

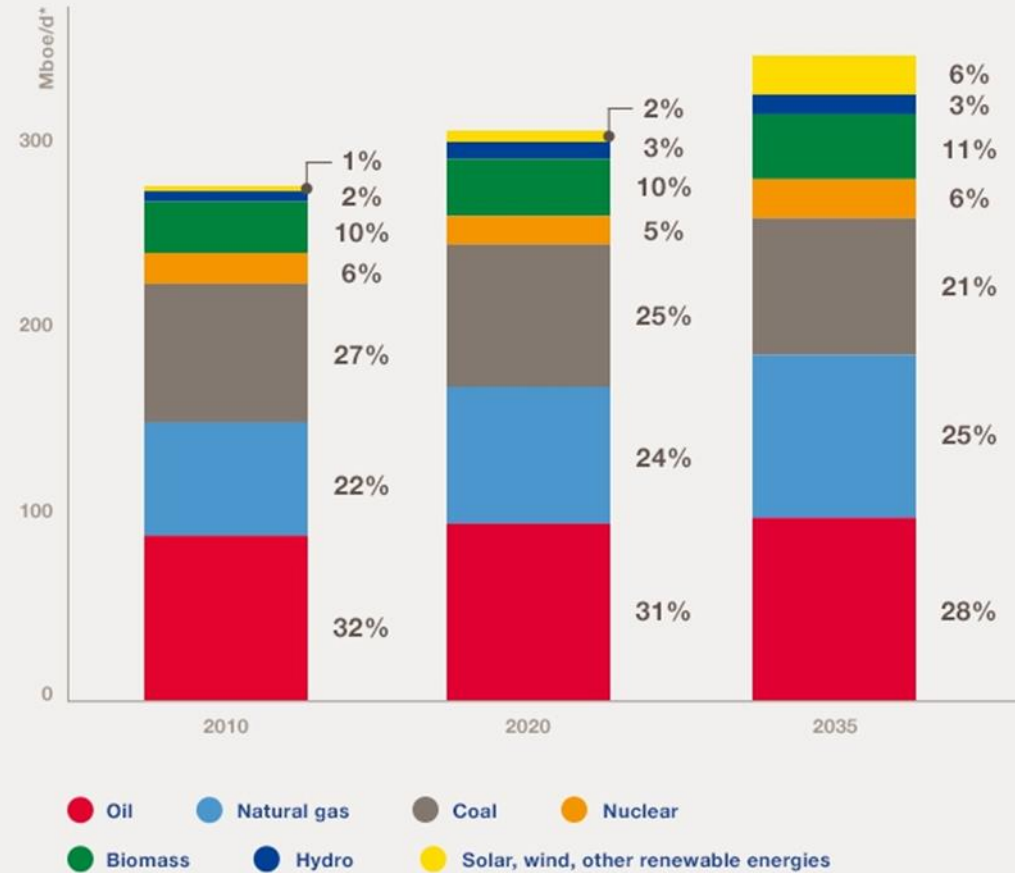
# Coal and Nuclear Energy

Martin Jirušek, PhD.

# Context – use of coal on the global scale

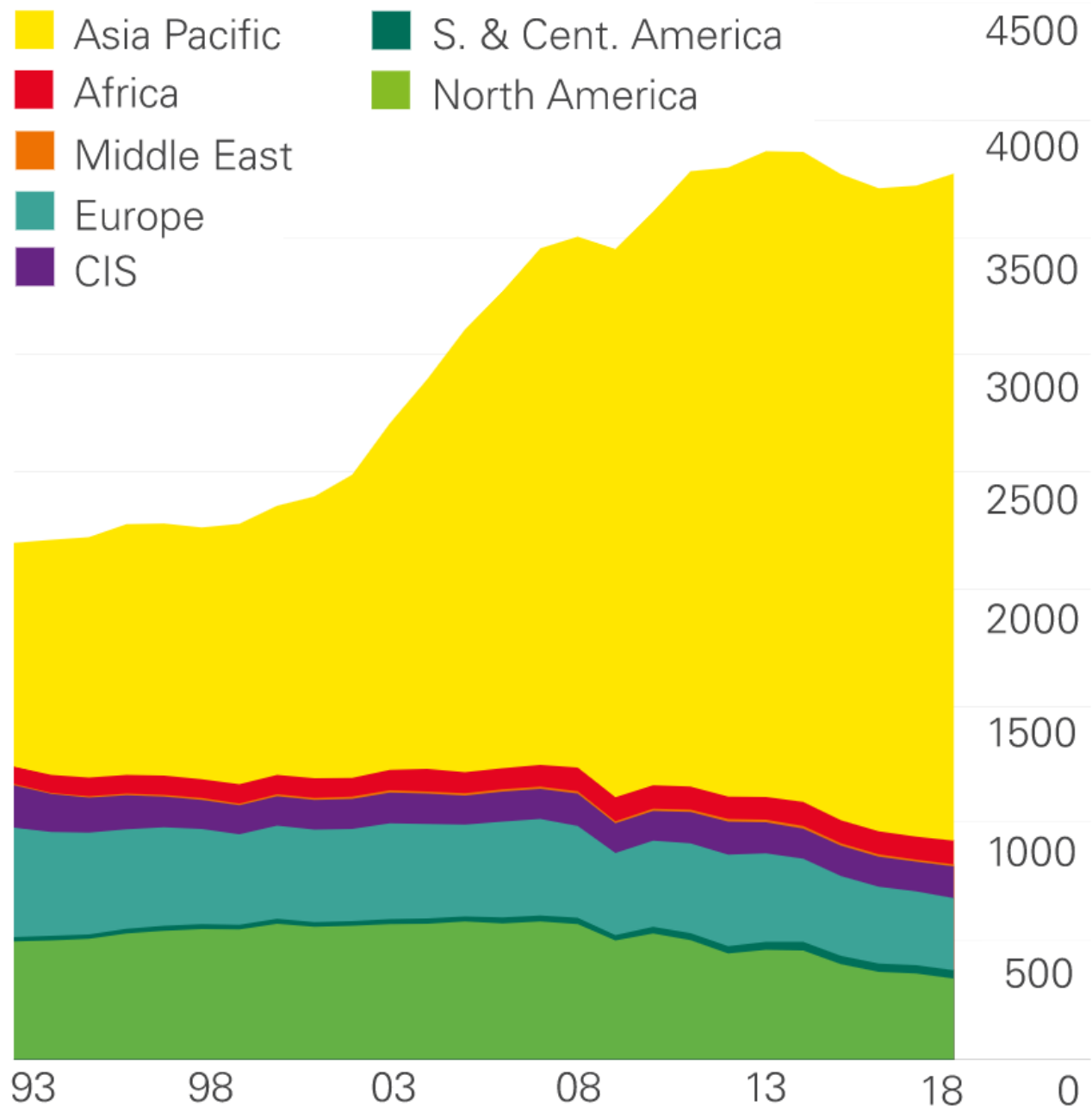
- 27% in global energy mix
- 40% of electricity
- 68% of steel produced
- Major source that has been offsetting the rising energy demand
- Coal is available in 80 countries worldwide
- 860 billion tonnes of worldwide proven reserves
- > 17 000 Gt of resources

