

Opencast coal statistics 2013

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 Mineral Planning Authorities with opencast coal resources in their areas. In addition to dissemination on <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/mineralsUK>, 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 survey was undertaken in 2014 and received a comprehensive return rate from the relevant Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The following tables summarise the 2013 data:

- [Table 1: Great Britain: saleable opencast coal production in 2013](#)
- [Table 2: Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal remaining at producing sites at 31st December 2013](#)
- [Table 3: Great Britain: permitted reserves of opencast coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2013](#)
- [Table 4: Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been granted planning permission during 2013](#)
- [Table 5: Great Britain: applications for opencast coal which have been refused planning permission during 2013](#)
- [Table 6: Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites granted planning permission during 2013](#)
- [Table 7: Great Britain: details of opencast coal sites refused planning permission during 2013](#)
- [Table 8: Great Britain: opencast coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2013](#)
- [Table 9: Great Britain: number of opencast coal site ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2013](#)

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 2013 are presented here:

- [Figure 1. England: opencast coal production, 1985–2013](#)
- [Figure 2. Scotland: opencast coal production, 1985–2013](#)
- [Figure 3. Wales: opencast coal production, 1985–2013](#)

TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2012 and 2013*

| Mineral Planning Authority | 2012 | | 2013 | |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|------------------|--------------------|
| | Tonnes | Operational sites* | Tonnes | Operational sites* |
| Derbyshire | 176,225 | 1 | 323,925 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 50,924 | 1 | 461,913 | 1 |
| East Midlands Total | 227,149 | 2 | 785,838 | 2 |
| Shropshire** | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 339,372 | 1 | 151,766 | 1 |
| West Midlands Total | 339,372 | 2 | 151,766 | 2 |
| Durham | 341,082 | 1 | 210,598 | 1 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 421,634 | 2 | 464,137 | 2 |
| Northumberland | 1,627,094 | 3 | 1,799,616 | 3 |
| North East Total | 2,389,810 | 6 | 2,474,351 | 6 |
| Kirklees** | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber Total | 0 | 1 | 0 | 1 |
| ENGLAND TOTAL** | 2,956,331 | 11 | 3,411,955 | 11 |
| Blaenau Gwent | 0 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| Carmarthenshire | 4,821 | 1 | 10,589 | 1 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 886,292 | 1 | 919,038 | 1 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 869,400 | 4 | 509,525 | 4 |
| Powys | 369,228 | 1 | 300,888 | 1 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 278,572 | 1 | 602,772 | 1 |
| WALES TOTAL | 2,408,313 | 9 | 2,342,812 | 8 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 121,448 | 1 | 0 | 0 |
| East Ayrshire | 2,583,673 | 7 | 1,893,057 | 3 |
| Fife | 944,434 | 5 | 431,854** | 2** |
| North Lanarkshire | 1,526 | 1 | 0** | 1** |
| South Lanarkshire | 1,172,276 | 3 | 325,236** | 0** |
| West Lothian | 0 | 1 | 179,008 | 1 |
| SCOTLAND TOTAL | 4,823,357 | 18 | 2,829,155 | 7 |
| GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL** | 10,188,001 | 38 | 8,583,922 | 26 |

* as at 31 December in each year.

** includes sites that were dormant but not closed.

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 2: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL REMAINING AT PRODUCING SITES* AT 31ST DECEMBER 2012 AND 31ST DECEMBER 2013

