

Appendix D: Estimated Primary Energy Consumption in the United States, Selected Years, 1635-1945

Table D1. Estimated Primary Energy Consumption in the United States, Selected Years, 1635–1945 (Quadrillion Btu)

	Fossil Fuels				Renewable Energy			Electricity Net Imports ^b	Total
	Coal	Natural Gas	Petroleum	Total	Conventional Hydroelectric Power	Biomass	Total		
						Wood ^a			
1635	NA	--	--	NA	--	(s)	(s)	--	(s)
1645	NA	--	--	NA	--	0.001	0.001	--	0.001
1655	NA	--	--	NA	--	.002	.002	--	.002
1665	NA	--	--	NA	--	.005	.005	--	.005
1675	NA	--	--	NA	--	.007	.007	--	.007
1685	NA	--	--	NA	--	.009	.009	--	.009
1695	NA	--	--	NA	--	.014	.014	--	.014
1705	NA	--	--	NA	--	.022	.022	--	.022
1715	NA	--	--	NA	--	.037	.037	--	.037
1725	NA	--	--	NA	--	.056	.056	--	.056
1735	NA	--	--	NA	--	.080	.080	--	.080
1745	NA	--	--	NA	--	.112	.112	--	.112
1755	NA	--	--	NA	--	.155	.155	--	.155
1765	NA	--	--	NA	--	.200	.200	--	.200
1775	NA	--	--	NA	--	.249	.249	--	.249
1785	NA	--	--	NA	--	.310	.310	--	.310
1795	NA	--	--	NA	--	.402	.402	--	.402
1805	NA	--	--	NA	--	.537	.537	--	.537
1815	NA	--	--	NA	--	.714	.714	--	.714
1825	NA	--	--	NA	--	.960	.960	--	.960
1835	NA	--	--	NA	--	1.305	1.305	--	1.305
1845	NA	--	--	NA	--	1.757	1.757	--	1.757
1850	0.219	--	--	0.219	--	2.138	2.138	--	2.357
1855	.421	--	--	.421	--	2.389	2.389	--	2.810
1860	.518	--	0.003	.521	--	2.641	2.641	--	3.162
1865	.632	--	.010	.642	--	2.767	2.767	--	3.409
1870	1.048	--	.011	1.059	--	2.893	2.893	--	3.952
1875	1.440	--	.011	1.451	--	2.872	2.872	--	4.323
1880	2.054	--	.096	2.150	--	2.851	2.851	--	5.001
1885	2.840	0.082	.040	2.962	--	2.683	2.683	--	5.645
1890	4.062	.257	.156	4.475	0.022	2.515	2.537	--	7.012
1895	4.950	.147	.168	5.265	.090	2.306	2.396	--	7.661
1900	6.841	.252	.229	7.322	.250	2.015	2.265	--	9.587
1905	10.001	.372	.610	10.983	.386	1.843	2.229	--	13.212
1910	12.714	.540	1.007	14.261	.539	1.765	2.304	--	16.565
1915	13.294	.673	1.418	15.385	.659	1.688	2.347	0.002	17.734
1920	15.504	.813	2.676	18.993	.738	1.610	2.348	.003	21.344
1925	14.706	1.191	4.280	20.177	.668	1.533	2.201	.004	22.382
1930	13.639	1.932	5.897	21.468	.752	1.455	2.207	.005	23.680
1935	10.634	1.919	5.675	18.228	.806	1.397	2.203	.005	20.436
1940	12.535	2.665	7.760	22.960	.880	1.358	2.238	.007	25.205
1945	15.972	3.871	10.110	29.953	1.442	^a 1.261	2.703	.009	32.665

^a There is a discontinuity in the "Wood" time series between 1945 (in this table) and 1949 (in Table 10.1). Through 1945, data are for fuelwood only; beginning in 1949, data are for wood and wood-derived fuels.

^b Electricity transmitted across U.S. borders. Net imports equal imports minus exports.

NA=Not available. -- =Not applicable. (s)=Less than 0.5 trillion Btu.

Notes: • For years not shown, data are not available. • See Tables 1.3 and 10.1 for continuation of these data series beginning in 1949. • See Note, "Geographic Coverage of Statistics for 1635–1945," at end of section.

Sources: • **Fossil Fuels:** *Energy in the American Economy, 1850–1975*, Table VII. • **Conventional Hydroelectric Power:** *Energy in the American Economy, 1850–1975*, Table II. • **Wood:** 1635–1845—U.S. Department of Agriculture,

Circular No. 641, *Fuel Wood Used in the United States 1630–1930*, February 1942. This source estimates fuelwood consumption in cords per decade, which were converted to Btu using the conversion factor of 20 million Btu per cord. The annual average value for each decade was assigned to the fifth year of the decade on the assumption that annual use was likely to increase during any given decade and the average annual value was more likely to reflect mid-decade yearly consumption than use at either the beginning or end of the decade. Values thus begin in 1635 and are plotted at 10-year intervals. 1850–1945—*Energy in the American Economy, 1850–1975*, Table VII. • **Electricity Net Imports:** *Energy in the American Economy, 1850–1975*, Tables I and VI. Electricity net imports are assumed to equal hydroelectric consumption minus hydroelectric production (data are converted to Btu by multiplying by 3,412 Btu per kilowatt-hour).