Opencast coal statistics 2010

Comprehensive statistics on opencast coal have, in the past, been collected and published by the Planning Officers' Society. This series ceased in 1999. The Department for Communities and Local Government, the Welsh Government and the Scottish Government 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, 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.

Note: The data may not be totally comprehensive because not all planning authorities have made a return. The tables will be updated if new information is received.

This annual survey covers individual Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The following tables summarise the 2010 data (click links for data):

- Table 1. Great Britain: saleable opencast coal production in 2009–2010
- Table 2. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining in sites in production at 31st December 2009 and 2010
- Table 3. Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2009 and 2010
- Table 4. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2010
- Table 5. Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2010
- Table 6. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2010
- Table 7. Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2010
- Table 8. Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2010
- Table 9. Great Britain: number of opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2010

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 2010 are presented here:

- Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1985–2010
- Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1985–2010
- Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1985–2010

TABLE 1. GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2009–2010*

Mineral Planning Authority	2009		2010	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites*
Derbyshire	427 084	3	600 169	3
Leicestershire	339 149	1	98 490	1
East Midlands Total	**766 233**	**4**	**698 659**	**4**
Shropshire	0	1	0	1
Telford and Wrekin	0	0	4 154	1
West Midlands Total	**0**	**1**	**4 154**	**2**
Durham	0	0	106 361	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	18 754	1
Northumberland	1 000 110	3	1 363 001	3
North East Total	**1 000 110**	**3**	**1 488 116**	**5**
Bolton	262 128	1	368 827	1
North West Total	**262 128**	**1**	**368 827**	**1**
Calderdale	1 254	1	0	0
Kirklees	4 008	1	0	0
Leeds	4 131	1	88 648	1
Rotherham	0	0	40 185	1
Wakefield	99 530	1	0	0
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	**108 923**	**4**	**40 185**	**2**
ENGLAND TOTAL	**2 137 568**	**13**	**2 599 941**	**14**
Carmarthenshire	0	0	0	1
Merthyr Tydfil	632 282	1	786 602	1
Neath Port Talbot	551 750	5	3 262 359	5
Powys	413 875	1	374 334	1
WALES TOTAL	**1 597 907**	**7**	**4 423 295**	**8**
Dumfries and Galloway	584 505	2	735 619	2
East Ayrshire	2 892 675	8	2 624 177	9
Fife	793 892	2	756 184	2
Midlothian	205 984	1	223 270	1
North Lanarkshire	0	0	28 708	1
South Lanarkshire	1 559 713	4	1 670 521	5
SCOTLAND TOTAL	**6 036 769**	**17**	**6 038 479**	**19**
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	**9 772 070**	**37**	**13 061 715**	**41**

*as at end December 2010. Peak values.

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

TABLE 2. GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT SITES IN PRODUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2009 AND 2010

Mineral planning authority	2009		2010	
	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites	Tonnage remaining	Number of sites
Durham	0	0	1 168 145	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	0	0	2 381 246	1
Northumberland	3 209 795	2	3 617 070	3
North East Total	**3 209 795**	**2**	**7 166 461**	**5**
Bolton / Wigan	568 600	1	53 645	1
North West Total	**568 600**	**1**	**53 645**	**1**
Shropshire	320 297	1	0	0
Telford and Wrekin			875 674	1
West Midlands	**320 297**	**1**	**875 674**	**1**
Derbyshire (Added 2008)	968 207	3	398 038	3
Leicestershire (Added 2008)	23 353	1	0	0
East Midlands Total	**991 560**	**4**	**398 038**	**3**
Calderdale	0	0	0	0
Kirklees	34 668	1	0	0
Leeds	50 000	1	0	0
Rotherham	0	0	0	0
Wakefield	0	1	0	0
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	**84 668**	**3**	**0**	**0**
ENGLAND TOTAL	**5 174 920**	**11**	**8 493 818**	**10**
Bridgend	0	0	0	0
Carmarthenshire	0	0	10 878	1
Merthyr Tydfil	9 788 669	1	9 002 068	1
Neath Port Talbot	2 411 416	5	1 791 937	4
Powys	1 846 580	1	1 472 247	2
WALES TOTAL	**14 046 665**	**7**	**12 277 130**	**8**
Dumfries and Galloway	1 650 977	2	915 358	2
East Ayrshire	7 626 990	6	4 982 673	6
Fife	2 291 193	3	1 264 317	2
Midlothian	172 177	1	54 936	1
North Lanarkshire	0	0	73 292	1
South Lanarkshire	7 775 886	3	7 446 417	5
SCOTLAND TOTAL	**19 517 223**	**15**	**14 736 993**	**17**
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	**38 738 808**	**33**	**35 507 941**	**35**

