

## Opencast coal statistics 2009

Comprehensive statistics on opencast coal have, in the past, been collected and published by the Planning Officers' Society. This series ceased in 1999. The Office of the Deputy Prime Minister, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Scottish Executive agreed that it would be valuable for a summary of opencast coal statistics to be continued. The BGS has been asked to undertake this collation in collaboration with the [Coal Authority](#) and planning authorities with opencast coal resources in their areas. In addition to dissemination on [www.mineralsUK.com](http://www.mineralsUK.com), the information will be summarised in the annual [United Kingdom Minerals Yearbook](#), also produced by BGS.

The survey has the support of the Planning Officers' Society, the Coal Authority and the Confederation of UK Coal Producers ([CoalPro](#)). The BGS would like to acknowledge the help of the Coal Authority and the relevant Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales for their invaluable assistance in collecting the information for this survey. It will provide a vital input to monitoring Government policies for the development of the nation's shallow coal resources.

This annual survey covers individual Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The following tables summarise the 2009 data (click links for data):

- [Table 1. Great Britain: saleable opencast coal production in 2008–2009](#)
- [Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in sites in production at 31st December 2008 and 2009](#)
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To view information on longer term trends in opencast coal production, graphs by financial year to the end of March for England, Scotland and Wales for the period 1985 to 2009 are presented here:

- [Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1985–2009](#)
- [Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1985–2009](#)
- [Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1985–2009](#)

**TABLE 1. GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2008–2009**

Mineral Planning Authority	2008		2009	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites*
Derbyshire	75 513	1	427 084	3
Leicestershire	437 499	1	339 149	1
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>513 012</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>766 233</b>	<b>4</b>
Shropshire	0	0	0	1
<b>West Midlands Total</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1</b>
Durham	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0		0	
Northumberland	1 223 333	4	1 000 110	3
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>1 223 333</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1 000 110</b>	<b>3</b>
Bolton	251 494	1	262 128	1
Lancashire (new in 2008)	917	0	0	0
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>252 411</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>262 128</b>	<b>1</b>
Calderdale	0	0	1 254	1
Kirklees	3 855	1	4 008	1
Leeds			4 131	1
Rotherham	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	145 957	1	99 530	1
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>149 812</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>108 923</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2 138 568</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>2 137 394</b>	<b>13</b>
Carmarthenshire	9 226	0	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	379 049	1	632 282	1
Neath Port Talbot	842 482	6	551 750	5
Powys	401 973	1	413 875	1
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1 632 730</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1 597 907</b>	<b>7</b>
Dumfries and Galloway	582 101	1	584 505	2
East Ayrshire	3 218 310	8	2 892 675	8
Fife	712 423	3	793 892	2
Midlothian	226 300	1	205 984	1
North Lanarkshire			0	1
South Lanarkshire	916 009	5	1 559 713	4
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5 655 143</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>6 036 769</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>9 426 441</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>9 772 070</b>	<b>38</b>

\*end December 2009.

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.*

The 2008 figures, first released in July 2008 in Table 2 'GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT SITES IN PRODUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2007 and 2008' have been revised in order to ensure consistency with the data published in Table 2 in previous years.

**TABLE 2. GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT SITES IN PRODUCTION\* AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008 AND 2009**

Mineral planning authority	2008		2009	
	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites
Durham	0	0	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	0	0
Northumberland	4 175 129	3	3 209 795	2
<b>North East Total</b>	<b>4 175 129</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3 209 795</b>	<b>2</b>
Bolton / Wigan	568 600	1	306 472	1
<b>North West Total</b>	<b>568 600</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>360 472</b>	<b>1</b>
Shropshire	320 297	1	320 297	1
<b>West Midlands</b>	<b>320 297</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>320 297</b>	<b>1</b>
Derbyshire (Added 2008)	923 452		968 207	3
Leicestershire (Added 2008)	287 501		23 353	1
<b>East Midlands Total</b>	<b>1 210 953</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>991 560</b>	<b>4</b>
Calderdale*	7 965	1	0	0
Kirklees	38 676	1	34 668	1
Leeds			50 000	1
Rotherham	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	47 469	1	0	0
<b>Yorkshire &amp; the Humber Total</b>	<b>94 110</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>84 668</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>6 369 089</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>4 912 792</b>	<b>10</b>
Bridgend	0**	1	0	0
Carmarthenshire	39 619	2***	0	0
Merthyr Tydfil	10 420 951	1	9 788 669	1
Neath Port Talbot	2 683 724	4	2 411 416	5
Powys	2 260 455	1	1 846 580	1
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>15 404 749</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>14 046 665</b>	<b>7</b>
Dumfries and Galloway	1 876 482	1	1 650 977	2
East Ayrshire	9 249 052	8	7 626 990	6
Fife	2 832 765	3	2 291 193	3
Midlothian	182 036	1	172 177	1
North Lanarkshire				
South Lanarkshire	7 996 340	5	7 775 886	3
West Lothian	0	1		
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>22 136 675</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19 517 223</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>43 910 513</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38 476 680</b>	<b>32</b>

\* Includes sites in care & maintenance at end Dec 2008.

