

# **Coal Data: A Reference**

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# Preface

Section 205(a)(2) of the Department of Energy Organization Act of 1977 (Public Law 95-91) requires the Administrator of the Energy Information Administration (EIA) to carry out a central, comprehensive, and unified energy data and information program that will collect, evaluate, assemble, analyze, and disseminate data and information relevant to energy resources, reserves, and related economic and statistical information.

The legislation that created EIA vested the organization with an element of statutory independence. EIA does not take positions on policy questions. EIA's responsibility is to provide timely, high-quality information and to perform objective, credible analyses.

As part of EIA's program to provide information on coal, this report, *Coal Data: A Reference*, summarizes basic information on the mining and use of coal, an important source of energy in the United States. This report is written for a general audience. The goal is to cover basic material and strike a reasonable compromise between overly generalized statements and detailed analyses. The section "Supplemental Figures and Tables" contains statistics, graphs, maps, and other

illustrations that show trends, patterns, geographic locations, and similar coal-related information. The section "Coal Terminology and Related Information" provides additional information about terms mentioned in the text and introduces some new terms.

The last edition of *Coal Data: A Reference* was published in 1991. The present edition contains updated data as well as expanded reviews and additional information. Added to the text are discussions of coal quality, coal prices, unions, and strikes. The appendix has been expanded to provide statistics on a variety of additional topics, such as: trends in coal production and royalties from Federal and Indian coal leases, hours worked and earnings for coal mine employment, railroad coal shipments and revenues, waterborne coal traffic, coal export loading terminals, utility coal combustion byproducts, and trace elements in coal.

The information in this report has been gleaned mainly from the sources in the bibliography. The reader interested in going beyond the scope of this report should consult these sources. The statistics are largely from reports published by the Energy Information Administration.

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