# WORLD PRIMARY ENERGY MIX (2035 FORECAST)



\*Million barrels of oil equivalent per day

Source: Total estimates



# Coal – a global picture

- Drop of coal use in 2015 – 2016, slight increase in 2017 & 2018
- Tale of two worlds
- Countries poised to tackle pollution, squeezing coal out of the mix
  - China (bid to improve air quality)
  - Europe (e.g. UK - carbon price)
  - North America (e.g. Canada, US - natural gas)
- Countries where demand remains strong – source of cheap electricity addressing demand growth
  - India
  - Pakistan
  - SE Asia
- Consumption expected to remain stable or increase slightly as a result of development in the 2nd group
- Coal prices to remain volatile

# Coal – reserves, producers, consumers & importers

## Biggest coal reserves

- USA 237 Bt
- Russia 157 Bt
- China 114 Bt
- Australia 76 Bt

## Top coal producers

- China
- USA - 13% of world total
- India
- Australia
- Indonesia

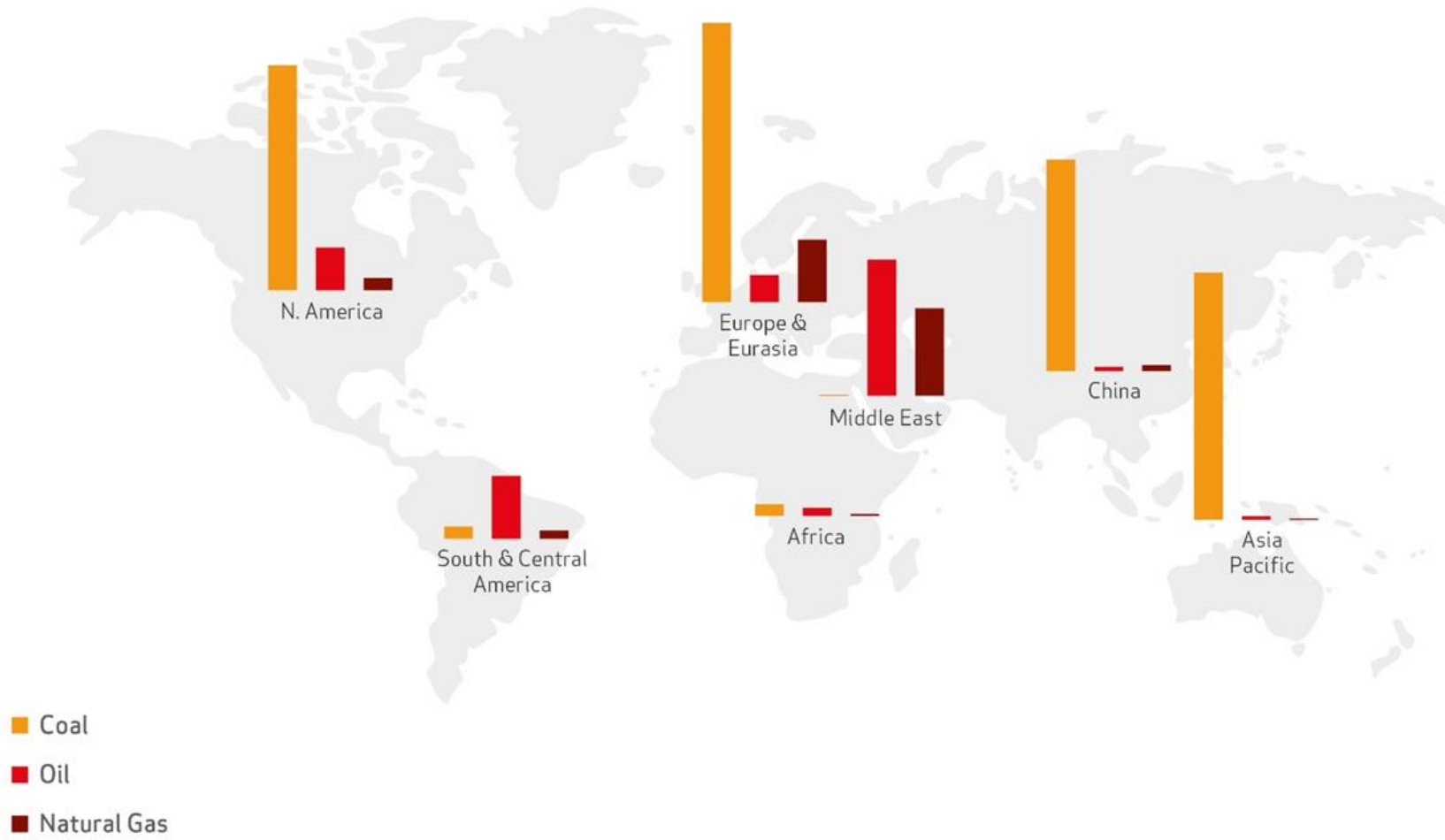
## Biggest coal consumers

- China
- USA (11%)
- India
- Japan

## Biggest coal importers

- China
- India
- Japan
- S. Korea

