# Trump SOTU Statements Rhetoric/Reality

## **2019: Trump: “For The First Time In 65 Years, We Are A Net Exporter Of Energy.”** [State Of the Union, [2/5/19](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address-2/)]

### FACT: The U.S. Became A Net Exporter Of Energy In The Obama Administration

**The United States Has Exported More Energy Than We Imported Since 2015.** According to the Washington Post, “The notion that “a revolution” in energy began under the Trump administration is wrong. The United States has exported more energy than it has imported since 2015 and has led the world in natural gas production since 2009. Crude oil production has been increasing rapidly since 2010, reaching record levels in August 2018, according to U.S. Energy Information Administration data." [The Washington Post, [2/5/19](https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/live-updates/trump-white-house/live-fact-checking-and-analysis-of-trumps-2019-state-of-the-union-address/the-u-s-is-the-largest-global-crude-oil-producer/?utm_term=.b56448235029)]

## **2019: Trump: “Companies Are Coming Back To Our Country In Large Numbers Thanks To Historic Reductions In Taxes And Regulations.”** [State Of the Union, [2/5/19](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address-2/)]

### FACT: The Trump Administration Has Lost Over 97 Percent Of Its Environmental Deregulation Court Cases.

**Environmental Deregulation Cases Under The Trump Administration Have Been Defeated Over 97 Percent Of The Time**. According to the Institute for Policy Integrity, there have been 36 environmental deregulation court cases under the Trump administration. Of those 36, 35 have been unsuccessful (97.2%) and one has been successful (2.8%). [Institute For Policy Integrity, [1/10/20](https://policyintegrity.org/trump-court-roundup)]

## **2019: Trump: “We Have Unleashed A Revolution In American Energy — The United States Is Now The Number One Producer Of Oil And Natural Gas In The World.”** [State Of the Union, [2/5/19](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-state-union-address-2/)]

### FACT: The United States Has Led The World In Natural Gas Production Since The Early In The Obama Administration.

**The United States Has Been The Top Producer Of Natural Gas Since 2009.** According to the U.S. Energy and Information Administration, “The United States has been the world's top producer of natural gas since 2009, when U.S. natural gas production surpassed that of Russia, and the world's top producer of petroleum hydrocarbons since 2013, when U.S. production exceeded Saudi Arabia’s.” [U.S. Energy Information Administration, Accessed [1/29/20](https://www.eia.gov/todayinenergy/detail.php?id=36292)]

**The United States Has Ranked First For Years For Petroleum And Natural Gas Production.** According to Politifact, “Trump said, ‘The United States is now the No. 1 energy producer in the world. That happened just recently.’ The United States does rank first internationally in petroleum, crude oil, and natural gas production, though it ranks third in the world in coal production. Meanwhile, only for crude oil was the No. 1 spot achieved recently. For petroleum and natural gas, the United States has ranked first for years.” [Politifact, [10/4/18](file:///C%3A%5CUsers%5CCEllwood%5CAppData%5CLocal%5CMicrosoft%5CWindows%5CINetCache%5CContent.Outlook%5CXG496APV%5Cpolitifact.com%5Cwest-virginia%5Cstatements%5C2018%5Coct%5C04%5Cdonald-trump%5Cunited-states-no-1-energy-producer-world%5C)]

## **2018: Trump: “We Have Ended The War On American Energy, And We Have Ended The War On Beautiful Clean Coal.”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

### FACT: Coal Jobs Are Declining In The U.S. And Are Projected To Fall By 11 Percent In 2020.

**Coal Jobs Fell In 2019, Projected To Fall By Additional 10 Percent In 2020.** According to the Wall Street Journal, “Nationally, employment at coal mines fell to 73,969 in the second quarter, compared with just over 76,000 at the end of 2018, and 110,000 a decade ago, according to the Labor Department. The Trump administration earlier this year moved to undo Obama-era environmental rules on power-plant emissions, but the change hasn’t slowed the closure of coal-fired power plants driven by an abundance of cheap natural gas. U.S. coal production in 2019 is expected to fall 10% from a year earlier and decline by an additional 11% in 2020, according to the Energy Information Administration.” [Wall Street Journal, [10/28/19](https://www.wsj.com/articles/in-pro-trump-west-virginia-coal-country-the-jobs-keep-leaving-11572269967)]

## **2018: We Are Now Very Proudly An Exporter Of Energy To The World.”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

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**Donald Trump Wrongly Says U.S. Is A Net Energy Exporter.** According to Politifact, “Trump said that ‘we have become an energy exporter for the first time ever just recently.’ This statement is problematic regardless of how you interpret his statement -- gross energy exports, net energy exports, gross crude-oil exports, and net natural gas exports. The closest he would come to being accurate is if he were referring to net natural gas exports, but even there, it hasn’t happened yet, contrary to what his past-tense statement indicates. We rate the statement False.” [Politifact, [8/23/17](https://www.politifact.com/truth-o-meter/statements/2017/aug/23/donald-trump/donald-trump-wrongly-says-us-net-energy-exporte/)]

## **2018: Trump: “Many Car Companies Are Now Building And Expanding Plants In The United States — Something We Haven’t Seen For Decades”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

### FACT: American Auto Manufacturing Jobs Grew By 51 Percent Under President Obama From 2009 To 2017, Then Fell By 5,000 In Trump’s First Year.

