

## Coal Facts Australia 2008

Coal plays a pivotal role in the Australian economy. At \$22.5 billion it is our largest single export, is used to generate 84% of Australia's electricity and supports 130,000 employees. Use of coal in Australia contributes less than 0.5% to global greenhouse gas emissions. The coal industry is funding low emissions coal technologies, including the \$1 billion plus COAL21 Fund.

### Coal reserves

**Black coal:** 39.6 Gigatonnes (Gt.) economic demonstrated resources (EDR) - 5% of global. Reserves to production - more than 100 years. **Brown coal:** 37.3 Gt. EDR - 24% of global (largest holding globally). Reserves to production - more than 500 years (2006).

### Coal production

**Black coal:** 317 million tonnes (Mt.) saleable – 6% of global. NSW 128.9 Mt; Qld 177.7 Mt; WA 6.4 Mt; SA 3.6 Mt; Tas. 0.4 Mt. **Brown coal:** 67.7 Mt. (all from Victoria) – 7.4% of global. (2006)

### Coal consumption

**Black coal:** 72.3 Mt. - 1.4% of global. Major consumers: Power stations 62.4 Mt. (86% of total); steel industry 4.2 Mt. (5.8%); cement industry 0.9Mt. (1.2%). **Brown coal:** 66.2 Mt. for electricity generation (plus 1.5Mt for briquettes and other products) – 7% of global. (2006)

### Coal exports

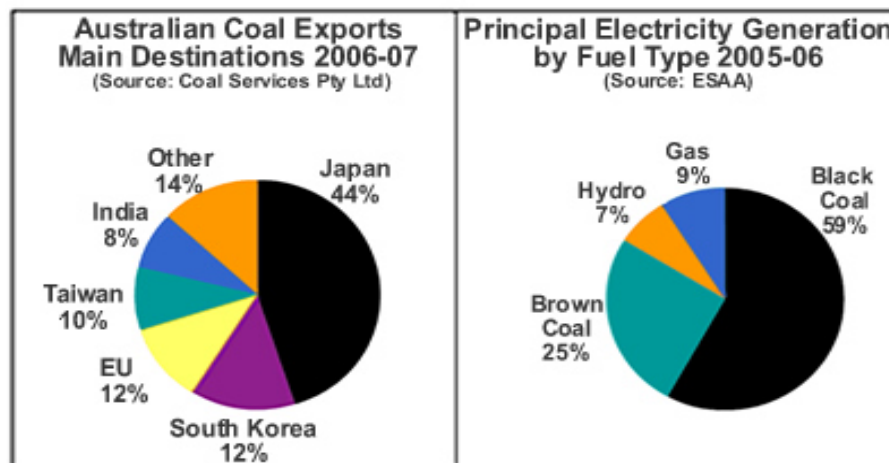
245 Mt. Australia's largest commodity export valued at \$A22.5 billion. Australia is the world's largest exporter with about 30% of world total coal export trade and 4.6% of world consumption. Exports were equally divided between metallurgical (coking) coal for steel production and thermal (steaming) coal for power generation. (2006-07).

See chart for export destinations.

### Coal industry employment

**Direct employment:** Production employment at **black coal** mines was 30,365, a 2% increase over 2005. Almost 20,500 were employed at 74 open cut mines, and 10,000 at 44 underground mines. (2006)

**Indirect employment:** Jobs servicing the coal industry are estimated at more than 100,000 - in transport, the equipment and services sector, engineering works, tyre and fuel suppliers and communities.





## Coal's economic contribution

**Australian electricity prices:** Among the lowest in the world with coal fuelling 84% of electricity and providing a major source of Australia's international competitiveness and economic development.

**Coal royalties:** \$1.6 billion – Australia (2005-06). \$1,050 m. from Qld and \$412 m. from NSW. (2006-07)

Billions of dollars also contributed to the balance of trade, export income, economic growth, taxes from profits, employment, and federal/state/local government taxes, charges and rates.

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## Coal's investment contribution

**New and future projects:** 16 new black coal projects with a total value of around \$2 bn were completed in the 12 months to October 2007. Another 19 projects with estimated capital cost of around \$7 bn were scheduled for completion in the short to medium term. 50 projects with estimated capital value of more than \$14.5 bn were at a less advanced stage of planning.

**Private mineral exploration expenditure:** \$193.2 m. – almost four times that in 2001-02. (2006-07)

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## Coal and energy

Australia is the world's eighth largest energy producer with about 2.4% of the world's energy production. Coal is the main energy fuel produced.

**Primary energy production:** Coal 53%, Uranium 28%, Natural gas 10%, Oil 6% and Renewables 2%.

**Primary energy consumption:** Coal 41%, Oil 35%, Natural gas 19% and Renewables 5%. (2005-06)

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## Coal and electricity

**Total installed power generating capacity:** 50 Gigawatts (GW) – 45GW grid connected of which 28GW coal-fuelled.

**Total electricity produced:** 220 Terawatt hours (TWh).

**Coal in power generation:** 185 TWh or 84% of total electricity produced using 127.5Mt of brown and black coal. (2005-06).

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## Coal and greenhouse gas emissions

**Total Australian greenhouse emissions:** 559 million tonnes of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent (Mt. CO<sub>2</sub>-e) – about 1.2% of estimated global emissions (45 Gt.CO<sub>2</sub>-e.)

**Total emissions from coal mining and use:** 215 Mt. CO<sub>2</sub>-e (38.5% of national total) – includes electricity generation (32%), fugitive emissions from mining (4%), and manufacturing and other (2.5%). Globally, coal contributes to about 25% of total greenhouse gas emissions.

**Australian coal emissions as a % of global emissions:** Less than 0.5% of global emissions from coal fuelled power and mining in Australia. (If emissions from exports included – additional 1.1% of global). (2005)

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## Coal industry response to climate change

**COAL21 Fund:** \$1 billion plus to be raised over the next decade by Australian coal producers - world's first whole of industry low emissions research, development and demonstration fund. Australian producers also provide funding to support Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), ACA Research Program (ACARP), and low emissions coal and carbon storage projects in Queensland, NSW, Victoria and Western Australia.

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For more information about coal, visit: [www.australiancoal.com.au](http://www.australiancoal.com.au)

Sources: ABS, ABARE, AGO, Coal Services Pty Ltd, ESAA, IEA, NSW and Qld. Govt.

Feb 08