| Mineral Planning Authority | 2012 | | 2013 | |
|---|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| | Tonnes | Operational sites | Tonnes | Operational sites |
| Durham | 457,970 | 1 | 247,372 | 1 |
| Newcastle upon Tyne | 1,678,694 | 2 | 1,187,634(a) | 2(a) |
| Northumberland | 3,730,638 | 3 | 1,814,745 | 3 |
| North East Total | 5,867,302 | 6 | 3,249,751 | 4 |
| Shropshire | 365,460 | 1 | 365,460 | 1 |
| Telford and Wrekin | 223,266 | 1 | 0(a) | 1(a) |
| West Midlands | 588,726 | 2 | 365,460 | 1 |
| Derbyshire | 500,806 | 1 | 154,436 | 1 |
| Leicestershire | 1,199,076 | 1 | 691,686 | 1 |
| East Midlands Total | 1,699,882 | 2 | 846,122 | 2 |
| Kirklees | 34,668 | 1 | 34,668 | 1 |
| Yorkshire & the Humber Total | 34,668 | 1 | 34,668 | 1 |
| ENGLAND TOTAL | 8,190,578 | 11 | 4,496,001 | 8 |
| Carmarthenshire | 89,194 | 1 | 78,226 | 1 |
| Merthyr Tydfil | 7,128,402 | 1 | 6,147,234 | 1 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1,753,589 | 4 | 1,201,574 | 4 |
| Powys | 614,947 | 1 | 2,079,937 | 1 |
| Rhondda Cynon Taff | 5,621,428 | 1 | 4,995,984 | 1 |
| WALES TOTAL | 15,207,560 | 8 | 14,502,955 | 8 |
| Dumfries and Galloway | 65,251 | 1 | 65,251(a)(b) | 1(a)(b) |
| East Ayrshire | 4,978,274 | 6 | 4,071,796(a)(b) | 6(a)(b) |
| Fife | 2,058,243 | 4 | 1,623,738(a)(b) | 4(a)(b) |
| North Lanarkshire | 49,799 | 1 | 49,799 | 1 |
| South Lanarkshire | 3,914,501 | 3 | 3,548,659(a)(b) | 3(a)(b) |
| West Lothian | 1,246,497 | 1 | 1,051,849 | 1 |
| SCOTLAND TOTAL | 12,312,565 | 16 | 10,411,092 | 16 |
| GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL | 35,710,703 | 35 | 29,410,048 | 32 |

* Including sites which are dormant but have permitted reserves remaining.

(a) Including sites that are restoring.

(b) Including sites where the operator has gone into liquidation.

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

TABLE 3: GREAT BRITAIN: PERMITTED RESERVES OF OPENCAST COAL IN SITES NOT YET IN PRODUCTION AT 31ST DECEMBER 2012 and 31ST DECEMBER 2013

| Mineral Planning Authority | 2012 Reserves tonnes | 2013 Reserves tonnes |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| Derbyshire | 413,500 | 413,500 |
| Northumberland | 173,000 | 303,000 |
| ENGLAND TOTAL | 586,500 | 716,500 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 0 | 800,000 |
| Powys | 1,800,000 | 0 |
| WALES TOTAL | 1,800,000 | 800,000 |
| Dumfries & Galloway | 3,070,000 | 3,070,000 |
| East Ayrshire | 1,100,000 | 3,700,000 |
| Falkirk | 190,767 | 190,767 |
| Midlothian | 0 | 10,000,000 |
| Scottish Borders | 400,000 | 400,000 |
| South Lanarkshire | 5,170,000 | 5,000,000 |
| SCOTLAND TOTAL | 9,930,767 | 22,360,767 |
| GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL | 12,317,267 | 23,877,267 |

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 4: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2013

| Mineral Planning Authority | Applications approved | Total hectares | Total reserves tonnes |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|
| Northumberland | 2 | 36 | 380,000 |
| Nottinghamshire | 1 | 131 | 1,275,000 |
| ENGLAND TOTAL | 3 | 167 | 1,655,000 |
| Neath Port Talbot | 1 | 19 | 800,000 |
| WALES TOTAL | 1 | 19 | 800,000 |
| East Ayrshire | 2 | 224 | 3,350,000 |
| Midlothian | 1 | 495 | 10,000,000 |
| South Lanarkshire | 1 | 348 | 4,000,000 |
| SCOTLAND TOTAL | 4 | 1067 | 17,350,000 |
| GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL | 8 | 1,253 | 19,805,000 |

