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Oil be the judge: Texas regulator in the spotlight as Permian gas flaring spikes

In the five years between 2013 and 2018, oil production in the United States grew by 52% – from 10.1 million barrels/day (Mb/d) to 15.3 Mb/d – giving it a commanding lead as the world's largest producer, having overtaken Saudi Arabia and Russia. Another double-digit percentage rise is forecast for 2019.

This astonishing growth is being driven primarily by rising output of shale oil. Leading the way in both volume and growth is the state of Texas, thanks largely to the Permian Basin, which spans western Texas and south-eastern New Mexico.

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