

Quarterly Coal Statistics

Database Documentation

International
Energy Agency

iea



This document provides information regarding the Quarterly Coal Statistics database. This document can be found online [here](#).

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INTRODUCTION

The aim of *Quarterly Coal Statistics* is to provide rapid, accurate and detailed statistics on production and trade of coal mainly in, but not limited to, the OECD area. The information contained in the accompanying IVT datasets consists of:

- World steam and coking coal and lignite production.
- World steam coal and lignite, and coking coal trade.
- Coking coal and steam coal imports and exports for OECD Member countries.

Quarterly data are available in the datasets from Q1 2016.

Coal data for OECD countries for the first three quarters of a year are submitted by Member countries, obtained from official national publications or websites or from other official publications, or are estimated using other reliable sources. For the fourth quarter of a year, all quarterly data are revised to be consistent with the annual data from the Coal Information publication. For EU member countries, quarterly trade data are generally obtained from Eurostat. Data for Non-OECD countries are obtained either directly from governments, official publications or estimated using other reliable sources.

A principal objective in presenting quarterly data on coal production and trade is to provide a guide to recent developments in the world market. For this reason, Total OECD and World data are estimated by the Secretariat. In order to make these aggregate estimates, data for some countries and for some recent quarters have been estimated where official statistics are not yet available. In general, such estimates are based on official statistics for previous months, as well as on industry and other Secretariat sources.

Inevitably, information on the recent past is frequently subject to subsequent revision. The policy of *Quarterly Coal Statistics* in this respect is as follows:

- Data are published, for all countries for which they are available, approximately two quarters after that to which they refer.
- Data will be revised in subsequent issues, if necessary.
- Historical data will also be revised, where necessary, to render them consistent with current definitions.

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DEFINITION AND NOTES

Units and conversion factors

All figures are reported to the nearest whole number of thousand metric tons¹.

Notes and definitions

Steam coal: calculated as the sum of anthracite, other bituminous and sub-bituminous coals.

- **Anthracite:** This is a high-rank coal used mainly for industrial and residential heat raising and defined as a non-agglomerating coal with a gross calorific value greater than 5.732 kcal/kg (24 GJ/t) on an ash free but moist basis.
- **Other bituminous coal:** This is a coal with a gross calorific value greater than 5.732 kcal/kg (24 GJ/t) on an ash-free but moist basis and with a mean random reflectance of vitrinite of at least 0.6 and is commonly known as thermal coal. It includes recovered slurries, middlings and other low-grade coal products not further classified by type. Coking coals are not included.
- **Sub-bituminous coal:** This is a non-agglomerating coal with a gross calorific value between 4.777 kcal/kg (20 GJ/t) and 5.732 kcal/kg (24 GJ/t) on an ash-free but moist basis.

Coking coal: This is a coal with a gross calorific value greater than 5.732 kcal/kg (24 GJ/t) on an ash-free but moist basis and with a mean random reflectance of vitrinite of at least 0.6 with a quality that allows the production of coke suitable to support a blast furnace charge.

Lignite: This is defined as non-agglomerating coal with a gross calorific value less than 4.777 kcal/kg (20 GJ/t) and greater than 31% volatile matter on an ash-free but moist basis.

Abbreviations and signs used in this volume

- t:** Metric ton
Mt: Million metric tons

¹. Totals may not equal the sum of components due to rounding.

Geographical notes

This document and any map included herein are without prejudice to the status of or sovereignty over any territory, to the delimitation of international frontiers and boundaries and to the name of any territory, city or area.

IEA countries:

Australia	Excludes the overseas territories.
Denmark	Excludes the Faroe Islands and Greenland.
France	Includes Monaco, and the following overseas departments (Guadeloupe; French Guiana; Martinique; Mayotte; and Reunion); and excludes the overseas collectivities (New Caledonia; French Polynesia; Saint Barthelemy; Saint Martin; Saint Pierre and Miquelon; and Wallis and Futuna).
Italy	Includes the Holy See and San Marino.
Japan	Includes Okinawa.
The Netherlands	Excludes Suriname, Aruba and the other former Netherland Antilles (Bonaire, Curaçao, Saba, Saint Eustatius and Sint Maarten).
Portugal	Includes the Azores and Madeira.
Spain	Includes the Canary Islands.
Switzerland	Does not include Liechtenstein for Coal and Electricity.
United Kingdom	Includes Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. Shipments of coal to the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man from the United Kingdom are not classed as exports.
United States	Includes 50 States and the District of Columbia. Coal trade incorporates Puerto Rico within the national boundary definition, but excludes all other territories and the Minor Outlying Islands.

Other countries and economies:

Cyprus	<p>Note by Turkey:</p> <p><i>The information in this document with reference to “Cyprus” relates to the southern part of the Island. There is no single authority representing both Turkish and Greek Cypriot people on the Island. Turkey recognises the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (TRNC). Until a lasting and equitable solution is found within the context of United Nations, Turkey shall preserve its position concerning the “Cyprus issue”.</i></p> <p>Note by all the European Union Member States of the OECD and the European Union:</p> <p><i>The Republic of Cyprus is recognised by all members of the United Nations with the exception of Turkey. The information in this report relates to the area under the effective control of the Government of the Republic of Cyprus.</i></p>
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Israel	The statistical data for Israel are supplied by and under the responsibility of the relevant Israeli authorities. The use of such data by the OECD is without prejudice to the status of the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and Israeli settlements in the West Bank under the terms of international law.
Former Netherlands Antilles	The Netherlands Antilles was dissolved on 10 October 2010, resulting in two new “constituent countries” of the Netherlands (Curaçao and Sint Maarten), with the other islands joining the Netherlands as “special municipalities”. However, due to a lack of detailed data, the Secretariat’s data and estimates under the “Former Netherlands Antilles” still refer to the whole territory of the Former Netherlands Antilles as it was known prior to 10 October 2010.

