2006 Colorado COAL

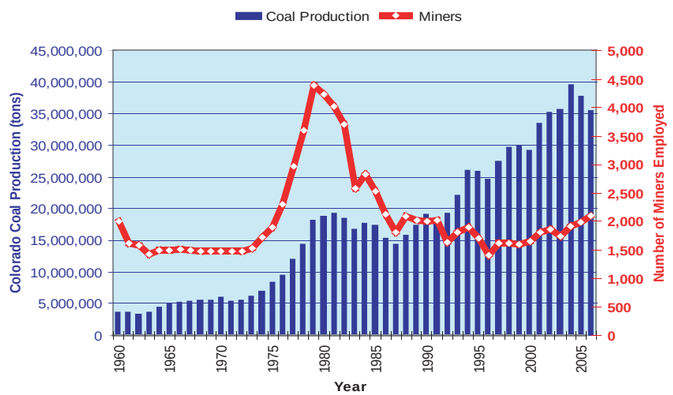
FACT SHEET

The total value of coal produced in 2006 is estimated to be $974 million.

Bowie Resources portal for the No.3 Mine, Delta County (photo by Chris Carroll)

PRODUCTION

- Colorado is ranked 7th in coal production in the U.S.
- 10 Colorado coal mines produced 35,490,337 short tons of coal in 2006, the 4th best production year ever.
- Over 9.2 million short tons of coal were produced in Delta County in 2006.
- Bowie Mine #3 (Delta Co.), and King Coal Mine (La Plata Co.), set new coal production records in 2006.



EMPLOYMENT

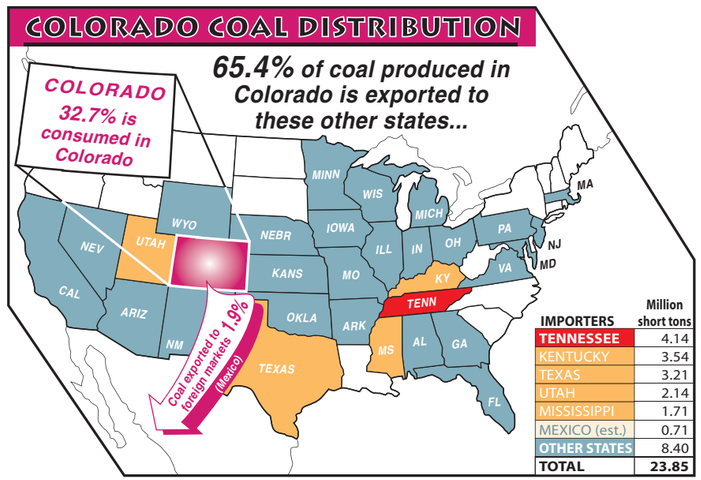
- Colorado has 2,060 coal miners: the most since 1988.
- The average coal production is 8.52 tons per miner-hour, one of the most efficient rates in the nation.

Uses of coal

- Electricity generation in power plants
- Cement and steel-making processes
- Coalbed methane and coal gasification

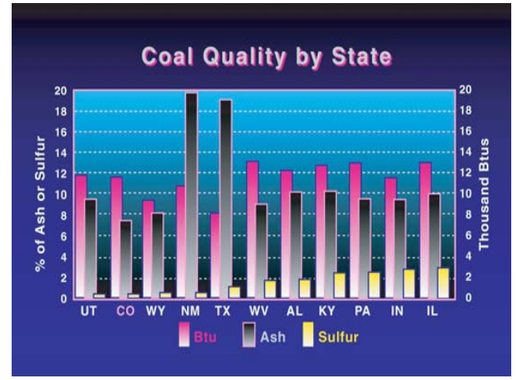
Distribution and consumption

- 65.4 percent of Colorado's coal is shipped by rail to Tennessee, Kentucky, Texas, Utah, Mississippi, and other states.
- 13 Colorado power plants consumed 19.37 million tons of coal in 2006, generating 37.5 million megawatt-hours of electricity. Most of this coal is from Colorado, but some is from Wyoming.



