

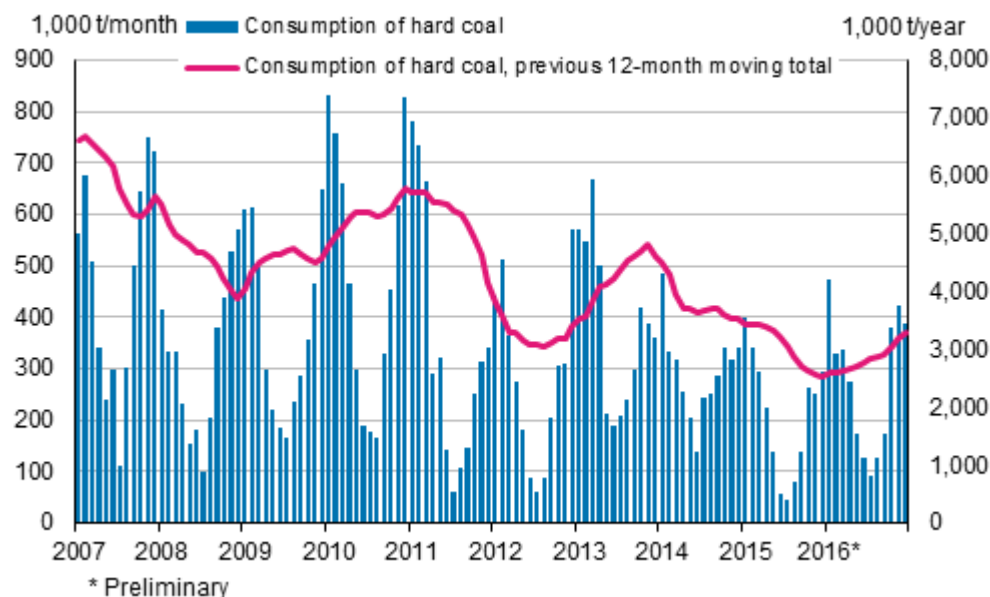
Consumption of hard coal

2016, 4th quarter

Consumption of hard coal increased by 31 per cent in 2016

According to Statistics Finland's preliminary data, the consumption of hard coal increased by 31 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 3.3 million tonnes, corresponding to 81 petajoules in energy content. The large annual change was primarily due to the record low use of hard coal in the previous year. Despite the growth, 30 per cent less hard coal was used last year than the average for the 2000s.

Consumption of hard coal, 1,000 tonnes



The data for year 2016 is preliminary.

In the fourth quarter, 48 per cent more hard coal was consumed than in the same period in 2015. The relative growth in the consumption of hard coal was last year big mainly due to the record low consumption in the year before. The consumption of coal was still clearly lower compared to long-term averages and the trend of consumption has already been falling for good ten years.

Most of the hard coal consumed in Finland is used in combined heat and power production. The use of hard coal in separate production of electricity has clearly diminished in recent years because condensate power plants have been removed from use.

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 and the Nordic water situation, which particularly influences the electricity exchange price and thus the demand for separate production of electricity as well. Therefore, long-term consumption development cannot be deduced from the change in hard coal consumption in successive years.

At the end of December 2016, stocks of hard coal totalled 2.6 million tonnes, or 27 per cent lower than one year earlier.

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Appendix tables

Appendix table 1. Consumption of hard coal

Period	2015	2016*	Annual change %
	Quantity (1000 t)	Quantity (1000 t)	
January	399	473	19
February	340	327	-4
March	292	337	15
April	225	273	22
May	137	173	27
June	56	126	127
July	45	91	104
August	79	128	62
September	138	174	25
October	262	381	45
November	251	422	68
December	294	388	32
YEAR TOTAL	2,518	3,294	31
Q1	1,031	1,137	10
Q2	417	573	37
Q3	262	393	50
Q4	807	1,191	48
January-March cum.	1,031	1,137	10
January-June cum.	1,449	1,710	18
January-September cum.	1,710	2,103	23
January-December cum.	2,518	3,294	31

1) *preliminary

Appendix table 2. Hard coal stocks, month-end

Period	2016*	Annual change %
	Quantity (1000 t)	
January	3,223	-16
February	3,063	-14
March	2,870	-18
April	2,350	-30
May	2,390	-29
June	2,401	-30
July	2,529	-28
August	2,636	-27
September	2,646	-28
October	2,791	-25
November	2,706	-26
December	2,565	-27

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 26th January 2017 (%)	
I-IV/2015	-26	-29	-3
I/2015	-17	-9	8
II/2015	-37	-30	7
III/2015	-67	-67	0
IV/2015	-13	-19	-6
I/2016	4	10	6
II/2016	26	37	11
III/2016	39	50	11
IV/2016	.	48	.

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