## Location of the world's main fossil fuel reserves (Mtoe)



Source: BP Statistical Review of World Energy 2017 and WCA analysis 2017

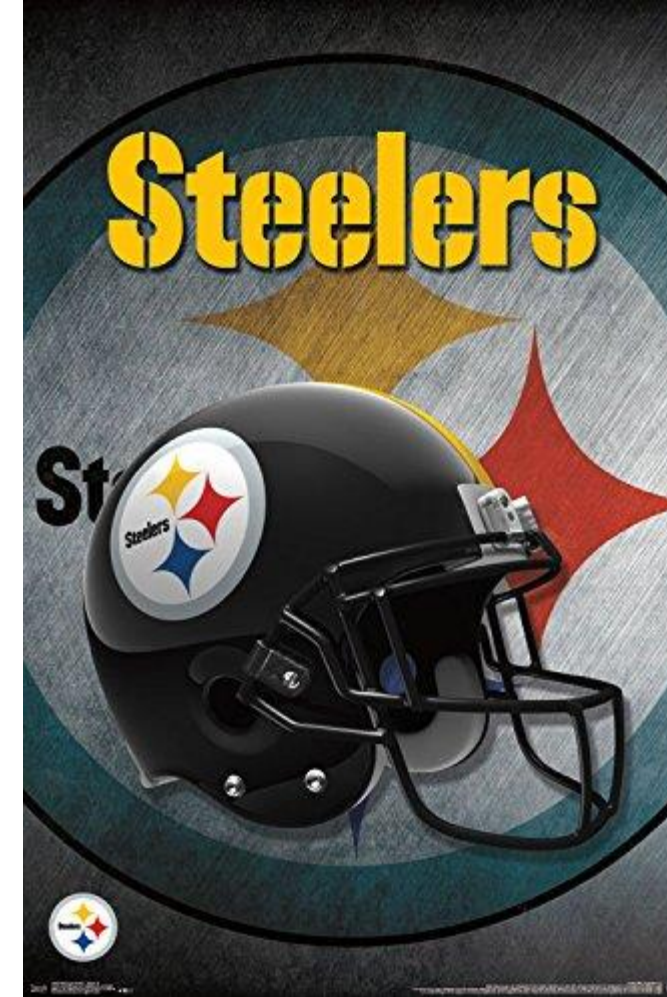
# Coal and the US – a history

- Coal use surged during the industrial revolution, replaced wood
- Coal was originally imported from UK
- Birth of the coal industry on the Eastern coast
  - quality black coal from Pennsylvania
- Railroads played key role (again)
- The civil war accelerated use of coal, coal (coke) replaced charcoal in steel furnaces (Pennsylvania)
- Key role in colonization of Western territories – transport and use of railroads
- Key role for industry and transportation until WWII
- Electricity generation as the main consumer came later



# Coal and the US – a history

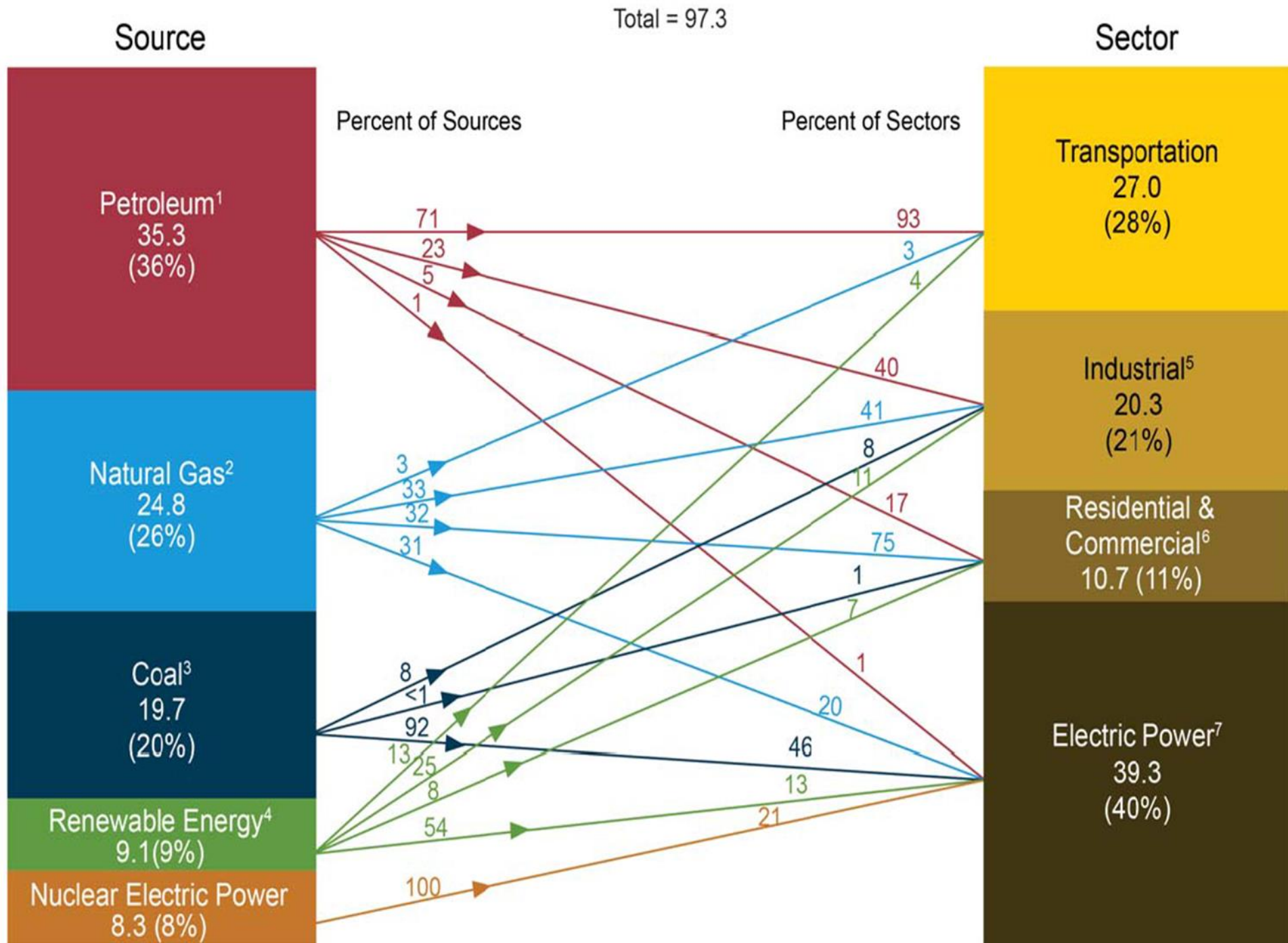
- Decline in coal use started after the WWI
  - European coal mines re-opened
  - economic crisis hit US industry hard
- WWII partially revived the coal use
- Industry switched to gas and (partially) oil, so did transportation
- Another increase came with the oil shocks
- Today, coal still among the mainsources for power generation
  - decline in recent years (increase of gas)











