

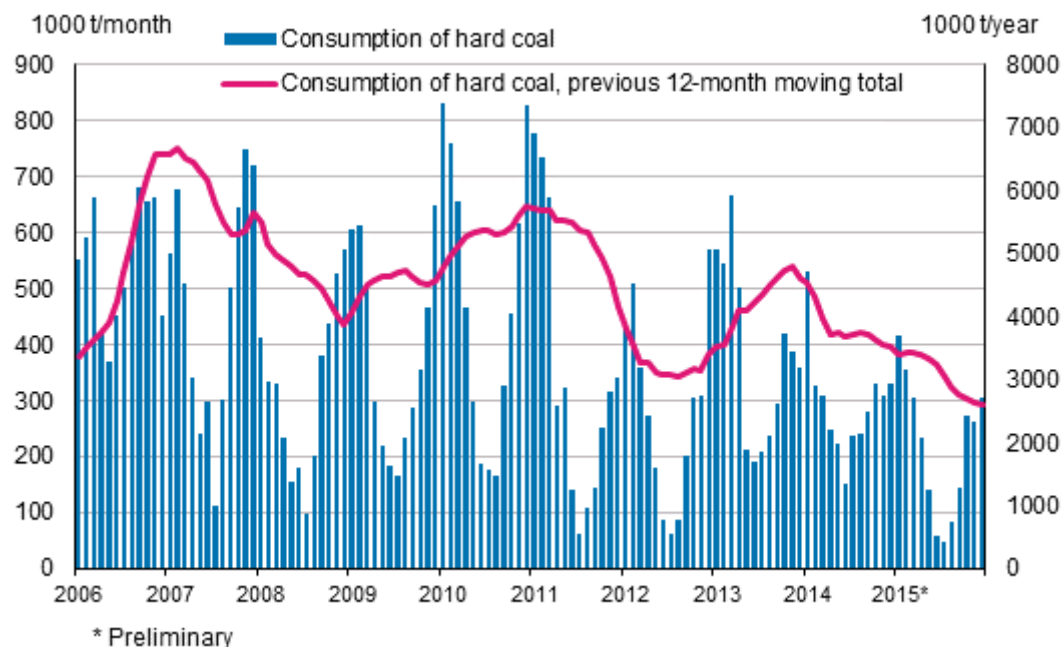
Consumption of hard coal

2015, 4th quarter

Consumption of hard coal was at its lowest in over three decades in 2015

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, the consumption of hard coal decreased by 26 per cent last year in comparison with the previous year. The consumption of hard coal as a fuel in the generation of electricity and heat amounted to 2.6 million tonnes, corresponding to 66 petajoules in energy content. The consumption of hard coal has last been at this low level in the early 1980s. Compared to the average for the 2000s, the consumption of hard coal was 45 per cent lower.

Consumption of hard coal, 1,000 tonnes



The data for year 2015 is preliminary.

The consumption of hard coal dropped most in plants of separate production of electricity. The profitability of hard coal was weakened by the distinct decline in the wholesale price of electricity in the Nordic electricity exchange, for which reason domestic separate production of electricity was replaced with imports

of electricity. The good availability of hydro power and increased production of wind power replaced production modes with more expensive production costs from the electricity markets, particularly coal condensing. In the summer, two coal condensing plants were transferred into long-term preservation due to profitability problems. In turn, the warm weather decreased the demand for hard coal in combined heat and power production as well.

Hard coal consumption in Finland typically fluctuates seasonally. Some of the fluctuation is explained by the natural variation in the need for electricity and heat between the summer and winter seasons. The difference between statistical reference years is explained by variations in the demand for heating energy caused by the weather and the Nordic water situation, which particularly influences the demand for separate production of electricity. Therefore, long-term consumption development cannot be deducted from the change in hard coal consumption in successive years.

At the end of December 2015, stocks of hard coal totalled 3.5 million tonnes, or 14 per cent lower than one year earlier.

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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Consumption of hard coal

Period	2014	2015*	Annual change %
	Quantity (1000 t)	Quantity (1000 t)	
January	530	416	-22
February	328	354	8
March	308	304	-1
April	248	234	-5
May	222	142	-36
June	153	58	-62
July	238	47	-80
August	243	82	-66
September	279	144	-48
October	330	273	-17
November	309	261	-15
December	332	306	-8
YEAR TOTAL	3,520	2,621	-26
Q1	1,165	1,074	-8
Q2	623	434	-30
Q3	761	273	-64
Q4	971	840	-13
January-March cum.	1,165	1,074	-8
January-June cum.	1,789	1,508	-16
January-September cum.	2,549	1,781	-30
January-December cum.	3,520	2,621	-26

1) *preliminary

Appendix table 2: Hard coal stocks, month-end

Period	2015*	Annual change %
	Quantity (1000 t)	
January	3,817	23
February	3,574	22
March	3,493	26
April	3,362	11
May	3,364	9
June	3,407	5
July	3,502	7
August	3,604	7
September	3,698	3
October	3,711	-2
November	3,676	-8
December	3,529	-14

1) *preliminary

Revisions in these statistics

The data of the statistics have become revised according to the table below. For more information about data revisions, see Section 3 of the quality description (only in Finnish).

Revisions to data on annual changes in consumption of hard coal¹⁾

Consumption of hard coal and quarter		Annual change (%)		Revision (%-point)
		1st release (%)	Latest release 28.1.2016 (%)	
Consumption of hard coal	I-IV/2014	-16	-23	-7
	I/2014	-29	-35	-6
	II/2014	-29	-31	-2
	III/2014	4	2	-2
	IV/2014	-9	-17	-8
	I/2015	-17	-8	9
	II/2015	-37	-30	7
	III/2015	-67	-64	3
	IV/2015	.	-13	.

1) The revisions describe the difference between the annual change percentages of the latest and first releases in percentages. The first release refers to the time when preliminary data for the statistical reference quarter in question were released for the first time.

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Source: Consumption of hard coal, Statistics Finland