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 2009 AND 2010

Mineral planning authority	2009 Tonnes	2010 Tonnes
Derbyshire	0	0
Durham	1 274 500	0
Leicestershire	0	0
Northumberland	2 060 310	3 043 000
Newcastle and Northumberland	2 400 000	0
Rotherham	44 000	0
Telford and Wrekin	900 000	0
Shropshire	0	365 460
Kirklees	0	34 668
ENGLAND TOTAL	**6 678 810**	**3 443 128**
Merthyr Tydfil	0	0
Neath Port Talbot	0	1 470 422
Carmarthenshire	0	14 100
Blaenau Gwent	0	50 000
WALES TOTAL	**0**	**1 534 522**
Dumfries & Galloway	325 000	1 625 000
East Ayrshire	3 475 000	8 890 000
Falkirk	190 767	190 767
Fife	620 068	1 100 068
North Lanarkshire	102 000	580 000
Scottish Borders	400 000	400 000
South Lanarkshire	4 950 000	3 250 000
West Lothian	0	1 500 000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	**10 062 835**	**17 535 835**
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	**16 741 645**	**22 513 485**

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

TABLE 4. GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2010

Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
ENGLAND TOTAL	**0**	**0**	**0**
Neath Port Talbot	2	451	1 400 000
WALES TOTAL	**2**	**451**	**1 400 000**
East Ayrshire	5	1 659	7 860 000
SCOTLAND	**5**	**1 659**	**7 860 000**
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	**7**	**2 110**	**9 260 000**

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

TABLE 5. GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2010

Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Potential total reserves (tonnes)
Leeds	1	137	875 000
ENGLAND TOTAL	**1**	**137**	**875 000**
WALES- NONE			
Authority	**Applications declined**	**Total hectares**	**Total reserves (tonnes)**
Midlothian	1	154	2 000 000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	**1**	**154**	**2 000 000**
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	**2**	**291**	**2 875 000**

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities.

TABLE 6. GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2010

ENGLAND- NONE

WALES

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Neath Port Talbot	Forest Quarry Area 2 Extension	Aberpergwm Glynneath	Lateral Extension	200 000	69	1	N/a
Neath Port Talbot	Selar North Extension	Glynneath	Lateral Extension	1 200 000	382	1	N/a

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
East Ayrshire	Dunstonhill Surface Coal Mine	B730 Polnessan/Drongan Road by Patna, Ayrshire, KA6 7HA	New operation	1 200 000	776	1	N/a
East Ayrshire	Burnston Fields Extension - House of Water Surface Coal Mine	Whitehill Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 4QR	Lateral	560 000	46	1	N/a
East Ayrshire	Lanehead Extension - House of Water Surface Coal Mine	Whitehill Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 4QR	Lateral	1 000 000	51	1	N/a
East Ayrshire	Netherton Surface Coal Mine	Darntaggart Farm, Skares by Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 2RG	New operation	4 100 000	313	1	N/a
East Ayrshire	Ponesk Surface Coal Mine	Off A70 Muirkirk Road, Ayrshire, KA18 3SB	New operation	1 000 000	473	1	N/a
East Ayrshire	Extension of Extraction Area - Skares Road Surface Coal Mine	Darntaggart Farm, Skares by Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 2RG	Lateral	67 000	11	N/a	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 2010

ENGLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Leeds	Newton Lane	Newton Lane, Fairburn, Allerton Bywater	Unknown	875 000	137	Yes	Yes

WALES- NONE

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Midlothian	Airfield	Airfield Farm, Cousland, Dalkeith	New operation	2 000 000	154	1	