# US electricity generation by source

## 2013 - 2015

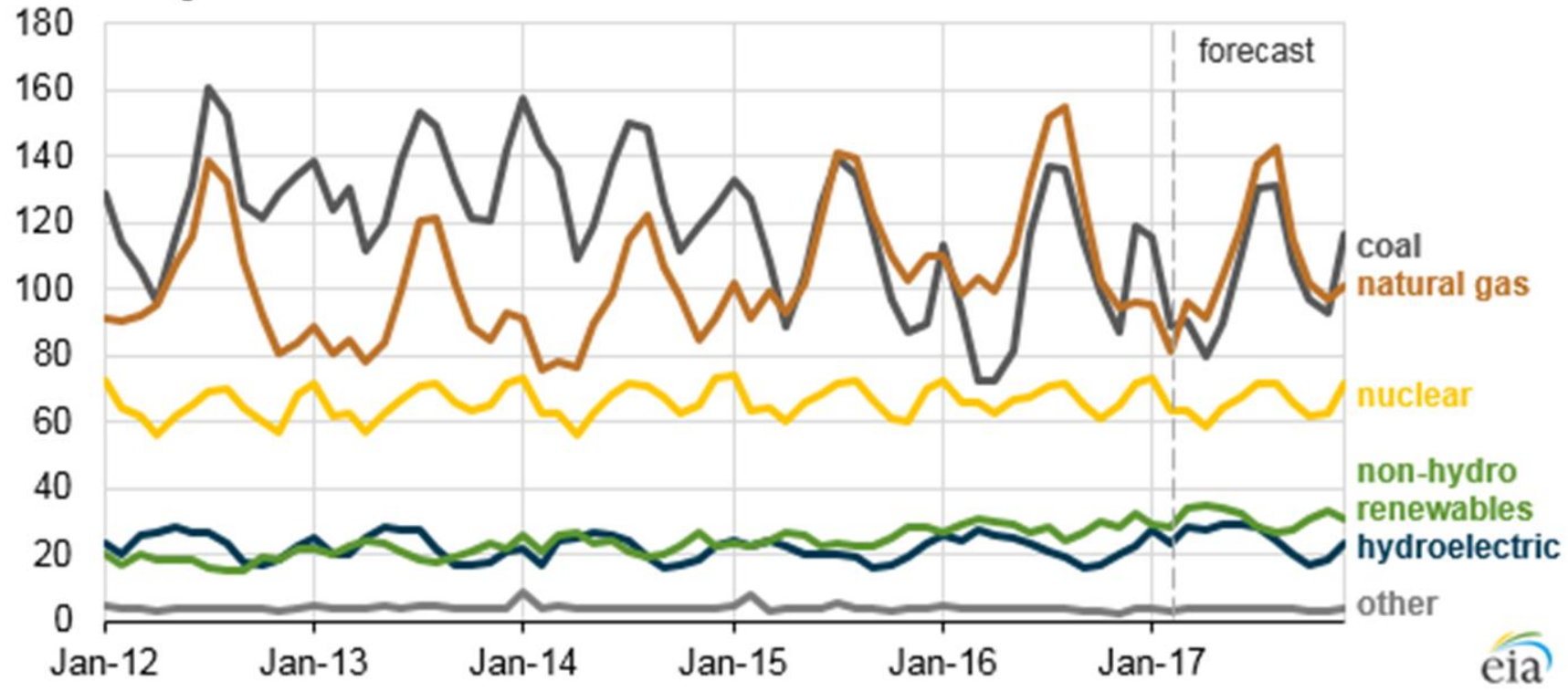
- Coal 39%
- Natural gas 27%
- Nuclear 19%
- Hydropower 6%
- Biomass 1.7%
- Geothermal 0.4%
- Solar 0.4%
- Wind 4.4%
- Oil 1%
- Other gases <1%

## 2018

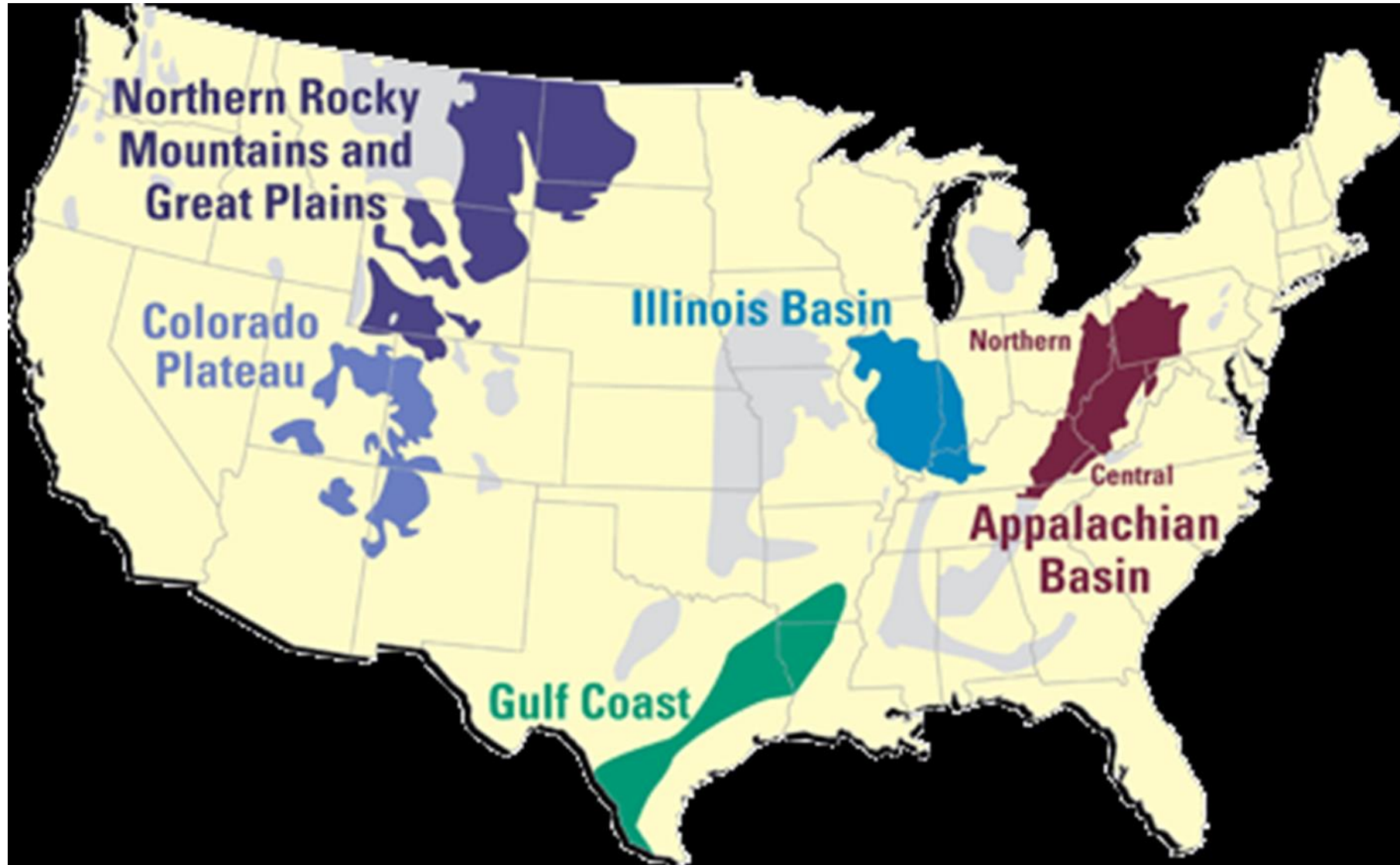
- Natural gas 35,2%
- Coal 30.4%
- Nuclear 19,4%
- Hydropower 7%
- Wind 6.5%
- Biomass 1.4%
- Solar 1.5%
- Geothermal 0.4%
- Petroleum 0.6%
- Other gases 0.3%

# Power generation by source

Monthly U.S. electricity generation by source (Jan 2012 - Dec 2017)  
million megawatthours