\*\* Reserve for Bridgend included in total for Neath Port Talbot as one site covers both MPAs.

\*\*\*Includes Cwy-Yr-Onen which borders Neath Port Talbot and Carmarthenshire.

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

**TABLE 3. GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET WORKING AT 31ST DECEMBER 2008 AND 2009**

Mineral planning authority	2008	2009
	Tonnes	Tonnes
Derbyshire	411 839	0
Durham	0	1 274 500
Leicestershire	0	0
Northumberland	2 060 000	2 060 310
Newcastle and Northumberland	0	2 400 000
Rotherham	0	44 000
Telford and Wrekin	0	900 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2 471 839</b>	<b>6 678 810</b>
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	30 000	0
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>30 000</b>	<b>0</b>
Dumfries & Galloway	0	325 000
East Ayrshire	5 037 952	3 475 000
Falkirk	190 767	190 767
Fife	620 068	620 068
North Lanarkshire	0	102 000
Scottish Borders	450 000	400 000
South Lanarkshire	4 150 000	4 950 000
West Lothian	0	0
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>10 448 787</b>	<b>10 062 835</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>12 950 626</b>	<b>16 741 645</b>

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

**TABLE 4. GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2009**

Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
Derbyshire	2	31	160 000
Telford & Wrekin Council	1	94	900 000
Northumberland	1	243	2 030 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>367</b>	<b>3 090 000</b>
Neath Port Talbot	1	22	100 000
Blaenau Gwent	1	29	300 000
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>400 000</b>
Fife	1	30	480 000
East Ayrshire	3	251	1 155 000
Midlothian	1	13.3	200 000
North Lanarkshire	1	51	240 000
South Lanarkshire	2	279	2 600 000
<b>SCOTLAND</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>624</b>	<b>4 675 000</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>1 042</b>	<b>8 165 000</b>

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

**TABLE 5. GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2009**

<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
Leeds	1	137	875 000
Northumberland	1	29	140 000
<b>ENGLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1 015 000</b>
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
Neath Port Talbot	1	unknown	unknown
<b>WALES TOTAL</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>Authority</b>	<b>Applications declined</b>	<b>Total hectares</b>	<b>Total reserves (tonnes)</b>
<b>SCOTLAND TOTAL</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
<b>GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>166</b>	<b>1 015 000</b>

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

**TABLE 6. GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2009**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Derbyshire	Foxlow Tip and adjacent Land	off Staveley Lane, Staveley	New operation	30 000	24.3	Yes	N/a
Derbyshire	Former Biwaters Site	Market Street, Clay Cross	New operation	130 000	6.5	Yes	N/a
Telford & Wrekin Council	Huntington Lane	West of New Works, near Telford	New operation	900 000	93.5	Yes	Yes
Northumberland	Potland Burn	Ashington	New operation	2 030 000	243	Yes	N/a

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Neath Port Talbot	Forest Quarry Area 2	Glynneath	Lateral Extension	100 000	22	N/a	N/a
Blaenau Gwent	Six Bells & Vivian Tips	Six Bells & Vivian Tips, Arreal Farm, Six Bells, Abertillery	Variation of condition	300 000	28.7	N/a	N/a

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Fife	Earlseat Ext	Earlseat OCCS, Standing Stane Rd, Kirkcaldy, Fife KY1 4TH	Extension lateral	480 000	30.2	Yes	N/a
East Ayrshire	Skares Road (Area D)	Skares Road by Cumnock, KA18 2RF	Lateral	650 000	35	Yes	No
East Ayrshire	House of Water (Tappet Hill)	Dalricket Mill Road by New Cumnock, KA18 4QS	Lateral	425 000	210	Yes	No
East Ayrshire	House of Water (Craigman South)	Dalricket Mill Road by New Cumnock, KA18 4QS	Lateral	80 000	6.28	No	No
Midlothian	Shewington	Shewington, Rosewell, Midlothian	Extension lateral	200 000	13.3	N/a	N/a
North Lanarkshire	Mossband Farm	Motherwell Rd, Newhouse	New operation	240 000	51	Yes	Outstanding
South Lanarkshire	Mainshill Wood	Douglas, Lanarkshire	New operation	1 700 000	163	Yes	N/a
South Lanarkshire	Broken Cross (North Extn)	Rigside, Lanarkshire	Extension - lateral	900 000	115.5		N/a

