

Surface coal mining statistics 2014

Comprehensive statistics on surface mined 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 surface mined 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 surface mined 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 2015 and received a comprehensive return rate from the relevant Mineral Planning Authorities in England, Scotland and Wales. The following tables summarise the 2014 data:

- [Table 1: Great Britain: saleable surface mined coal production in 2014](#)
- [Table 2: Great Britain: permitted reserves of surface mined coal remaining at producing sites at 31st December 2014](#)
- [Table 3: Great Britain: permitted reserves of surface mined coal in sites not yet in production at 31st December 2014](#)
- [Table 4: Great Britain: applications for surface mined coal which have been granted planning permission during 2014](#)
- [Table 5: Great Britain: applications for surface mined coal which have been refused planning permission during 2014](#)
- [Table 6: Great Britain: details of surface mined coal sites granted planning permission during 2014](#)
- [Table 7: Great Britain: details of surface mined coal sites refused planning permission during 2014](#)
- [Table 8: Great Britain: surface mined coal sites ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2014](#)
- [Table 9: Great Britain: number of surface mined coal site ceasing operations due to exhaustion of reserves during 2014](#)

To view information on longer term trends in surface mined coal production, graphs by financial year to the end of March for England, Scotland and Wales for the period 1985 to 2014 are presented here:

- [Figure 1. England: surface mined coal production, 1985–2014](#)
- [Figure 2. Scotland: surface mined coal production, 1985–2014](#)
- [Figure 3. Wales: surface mined coal production, 1985–2014](#)

TABLE 1: GREAT BRITAIN: SALEABLE OPENCAST COAL PRODUCTION IN 2013 and 2014*

Mineral Planning Authority	2013		2014	
	Tonnes	Operational sites*	Tonnes	Operational sites*
Derbyshire	323,925	1	252,170	1
Leicestershire	461,913	1	515,651	1
East Midlands Total	785,838	2	767,821	2
Shropshire	0**	1**	0	0
Telford and Wrekin	151,766	1	0	0
West Midlands Total	151,766	2	0	0
Durham	210,598	1	0	0
Newcastle upon Tyne	464,137	2	369,084	1
Northumberland	1,799,616	3	1,748,030	4
North East Total	2,474,351	6	2,117,114	5
Kirklees	0**	1**	0	0
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	0**	1**	0	0
ENGLAND TOTAL	3,411,955**	11**	2,884,935	7
Carmarthenshire	10,589	1	11,289	1
Merthyr Tydfil	919,038	1	952,726	1
Neath Port Talbot	509,525	4	513,445	4
Powys	300,888	1	415,083	1
Rhondda Cynon Taff	602,772	1	595,778	1
WALES TOTAL	2,342,812	8	2,488,321	8
Dumfries and Galloway	0	0	71,801	1
East Ayrshire	1,893,057	3	1,351,946	4
Fife	431,854**	2**	506,187	4
North Lanarkshire	0**	1**	0	0
South Lanarkshire	325,236**	0**	291,179	1
West Lothian	179,008	1	275,901	1
SCOTLAND TOTAL	2,829,155	7	2,497,014	11
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL**	8,583,922	26	7,870,270	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 2013 AND 31ST DECEMBER 2014

Mineral Planning Authority	2013		2014	
	Tonnes	Operational sites	Tonnes	Operational sites
Durham	247,372	1	0(a)	1(a)
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,187,634(a)	2(a)	840,636(a)	2(a)
Northumberland	1,814,745	3	445,336	4
North East Total	3,249,751	6	1,285,972	7
Shropshire	365,460	1	365,460	1
Telford and Wrekin	0(a)	1(a)	0(a)	1(a)
West Midlands	365,460	2	365,460	2
Derbyshire	154,436	1	0(a)	1(a)
Leicestershire	691,686	1	221,512	1
East Midlands Total	846,122	2	221,512	2
Kirklees	34,668	1	34,668	1
Yorkshire & the Humber Total	34,668	1	34,668	1
ENGLAND TOTAL	4,496,001	11	1,907,612	12
Carmarthenshire	78,226	1	67,316	1
Merthyr Tydfil	6,147,234	1	5,256,638	1
Neath Port Talbot	1,201,574(b)	4	1,429,914(b)	4
Powys	2,079,937	1	1,698,976	1
Rhondda Cynon Taff	4,995,984	1	4,422,878	1
WALES TOTAL	14,502,955	8	12,875,722	8
Dumfries and Galloway	65,251(a)(b)	1(a)(b)	843,450	1
East Ayrshire	4,071,796(a)(b)	6(a)(b)	4,973,646	4
Fife	1,623,738(a)(b)	4(a)(b)	1,564,836	4
North Lanarkshire	49,799	1	0	0
South Lanarkshire	3,548,659(a)(b)	3(a)(b)	3,150,628	2(a)
West Lothian	1,051,849	1	830,002	1
SCOTLAND TOTAL	10,411,092	16	11,362,562	12
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	29,410,048	35	26,145,896	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 2013 and 31ST DECEMBER 2014

