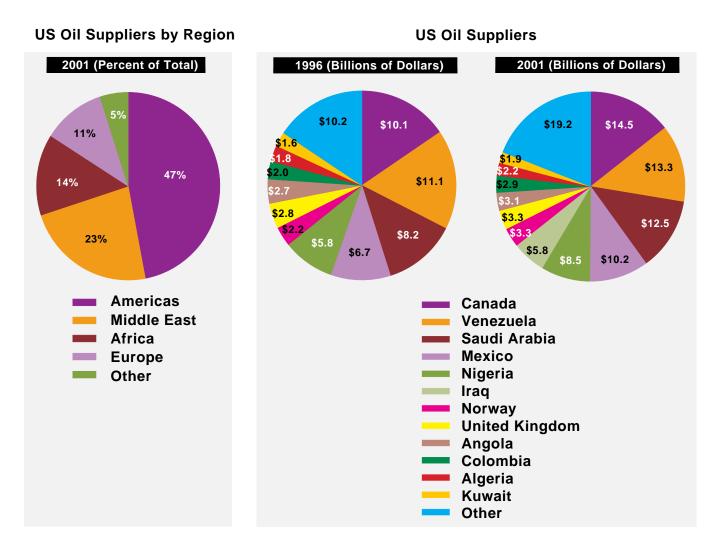
The Chart Page

By Tamar A. Mehuron, Associate Editor

Where Imported Oil Really Comes From



The US is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign oil, but the biggest source is not the Middle East.

In 1996, US wells still produced slightly more than half the oil consumed in the US. In 2001, however, imports accounted for 57 percent of US consumption.

The US last year imported \$100 billion worth of crude from 97 nations.

Some 47 percent of imports came from the Americas. In fact, Canada—with \$14.5 billion in sales—was the top foreign supplier of oil to the US last year. Next came Venezuela, from which the US imported \$13.3 billion worth of oil.

Saudi Arabia is the third-largest individual supplier of oil to the US, with sales of \$12.5 billion last year. The Middle East supplies less than onequarter of all imports.

Oil is fungible, and any disruption of world supply anywhere would quickly be felt in the global market. Prices would rise as consumers competed for diminished supplies. **Sources:** International Trade Administration, DOC and Energy Information Administration/Petroleum Supply Monthly.