

News : US became world's biggest LNG exporter in first half of 2022: EIA

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- In line with projections made in December
- Most first-half 2022 **US** shipments went to **Europe**

The **US** became the world leader in **LNG** exports during the first half of 2022 as high global prices, the **European energy** crisis and new **US** export facilities drove record shipments, the **US Energy Information Administration** said July 25.

US LNG export capacity averaged 11.2 Bcf/d during the first six months of 2022, the **EIA** said in a report.

The **EIA** estimated that **US natural gas** liquefaction capacity averaged 11.4 Bcf/d as of July, with a peak capacity of 13.9 Bcf/d across the seven major **LNG** export facilities: **Cheniere** Energy's **Sabine Pass** in **Louisiana**, the Berkshire Hathaway-operated **Cove Point** in **Maryland**, **Cheniere**'s Corpus Christi Liquefaction in **Texas**, **Sempra**'s **Cameron LNG** in **Louisiana**, **Kinder Morgan Inc.**'s Elba Liquefaction in **Georgia**, Freeport **LNG** Development's plant in **Texas**, and Venture Global **LNG**'s Calcasieu Pass in **Louisiana**.

The capacity estimates were in line with predictions that the **EIA** made in December 2021. At the time, the agency said **US LNG** exports at full capacity would surpass world leaders **Australia** and **Qatar**, which export 11.4 Bcf/d and 10.3 Bcf/d, respectively. Global demand for **LNG** at the time of the forecast was already strong.

Most of the first-half 2022 shipments from the **US** went to **Europe**, where demand for **LNG** has surged because of security of supply concerns following **Russia**'s invasion of **Ukraine** in late February. The **Ukraine** crisis exacerbated market dynamics that had seen **gas** supplies tightening since mid-2021. Benchmark **gas** prices in **Europe** are several times higher than they were a year earlier.

Calcasieu Pass, which started exporting **LNG** in early March, is the most recent **US LNG** export plant to come online. Venture Global is continuing to ramp up production at the facility, with its production capacity of 10 million mt/year. The operator received federal approval on July 22 to introduce **feedgas** to the final liquefaction units. The addition of Calcasieu Pass, along with increased production at the **Cheniere** facilities, contributed to a 1.9-Bcf/d expansion of nominal **US LNG** export capacity since November 2021, the **EIA** said.

LNG exports during the past two months were lower than previously expected, mainly because of an early June fire at the Freeport terminal that led to an extended outage at the facility. **US LNG** exports had averaged about 12.5 Bcf/d before the Freeport shutdown. The **EIA** said recently it expected 10.5 Bcf/d in **US LNG** exports for the final six months of 2022, down 6% from the first half of the year as a result of the shutdown at Freeport. The terminal could resume partial production in October.

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