

Coal and Coke Production in Canada in 1916

Steady Growth in Output of Coal and Coke—While Eastern Canada declines, Western Canada makes up loss and increases production by 500,000 tons.

The Department of Mines, Ottawa, has issued a report on the "Production of Coal and Coke in Canada for 1916," by Mr. John McLeish, chief statistician for the Department. The coal production and situation in Canada is thus reviewed:

The term "production" in the text and tables of this report is used to represent the tonnage of coal actually sold, or used, by the producer, as distinguished from the term "output" which is applied to the total coal extracted from the mine, and which includes, in some cases, coal lost or unsaleable, or coal carried into stock on hand at the end of the year.

The peculiar situation which exists in respect to Canada's fuel supply, viz.: That notwithstanding the enormous resources which Canada possesses in coal, over 50 per cent. of our consumption is imported from the United States has been pointed out and explained annually in these reports. Our coal-fields are situated in the extreme east and in the western provinces, while our great central Provinces of Ontario and Quebec, the chief centres of population, are more easily and economically supplied with coal from the nearer coal-fields of Pennsylvania and Ohio. Further, we have no anthracite coal in eastern Canada and we have grown dependent upon the anthracite output of Pennsylvania for that most desirable of domestic fuels, which is not only the chief domestic, or house fuel in Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec, but is imported even into our eastern coal districts.

Such a condition of international trade attracts little attention during normal times, and it is only under conditions such as those that have been brought about by the great war that the seriousness of the situation and its possibilities are realized. In round numbers we produced last year 14.5 million tons of coal of which we exported 2.1 million tons. But to satisfy our requirements we also imported 13 million tons of bituminous coal and 4.5 million tons of anthracite. It is most important indeed for Canada that there should be no sudden cessation of fuel imports.

The production of coal during 1916 was 14,483,395 short tons (12,931,603 long tons), valued at \$38,817,481, or an average of \$2.68 per ton, as compared with a production in 1915 of 13,267,023 short tons, (11,845,556 long tons), valued at \$32,111,182, or an average of \$2.42 per ton, and a production in 1914 of 13,367,529 short tons (12,176,365 long tons), valued at \$33,471,801 or an average of \$2.45 per ton. Compared with 1915 the production in 1916 shows an increase of 1,216,372 tons, or about 9.2 per cent.

While exceeding the production of each of the two preceding years, that of 1916 was less than the production attained in 1912 and in 1913.

The average number of men employed during 1916 was 23,611 and total wages paid \$20,884,236, as compared with an average of 24,574 men employed in 1915 and \$17,385,200 paid in wages, and 27,571 men employed during 1914 and \$19,060,011 paid in wages.

The values given are partially estimated or assumed since complete returns have not been received with respect to amounts realized from coal sales. In the case of Nova Scotia an average value of \$3 per long ton is placed upon the total production in 1916 as against a value of \$2.50 per long ton during the previous four years, while for British Columbia an average value of \$3.50 per long ton is used. The values placed upon the New Brunswick, Saskatchewan, and Alberta production are those furnished by the operating companies.

The total exports of Canadian coal in 1916 were 2,135,359 tons, valued at \$7,099,387 as compared with 1,766,543 tons, valued at \$5,406,058 in 1915. There is also a small export of coal "Not the produce of Canada" amounting in 1916 to 62,783 tons, valued at \$150,799.

The total imports of coal in 1916 were 17,580,603 tons, valued at \$38,289,666, as compared with imports in 1915 of 12,465,902 tons, valued at \$28,345,605.

The total consumption of coal in 1916 was 29,865,856 tons, as compared with 23,906,692 tons in 1915, and 26,852,323 tons in 1914.

Bituminous coal constitutes by far the largest proportion of the annual production. Lignite only is produced in Saskatchewan, and in Alberta it forms a large proportion of the Province's production. Of anthracite there is a small output, less than 200,000 tons annually, from one mine, at Bankhead, Alberta.

The coal production by provinces for 1916 and 1915 is as follows:

	1916	1915
Nova, Scotia	6,912,140	7,463,700
New Brunswick	143,540	127,391
Saskatchewan	281,300	240,107
Alberta	4,559,054	3,360,818
British Columbia	2,584,061	2,065,613
Yukon Territory	3,300	9,724
Total for Canada	14,483,395	13,267,023

With regard to the province of British Columbia the report continues: The production of coal in British Columbia in 1916 was 2,584,061 tons as compared with 2,065,613 tons in 1915, an increase of 518,448 tons, or 25 per cent.

Of the total production in 1916, 1,904,092 tons were reported as sales including 958,761 tons sold for consumption in Canada; 938,425 tons sold for export to the United States, and 6,906 tons sold for export to other countries; 679,969 tons were used by producers including 450,066 tons for making coke and 229,903 tons for the operation of collieries and for workmen.

The production of collieries on Vancouver Island, was 1,472,970 tons, of which 770,869 tons were sold for consumption in Canada; 498,672 tons for export to the United States, and 6,906 tons for export to other countries, 55,436 tons were used in the coke ovens at Comox, and 141,087 tons were used in the operation of collieries and by workmen. Vancouver Island collieries produced 57 per cent. of the production of the Province while compared with the previous year there was an increase of 464,502 tons or about 46 per cent.

The production in the Crowsnest district was 988,188 tons of which 84,357 tons were sold for consumption in Canada, and 433,387 tons for export to the United States; 394,230 tons were used for making coke, and 76,214 tons were used in the operation of collieries and by workmen. This district contributed 38.2 per cent. of the total in 1916, and the production exceeded that of 1915 by 36,899 tons.

The production of Nicola and Princeton, etc., was 122,903 tons, of which 103,535 tons were sold for consumption in Canada, and 6,366 tons for export to the United States; and 12,602 tons were used in the operation of collieries and by workmen. These areas contributed about 5 per cent. of the total, and the production showed an increase of 17,047 tons, as compared with 1915.

The three largest operators were the Crow's Nest Pass Coal Company with 910,886 tons, the Canadian Collieries (Dunsmuir), Limited, with 616,112 tons, and the Western Fuel Company with 625,562 tons. These three companies contributed over 83 per cent. of the Province's production.

The coal production of British Columbia for 1916 and 1915 is as follows: