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30 minutes of reading



Economic outlook

Issues and Foresight

Responsible oil and gas

Economics

IFPEN analyses in this study the 2012 evolution of global investment in the field of exploration-production and refining. The word “contrast” also springs to mind when looking into how investment in hydrocarbons has changed, with an upstream sector that is flourishing and a downstream sector that is trading water.

In spite of the uncertain economic context, investment in exploration-production is still increasing at a healthy rate, with activity reaching record levels in all areas. The decline in activity of 2009/2010 now seems a long way off. As far as refining is concerned, investment has only risen very modestly, despite a somewhat encouraging 2011. It has only been driven by Asia and the Middle East and — to a lesser extent — South America.

## SUMMARY

### Oil and gas prices - exacerbated instability

- Exploration production: continuation of the boom cycle
- A rise in investment
- In the news

## Main markets in the upstream oil equipment and services sector

- Drilling
- Geophysical market
- Offshore construction

## Refining consolidating the imbalance between long-term demand and capacity

- Increase in world refining overcapacity and decrease in refinery utilization rates
- Economic break on proposals for new capacity
- Overall improvement in refining margins in 2012
- New slowdown in refinery industry spending in 2012
- Future investments, heightened competition on the export markets in the mid-term
- Impact of the development of unconventional oil refining in the US and Europe



> [Download the report](#) (PDF - 2.5 Mo)

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Investments in exploration-production and refining in 2012  
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