

# Coal extraction data

**Richard Heede**  
 Climate Accountability Institute  
 File started: 11 January 2005  
 Last modified: January 2020

## North Korea, DPRK

Pyongyang

yellow column indicates original reported units

### Production / Extraction data

Year	Lignite & Subbit.		Hard Coal		Total Coal	
	Gross production	Gross production	Gross production	Gross production	Gross production	Gross production
	Million tons/yr	Million tonnes/yr	Million tons/yr	Million tonnes/yr	Million tons/yr	Million tonnes/yr



	lignite	anthracite	
	million tonnes	million tonnes	
	2.39	2.94	1943
	2.49	3.11	1944
na		0.83	1945
	0.47	1.30	1946
	1.62	na	1947
na		na	1948
na		na	1949
na			1950

U.S. Bureau of Mines (1952)  
 Minerals Yearbook 1950, page 344.

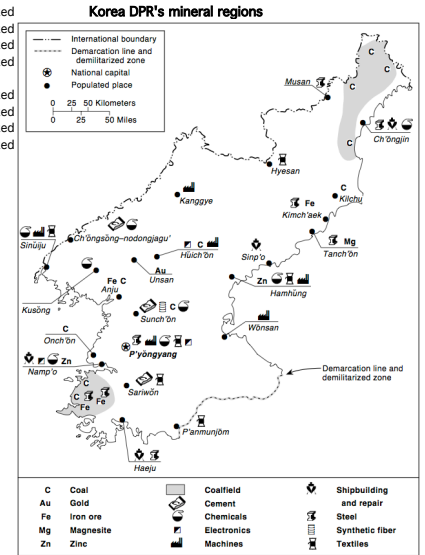
Yoon, 2011, see page 2 below for approximate DPRK coal prdn 1962-1979

Year	North Korea Total coal (million tonnes)	Source
1950	17.5	interpolated
1951	16.8	interpolated
1952	16.2	interpolated
1953	15.5	
1954	15.9	interpolated
1955	16.3	interpolated
1956	16.7	interpolated
1957	17.1	interpolated
1958	17.5	
1959	19.2	interpolated
1960	20.9	interpolated
1961	22.6	interpolated
1962	24.3	interpolated
1963	26.0	
1964	27.7	interpolated
1965	29.4	interpolated
1966	31.1	interpolated
1967	32.8	interpolated
1968	33.4	
1969	30.3	
1970	34.7	
1971	31.5	
1972	36.5	
1973	36.9	
1974	37.8	
1975	34.3	
1976	29.9	
1977	29.7	
1978	26.9	
1979	26.7	
1980	29.4	
1981	35.5	
1982	27.4	
1983	36.5	
1984	34.3	
1985	32.2	
1986	29.9	
1987	28.0	
1988	26.1	
1989	23.1	
1990	22.7	
1991	20.6	
1992	18.6	
1993	23.4	
1994	24.8	
1995	25.5	
1996	24.1	
1997	24.6	
1998	25.1	
1999	26.5	
2000	27.2	
2001	26.6	
2002	27.6	
2003	28.1	
2004	35.5	
2005	33.3	
2006	33.4	
2007	33.0	
2008	34.0	
2009	30.3	
2010	27.5	
2011	31.1	
2012	21.7	Reuters / S. Korea data
2013	21.7	assumed equal to 2017 forecasts

metallurgical coal not included in total

EIA data on North Korean coal production (see page 2 for details)

Year	Lignite		Sub-Bituminous		Bituminous		Anthracite	
	EIA coal stats:	EIA coal stats:	EIA coal stats:	EIA coal stats:	EIA coal stats:	EIA coal stats:	EIA coal stats:	
	million tons	million tons	million tons	million tons	million tons	million tons	million tons	
1980	-	3.7	11.0	18.6				
1981	-	3.9	11.5	19.4				
1982	-	4.1	12.1	20.4				
1983	-	4.1	12.2	20.6				
1984	-	4.2	12.5	21.1				
1985	-	3.3	9.9	16.7				
1986	-	3.3	9.8	16.5				
1987	-	3.3	9.7	16.4				
1988	-	4.0	11.7	19.8				
1989	-	3.1	9.1	15.3				
1990	-	4.1	12.1	20.4				
1991	-	3.8	11.3	19.1				
1992	-	3.6	10.6	18.0				
1993	-	3.3	9.9	16.7				
1994	-	3.1	9.3	15.6				
1995	-	2.9	8.6	14.6				
1996	-	2.6	7.7	12.9				
1997	-	2.5	7.5	12.7				
1998	-	2.3	6.8	11.4				
1999	-	2.6	7.7	13.0				
2000	-	2.8	8.2	13.8				
2001	-	2.8	8.4	14.2				
2002	-	2.7	8.0	13.5				
2003	-	2.7	8.1	13.7				
2004	-	2.8	8.3	14.0				
2005	-	3.0	8.8	14.8				
2006	-	3.0	9.0	15.2				
2007	-	3.0	8.8	14.8				
2008	-	3.1	9.1	15.4				
2009	-	3.1	9.3	15.7				
2010	-	4.0	11.7	19.8				
2011	-	3.7	11.0	18.6				
2012	-	3.7	11.0	18.6				
2013	-	3.7	10.9	18.4				
2014	-	4.1	12.7	17.2				
2015	-	2.8	5.6	21.9				
2016	-	3.0	6.4	24.8				



Library of Congress Country Studies (1993)  
 North Korea Mining and Metal Processing

41.0	USGS Minerals Yearbook 2015: North Korea
41.0	USGS Minerals Yearbook 2015: North Korea
41.5	USGS Minerals Yearbook 2015: North Korea
42.0	USGS Minerals Yearbook 2015: North Korea
41.0	USGS Minerals Yearbook 2015: North Korea
41.5	USGS Minerals Yearbook 2015: North Korea

<b>Total</b>	-	<b>122</b>	<b>356</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>1,102</b>	<b>1,426</b>
--------------	---	------------	------------	------------	--------------	--------------

Coal Types:	Lignite	Sub-Bituminous	Bituminous	Anthracite	
Percent 1992-2016	0.00%	11.07%	32.34%	56.60%	100.00%



NorthKorea

**Cell:** K11

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

Coal production by coal mining companies and state-owned enterprises, including subsidiaries of oil and gas companies.

