (2005)



Where is oil used?

- Transportation - cars, buses, trucks
- Food - planting and harvesting, processing, refrigeration, transportation
- Raw materials - asphalt, building materials, clothing, pharmaceuticals
- Energy source - manufacturing

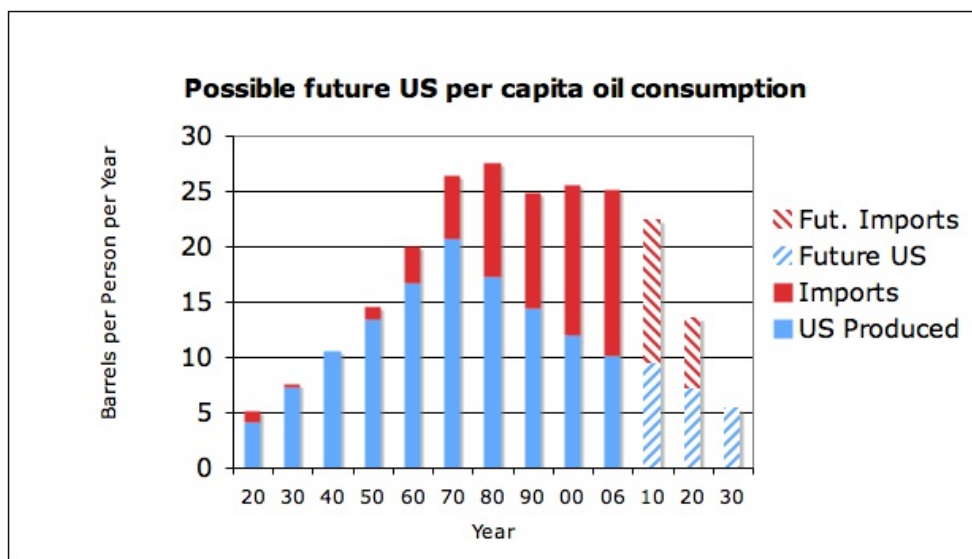
Rough estimates of future world oil production - if peak is now



Sources of data for previous graph

- Historical: US energy Information Administration
- Symmetric: Assumes future production will be mirror image of past
- Analyst average: Average of close-date projections by Ace, Bakhtiari, and Robelius

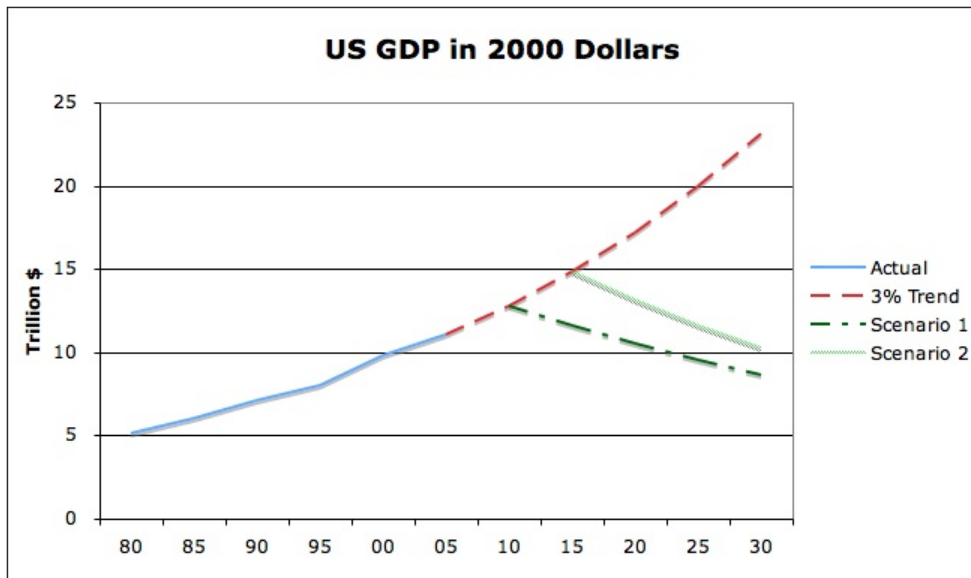
Future US oil supply will depend on level of imports



Level of future US oil imports is very uncertain

- Imports likely to decline faster than world oil supply
 - Exporters supply themselves first
 - Hoarding; civil unrest
- US may be unable to purchase oil
 - Balance of payments issues
 - Will exporters take more IOUs?

With less oil, real GDP is likely to decline



Why weren't we told?

- We weren't told when US production peaked.
- Can we expect to be warned before world production peaks?
- Declining economies are embarrassing.

Will technology save the day?

- Technology didn't prevent the decline in US oil production.
- Technology didn't prevent the decline in North Sea oil production.
- Should we expect it to prevent a decline in world oil production?

Is there an easy solution?

- No, not really.
- Conservation is a partial solution.
- Alternative fuels (solar, wind, biofuels, geothermal) are likely to provide some help.
- New technology like battery-operated cars is likely to be too little, too late.
- We may need to unwind globalization; go back to simpler life-styles, technologies that worked before.

Download Presentation

To download this presentation as a PDF handout (2 slides per page), click [here](#). If you are uncertain which file to download, this is probably the better choice. It does not require PowerPoint software, and is not as large a file.

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