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 5: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2013

| Mineral Planning Authority | Applications declined | Total hectares | Potential total reserves (tonnes) |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|--|
| Kirklees | 1 | 22 | 190,000 |
| ENGLAND TOTAL | 1 | 22 | 190,000 |
| Carmarthenshire | 1 | 52 | 285,000 |
| Torfaen | 1 | 65 | 256,000 |
| WALES TOTAL | 2 | 117 | 541,000 |
| SCOTLAND TOTAL | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL | 3 | 139 | 731,000 |

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 6: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2013

ENGLAND

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site address | Application type | Granted reserves | Granted hectares | EIA | Granted after appeal |
|----------------------------|------------------------------|--|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Northumberland | Shotton South West Extension | Cramlington, Northumberland NE23 8AU | Extension - lateral | 250,000 | 6 | Yes | No |
| Northumberland | Well Hill | Bets Lane, Morpeth, Northumberland | New operation | 130,000 | 30 | Yes | No |
| Nottinghamshire | Shortwood | Cossall Road, between Cossall and Trowell | New operation | 1,275,000 | 131 | Yes | No, appeal pending |

WALES

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site address | Application type | Granted reserves | Granted hectares | EIA | Granted after appeal |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|------------------|------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Neath Port Talbot | Selar Central Extension | Glynnedd, Neath Port Talbot | Extension - lateral | 800,000 | 19 | Yes | No |

SCOTLAND

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site address | Application type | Granted reserves | Granted hectares | EIA | Granted after appeal |
|----------------------------|--------------------|---|------------------|------------------|------------------|-----|----------------------|
| East Ayrshire | Burnston Remainder | House of Water Opencast, New Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 4QR | Lateral | 2,600,000 | 97 | Yes | No |
| East Ayrshire | Wellhill Farm | Cumnock, East Ayrshire, KA18 4QE | Lateral | 750,000 | 127 | Yes | No |
| Midlothian | Cauldhall Moore | Cauldhall Moor, Penicuik | New operation | 10,000,000 | 495 | Yes | No |
| South Lanarkshire | Glentaggart | South of Townhead and Weston Woods, Nr Douglas, South Lanarkshire | New operation | 4,000,000 | 348 | Yes | No |

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 7: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2013

ENGLAND

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site address | Application type | Declined reserves | Declined hectares | EIA | Refused after appeal |
|----------------------------|------------|--|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Kirklees | Dearne Lea | Litherrop Lane, Clayton West, Huddersfield | New operation | 190,000 | 22 | Yes | No |

WALES

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site address | Application type | Declined reserves | Declined hectares | EIA | Refused after appeal |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|---|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------|
| Carmarthenshire | Pentremawr Collieries | Land at Ponhenri, Pentre Mawr Collieries, Carmarthenshire | New operation | 285,000 | 51.5 | Yes | No |
| Torfaen | Vartag Hill | Vartag, Pontypool | New operation | 256,000 | 65.3 | Yes | Yes |

SCOTLAND

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site address | Application type | Declined reserves | Declined hectares | EIA | Refused after appeal |
|----------------------------|-----------|--------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----|----------------------|
| None | | | | | | | |

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

TABLE 8: GREAT BRITAIN: OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2013**ENGLAND**

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site operator | Site address |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Durham | Park Wall North | UK Coal Surface Mines Ltd | Elm Park, Tow Law, Co. Durham |
| Telford and Wrekin | Huntington Lane | UK Coal Surface Mines Ltd | West of Dawley Road, Shropshire |
| Newcastle | Science Central | Newcastle Science Central LLP | Former S&N Brewery Site, Corporation Street, Newcastle |

SCOTLAND

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site operator | Site address |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|--|
| South Lanarkshire | Mainshill | Scottish Coal | Nr Newmains Farm, Douglas, South Lanarkshire |
| South Lanarkshire | Wilsontown | Hall Construction | Wilsontown revised surface mine, Cleugh Farm, Wilsontown, ML118ES |

WALES

| Mineral Planning Authority | Site name | Site operator | Site address |
|-----------------------------------|------------------|----------------------|---------------------|
| None | | | |

