

## Refinery fuel production shifts

Some oil companies that claim clean air laws threaten a gas shortage are quietly shifting *away* from gasoline production toward greatly increased jet fuel production.<sup>1,2</sup> *See charts.*

Refineries in California made 6.6 percent *less* gasoline per barrel crude feed while their jet fuel yield on crude rose ten percent. This is from ‘CARBOB’ gasoline blendstock, jet fuel, and crude oil refining rates in the twelve-month period to October 10, 2025, compared with that to May 28, 2021.<sup>1</sup>

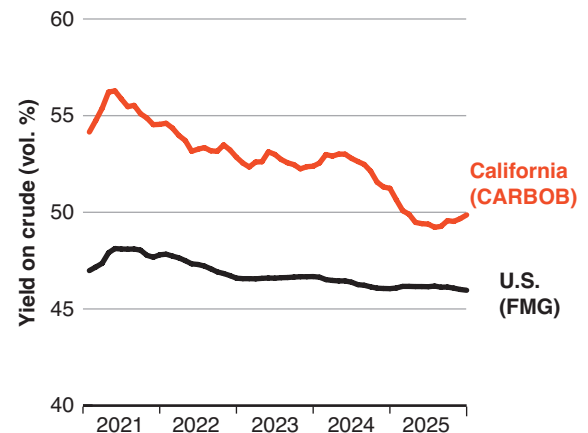
(Jet fuel yield rose more than CARBOB yield fell partly because diesel yield also fell<sup>1</sup> as biofuel displaced more than half statewide diesel use.<sup>3</sup> The refiners also export diesel and jet fuel made in California to other nations.<sup>4</sup>)

This refining flexibility could be used to help smooth California’s transition from oil.

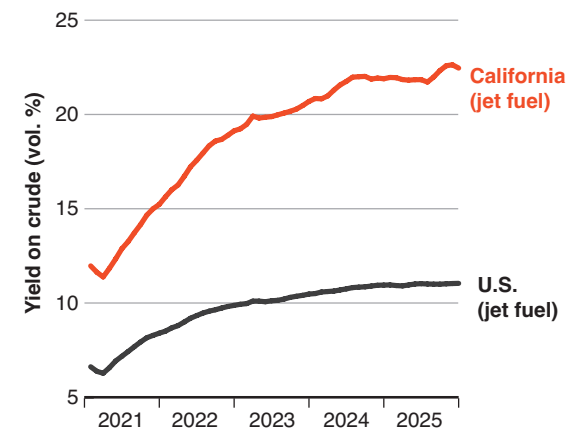
For example, refiners here processed crude at an average rate of 1.36 million barrels per day in the twelve months ending October 10, 2025.<sup>1</sup> At that rate, a shift back to gasoline from jet fuel and diesel to boost CARBOB yield by five percent could produce roughly 68,150 barrels per day more CARBOB at refineries here.<sup>5</sup>

That would make about 3.15 million gallons more California reformulated gasoline daily.<sup>6</sup> It would be enough to replace most of the gasoline production from one of the refineries shuttered in California since late 2025.<sup>7</sup>

*See next page for references and notes.*



Gasoline produced as a percentage of crude oil refined in California<sup>1</sup> and the U.S.<sup>2</sup>



Jet fuel produced as a percentage of crude oil refined in California<sup>1</sup> and the U.S.<sup>2</sup>

# Refinery fuel production shifts

*continued*

## References and notes

(1) California refinery production data from *Fuel Watch*, California Energy Commission database; <https://www.energy.ca.gov/data-reports/reports/weekly-fuels-watch/refinery-inputs-and-production>. Figures for twelve-month periods are 52-week means. Figures for California reformulated gasoline blendstock for oxygenate blending (CARBOB) exclude the ten percent of CARB Reformulated gasoline volume that represents ethanol added from sources outside the petroleum refineries.

(2) US refinery data from *Refinery Yield*, Energy Information Administration database; [https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet\\_pnp\\_pct\\_dc\\_nus\\_pct\\_m.htm](https://www.eia.gov/dnav/pet/pet_pnp_pct_dc_nus_pct_m.htm). Twelve-month means for finished motor gasoline (FMG) are shown.

(3) See *Total Volume* table in *Fuels* tab of the California Air Resources Board *LCFS Quarterly Data Spreadsheet* for its Low Carbon Fuel Standard. Search “lcfis quarterly data summary” at <https://ww2.arb.ca.gov>

(4) For federal reports on exports see *Harmonized System (HS) District-level Data* for Los Angeles, San Diego, and San Francisco in the US Bureau of the Census *USA Trade Home* at <https://usatrade.census.gov/index.php>

(5) Twelve-month mean CARBOB yield fell from 56.3 to 49.6 percent (note 1 data); adding 5 percent would boost it to 54.6 percent. The estimated 68,150 b/d more CARBOB was based on 5 percent of the current 1.36 million b/d crude rate;  $1,363,000 \text{ b/d} \cdot 0.05 = 68,150 \text{ b/d}$

(6) The estimated 3.15 million gallons per day more CARB reformulated gasoline was based on adding ten percent ethanol by volume to the 68,150 b/d more CARBOB estimated to be produced at refineries in California in this scenario:  $68,150 \text{ b/d CARBOB} + 6,815 \text{ b/d ethanol} = 74,965 \text{ b/d}$ ;  $74,965 \text{ b/d CARB RFG} \cdot 42 \text{ gal./b} = 3.15 \text{ million gal./d}$

(7) Based on a longterm average CARBOB yield of 51.6 percent on crude from note 1 data, and 100 percent of the rated crude capacities of the 145,000 b/d Valero Benicia and 139,000 b/d Phillips 66 Los Angeles refineries. Using the same analysis in note 5 with these inputs:

$145,000 \text{ b/d} \cdot 0.516 = 74,820 \text{ b/d}$ ; and

$139,000 \text{ b/d} \cdot 0.516 = 71,724 \text{ b/d}$ .

These figures represent operation of refineries with the same crude capacity and typical historic statewide yields. Actual refinery-specific gasoline yields are not public information. The 68,150 b/d estimate in note 5 represents some 91 percent and 95 percent of these figures, respectively. Fuels production ceased at the Phillips 66 LA refinery and the Valero Benicia refinery in late 2025 and early 2026, respectively.