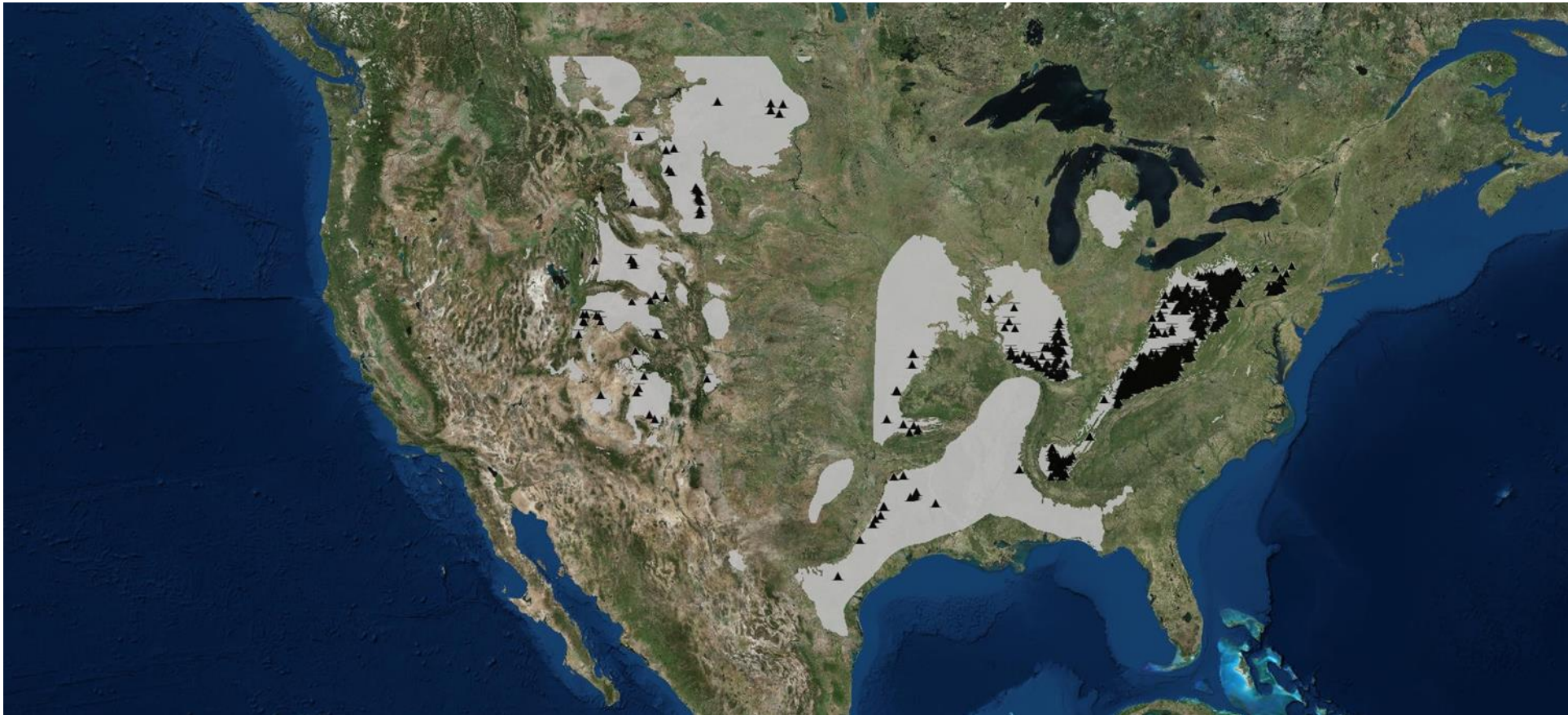
# Main coal plays





# Coal mines in the US

- Coal mines located in 25 states, mostly in Wyoming, Virginia, Kentucky, Pennsylvania, Texas
- Biggest reserves in Wyoming (with the biggest potential to increase production)





# North Antelope, Wyoming

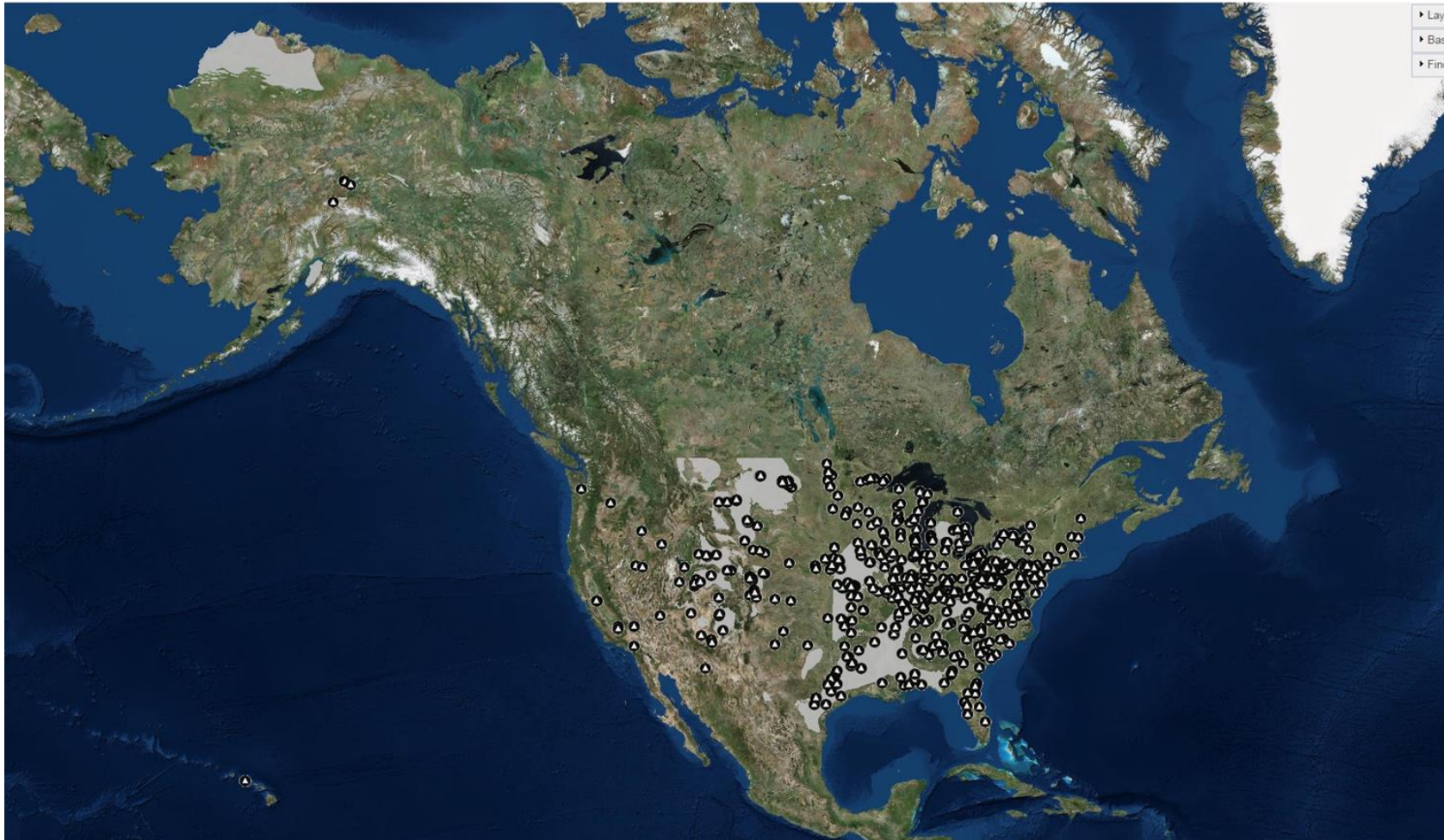
- The biggest open cast mine in the world
- 1,8 bn. tonnes since its opening
- 2,4 bn tonnes to go





