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Inside Track

United States Soon to Pass Saudi Arabia in Oil Exports



AP Images

Rystad Energy, an independent oil and gas analysis and consulting company based in Oslo, Norway, released a report on March 7 stating that the United States will surpass Saudi Arabia later this year in exports of oil, natural gas liquids, and other petroleum products, such as gasoline.

Saudi Arabia currently exports about seven million barrels of crude oil each day, along with two million barrels of natural gas liquids and petroleum products, but the United States will exceed those numbers this year, according to Rystad.

U.S. exports of oil have not exceeded Saudi Arabia's since the Middle Eastern nation first began selling oil overseas in the 1950s.

The increases in U.S. oil production and exports can be attributed to two factors.

First, there's the continued rise in hydrocarbon extraction. CNN reported March 8 that drilling innovations have allowed tapping huge quantities of oil and natural gas resources that had previously been trapped in shale oil fields in Texas, North Dakota, and other states. The primary technological advance enabling the extraction of shale oil is known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking."

There was a problem with translating the increased production into increased exports, however, and overcoming that obstacle will be the second factor making an increase in U.S. oil exports possible.

CNBC reported on March 8 that a shortage of pipeline capacity created a bottleneck for oil being sent from the Permian Basin in West Texas to Gulf Coast ports, where it could be loaded onto tankers. The report noted that "the transportation tie-up at the Permian Basin is about to ease up, and a new network of pipelines will help U.S. producers unleash more crude into the Gulf Coast and then onto the world market."

"There's a lot of shale capacity being prepared. There's a lot of pipeline capacity. We're going to triple pipelines going into the market from 3 to 9 million in three years, from last year to late 2021," the report said, quoting Francisco Blanch, head of commodities and derivatives at Bank of America Merrill Lynch.



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By Warren Mass

Taxman Chasing Rich New Yorkers Who've "Fled State"



Eloi_Omella/Getty Images Plus

New York has been driving away the wealthy with its soak-the-rich standards. Since it takes a lot of money to fund a big, liberty-squelching government, however, Empire State tax collectors are chasing rich alleged ex-New Yorkers like the Pinkertons pursuing an Old West outlaw. It's a dangerous game, too, as a recent report warns that New York City — the high-tax death star of a high tax state — stands at a precipice of bankruptcy.

At issue are New Yorkers who claim they've moved to a low-tax state such as Florida, which has no income or estate tax, but may actually still have their primary residence in New York.

As CNBC wrote March 8,

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance is making sure that high earners who try to leave don't escape without an audit and a bill.... In addition to the traditional audit methods the state uses to make sure a taxpayer isn't gaming the system — like checking taxpayer's credit card bills and travel schedules — New York officials are using a whole new set of high-tech tools, including tracking cellphone records, social media feeds, and veterinary and dentist records. Auditors are even conducting in-home inspections to look inside taxpayers' refrigerators.

The point of this is the mobility of the rich. The poor and middle class *may* not be able to escape from New York, but the wealthy can go anywhere. The state can audit all it wants and perform one last solitary fleecing, but it can't thus retain what economist Thomas Sowell has called "human capital." It's an old lesson, one that explains why the erstwhile Eastern Bloc Marxists built the Berlin Wall (to keep their own *people in*), and illustrates how leftists do not learn from history.

By Selwyn Duke



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Over 1,000 Scientists Openly Dissent From Evolution Theory



Over 1,000 doctoral scientists from around the world have signed a “Dissent” statement expressing skepticism about Darwin’s evolution theory, sparking fresh controversy over an idea that is at the core of many people’s worldview. The significant announcement, made in February, has been all but ignored by the establishment media. But it is making waves nevertheless.

The dissenting scientists all united around one simple statement: “We are skeptical of claims for the ability of random mutation and natural selection to account for the complexity of life.... Careful examination of the evidence for Darwinian theory should be encouraged. There is scientific dissent from Darwinism. It deserves to be heard.”

More than a dozen of the signatories are members of various national academies of science, including those in the United States, Russia, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and other nations, as well as the Royal Society. More than a few come from America’s most prestigious universities, such as Harvard, MIT, Princeton, and Yale. Others come from prestigious foreign universities and research institutions, such as the University of Cambridge, London’s Natural History Museum, Moscow State University, Hong Kong University, University of Stellenbosch in South Africa, Institut de Paléontologie Humaine in France, Ben-Gurion University in Israel, and more.

The experts speaking out also represent a broad array of scientific disciplines and fields. These include molecular biology, biochemistry, biology, entomology, computational quantum chemistry, microbiology, psychiatry, behavioral sciences, astrophysics, marine biology, cellular biology, physics, astronomy, math, geology, anthropology, and many more. Many medical doctors are raising questions, too.

The project, known as “A Scientific Dissent From Darwinism,” was first launched by the Discovery Institute in 2001. Since then, the number of public dissenters has grown tenfold. Indeed, many prominent scientists now dispute evolution theory, and the institute believes that the 1,000-plus scientists who have signed the statement represent the tip of a massive iceberg.

By Alex Newman



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More Women Buying Guns for Protection and Empowerment



RichLegg/Getty Images Plus

A March 4 article in the *Virginian-Pilot* noted the increase in gun ownership among women, citing figures from the National Shooting Sports Foundation stating that gun ownership among women has risen 77 percent since 2005.

The newspaper interviewed Glenda Craddock, who, with her husband, Jeff, owns three pawn and gun shops in South Hampton Roads, Virginia. Craddock and one of her managers, Amy May, spoke to a writer from the *Virginian-Pilot* while the two women were practicing their shooting skills at a range on a farm that the Craddocks own.

“We cater to everybody,” Craddock said. “Women, I think, get a sense of accomplishment and a skill level they didn’t used to have. There is a sense of invincibility in a way.”

The writer also interviewed Kim Thumel, president of the new Virginia Beach chapter of The Well Armed Woman, a national organization that has hundreds of chapters. Thumel was pleasantly surprised when 24 women showed up for the first meeting.

“We had women who had been carjacked, robbed or raped and others who were just scared of what’s going on in the world. We had others that just wanted to learn more and get better at shooting. It turned into a beautiful thing for women to do together, a fellowship where they could share their experiences and bond.”

The Utah-based *Daily Herald* ran a story on March 4 about Debby Jackson, a woman in American Fork, Utah. In 2017, Jackson started attending meetings for the Utah County chapter of The Well Armed Woman, and eventually became a co-leader of the group. “I’m not advocating that we go around with guns all the time, but I think there is evil in the world and I don’t think we can depend on the government,” Jackson told the *Daily Herald*. “We need to protect ourselves and our families and that is a big thing with me, to be a self-protector.”

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