Mineral Planning Authority	2013 Reserves tonnes	2014 Reserves tonnes
Derbyshire	13,500	0
Leicestershire	0	250,000
Northumberland	520,000	1,429,000
ENGLAND TOTAL	533,500	1,679,000
Neath Port Talbot	800,000	0
WALES TOTAL	800,000	0
Dumfries & Galloway	2,125,000	0
East Ayrshire	3,700,000	5,160,000
Falkirk	190,767	190,767
Scottish Borders	400,000	400,000
South Lanarkshire	5,000,000	5,000,000
SCOTLAND TOTAL	11,415,767	10,750,767
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	12,749,267	12,429,767

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 4: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2014

Mineral Planning Authority	Applications approved	Total hectares	Total reserves tonnes
Northumberland	2	122.0	1,042,000
Leicestershire	1	1.8	250,000
ENGLAND TOTAL	3	123.8	1,292,000
None			
WALES TOTAL	0	0.0	0
None			
SCOTLAND TOTAL	0	0.0	0
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	3	123.8	1,292,000

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 5: GREAT BRITAIN: APPLICATIONS FOR OPENCAST COAL WHICH HAVE BEEN REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2014

Mineral Planning Authority	Applications declined	Total hectares	Potential total reserves (tonnes)
Gateshead	1	34.8	225,000
Durham	2	63.4	1,581,257
Kirklees	1	18.0	190,000
ENGLAND TOTAL	4	116.2	1,996,257
Rhondda cynon Taf	1	9.5	270,000
Carmarthenshire	1	51.5	285,000
WALES TOTAL	2	61.0	555,000
None			
SCOTLAND TOTAL	0	0.0	0
GREAT BRITAIN TOTAL	6	177.2	2,551,257

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

TABLE 6: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES GRANTED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2014

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
Northumberland	Shotton	Cramlington	Extension - lateral	290,000	26.0	Yes	No
Northumberland	Ferneybeds	Widdrington Station, Morpeth	New operation	752,000	96.0	Yes	No
Leicestershire	Measham Fields Farm (Minorca extension)	Land south of Sweptstone Road, Measham	Extension - lateral	250,000	1.8	Yes	No

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
None							

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Granted reserves	Granted hectares	EIA	Granted after appeal
None							

Source: *The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities*

TABLE 7: GREAT BRITAIN: DETAILS OF OPENCAST COAL SITES REFUSED PLANNING PERMISSION DURING 2014

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Gateshead	Birkland Lane	Birkland Lane (land adjacent to Marley Hill, Gateshead)	New operation	225,000	34.8	Yes	No
Durham	Marley Hill	Marley Hill, Tanfield, County Durham	New operation	1,067,257	7.5	Yes	No
Durham	Field House	West Rainton, County Durham	New operation	514,000	55.9	Yes	No
Kirklees	Dearne Lea	Litherop Lane, Clayton West, Huddersfield	New operation	190,000	18.0	Yes	No

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site address	Application type	Declined reserves	Declined hectares	EIA	Refused after appeal
Rhondda cynon Taf	Tower Surface Mine	Rhigos Hirwaun Aberdare CF44 9UF	Extension - lateral	270,000	9.5	Yes	No
Carmarthenshire	Pentremawr	Pontyberem, Llanelli	New operation	285,000	51.5	Yes	No

