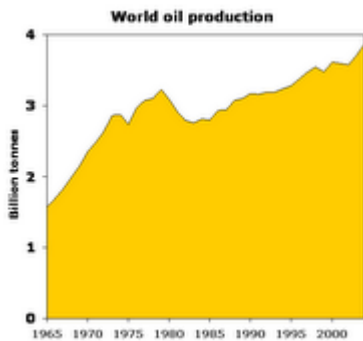


# Peak Oil by 2010 - a long bet on a tall story

written by Clive Bates | 15 July 2006



I have asked [Jeremy Leggett](#), now CEO of Solar Century and author of [Half gone: oil, gas, hot air and the global energy crisis](#) to back his prediction that the world will reach 'Peak Oil' by 2010 (ie. oil production will start to fall after that date). I regard this as very unlikely, but he seems to mean it. Over dinner some months ago, we agreed to bet on it.

[My prediction](#) and outline arguments are lodged with the [Long Bets Foundation](#), (see [post](#) below) and are awaiting a challenge through a bet. Long Bets promotes 'predictions with accountability', by having people bet on their predictions - their reputations mainly, but also money that goes to charity. Obviously, I can win this in 2011. To prove a real peak requires many years - there was a false peak in 1979 that wasn't surpassed until 1994 (see chart), but we have agreed a protocol for settling a bet.