



U.S. monthly coal production increases

U.S. coal production in July totaled 88.9 million short tons, the highest level since August 2012, according to preliminary data from the U.S. Energy Information Administration. Total production during July 2013 was up 3 percent from the previous July's output.

The turnaround comes as power plants are using more coal to generate electricity, reflecting higher electricity demand....and the fact that coal prices this year are more competitive with higher-priced natural gas.

U.S. coal consumption was almost 9 percent higher during the first half of 2013 compared to the same period last year.

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