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 2014

ENGLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
None			

SCOTLAND

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
Fife	St Ninians	Hargreaves	St Ninians surface mine, Kelty

WALES

Mineral Planning Authority	Site name	Site operator	Site address
None			

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

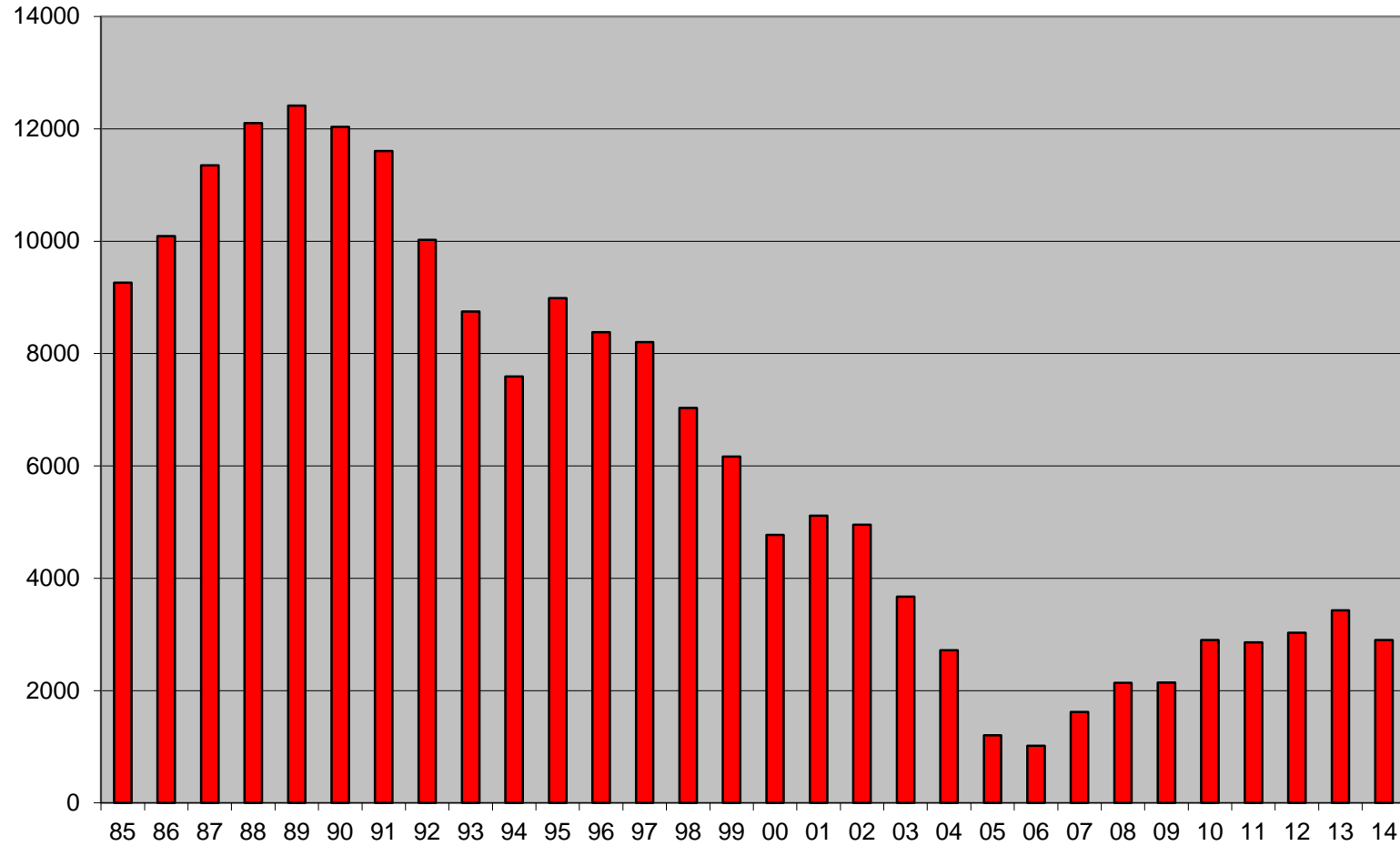
TABLE 9: GREAT BRITAIN: NUMBER OF OPENCAST COAL SITES CEASING OPERATIONS DUE TO EXHAUSTION OF RESERVES DURING 2014

