steam coal and metallurgical coal exported by the quantity exported. The average heat content of steam coal is derived from receipts data from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Survey of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Coal Users” (formerly called “Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Sector Coal Data”), and Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report.” Through June 2014, the average heat content of metallurgical coal is derived from receipts data from Form EIA-5, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Coke Plants”; beginning in July 2014, the average heat content of metallurgical coal is derived from receipts data from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Survey of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Coal Users” (formerly called “Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Sector Coal Data”). Data for export quantities are from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, “Monthly Report EM 545.”

**Coal Imports.** • 1949–1963: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal imported by the quantity imported. Data are from U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, “Monthly Report IM 145,” and predecessor forms. • 1964–2011: Assumed by EIA to be 25.000 million Btu per short ton. • 2012 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of coal imported (received) by the quantity imported (received). Data are from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Survey of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Coal Users” (formerly called “Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Sector Coal Data”); Form EIA-5, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Coke Plants” (data through June 2014); and Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report.”

**Coal Production.** • 1949–2011: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of domestic coal (excluding waste coal) received by the quantity received. Data are from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Manufacturing and Transformation/Processing Coal Plants and Commercial and Institutional Users”; Form EIA-5, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Coke Plants”; Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report”; and predecessor forms. • 2012 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of domestic coal (excluding waste coal) received and exported by the quantity received and exported. Data are from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Survey of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Coal Users” (formerly called “Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Sector Coal Data”); Form EIA-5, “Quarterly Coal Consumption and Quality Report—Coke Plants” (data through June 2014); Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report”; U.S. Department of Commerce, U.S. Census Bureau, “Monthly Report EM 545”; and predecessor forms.

**Waste Coal Supplied.** • 1989–2000: Calculated annually by EIA by dividing the heat content of waste coal consumed by the quantity consumed. Data are from Form EIA-860B, “Annual Electric Generator Report—Nonutility,” and predecessor form. • 2001 forward: Calculated by EIA by dividing the heat content of waste coal received (or consumed) by the quantity received (or consumed). Receipts data are from Form EIA-3, “Quarterly Survey of Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional Coal Users” (formerly called “Quarterly Survey of Non-Electric Sector Coal Data”), and predecessor forms. Consumption data are from Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms.

**Approximate Heat Rates for Electricity**

**Electricity Net Generation, Coal.** • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using anthracite, bituminous coal, subbituminous coal, lignite, and beginning in 2002, waste coal and coal synfuel.

**Electricity Net Generation, Natural Gas.** • 2001 forward: Calculated annually by EIA by using fuel consumption and net generation data reported on Form EIA-923, “Power Plant Operations Report,” and predecessor forms. The computation includes data for all electric utilities and electricity-only independent power producers using natural gas and supplemental gaseous fuels.

**Electricity Net Generation, Noncombustible Renewable Energy.** There is no generally accepted practice for measuring the thermal conversion rates for power plants that generate electricity from hydro, geothermal, solar thermal, photovoltaic, and wind energy sources. Therefore, EIA calculates a rate factor that is equal to the annual average heat rate factor for fossil-fueled power plants in the United States (see “Electricity Net Generation, Total Fossil Fuels”). By using that factor it is possible to evaluate fossil fuel requirements for replacing those sources during periods of interruption, such as droughts. See Appendix E for more information.

**Electricity Net Generation, Nuclear.** • 1957–1984: Calculated annually by dividing the total heat content consumed in nuclear generating units by the total (net) electricity generated by nuclear generating units. The heat content and electricity generation were reported on Form FERC-1, “Annual Report of Major Electric Utilities, Licensees, and Others”; Form EIA-412, “Annual Report of Public Electric Utilities”; and predecessor forms. For 1982, the factors were published in EIA, *Historical Plant Cost and Annual Production Expenses for Selected Electric Plants 1982*, page 215. For 1983 and 1984,