N/a not available

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

**TABLE 7. GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2009**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Leeds	Newton Lane	Newton Lane, Fairburn, Allerton Bywater	New	875 000	137	Yes	Yes
Northumberland	Halton Lea	Halton Lea Gate	New operation	140 000	29	no data	no data

**WALES**

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Neath Port Talbot	Margam Extension Occs	near Pyle	Lateral extension			no data	Yes

**SCOTLAND- NONE**

**TABLE 8. GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2009**

**ENGLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Northumberland	Delhi	H.J. Banks & Co. Ltd	Blagdon, Seaton Burn
Northumberland	Stobswood	UK Coal Mining Ltd	Ulgham, Morpeth

**SCOTLAND**

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
East Ayrshire Council	Grievehill Extension	ATH Resources	Pathhead Road, New Cumnock, KA18 4PW
East Ayrshire Council	Skares Road (Area C)	ATH Resources	Skares Road by Cumnock, KA18 2RF

**WALES- NONE**

*Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

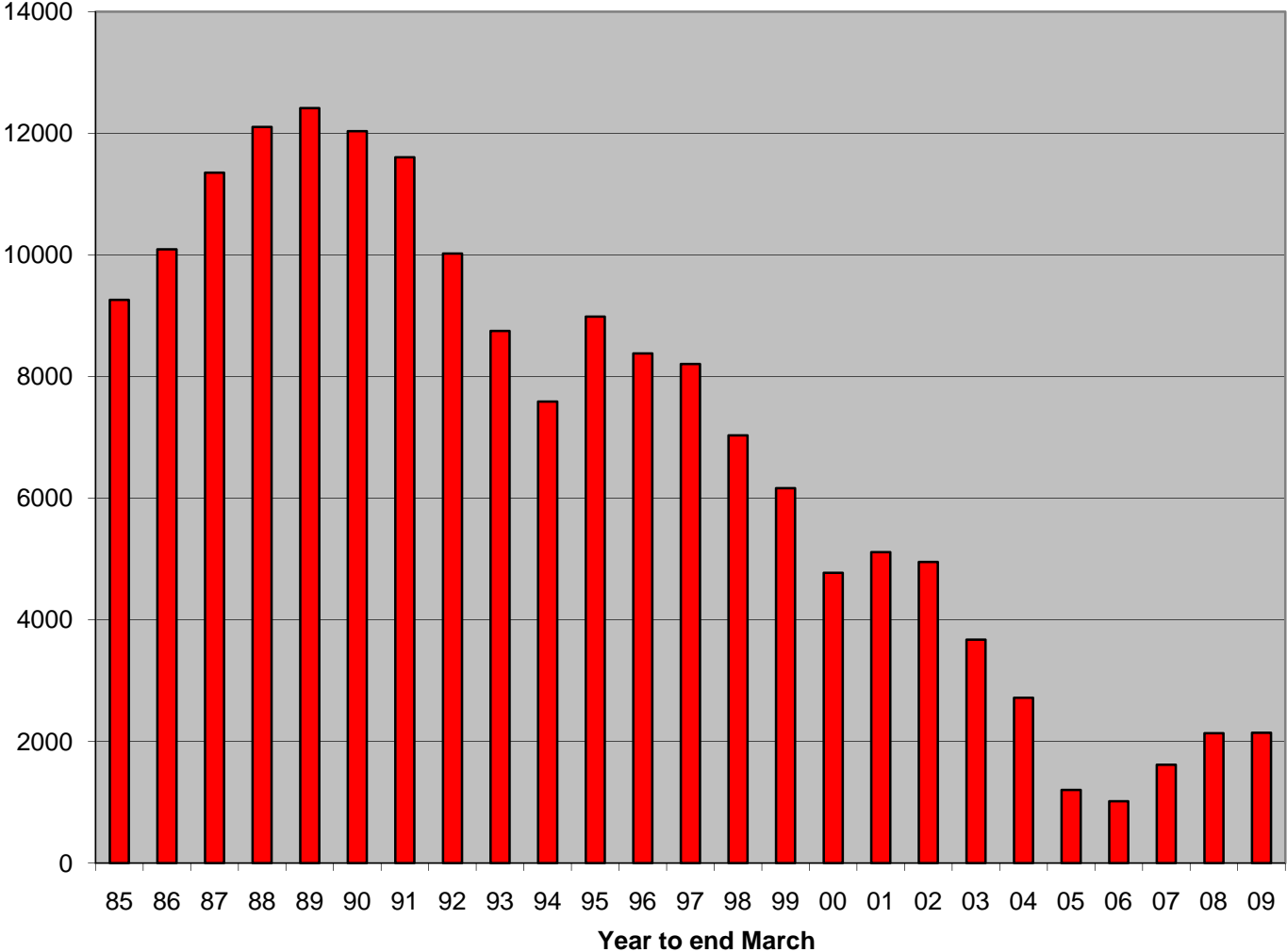
**TABLE 9. GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2009**