COUNTRY	NUMBER OF OPENCAST SITES CLOSED DURING 2014
ENGLAND	0
SCOTLAND	1
WALES	0
GREAT BRITAIN	1

Source: The Coal Authority and Local Planning Authorities

Figure 1. England: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2014

Thousand tonnes

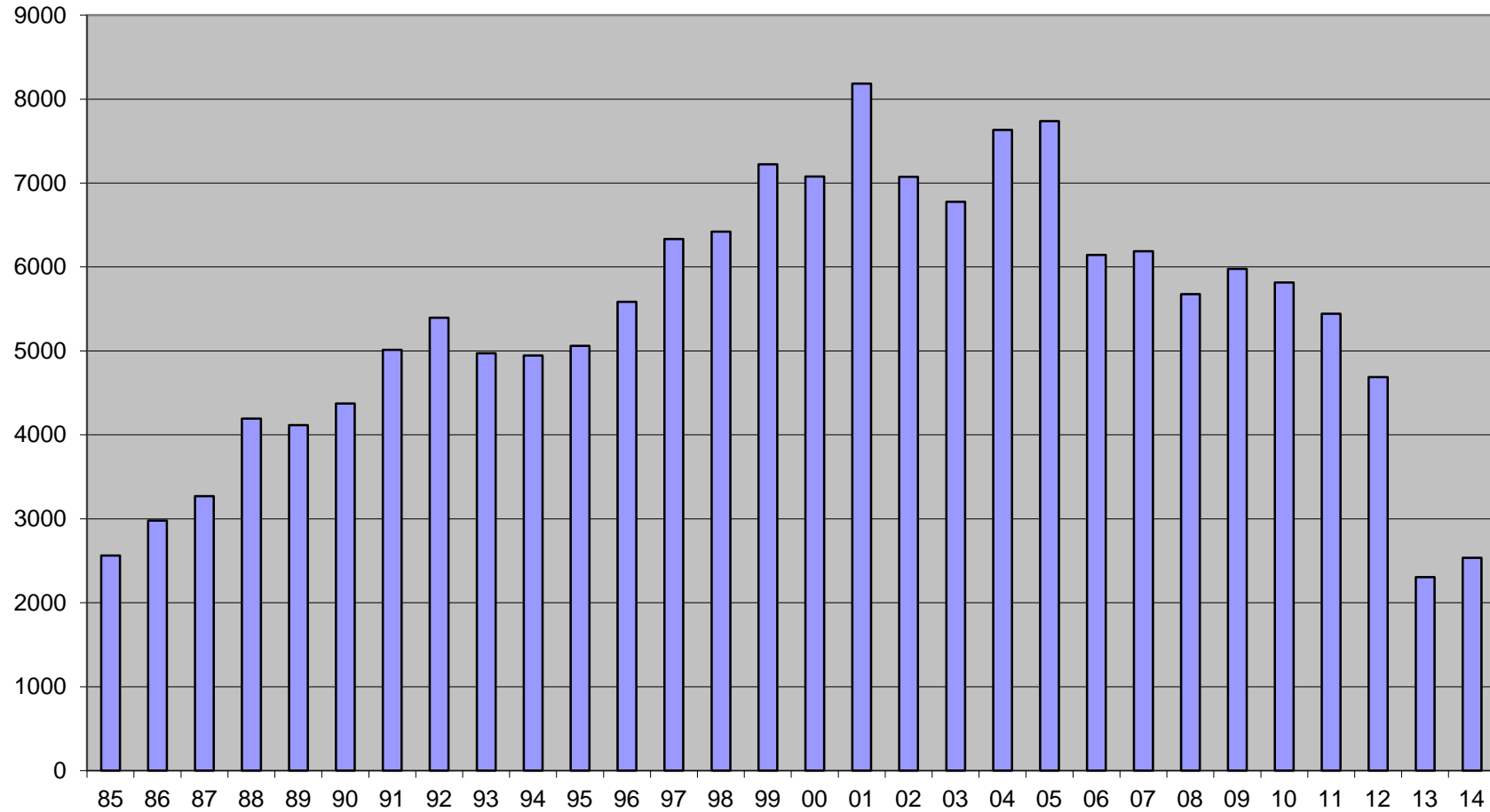


Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Year to end March

