

## Report Synopsis

With oil and natural gas accounting for 37% and 24%, respectively, of the world's energy demands, availability of these resources can determine the economic strength of any nation. Global production has increased in the past year slightly ahead of consumption rates, the US still being the largest consumer.

High and volatile crude oil and natural gas prices are a great concern and supply worries due to geopolitical activity and natural disasters such as hurricanes Katrina and Rita are also impacting on global supply and demand.

This report highlights the significance of the multi-billion dollar mergers of the past few years. The profitability and increased spending on research and development of these "Energy Giants" have increased their standing in the global markets. It also shows how China and India are climbing the consumption and overseas acquisitions ladders.

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