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

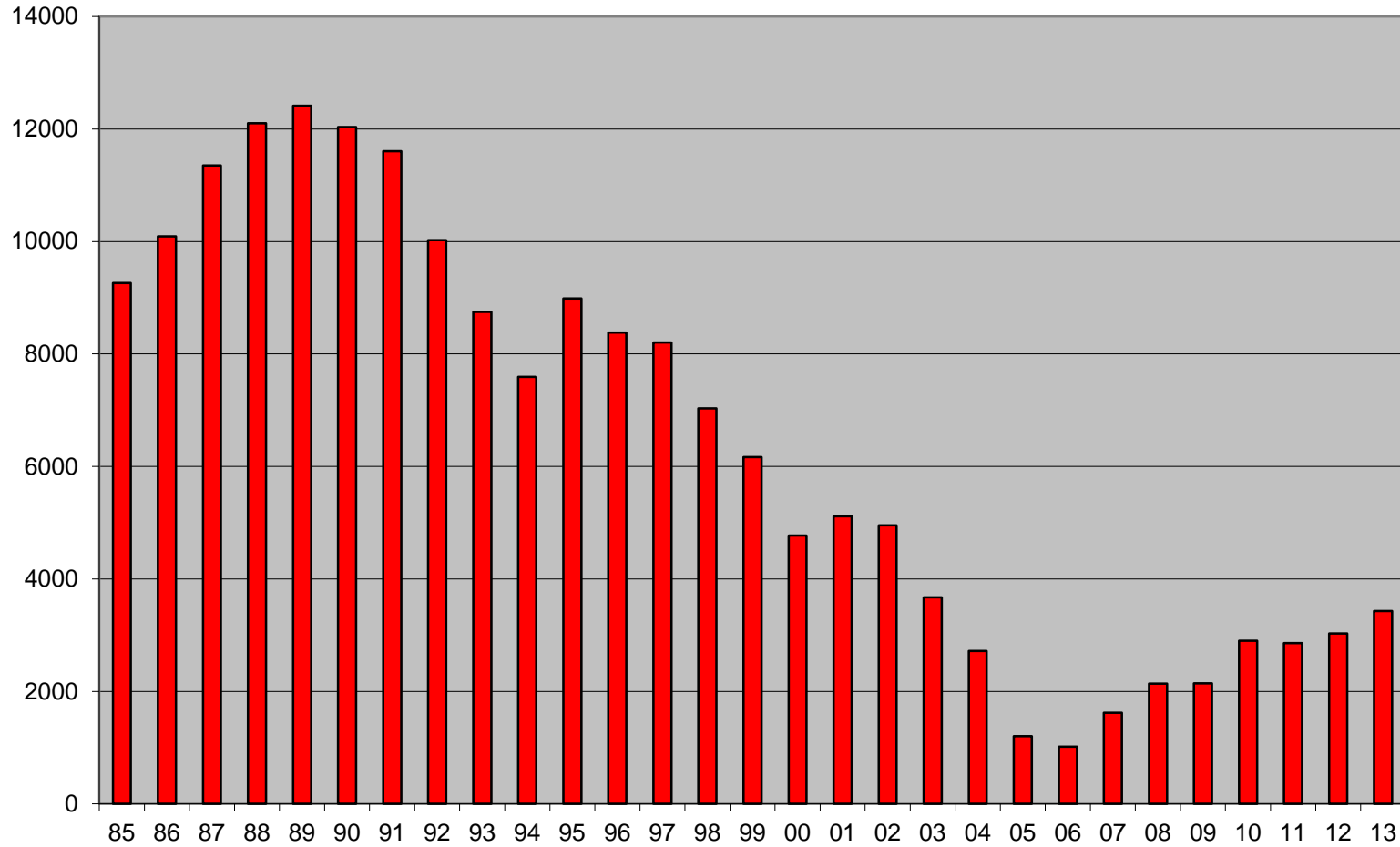
TABLE 9: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2013

| COUNTRY | NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2011 |
|----------------------|--|
| ENGLAND | 3 |
| SCOTLAND | 2 |
| WALES | 0 |
| GREAT BRITAIN | 5 |

