

Facts and Figures

Coal production statistics

New Zealand coal production in 2010 was 5.3 million tonnes, 17 percent up from 2009 production of 4.6 million tonnes. This is mainly due to the restoration of production levels at Solid Energy's two bituminous mines, Stockton and Spring Creek, which had been reduced for 2009 by industrial action and reduced export orders resulting from the global financial crisis.

Production is centred in the Waikato (2.0 million tonnes), on the West Coast (2.7 million tonnes) and in Southland (0.5 million tonnes). Five underground mines and sixteen opencast mines were operating in 2010.

Over 59 percent of national production was from two large opencast operations, at Rotowaro and Stockton. State-owned Solid Energy was responsible for over 82 percent of national production, with a number of smaller private coal mining companies producing the remainder.

[Operating Coal mines](#)

[Coal production by mining method](#)

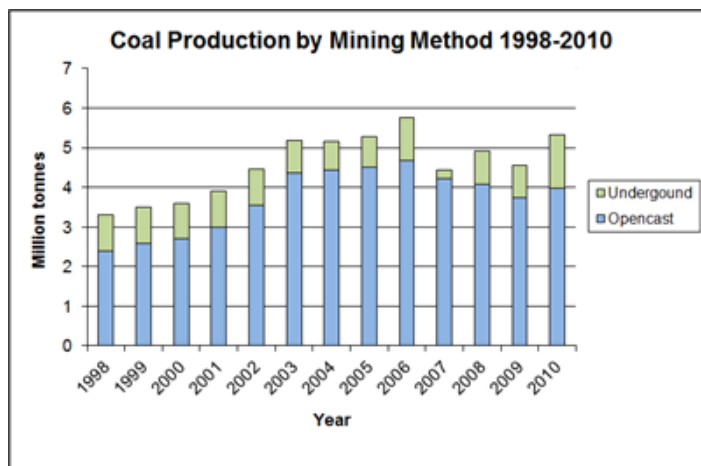
[Coal production by rank and region](#)

[Historic coal production by rank and method 1884-2009 \[79 kB XLS\]](#)

Coal production by mining method

[Production by mining method 1998-2010 \[61 kB XLS\]](#)

Production by Mining Method 1998-2010



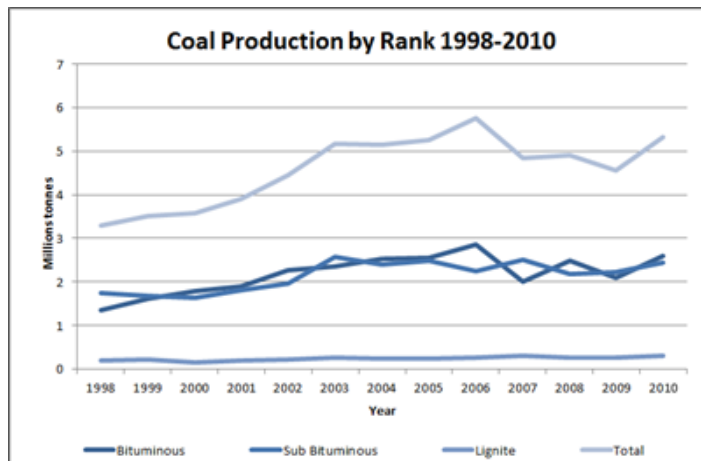
Production by Mining Method and Region for 2010 (kt)

Area	Mining Method		Total
	Opencast	Underground	
Waikato	1,648.10	394.6	2,042.7
North Island Total	1,648.10	394.6	2,042.7
West Coast	1,753.8	956.8	2,710.6
Canterbury	36.7	0	36.7
Otago	76.1	0	76.1
Southland	464.4	0	464.4
South Island Total	2,331.0	956.8	3,287.8
New Zealand TOTAL	3,979.1	1,351.4	5,330.5

Coal production by rank

[Production by rank 1998-2010 \[73 kB XLS\]](#)

Production by Rank 1998-2010



Production by Rank and Region for 2010 (kt)

Area	Rank			Total
	Bituminous	Sub-Bituminous	Lignite	
Waikato	0	2,042.7	0	2,042.7
North Island Total	0	2,042.7	0	2,042.7
West Coast	2,597.4	113.2	0	2,710.6
Canterbury	0	36.7	0	36.7

Otago	0	72.2	3.9	76.1
Southland	0	173.4	291	464.4
South Island Total	2,597.4	395.5	294.9	3,287.8
New Zealand TOTAL	2,597.4	2,438.2	294.9	5,330.5

The [Energy Data File](#) has additional information about New Zealand's Energy resources.