

# SHOWCASE PLANTS

**Valero Energy Corporation – Texas  
Houston Refinery**



Established in 1980, Valero Energy Corporation is the largest independent refining and marketing company in the United States, generating \$30 billion in revenues. Valero now owns twelve refineries in the United States and Canada with a total throughput of nearly 2 million barrels per day. *Industry Week Magazine* named Valero one of the “100 Best-Managed Companies” in the world in 2000, and *Fortune Magazine* honored Valero as one of the “100 Best Companies to Work for in America” in 1999, 2000, and 2002 (ineligible in 2001 because of merger with Ultramar Diamond Shamrock).

Valero uses lower-cost, heavy, sour feedstocks to produce a high percentage of premium fuels such as premium gasoline, reformulated gasoline, or CARB (California Air Resources Board) gasoline. Heavy, sour feedstocks account for approximately 75% of the feedstocks processed. Valero acquired its Houston refinery in 1997 from Basis Petroleum, Incorporated. The mid-sized refinery, which began operating in 1940, is located on 303 acres along the Houston Ship Channel and has access to several major product pipelines. The refinery has a feedstock throughput capacity of approximately 136,000 barrels per day. The refinery is flexible and offers a wide range of products including gasoline, diesel, kerosene, asphalt, jet fuel, fuel oil, sulfur, liquefied petroleum gas, and chemical feedstocks. The refinery employs approximately 325 workers.

Employee safety and the environment are primary concerns for Valero. The company's recordable injury rate is far better than the industry average. The Houston refinery's safety record has been recognized by the City of Houston and Valero management. Valero is also setting high environmental standards as one of the only U.S. refiners to receive a 2000 Environmental Achievement Award at America's Clean Air Celebration and as the only petroleum refiner ever to win the “Texas Governor's Award for Environmental Excellence.” In addition, Valero was the first Texas refiner to voluntarily obtain permits for its “grandfathered” refinery emission sources.

