

How many jobs will be created if offshore drilling comes to Virginia?

Of course there are many uncertainties, but several studies have attempted to predict how many jobs will be created by an offshore oil and gas industry on the Atlantic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS). A 2009 study by the American Energy Alliance estimated that opening up oil and gas production in previously unavailable parts of the OCS would bring 15,244 new jobs to Virginia. In 2013, the American Petroleum Institute contracted with Quest Offshore Resources to study the economic impact of increasing U.S. access to offshore oil and gas resources in the Atlantic. This study concluded that the industry would generate 25,000 new jobs by the year 2035. A 2014 study by the Thomas Jefferson Institute for Public Policy estimated that 16,500 to 32,100 jobs would be created in Virginia by an Atlantic oil and gas industry in the next twenty years. A 2015 fact sheet published by Oceana estimated that 10,295 jobs would be created in Virginia by offshore drilling.