



# ***Starting Points Series***

## **1. Statistics**

### **Introduction**

Statistics on coal mining are available from the 1800s when the Reports of Inspectors of Mines were produced. These reported in the main on the serious accidents and fatalities in the industry, but often included information on employment, the number of working collieries, and the number of horses underground for each of the different coal mining regions in Great Britain.

After nationalisation in 1947, when all the private mines over a certain size were taken over by the National Coal Board (NCB), the statistics were structured and comprehensive for the country.

Since privatisation in 1995 the Department of Trade and Industry has produced statistics on the coal industry, as well as UK Coal, the main private company still mining coal today.

### **Sources in the Museum Library**

#### **Annual Reports**

The annual reports published by the NCB and British Coal during the period from 1947 until 1995. They give an overview for preceding years and details of the current year on employment, output, profit and loss, number of collieries and similar management information.

#### **History of the British Coal Industry (6 volumes including a comprehensive bibliography)**

This is a major source of information on the coal industry from earliest times until 1982. They are a useful source as they contain many summary tables on different topics, such as output, employment, earnings, trade figures, and consumption.

#### **Ministry of Fuel and Power Statistical Digest 1945-7 and 1954-1959**

#### **Digest of UK energy statistics 2000**

#### **Reports of the Inspectors of Mines**

The annual reports of the Inspectors of Mines, published by the Health and Safety Executive in recent years, have a wide range of statistics not only on fatalities underground but also, for example, the number of horses employed, output figures, number of safety lamps in use, or number of coal cutters installed.

### **Other sources to try**

UK coal [www.rjb.co.uk](http://www.rjb.co.uk)

The Coal Authority [www.coal.gov.uk](http://www.coal.gov.uk)

Department of Trade and Industry [www.dti.gov.uk](http://www.dti.gov.uk)

## Interesting facts

	Number of working collieries in UK	Number of people employed in 000's in UK	Output in million of tons in UK (including licensed and opencast)
1900	3384	780	225
1910	3253	1049	264
1920	2851	1248	229
1930	2328	914	243
1944*	1634	710	192
1947	958	704	200
1950	901	691	220
1955	850	699	225
1960	698	602	197
1965	483	456	186
1970	292	287	145
1975	241	247	126
1980	211	230	127
1985	133	138	105
1990	65	57	92
1995	65	15	51
2000	28	8	31
2004	19	6	27

\*no figures for 1940 due to the war

**Source:**

1900-1944 Reports of the Chief Inspector of Mines

1947-1990 NCB/BCC figures

1990- 2004 Coal Authority figures