

of value. Extraction of coal in western Canada totalled 25.6 million short tons (23 200 000 t) while the output of Nova Scotia and New Brunswick mines totalled 2.3 million short tons (2 100 000 t). Imports from the US reached 17.4 million short tons (15 800 000 t) up from the unusually low figure of 13.6 million short tons (12 300 000 t) in 1974.

About 30% of production, or 12.6 million short tons (11 400 000 t), was exported in 1975 with British Columbia and Alberta contributing approximately 97% of the export tonnage. Japan received 11.6 million short tons (10 500 000 t) or 92% of all exports. Spot shipments of coal were made to a growing list of countries including the US, France, Federal Republic of Germany, Denmark, Holland and the UK.

Canada's coal industry serves two principal types of markets: the production of thermal power and the manufacture of coke for the steel industry. The use of coal for thermal power generation has a promising potential particularly in Alberta, Saskatchewan, Ontario and British Columbia. Virtually all of Canada's coking coal is exported and competes in the international market.

In 1975 approximately 8.0 million short tons (7 300 000 t) of coking coal was converted to coke. Imports from the US provided roughly 90% of the coking coal used, with Canadian steel companies importing approximately 55% from captive mines in that country.

Coal used for thermal-electric power generation increased by 7% to 18.2 million short tons (16 500 000 t) in 1975. Domestic coal, mainly subbituminous coal in Alberta and lignite in Saskatchewan, supplied over 9 million short tons (8 200 000 t) to local power stations. Bituminous coal is used in small quantities for thermal power generation in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Ontario Hydro imported the remainder used in the thermal power industry.

Demand for coal by other Canadian industries reached 1.5 million short tons (1 400 000 t), while the demand for coal for space heating was approximately 300,000 short tons (272 000 t) in 1975.

British Columbia. Within British Columbia, coal mining is being conducted in the Crowsnest Pass region in the southeastern portion of the province.

Kaiser Resources Ltd., with two operating mines in the Crowsnest coal field, produced about 6.2 million short tons (5 600 000 t) of coking coal and 800,000 short tons (726 000 t) of oxidized coal in 1975. An expansion program that altered the capacity of its surface mining operation and a new contract allowed Kaiser to increase its commitments to Japan during 1975. A joint feasibility study between Kaiser and two Japanese companies on the development of a new hydraulic mine south of Kaiser's operations continued during the 1975 field season, and was expected to be completed in 1976.

The Fording Coal Limited mine near Elkford, about 40 miles (64 km) north of Sparwood, BC, produced approximately 3.2 million short tons (2 900 000 t) of coal in 1975. Fording ships almost all its production to Japan. In an effort to improve its clean coal yield Fording began work on modification of its preparation plant during 1975.

Byron Creek Collieries produced 350,000 short tons (318 000 t) of coal in 1975, 200,000 (181 000 t) of this going to Ontario Hydro, with other destinations being Manitoba and Japan.

Through 1976 studies were conducted in three areas of British Columbia on potential metallurgical and thermal coal developments. In northeastern British Columbia, these included marketing, transportation, socio-economic and feasibility studies at several locations with the prospects of metallurgical exports dependent on world demand conditions as well as production, transportation and other costs. Decisions on this development were expected in 1977. In southeastern British Columbia, European, Japanese and Canadian interests have been looking at the prospects of developing more capacity at four locations. BC Hydro and Power Authority was conducting studies into the feasibility of using the Hat Creek lignite deposits near Ashcroft for future power generation.