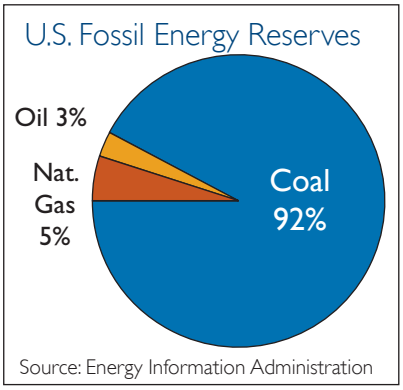
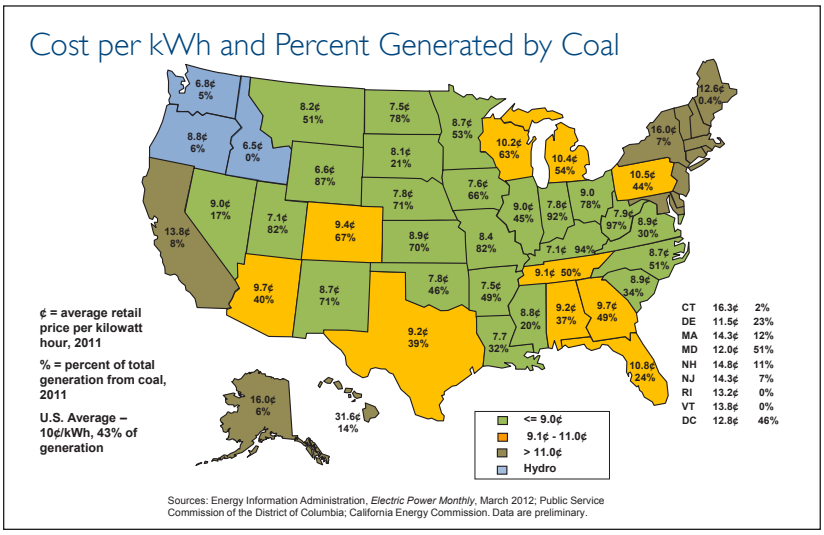
COAL: AMERICA'S POWER



Coal is America's most abundant energy resource—making up 92 percent of U.S. fossil energy reserves on a BTU basis. At current consumption rates, the U.S. has more than 230 years of remaining coal reserves.

Coal is essential to the U.S. economy, providing affordable electricity to households, businesses, manufacturing facilities, transportation and communications systems, and services throughout our economy.

Because of its abundance, reliability and affordability, nearly half of the nation's electricity is generated from coal, resulting in electricity costs that generally are 50 percent lower in states that rely upon coal for more than half of their electricity generation versus states that rely on other fuels.

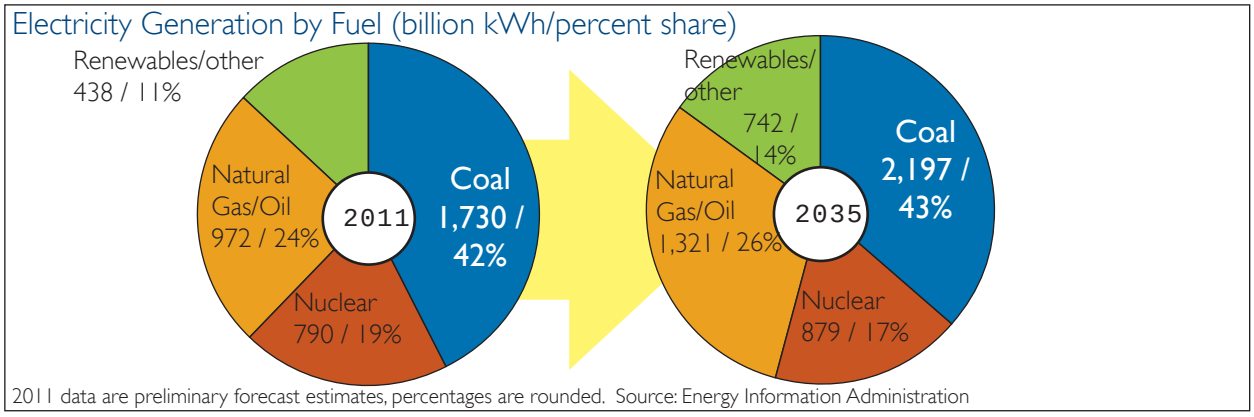


As our economy and population expand, our need for electricity will continue to grow, and coal is projected to remain the workhorse fuel for power generation—growing from 1,730 billion kWhs of coal-based generation in 2011 to 1,829 billion kWhs of power generation at utilities and industrial sources in 2035. Coal will continue to be called upon to meet the nation's power needs even assuming ambitious growth scenarios are met for electricity generation from renewables and nuclear energy, according to a recent Energy Information Administration analysis (Annual Energy Outlook 2013).

Economic Contributions of Coal

Although coal's total contribution to the American economy and way of life is impossible to estimate, coal production has demonstrable benefits. These include the direct employment of 211,410 people in 2010 and the creation of 3.5 jobs for every job in coal mining, for a total of more than 700,000 jobs.

