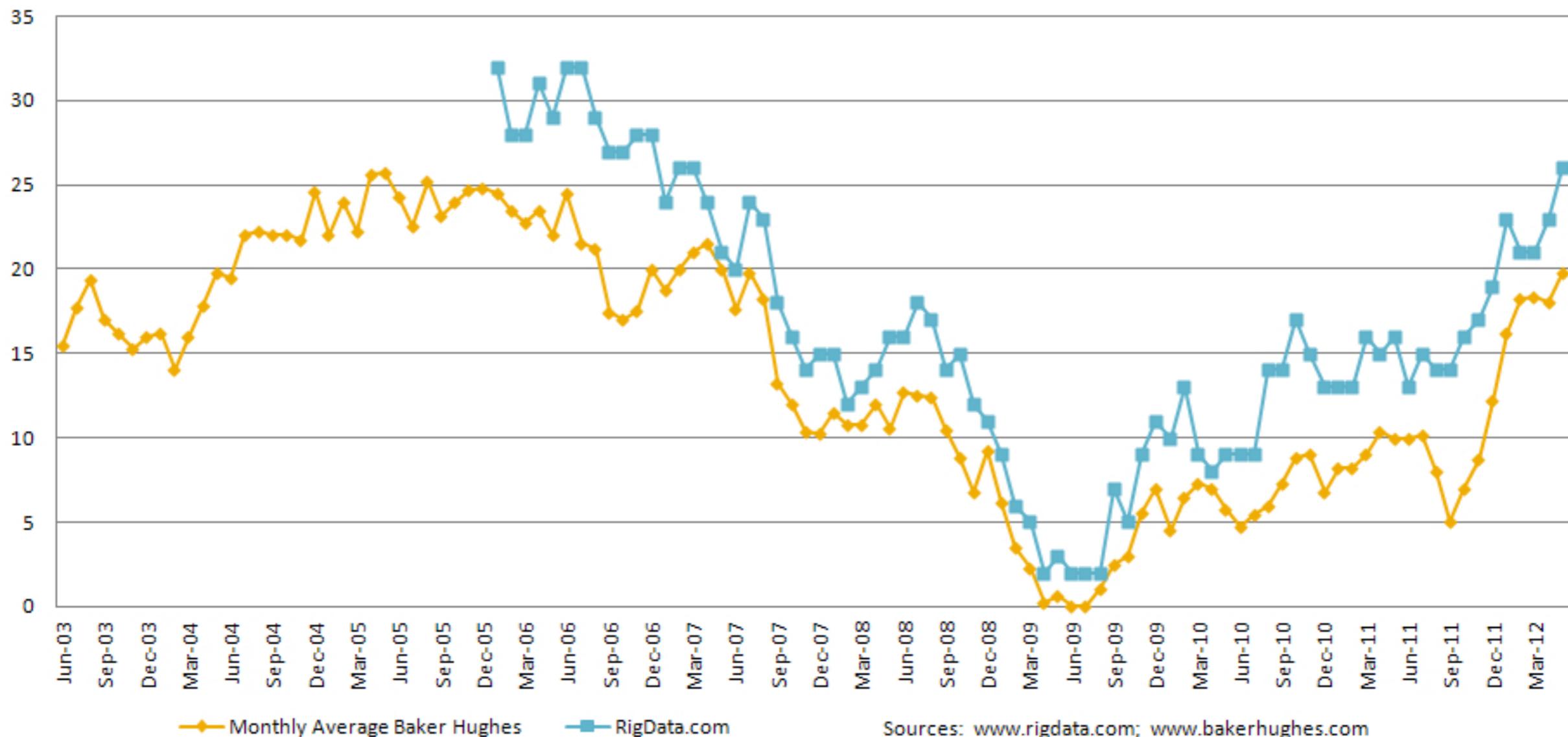


Average Monthly Oil Rig Counts in Montana



One way to measure the amount of activity in the oil industry in Montana is to monitor the oil rig counts. Two companies, Baker Hughes and RigData, provide oil rig count information. Baker Hughes normally obtains the information from their field representatives' visits to active drill rigs, however, they partly use RigData for the working rig location information. However, RigData compiles their information from drill operators' reported rig locations. Baker Hughes has compiled drill rig counts since 1944, whereas RigData has had information available for about 25 years, with only the last few years of data available to the Legislative Fiscal Division.