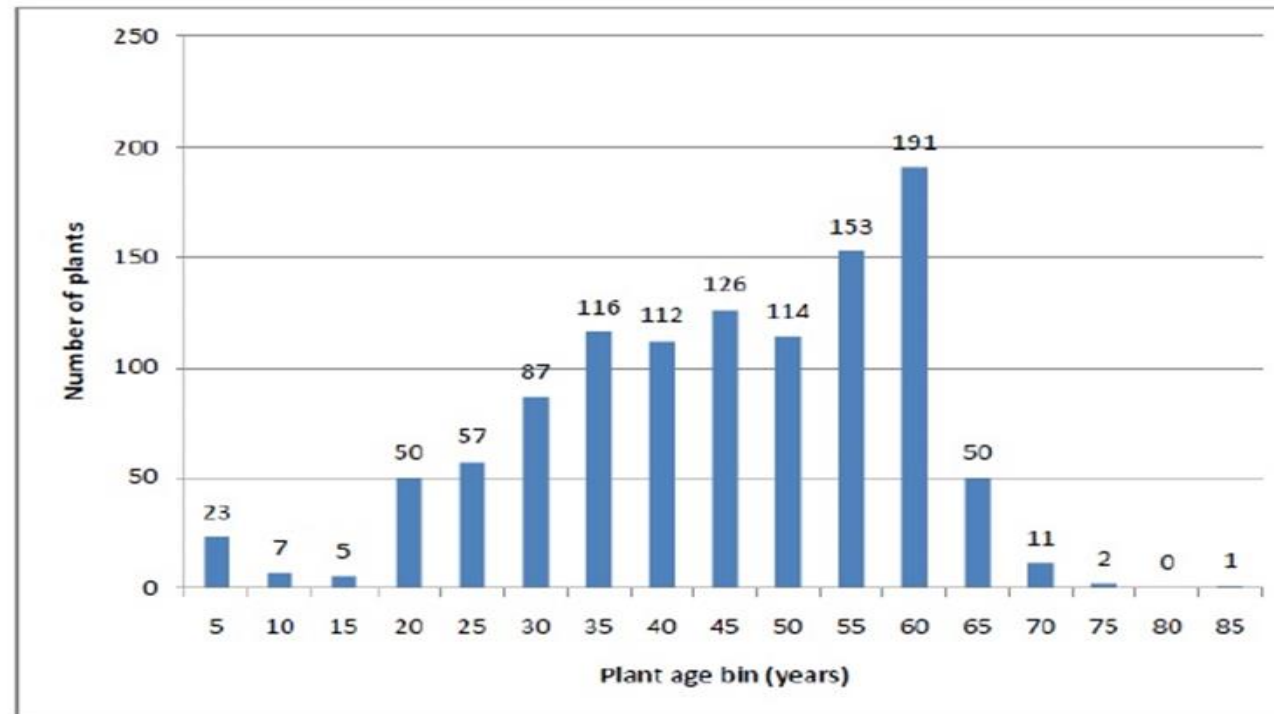
# Coal power plants in the US

- Close to the main centres of consumption - the economy of coal use becomes unfavourable with longer distances



# Production - trends

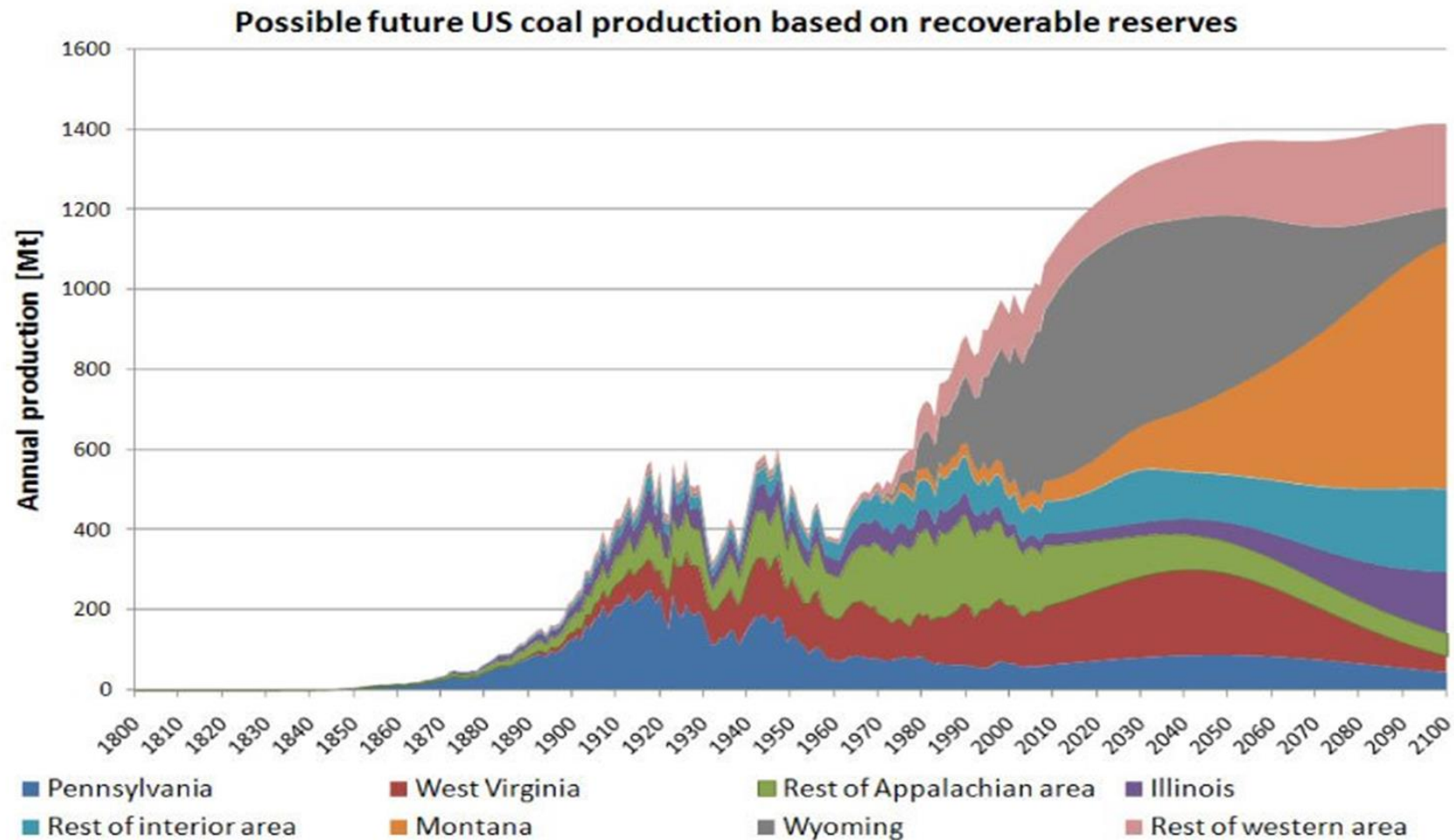
- Production stagnates or decreases
- Electricity generation increases its share, ageing PPs
  - rather short- to mid-term lived trend (power plants are getting old)



