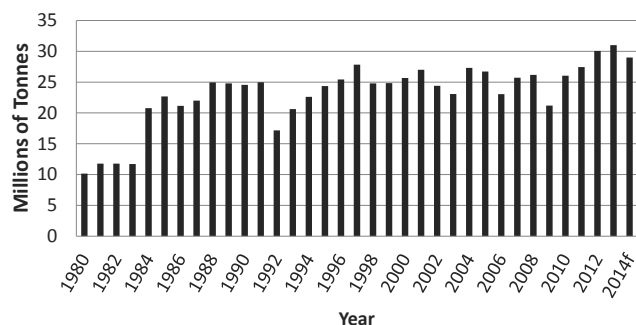


History of Coal in B.C.

Coal mining in B.C. began on northern Vancouver Island in the mid 1800s, soon moving south to the Nanaimo coalfields where underground mining continued until the 1960s. With the development of railways, underground coal mining began in southeastern B.C. in the late 1800s.

In response to demand from the Japanese steel industry, large-scale open pit metallurgical coal mines opened in the 1960s. Coal is transported by dedicated rail service to port facilities such as Westshore Terminals (southeastern coalfields) and Ridley Terminals (northeastern coalfields).

Coal Production in B.C.



In the 1970s and early 1980s, exploration surges identified numerous prospects, and producers diversified sales into Asian, European, and South American markets.

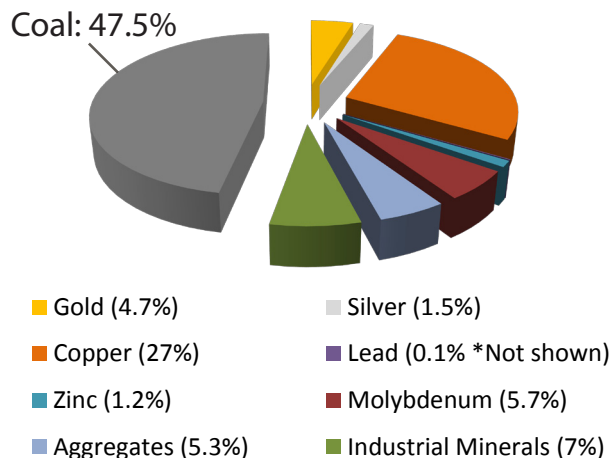
Coal production increased through the 1990s, when approximately 25 million tonnes of clean coal were produced annually. Another exploration surge (2005-2014) generated advanced projects and proposed mines.

B.C. Coal Production

Coal contributes significantly to the British Columbia economy. During the last five years, the average value of coal production has been over \$4 billion, representing over half the total provincial mineral production.

Value of Mineral Production in B.C.

(Based on a 10 year average from 2004-2014)



For More Information

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British Columbia Geological Survey coal geology page
www.empr.gov.bc.ca/mining/geoscience/coal/Pages

British Columbia Coal Quality Survey (Bulletin 96)
by Grieve, D.A., Holuszko, M.E., and Goodarzi, F., 1995
[www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/
PublicationsCatalogue/BulletinInformation/BulletinsAfter1940/
Pages/Bulletin96.aspx](http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/PublicationsCatalogue/BulletinInformation/BulletinsAfter1940/Pages/Bulletin96.aspx)

COALFILE
[www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/Coal/CoalBC/Pages/
CoalDataReports.aspx](http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience/Coal/CoalBC/Pages/CoalDataReports.aspx)

MapPlace
[www.empr.gov.bc.ca/mining/
Geoscience/MapPlace](http://www.empr.gov.bc.ca/mining/Geoscience/MapPlace)

British Columbia Geological Survey
www.empr.gov.bc.ca/Mining/Geoscience



Coal in British Columbia

British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2015-4



Ministry of
Energy and Mines

Coal in British Columbia

Coal Categories:

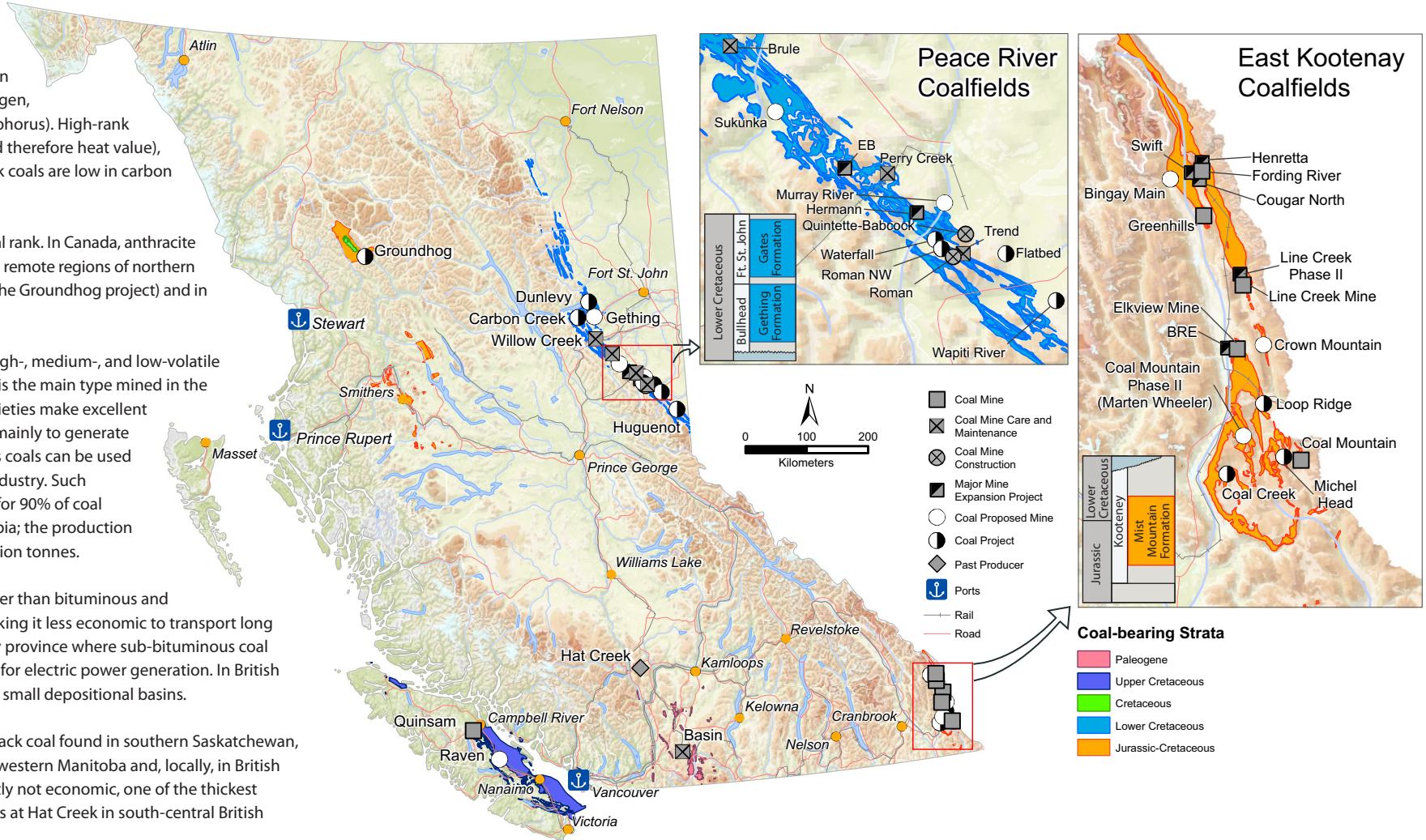
Coal is typically classified on the basis of contained carbon and volatiles (hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, sulphur, and phosphorus). High-rank coals are high in carbon (and therefore heat value), and low in volatiles; low-rank coals are low in carbon but high in volatiles.

Anthracite is the highest coal rank. In Canada, anthracite is found almost exclusively in remote regions of northern British Columbia (such as at the Groundhog project) and in the Yukon.

Bituminous coal includes high-, medium-, and low-volatile categories. Bituminous coal is the main type mined in the province. All bituminous varieties make excellent thermal coal, which is used mainly to generate electricity. Some bituminous coals can be used to make coke for the steel industry. Such metallurgical coal accounts for 90% of coal production in British Columbia; the production forecast for 2014 was 29 million tonnes.

Sub-bituminous coal is softer than bituminous and contains more moisture, making it less economic to transport long distances. Alberta is the only province where sub-bituminous coal is mined, and all of it is used for electric power generation. In British Columbia, it is found in local small depositional basins.

Lignite is a soft, brown or black coal found in southern Saskatchewan, southeastern Alberta, southwestern Manitoba and, locally, in British Columbia. Although currently not economic, one of the thickest accumulations in the world is at Hat Creek in south-central British Columbia.



Coal Reserves from Producing Mines

Resource	Tonnage (Proven+Probable)	Year
Fording River	624,900,000	2014
Elkview	215,200,000	2014
Line Creek	78,700,000	2014
Greenhills	65,500,000	2014
Coal Mountain	7,200,000	2014

Note: Quinsam mine does not publish reserves

Vancouver Island Coalfields

- Mined for coal since the 1800s
- The Comox Basin has yielded coking coal
- Produces predominantly thermal coal used on the west coast of North America
- One underground mine operated by Hillsborough Resources Limited
- Supports the community of Campbell River

Peace River Coalfields

- Major coal-producing region in British Columbia
- Production started in 1984 with the Quintette and Bullmoose open pit mines (past producers)
- Contains high-quality, bituminous coal used for steel making
- Four recently operating mines are now on care and maintenance.

East Kootenay Coalfields

- Main coal producing region in British Columbia
- Underground mining started in the late 1800s
- Produces high-quality, bituminous coal for steel making
- Teck Coal Limited operates five large open pit mines
- Supports the communities of Elkford, Fernie, and Sparwood