Coal types produced are not ordinarily reported by coal operators (except for metallurgical coal). We distinguish, where possible and reasonably well known, between hard (bituminous and subbituminous) and soft (lignite or peat) coals, especially for the larger companies operating in regions such as Australia and India where soft coals are predominant. Soft coals have lower carbon content per tonne than do hard coals.

**Cell:** L29

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

Yoon, Edward (2011) Status and Future of the North Korean Minerals, Sector, 6 January, 43 pp. Prepared for: DPRK Energy and Minerals Experts Working Group Project Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability at the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim <http://nautilus.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/DPRK-Minerals-Sector-YOON.pdf>

**Cell:** F43

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

EIA (2011) International Energy Statistics on World Coal Production (lignite, bituminous, anthracite, and metallurgical coal), by country; data for 1980-2009; total Primary Coal Production data extends to 2010. [www.eia.gov/emeu/international/energy.html](http://www.eia.gov/emeu/international/energy.html) or [www.eia.gov/countries/data.cfm](http://www.eia.gov/countries/data.cfm).

**Cell:** D47

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

EIA (2009) World Lignite Coal Production, 1980-2006, Table 5.4, and EIA online data.

**Cell:** G47

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

EIA (2009) World Bituminous Coal Production, 1980-2006, Table 5.3; and EIA online data.

**Cell:** H47

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

EIA (2009) World Anthracite Coal Production, 1980-2006, Table 5.2; and EIA online data.

**Cell:** J76

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

Institute for Far Eastern Studies (IFES) report from Chinese custom statistics, report 36 and 41 tons coal exported from N Korea to China; EIA website shows 2008-2009 production as 35.6 and 41.345 short tons; Rick needs to check (Rhea)

**Cell:** M77

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

U.S. Geological Survey (2016) The Mineral Industry of North Korea, 2014 Minerals Yearbook, By Susan Wacaster, May. In short tons.

**Cell:** K84

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

"North Korea's coal production rose from 2013 to 2016, but fell 30 percent to 21.66 million tonnes in 2017 from 2016, according to South Korean government data."  
Source: Reuters (2019) Kim's vision of a coal-fueled North Korean future may be tough to realize, by Ju-min Park & Jane Chung, 3 January. <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-kimjongun-coal-analysis/kims-vision-of-a-coal-fueled-north-korean-future-may-be-tough-to-realize-idUSKCN1OYOCB>  
Other pertinent quotes: "Coal exports to China fell to 4.83 million tonnes in 2017, from more than 20 million tonnes in 2016, according to Chinese data. China says it imported no North Korean coal from January to March 2018.  
"Reliable data on North Korea's reserves is hard to come by, but 2015 BP's Statistical Review of World Energy reported that North Korea has 600 million tonnes of coal as proven reserves, while South Korea says the North has 20.5 billion tonnes in reserve.  
"North Korea is known to have 4.5 billion tonnes of anthracite, a higher quality of coal, and the rest is lignite, which is mainly suitable for power plants. The North mostly exports anthracite, according to South Korean government data."

**Cell:** O85

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

No 2018 prodn data: 38 North: A Snapshot of North Korea's Supply Chain Coal Activity, 8 March 2019.. <https://www.38north.org/2019/03/supplychaincoal030819/>  
2017 data: Kim's vision of a coal-fueled North Korean future may be tough to realize, <https://www.reuters.com/article/us-northkorea-kimjongun-coal-analysis/kims-vision-of-a-coal-fueled-north-korean-future-may-be-tough-to-realize-idUSKCN1OYOCB>

**Cell:** H94

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

EIA (2019) International Energy Statistics on World Coal Production (lignite, bituminous, anthracite, and metallurgical coal), by country; data for 1980-2017; <https://www.eia.gov/beta/international/data/browser/>

**Cell:** D146

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

North Korea's coal resources were estimated to be 200 billion metric tons, of which about 78% was thought to be lignite, and the remaining 22%, anthracite. North Korea's exports of anthracite rapidly increased during the past 5 years, to 19.6 million metric tons (Mt) in 2015 from 4.6 Mt in 2010, which is an average rate of increase of about 34% per year. Production of coal increased by 1.5% to 27.5 Mt in 2015. Coal accounted for a steadily decreasing share of North Korea's total primary energy supply, with coal accounting for 66.1% of the total primary energy supply in 2010 and 45.2% in 2015 (Statistics Korea, 2016, p. 74, 117, 123; United Nations Statistics Division, 2017).  
Buteyn, Spencer D. (2018) The Mineral Industry of North Korea, 2015 Minerals Yearbook, October. <https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country/2015/myb3-2015-kr.pdf>

**Cell:** D172

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

Yoon, Edward (2011) Status and Future of the North Korean Minerals, Sector, 6 January, 43 pp. Prepared for: DPRK Energy and Minerals Experts Working Group Project Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability at the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim <http://nautilus.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/12/DPRK-Minerals-Sector-YOON.pdf>

**Cell:** Q188

**Comment:** Rick Heede:

NorthKorea

Left Intentionally Blank