Coal generated nearly $40 billion in sales and paid $20.2 billion in direct wages and salaries in 2010 according to a report prepared by the National Mining Association. For additional information on the economic contributions of coal, see www.nma.org/pdf/pubs/mining_economic_report.pdf.



U.S. Coal Production, Reserves, Consumption, Generation Percent of Generation, Electricity Prices, and Employment by State - 2011

State	Coal Production (Million Short Tons)	U.S. Estimated Recoverable Coal Reserves (Mil. Short Tons)	Total Coal Consumption For Electricity (Million Short Tons)	Total Net Electricity Generation From Coal (Million KWH)	Power Sector Generation from Coal (Percent)	Average Retail Electricity Price (Cents/kWh)	MSHA Coal Mining Industry Employment (Number)
Alabama	19.1	2,692	28.2	57,056	37.1%	9.21	6,417
Alaska	2.1	2,825	0.5	626	5.6%	15.96	138
Arizona	8.1	-	23.3	43,678	40.2%	9.73	702
Arkansas	0.1	228	17.5	29,418	49.3%	7.46	91
California	-	-	0.8	2,102	8.0%	13.79	88
Colorado	27.2	9,609	18.5	34,169	66.6%	9.39	3,753
Connecticut	-	-	0.3	521	1.6%	16.33	15
Delaware	-	-	0.7	1,457	23.4%	11.53	-
District of Columbia	-	-	-	-	46.0%	12.82	-
Florida	-	-	22.7	52,506	23.9%	10.77	279
Georgia	-	2	29.1	60,171	49.4%	9.65	133
Hawaii	-	-	0.7	1,414	14.2%	31.59	-
Idaho	-	2	0.0	78	0.0%	6.48	18
Illinois	37.4	37,892	54.2	89,831	44.8%	9.01	5,868
Indiana	37.4	3,919	52.6	104,167	88.5%	8.04	6,205
Iowa	-	1,127	23.6	38,358	66.2%	7.59	44
Kansas	0.0	680	20.1	31,656	69.5%	8.89	67
Kentucky	107.9	14,388	42.5	91,571	93.8%	7.11	25,429
Louisiana	3.9	295	16.7	24,609	31.9%	7.74	464
Maine	-	-	0.0	55	0.4%	12.58	-
Maryland	2.6	346	9.0	21,187	50.6%	12.02	1,852
Massachusetts	-	-	1.9	4,380	11.5%	14.26	7
Michigan	-	59	32.4	58,818	54.3%	10.37	118
Minnesota	-	-	17.0	28,360	53.1%	8.68	356
Mississippi	2.7	-	6.2	9,730	19.6%	8.78	271
Missouri	0.5	3,845	46.4	78,342	82.4%	8.35	348
Montana	41.6	74,724	10.0	15,307	51.2%	8.23	1,470
Nebraska	-	-	15.1	24,655	70.5%	7.84	1,259
Nevada	-	-	2.9	5,391	16.8%	8.96	12
New Hampshire	-	-	0.9	2,213	11.0%	14.75	-
New Jersey	-	-	1.8	4,235	6.7%	14.32	26
New Mexico	21.9	6,881	15.5	27,141	70.9%	8.71	1,643
New York	-	-	4.8	10,026	7.1%	15.94	26
North Carolina	-	5	24.5	59,943	51.2%	8.70	242
North Dakota	28.2	6,764	22.2	27,065	77.5%	7.49	1,354
Ohio	28.1	11,378	47.7	105,623	78.2%	9.05	5,119
Oklahoma	1.1	793	21.5	34,517	45.9%	7.83	300
Oregon	-	9	2.0	3,334	5.5%	8.08	18
Pennsylvania	59.8	11,436	46.7	100,541	44.1%	10.49	13,886
Rhode Island	-	-	-	-	0.0%	13.15	-
South Carolina	-	-	14.0	34,178	33.6%	8.86	96
South Dakota	-	277	1.8	2,586	21.4%	8.09	31
Tennessee	1.5	448	20.2	40,746	50.2%	9.14	1,199
Texas	45.8	9,339	110.0	157,888	39.0%	9.18	4,957
Utah	19.5	2,612	15.2	33,067	82.1%	7.13	3,529
Vermont	-	-	-	-	0.0%	13.79	-
Virginia	22.6	719	8.5	20,207	30.1%	8.87	9,149
Washington	-	681	3.4	5,229	4.5%	6.78	128
West Virginia	134.5	17,259	31.8	76,027	96.9%	7.88	36,552
Wisconsin	-	-	23.1	40,172	63.4%	10.23	204
Wyoming	438.5	38,284	24.4	39,914	86.8%	6.58	9,578
Waste/Unknown/other	2.2	0	0	0	0	0	22
U.S. Total	**1,094.3**	**259,518**	**932.9**	**1,734,265**	**43.4%**	**9.99**	**143,463**

2011 data are preliminary.

Sources: U.S. Department of Energy/Energy Information Administration; Mine Safety & Health Administration; PSC of District of Columbia; California State Energy Commission