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2013

Thousand tonnes

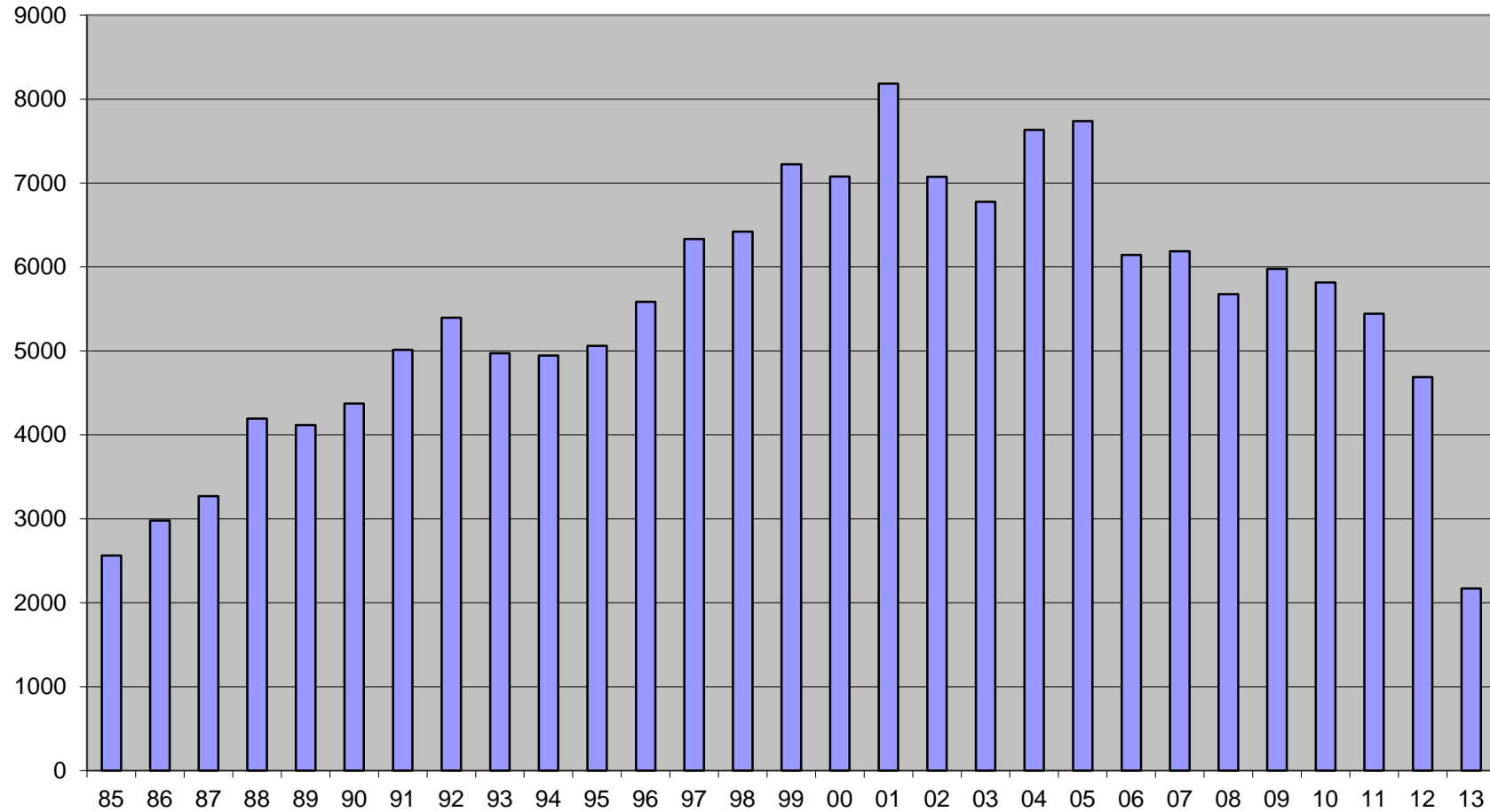


Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Year to end March

Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2013

Thousand tonnes