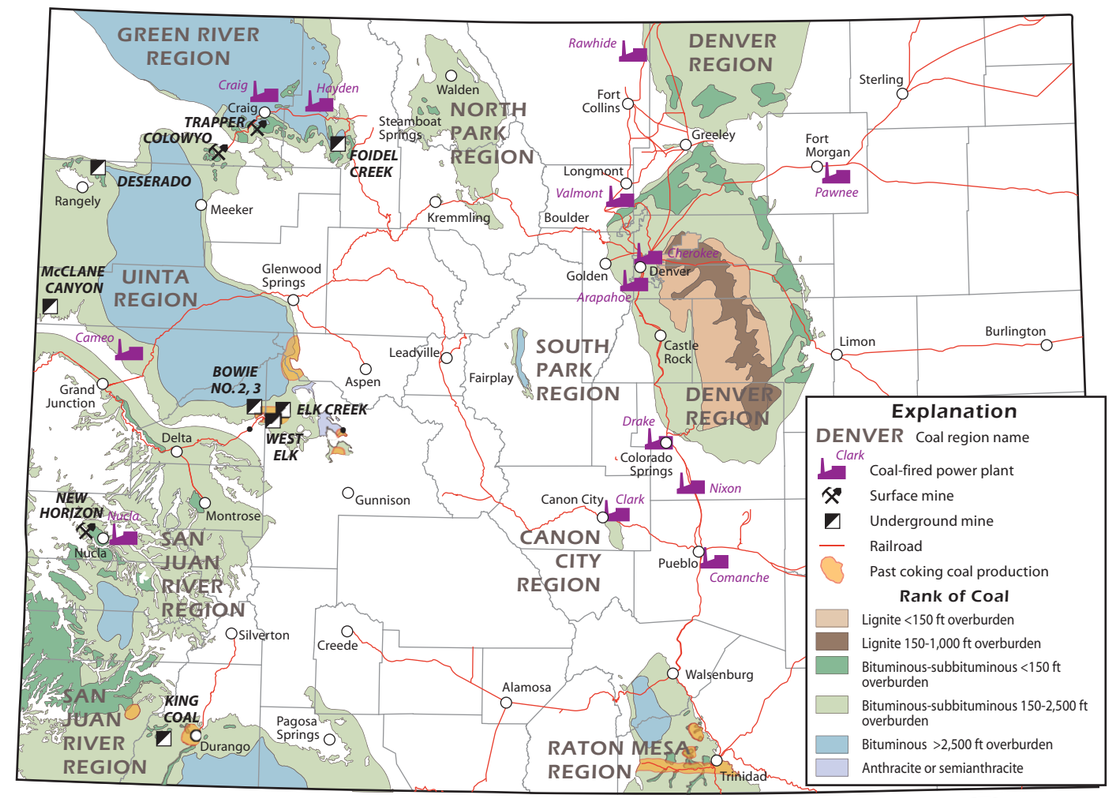
IMPORTERS	Million short tons
TENNESSEE	4.14
KENTUCKY	3.54
TEXAS	3.21
UTAH	2.14
MISSISSIPPI	1.71
MEXICO (est.)	0.71
OTHER STATES	8.40
TOTAL	23.85

COLORADO COAL QUALITY



- Coal produced in Colorado is low in sulfur and ash content.
- Colorado's "clean coal" can be used at power plants without the added cost of washing.
- Colorado coal is also very low in mercury and arsenic.
- Western U.S. coal contains less sulfur than eastern coal.

Coal Mines, Coal Rank, and Power Plants



For more information on coal resources and coal mining visit:

- Colorado Geological Survey Mineral and Energy Resources, http://geosurvey.state.co.us/Default.aspx?tabid=228
- U.S. Geological Survey Energy Resources Group, http://energy.cr.usgs.gov/coal/index.htm
- Colorado Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, http://mining.state.co.us/

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