**American Auto Jobs Great 51 Percent From The 2009 Auto Bailout Until The End Of Obama’s Presidency**. According to CNN, “The Obama administration bailed out General Motors and Chrysler in 2009. What followed was the industry’s longest period of sustained growth in decades. Larry Summers, President Obama’s top economic adviser during the bailout, said Tuesday night on Twitter that Trump didn’t deserve credit. The number of people building cars and auto parts at American factories climbed 323,000, or 51%, between the summer of 2009, the time of the bailout, and January 2017, when Obama left office. Employment at those plants dropped by about 5,000 between January and December 2017 as automakers trimmed production of some models and eliminated second shifts at some factories. GM announced its first layoff in six years in November 2016.” [CNN, [1/30/18](https://money.cnn.com/2018/01/30/news/companies/state-of-the-union-auto-industry/index.html)]

## **2018: Trump: “In Detroit, I Halted Government Mandates That Crippled America’s Great, Beautiful Autoworkers So That We Can Get Motor City Revving Its Engines Again.”** [State Of The Union, [1/28/18](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-state-union-address/)]

### FACT: Auto Industry Sold Most Cars In Obama’s Last Year, Then Sales Dipped In Trump’s First Year.

**Auto Industry Hit A Record Number Of Vehicle Sales In 2016, Then Fell By 1.6 Percent In 2017.** According to The Detroit News, “The auto industry started its comeback after President Barack Obama forced General Motors and Chrysler to go through bankruptcy protection in 2009 to clear out debt. Obama and former President George W. Bush floated nearly $80 billion in loans to Chrysler, GM and their lending arms of which $9.26 billion wasn’t repaid. Auto sales recovered from the recession, setting a historic streak of seven consecutive years of increasing sales and hitting a record of 17.55 vehicles in 2016 . Sales slipped 1.6 percent to 17.2 million last year and are expected to fall further this year but remain high by historic standards.” [The Detroit News, [1/30/18](https://www.detroitnews.com/story/news/politics/2018/01/30/trump-auto-rules-sotu/109956538/)]

* **2018 Auto Sales Did Not Reach 2016 Levels.** According to Marklines, U.S. auto industry sales of passenger cars and light vehicles reached 17.27 million vehicles, which was more than 2017 by 0.3 percent, but still below the 17.55 million vehicles sold in 2016.” [Marklines, Accessed [1/29/20](https://www.marklines.com/en/statistics/flash_sales/salesfig_usa_2018)]

## **2017: Trump: “My Administration Wants To Work With Members Of Both Parties… To Promote Clean Air And Clean Water.”** [Trump Address To Joint Session Of Congress, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-address-congress/)]

### FACT: The Trump Administration Has Rolled Back Nearly 100 Environmental Rules And Regulations In Its First Three Years.

**The Trump Administration Has Rolled Back At Least 95 Environmental Rules And Regulations.** According to the New York Times, “President Trump has made eliminating federal regulations a priority. His administration, with help from Republicans in Congress, has often targeted environmental rules it sees as burdensome to the fossil fuel industry and other big businesses. A New York Times analysis, based on research from Harvard Law School, Columbia Law School and other sources, counts more than 90 environmental rules and regulations rolled back under Mr. Trump. Our list represents two types of policy changes: rules that were officially reversed and rollbacks still in progress.” [New York Times, [12/21/19](https://www.nytimes.com/interactive/2019/climate/trump-environment-rollbacks.html)]

## **2017: Trump: “We’re Going To Stop The Regulations That Threaten The Future And Livelihood Of Our Great Coal Miners.”** [Trump Address To Joint Session Of Congress, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-address-congress/)]

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## **2017: Trump: “We Have Cleared The Way For The Construction Of The Keystone And Dakota Access Pipelines Thereby Creating Tens Of Thousands Of Jobs.”** [Trump Address To Joint Session Of Congress, [2/28/17](https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/remarks-president-trump-joint-address-congress/)]

### FACT: Keystone XL and Dakota Access Pipelines Estimated To Create Less Than 100 Permanent Jobs Total.

**Keystone XL Was Estimated To Create Approximately 35 Permanent Jobs.** According to CNN, “However, once Keystone is completed, only 35 permanent employees would be needed to operate the pipeline along with 15 temporary contractors. So, the Keystone XL isn’t expected to be a boom for the job market by any stretch. In addition, those temporary and limited permanent jobs could come at a significant environmental cost. The Canadian oil that would flow through the pipeline is considered among the dirtiest types of crude. A 2015 study funded by the Department of Energy found that the oil sands from Canada emit 18% more greenhouse gases when processed into gasoline than that processed from traditional U.S. crude. And diesel fuel derived from oil sands emits 21% more of these harmful gases. That’s why environmentalists remain fiercely opposed to Keystone.” [CNN, [3/24/17](https://money.cnn.com/2017/03/24/investing/keystone-pipeline-jobs-trump/index.html)]

**Dakota Access Pipeline Was Estimated to Create 51 Permanent Jobs.** According to Pacific Standard, “A 2014 economic assessment conducted for Dakota Access, LLC, estimated that much of this labor would be "temporary, for seasonal periods less than a year." An Energy Transfer spokesperson told me that, once construction was completed, a mere 51 permanent jobs were created across all four states through which DAPL passes.” [Pacific Standard, [10/19/18](https://psmag.com/magazine/death-on-the-dakota-access)]