

Coal-based Power: Air Emissions, Generation & Consumption Trends, 1970-2024



Year	Coal Plant SO ₂ Emissions (million short tons)	Coal Plant NO _x Emissions (million short tons)	Coal Energy Consumption CO ₂ Emissions (million metric tons)	Power Sector Coal Consumption (million short tons)	Net Coal Generation (billion kWh)
1970	15.8	3.9	1,207	320.2	704.4
1975	16.8	4.8	1,181	406.0	852.8
1980	16.1	6.1	1,436	569.3	1,161.6
1985	15.6	5.2	1,638	693.8	1,402.1
1990	15.2	5.6	1,821	782.6	1,594.0
1995	11.6	5.6	1,913	850.2	1,709.4
1996	12.2	5.6	1,995	896.9	1,795.2
1997	12.6	5.6	2,040	921.4	1,845.0
1998	12.5	5.4	2,064	936.6	1,873.5
1999	11.7	4.9	2,062	940.9	1,881.1
2000	10.6	4.6	2,155	985.8	1,966.3
2001	10.0	4.2	2,088	964.4	1,904.0
2002	9.9	4.2	2,095	977.5	1,933.1
2003	10.2	3.9	2,136	1,005.1	1,973.7
2004	9.8	3.6	2,160	1,016.3	1,978.3
2005	9.8	3.4	2,180	1,037.5	2,012.9
2006	9.3	3.3	2,146	1,026.6	1,990.5
2007	8.8	3.1	2,171	1,045.1	2,016.5
2008	7.5	2.9	2,139	1,040.6	1,985.8
2009	5.7	2.0	1,875	933.6	1,755.9
2010	5.2	2.1	1,986	975.1	1,847.3
2011	4.6	2.1	1,876	932.5	1,733.4
2012	3.4	1.8	1,658	823.6	1,514.0
2013	3.2	1.7	1,718	858.0	1,581.1
2014	3.1	1.6	1,713	851.6	1,581.7
2015	2.2	1.3	1,482	738.4	1,352.4
2016	2.0	1.2	1,355	678.6	1,239.1
2017	1.3	1.0	1,318	665.0	1,205.8
2018	1.2	0.9	1,263	637.2	1,149.5
2019	1.0	0.9	1,078	538.6	965.0
2020	0.8	0.7	876	535.8	773.4
2021 r/	0.9	0.8	1,003	501.4	898.0
2022 r/	0.9	0.8	939	472.8	831.5
2023 r/	0.7	0.7	777	387.2	675.1
2024 p/	0.6	0.7	748	373.8	652.8

SOURCES: Environmental Protection Agency, *EPA Air Trends reports (1970-2002)* and EPA preliminary raw plant data (2003-2024) and CAMPD data. Energy Information Administration (coal consumption, generation and CO₂ emissions).

p/ - Preliminary. r/ - Revised.

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