

Note. Geographic Coverage of Statistics for 1635–1945.

Table D1 presents estimates of U.S. energy consumption by energy source for a period that begins a century and a half before the original 13 colonies formed a political union and continues through the decades during which the United States was still expanding territorially. The question thus arises, what exactly is meant by “U.S. consumption” of an energy source for those years when the United States did not formally exist or consisted of less territory than is now encompassed by the 50 states and the District of Columbia?

The documents used to assemble the estimates, and (as far as possible) the sources of those documents, were reviewed carefully for clues to geographic coverage. For most energy sources, the extent of coverage expanded more rapidly than the nation, defined as all the official states and the District of Columbia. Estimates or measurements of consumption of each energy source generally appear to follow settlement patterns. That is, they were made for areas of the continent that were settled enough to have economically significant consumption even though those areas were not to become states for years. The wood data series, for example, begins in 1635 and includes 12 of the original colonies (excepting Georgia), as well as Maine, Vermont, and the area that would become the District of Columbia. By the time the series reaches 1810, the rest of the continental states are all included, although the last of the 48 states to achieve statehood did not do so until 1912. Likewise, the coal data series begins in 1850 but includes consumption in areas, such as Utah and Washington (state), which were significant coal producing regions but had not yet attained statehood. (Note: No data were available on state-level historical coal consumption. The coal data shown in Table D1 through 1945 describe *apparent* consumption, i.e., production plus imports minus exports. The geographic coverage for coal was therefore based on a tally of coal-*producing* states listed in various historical issues of *Minerals Yearbook*. It is likely that coal was consumed in states where it was not mined in significant quantities.)

By energy source, the extent of coverage can be summarized as follows:

- Coal—35 coal-producing states by 1885.
- Natural Gas—All 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, and Alaska by 1885.
- Petroleum—All 48 contiguous states, the District of Columbia, and Alaska by 1885.
- Conventional Hydroelectric Power—Coverage for 1890 and 1895 is uncertain, but probably the 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia. Coverage for 1900–1945 is the 48 contiguous states, and the District of Columbia.
- Wood—All 48 contiguous states and the District of Columbia by 1810.