Figure 2. Scotland: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2014

Thousand tonnes

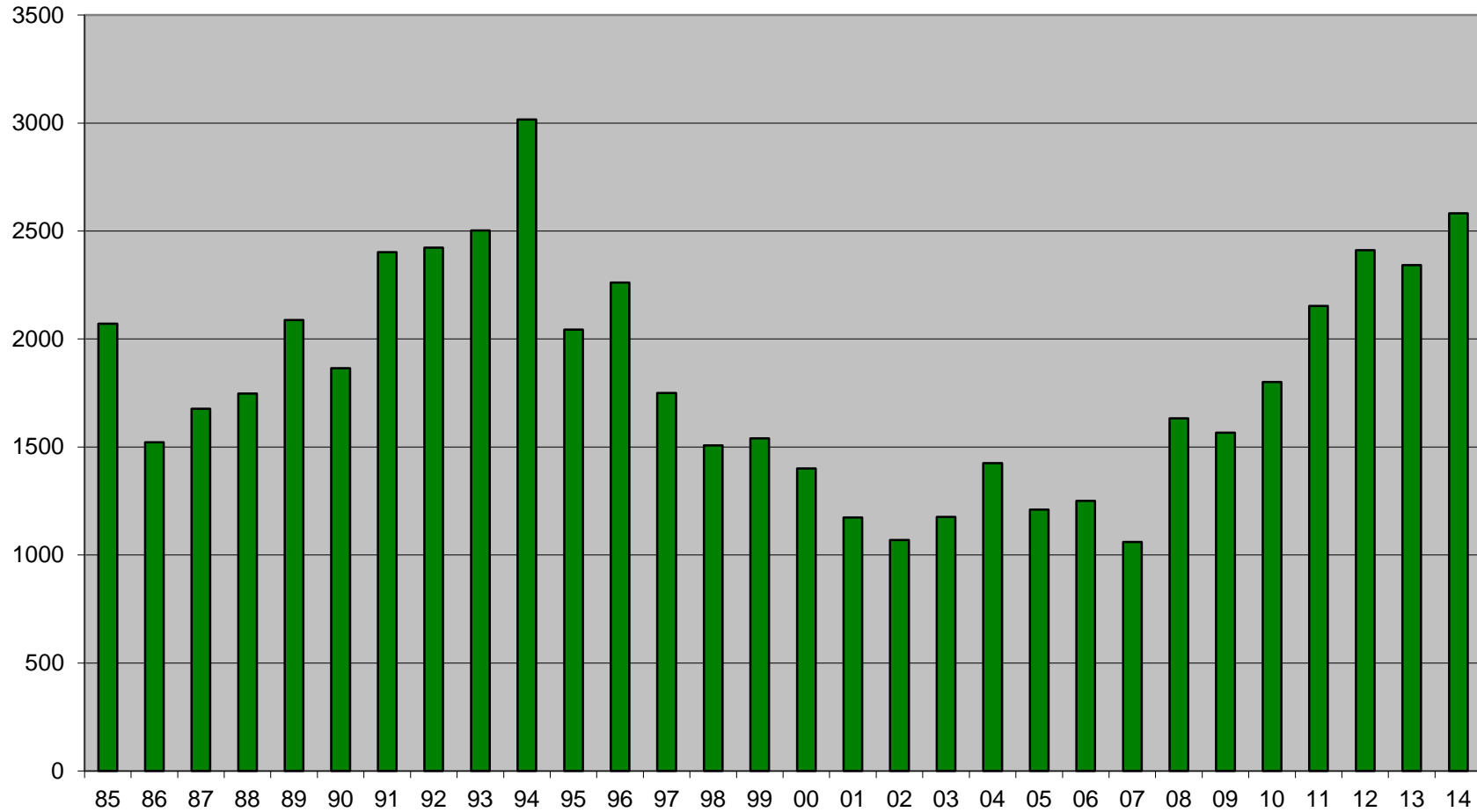


Data are for fiscal years from April of the year stated to March of the year following

Year to end March

Figure 3. Wales: Opencast coal production, 1985 - 2014

Thousand tonnes



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

Year to end March