Country groupings

The following country groupings are used for all of the totals throughout, unless specified otherwise in the table descriptions:

Total OECD	Australia; Austria; Belgium; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Czech Republic; Denmark; Estonia; Finland; France; Germany; Greece; Hungary; Iceland; Ireland; Israel; Italy; Japan; Korea; Latvia; Lithuania; Luxembourg; Mexico; Netherlands; New Zealand; Norway; Poland; Portugal; Slovak Republic; Slovenia; Spain; Sweden; Switzerland; Turkey; United Kingdom; United States.
OECD Americas	Canada; Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Mexico; United States.
OECD Asia Pacific	Australia; Israel; Japan; Korea; New Zealand.
OECD Europe	Total OECD except Australia; Canada; Chile; Colombia; Israel; Japan; Korea; Mexico; New Zealand; United States.
IEA	Total OECD excluding Chile; Colombia; Costa Rica; Iceland; Israel; Latvia; Lithuania; Slovenia.

Description of IVTs

For definitions of individual products, see section [Notes and definitions](#)

For geographical definitions, see section [Geographical notes](#)

World steam and coking coal production and lignite production

These data include both *indigenous production* and *production from other sources*.

Indigenous production: The quantity of fuels extracted or produced, calculated after any operation for removal of inert matter. In general, production includes the quantities consumed by the producer in the production process (e.g. for heating or operation of equipment and auxiliaries) as well as supplies to other producers of energy for transformation or other uses.

Production from other sources: This covers coal from recovered slurries, middlings and other low grade coal products which cannot be classified according to type of coal from which they are obtained.

World steam coal and lignite and coking coal trade

Data refer to total imports and exports for the period indicated. Amounts are considered as imported or exported when they have crossed the political boundaries of the country, whether customs clearance has taken place or not.

OECD Steam coal, coking coal and lignite Trade Volume Matrices

Data refer to imports and exports by origin and destination for the period indicated.

COUNTRY NOTES

The following notes concern data for specific countries; group totals which include these countries will be correspondingly affected.

Sources and estimates

World steam and coking coal production and lignite production	
Quarterly Data	
Country/Region	Source
European Union countries	Eurostat.
Australia	Australian Government, Resources and Energy Quarterly.
Canada	Statistics Canada.
Chile	United Nations Statistics Division.
Iceland	Secretariat estimates.
Israel	Secretariat estimates.
Japan	Secretariat estimates.
Korea	Korea Energy Economics Institute.
Mexico	United Nations Statistics Division.
New Zealand	Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment.
Norway	Eurostat.
Switzerland	Secretariat estimates.
Turkey	United Nations Statistics Division.
United States	Submission from U.S. Energy Information Administration.
Brazil	Secretariat estimates.
China, People's Republic of	National Bureau of Statistics of China
Chinese Taipei	Secretariat estimates.
Colombia	Mining National Agency.

World steam and coking coal production and lignite production

Quarterly Data

Country/Region	Source
Hong Kong, China	Secretariat estimates.
Indonesia	National Statistics.
Russia	United Nations Statistics Division.
South Africa	United Nations Statistics Division.
Other countries	Secretariat estimates. National statistical publications. Monthly Bulletin of Statistics, United Nations Statistics Division.

World steam and coking coal production and lignite production

Annual Data

Country/Region	Source
OECD countries	Official submissions to the IEA Secretariat.
Non-OECD countries	Official submissions to the IEA Secretariat. Official submissions to the UNECE, Geneva. National statistical publications. Secretariat estimates.

Steam coal and lignite and coking coal trade World and OECD

Quarterly Data

Country/Region	Source
European Union countries	International Trade, Eurostat.
Australia	International Trade Report, Australian Bureau of Statistics.
Canada	Submission from Natural Resources Canada.
Chile	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company

Steam coal and lignite and coking coal trade World and OECD

Quarterly Data

Country/Region	Source
Iceland	Secretariat estimates.
Israel	Secretariat estimates.
Japan	Japan Tariff Association.
Korea	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company
Mexico	Secretariat estimates.
New Zealand	Secretariat estimates.
Norway	Submission from Statistics Norway.
Switzerland	Secretariat estimates.
Turkey	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
United States	Foreign Trade Statistics, Census Bureau.
Brazil	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
China, People's Republic of	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
Chinese Taipei	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
Colombia	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
Hong Kong, China	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
Indonesia	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
Russia	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
South Africa	McCloskey by OPIS, a Dow Jones Company.
Other countries	Secretariat estimates. National statistical publications.

**Steam coal and lignite and coking coal trade
World and OECD**

Annual Data

Country/Region	Source
OECD countries	Official submissions to the IEA Secretariat.
Non-OECD countries	Official submissions to the IEA Secretariat. Official submissions to the UNECE, Geneva. National statistical publications. Secretariat estimates.