

# UK Coal Industry: Porter's Five Forces Analysis

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## Abstracts

UK coal consumption is expected to significantly exceed production in the coming years. This means that UK coal producers can sell every ton that they can produce and more, and provides them with a huge opportunity to profitably increase production. UK coal production has stabilized in recent years albeit at a fraction of former levels. However, there are hopes that a multi-billion pound investment in clean coal technology - specifically the building of leading-edge carbon capture and storage plants (CCS) could transform the industry. Revenue is forecast to increase by 5.1% in 2011-2012 due to higher production and higher prices. The industry's profit is expected to be about GBP 53.9 million.

Already the country's electricity generators are planning to build several coal-fired power stations utilizing CCS. The main drawback of burning coal to produce electricity is that it results in damaging carbon dioxide emissions which speed up climate change. The European Union carbon emissions trading scheme now puts a price on carbon for each ton emitted and should - in theory - move investment away from fossil fuels such as coal.

Although Scotland is home to a modest share of the United Kingdom's hard coal resources, it is the major producing region and accounts for 35% of coal production. Its large share of output reflects the concentration of relatively low cost, open-cast mines in Scotland.

In order to understand the profitability and the dynamics of competitive structure of the coal industry in the UK, Taiyou Research presents a Porter's Five Forces Analysis of the Coal Industry in the United Kingdom.

Michael Porter's Five Forces Model is one of the most effective analytical model for understanding and analyzing the competitive landscape in an industry. The model

analyzes the bargaining power of buyers and suppliers; the competitive rivalry in the industry; the threat of new entrants and the threat of substitutes for the particular industry – in this case, coal faces the threat of substitution from the various renewable energy sources that are fast becoming popular today.

In our report, apart from the Porter's Five Forces Model Analysis of the industry, we also analyze the basics of coal, including the various uses and types of coal, how coal is formed, and many other factors impacting the global coal industry.

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