

# Coal-Based U.S. Electricity Trends (1970 - 2020)



**NMA**  
THE AMERICAN RESOURCE

Year	Total 1/ Coal-Based Electricity Generation (Billion kWh)	Total U.S. 1/ Electricity Generation (Billion kWh)	Total Generation From Coal (Percent)	Coal-Based Power Sector Generation (Billion kWh)	Total U.S. Power Sector Generation (Billion kWh)	Power Sector Generation From Coal (Percent)	Total Coal-Based Generating Capacity (Million kW)	Total U.S. Generating Capacity (Million kW)	Coal-Based Generating Capacity (Percent of U.S.)	Average Retail Price of Electricity All Sectors & Fuels (Cents/kWh)	Coal Consumption By Power Sector (Million Short Tons)
1970	704.4	1,535.1	45.9%	704.4	1,531.9	46.0%	N/A	336.4	N/A	1.70	320.2
1975	852.8	1,920.8	44.4%	852.8	1,917.6	44.5%	N/A	491.3	N/A	2.90	406.0
1980	1,161.6	2,289.6	50.7%	1,161.6	2,286.4	50.8%	N/A	578.6	N/A	4.70	569.3
1985	1,402.1	2,473.0	56.7%	1,402.1	2,469.8	56.8%	N/A	655.2	N/A	6.44	693.8
1990	1,594.0	3,037.8	52.5%	1,572.1	2,901.3	54.2%	307.4	734.1	41.9%	6.57	782.6
1995	1,709.4	3,353.5	51.0%	1,686.1	3,194.2	52.8%	311.4	769.5	40.5%	6.89	850.2
1996	1,795.2	3,444.2	52.1%	1,772.0	3,284.1	54.0%	313.4	775.9	40.4%	6.86	896.9
1997	1,845.0	3,492.2	52.8%	1,820.8	3,329.4	54.7%	313.6	778.6	40.3%	6.85	921.4
1998	1,873.5	3,620.3	51.7%	1,850.2	3,457.4	53.5%	315.8	775.9	40.7%	6.74	936.6
1999	1,881.1	3,694.8	50.9%	1,858.6	3,530.0	52.7%	315.5	785.9	40.1%	6.64	940.9
2000	1,966.3	3,802.1	51.7%	1,943.1	3,637.5	53.4%	315.1	811.7	38.8%	6.81	985.8
2001	1,904.0	3,736.6	51.0%	1,882.8	3,580.1	52.6%	314.2	848.3	37.0%	7.29	964.4
2002	1,933.1	3,858.5	50.1%	1,910.6	3,698.5	51.7%	315.4	905.3	34.8%	7.20	977.5
2003	1,973.7	3,883.2	50.8%	1,952.7	3,721.2	52.5%	313.0	948.4	33.0%	7.44	1,005.1
2004	1,978.3	3,970.6	49.8%	1,957.2	3,808.4	51.4%	313.0	962.9	32.5%	7.61	1,016.3
2005	2,012.9	4,055.4	49.6%	1,992.1	3,902.2	51.1%	313.4	978.0	32.0%	8.14	1,037.5
2006	1,990.5	4,064.7	49.0%	1,969.7	3,908.1	50.4%	313.0	986.2	31.7%	8.90	1,026.6
2007	2,016.5	4,156.7	48.5%	1,998.4	4,005.3	49.9%	312.7	994.9	31.4%	9.13	1,045.1
2008	1,985.8	4,119.4	48.2%	1,968.8	3,974.3	49.5%	313.3	1,010.2	31.0%	9.74	1,040.6
2009	1,755.9	3,950.3	44.4%	1,741.1	3,809.8	45.7%	314.3	1,027.6	30.6%	9.82	933.6
2010	1,847.3	4,125.1	44.8%	1,827.7	3,972.4	46.0%	316.8	1,039.1	30.5%	9.83	975.1
2011	1,733.4	4,100.1	42.3%	1,717.9	3,948.2	43.5%	317.6	1,051.3	30.2%	9.90	932.5
2012	1,514.0	4,047.8	37.4%	1,500.6	3,890.4	38.6%	309.7	1,063.0	29.1%	9.84	823.6
2013	1,581.1	4,066.0	38.9%	1,567.7	3,903.7	40.2%	303.3	1,060.1	28.6%	10.07	858.0
2014	1,581.7	4,093.6	38.6%	1,568.8	3,937.0	39.8%	299.1	1,068.4	28.0%	10.44	851.6
2015	1,352.4	4,077.6	33.2%	1,341.0	3,919.3	34.2%	279.7	1,064.1	26.3%	10.41	738.4
2016	1,239.1	4,076.7	30.4%	1,229.7	3,918.1	31.4%	266.6	1,074.3	24.8%	10.27	678.6
2017	1,205.8	4,034.3	29.9%	1,197.8	3,877.5	30.9%	256.5	1,084.4	23.7%	10.48	665.0
2018	1,146.0	4,174.4	27.5%	1,138.6	4,018.0	28.3%	243.5	1,041.4	23.4%	10.53	637.2
2019 r/	965.0	4,127.9	23.4%	958.7	3,965.6	24.2%	228.7	1,099.1	20.8%	10.54	538.6
2020 p/	773.8	4,009.1	19.3%	768.2	3,852.6	19.9%	218.4	1,117.5	19.5%	10.66	436.5

Sources: Energy Information Administration, *Annual Energy Review, 2013*; *Monthly Energy Review, March 2021* (coal consumption and generation); *Electric Power Monthly, February 2021*

p/ - Preliminary data. r/ - revised. 1/ All sectors N/A - Not available. Capacity figures are net summer capacity.

Power Sector generation excludes combined heat and power

Note - One billion kWh is equal to one thousand GWh. One million kW is equal to one GW.

Updated: March 2021