



Independent Statistics & Analysis

U.S. Energy Information
Administration

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U.S. electricity sector significantly increased its coal consumption in 2021

U.S. electricity suppliers are expected to burn 18% more coal to produce electricity this year than last year, according to estimates from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. This growth represents the first annual increase in coal consumption for electricity generation since 2013.

The United States had been using more natural gas for electricity generation in recent years, leading to decreased coal use, but high natural gas prices have made coal more economically competitive in the United States this year.

U.S. exports of coal are also up because other countries are similarly burning more coal for power. EIA estimates that U.S. coal exports will increase 29% this year and remain relatively steady in 2022.

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