

# Depth of giant petroleum discoveries through time

The plot below shows the date and depth of all giant petroleum discoveries. Depth of such discoveries has increased through time,

but the most striking feature of this plot is increase in depth of giant discoveries since about 2000. During the same period, shallow

(<2500 feet) discoveries disappeared. Advanced but very expensive technologies have allowed the deeper drilling to give deep discoveries, but the

expense of those deep discoveries and the scarcity of shallow ones suggest that the trend is driven by the scarcity of remaining shallow to intermediate giant opportunities.