TABLE 8. GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2010

ENGLAND-NONE

SCOTLAND

Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
East Ayrshire Council	Greenburn Surface Coal Mine	Kier Mining Limited	Auchincross Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 4QR
East Ayrshire Council	Greenburn Surface Coal Mine - Northern Extension	Kier Mining Limited	Auchincross Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 4QR
East Ayrshire Council	House of Water Surface Coal Mine - Craigman South	Scottish Coal Company Limited	Whitehill Farm by New Cumnock, Ayrshire, KA18 4QR
East Ayrshire Council	Powharnal Surface Coal Mine	Scottish Coal Company Limited	Skew Bridge by Cronberry, Ayrshire, KA18 3NG

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 2010

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2009
ENGLAND	0
SCOTLAND	4
WALES	0
GREAT BRITAIN	**4**

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2010

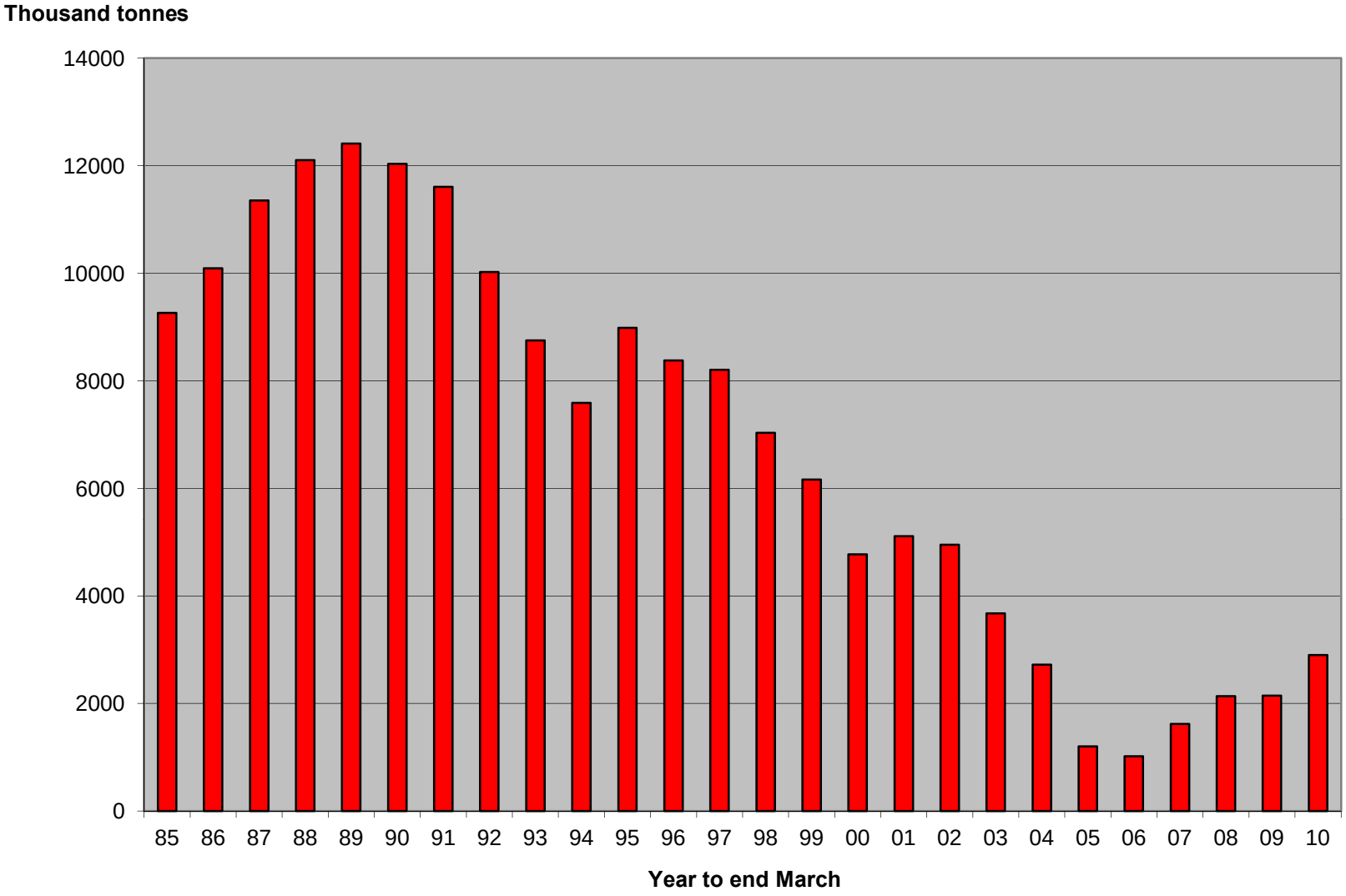

Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2010

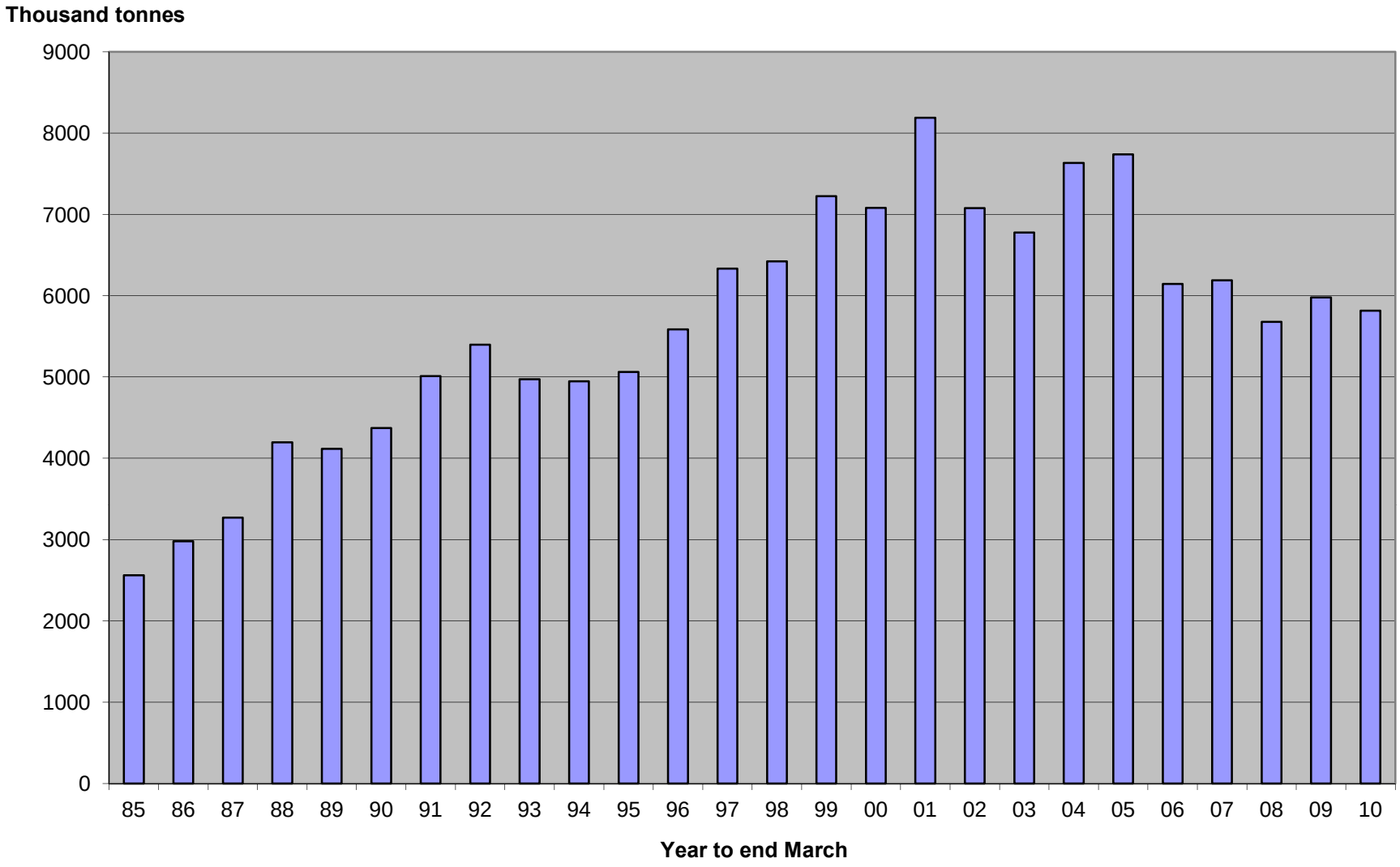
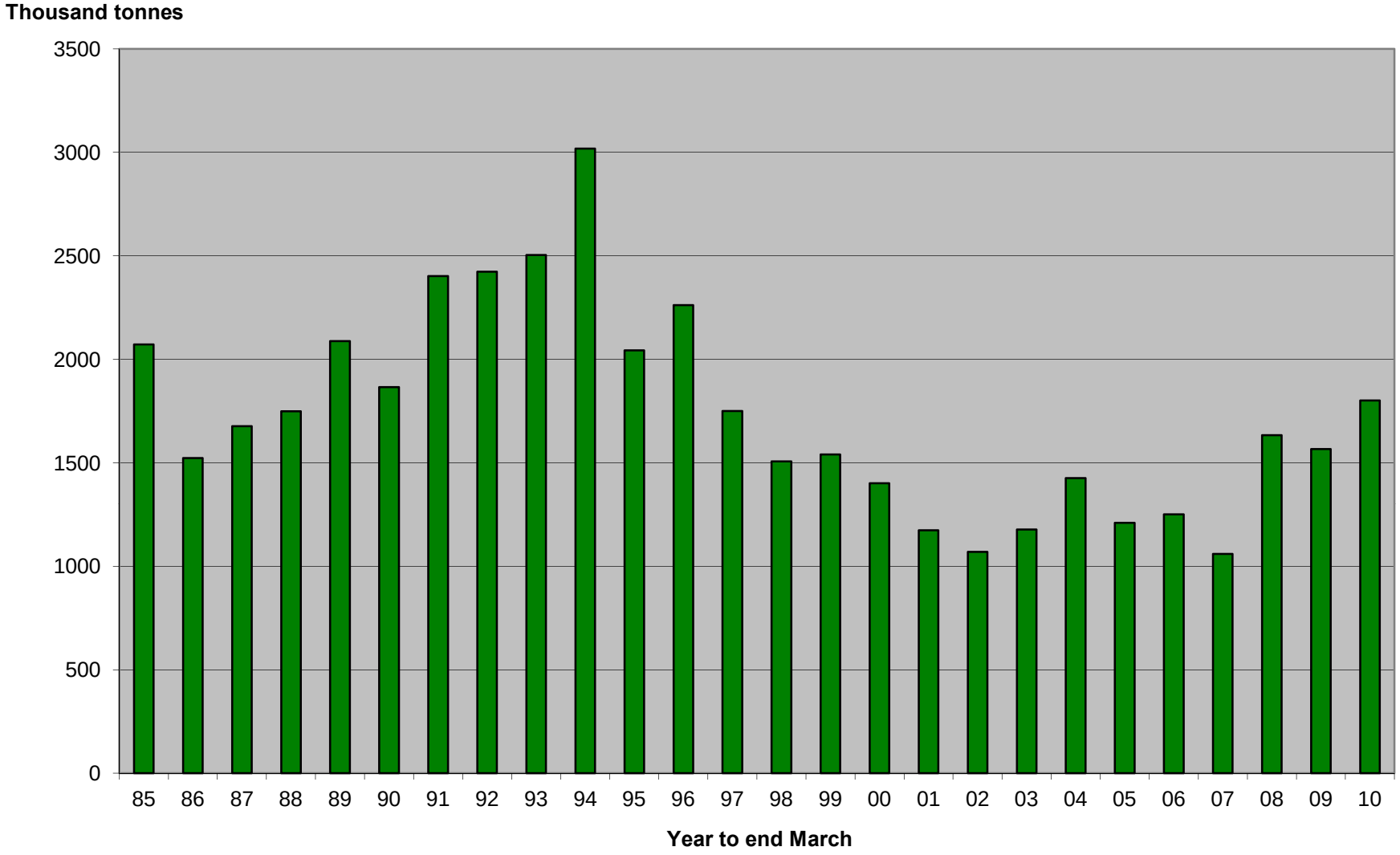
Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2010