

US Coal Industry: Porter's Five Forces Analysis

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Abstracts

Coal has been an energy source for hundreds of years in the United States. It has helped to provide many basic needs, from energy for domestic heating and cooking, to transportation for people, products, and raw materials, to energy for industrial applications and electricity generation.

Almost all coal produced in the US is used to make electricity. Coal also plays a key role in industries such as steel, cement and paper. US coal production totaled 1,084.4 million short tons last year. Wyoming continued to be the largest coal-producing state with 442.5 million short tons, 2.6% higher than the 2009 total of 431.1 million short tons). The demand for coal is dominated by its use as a fuel for power generation, in particular, metallurgical coal is experiencing a surge in interest as companies are scrambling to meet demand for steel overseas.

Coal is mined in 26 states in the US. Wyoming mines the largest amount of coal, followed by West Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Montana. Coal in the US is mainly found in three large regions: the Appalachian Coal Region, the Interior Coal Region, and the Western Coal Region (includes the Powder River Basin). As increasing amounts of US produced coal of all types and specifications is sold into the ever-expanding global marketplace, buying, selling and determining a price for each different type of coal becomes increasingly more complex.

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

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. We also provide a brief profile of the coal industry in the United States, looking at the market statistics, coal trade, coal reserves and coal resources.

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