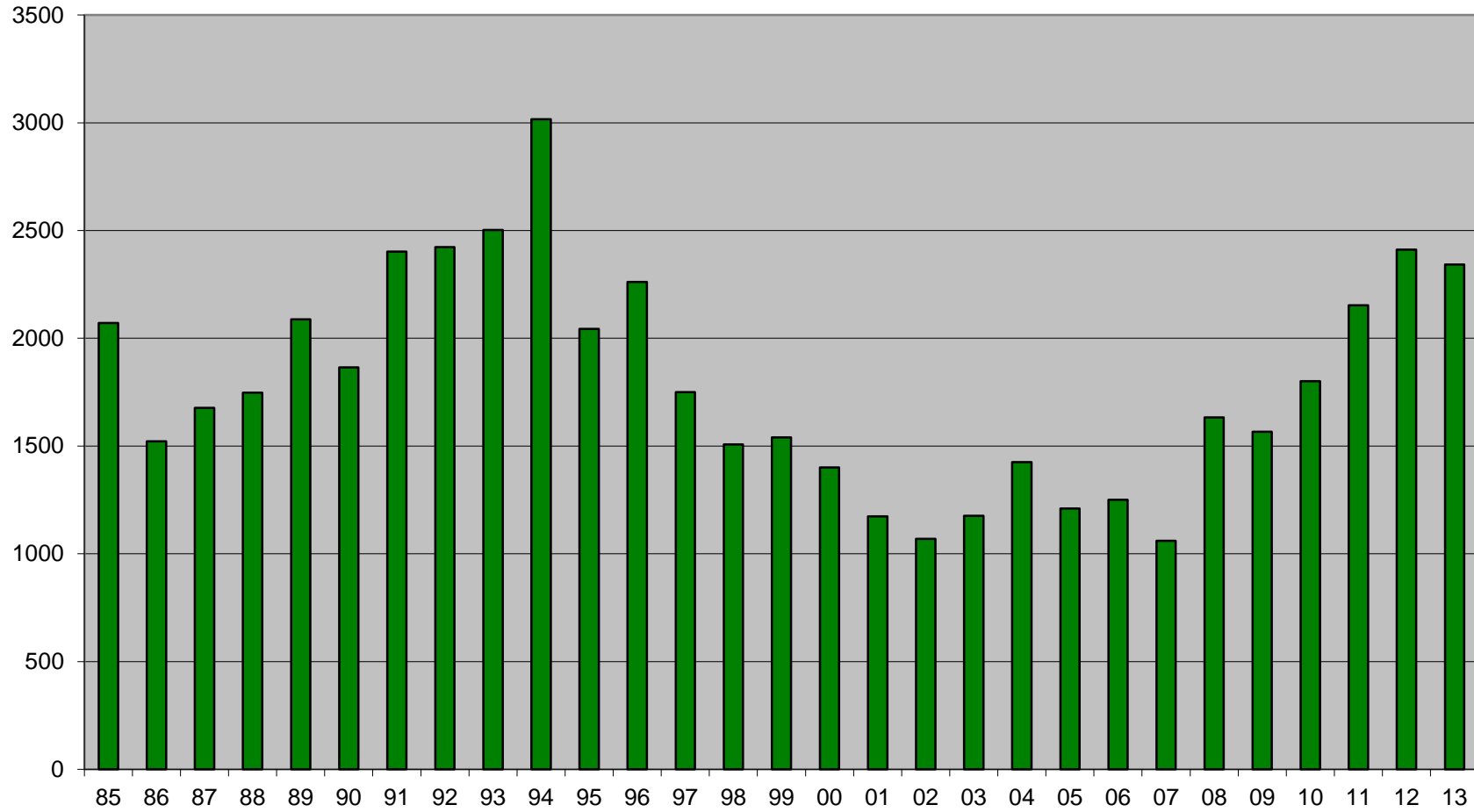


Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Year to end March

Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2013

Thousand tonnes



Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Year to end March