The properties of crude oil are used to determine its market value. The API gravity of a crude oil measures the density of the oil compared to water. A higher API gravity indicates a lighter oil, while a lower API gravity indicates a heavier oil. The petroleum industry uses this information to decide which refineries to use and what products to make from the crude oil.

For example, an API gravity of 12 is on the heavier, more viscous side than 31.1 degrees, which is considered medium.

A refinery will use API gravity to determine what products to make and which crudes to blend. A heavy crude, with an API gravity below 22.3, is limited to making lower octane gasoline and diesel. A medium crude, with an API gravity between 22.3 and 31.1, can make high octane gasoline and diesel. A light crude, with an API gravity above 31.1, can make jet fuel.

Crude oil also contains sulfur, which burns in transportation fuels. Also, because sulfur is a pollutant, transportation fuels have a sulfur content limit. The percentage of sulfur within crude oil is used to determine its market value. The petroleum industry may mix many types of crude, like 12 percent from Kern River (9.5 million barrels), and 1.3 percent from Kern (Belridge, South) (2.3 million barrels) to create more valuable products.

Crude fields in California are light, with an API gravity of 26.18 and an average 0.2 percent sulfur content of 1.64 percent.

The API gravity scale, which sets standards for the quality of crude oil, is used to measure the density of a substance. The specific gravity, sulfur content, acid content, and other properties are specific gravity and sulfur content. These properties are used to determine the quality of crude oil.

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Sources of Oil to California

Sources of crude oil to California are New Mexico, North Dakota, and Mexico. The largest supplier of crude oil to California is Saudi Arabia, with 17.6 million barrels as two distinct deliveries.

The largest supplier of light crude to California is Japan, which is also light crude. Other large suppliers of crude to California are Saudi Arabia, with 134.8 million barrels. Other large suppliers of medium crude to California are Ecuador and Russia.