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2009
ENGLAND	2
SCOTLAND	2
WALES	0
<b>GREAT BRITAIN</b>	<b>4</b>

*Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2009

Thousand tonnes





**Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2009**

Thousand tonnes

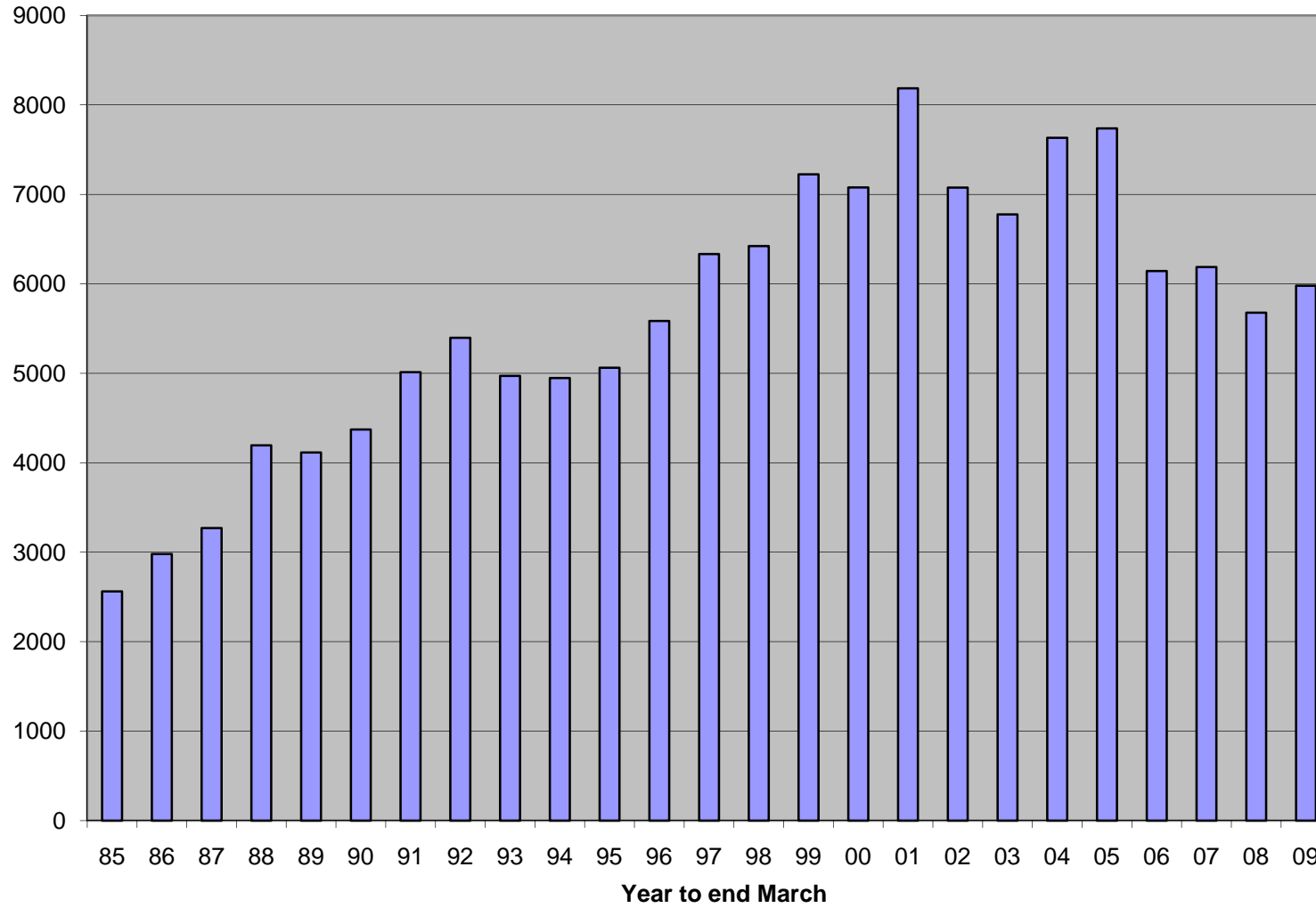


Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2009

Thousand tonnes

