

U.S. Coal Mining Productivity Trends
(Average Tons Per Employee Hour)
(1950 - 2023)



Year	Underground	Surface	All Mines *
1950	0.72	1.96	0.76
1955	1.04	2.65	1.14
1960	1.33	2.91	1.52
1965	1.75	4.10	2.09
1970	1.72	4.53	2.30
1975	1.19	3.26	1.81
1980	1.21	3.27	1.93
1985	1.79	4.24	2.74
1990	2.54	5.94	3.83
1991	2.69	6.38	4.09
1992	2.93	6.59	4.36
1993	2.95	7.23	4.70
1994	3.19	7.67	4.98
1995	3.39	8.48	5.38
1996	3.57	9.05	5.69
1997	3.83	9.46	6.04
1998	3.90	9.58	6.20
1999	3.99	10.39	6.61
2000	4.15	11.01	6.99
2001	4.02	10.60	6.82
2002	3.98	10.38	6.80
2003	4.04	10.76	6.95
2004	3.96	10.57	6.80
2005	3.62	10.04	6.36
2006	3.37	10.19	6.26
2007	3.34	10.25	6.27
2008	3.15	9.82	5.96
2009	2.99	9.22	5.61
2010	2.89	9.46	5.55
2011	2.72	8.97	5.19
2012	2.84	8.97	5.19
2013	3.07	9.69	5.54
2014	3.35	10.42	5.96
2015	3.45	10.94	6.28
2016	3.83	10.73	6.61
2017	3.77	10.92	6.55
2018	3.68	10.36	6.23
2019	3.60	9.88	5.94
2020	3.60	10.24	6.12
2021	4.03	11.38	6.71
2022	3.62	10.39	6.11
2023	3.35	9.70	5.66

* Includes anthracite mines. 1950-1999 data years exclude mines producing less than 10,000 short tons per year. 2000-2019 data exclude preparation plants with less than 5,000 employee hours per year.

SOURCE: Energy Information Administration.

Updated: November 2024