Source: "Clean Energy Standards: State and Federal Policy Options and Implications," Policy Discussion Paper, Regulatory Assistance Project and The Center for Climate and Energy Solutions, November 2011

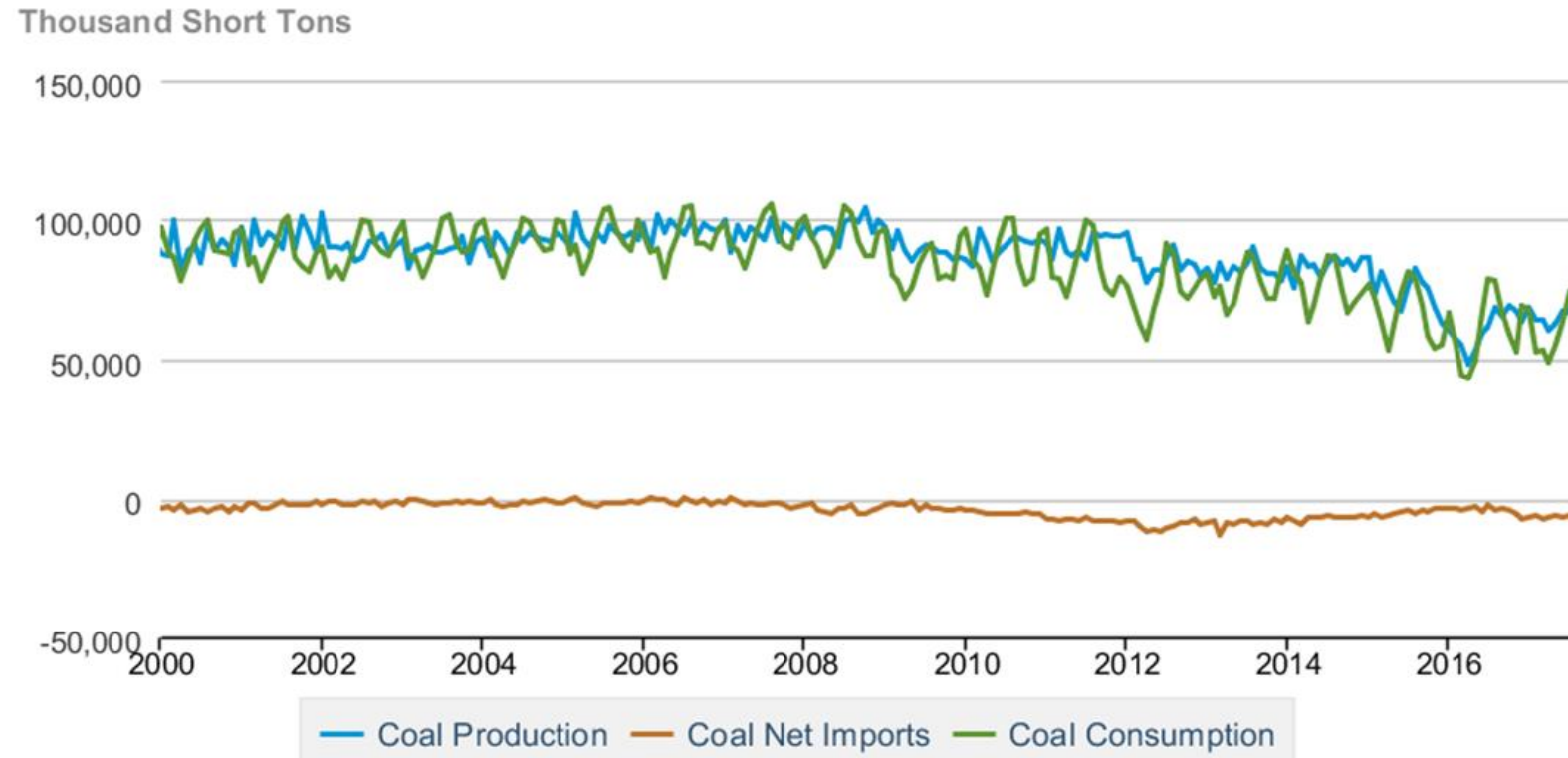
# Predictions...

- Wyoming as potentially the biggest producer in future if the coal use continues...



# Reality...

**Table 6.1 Coal Overview**



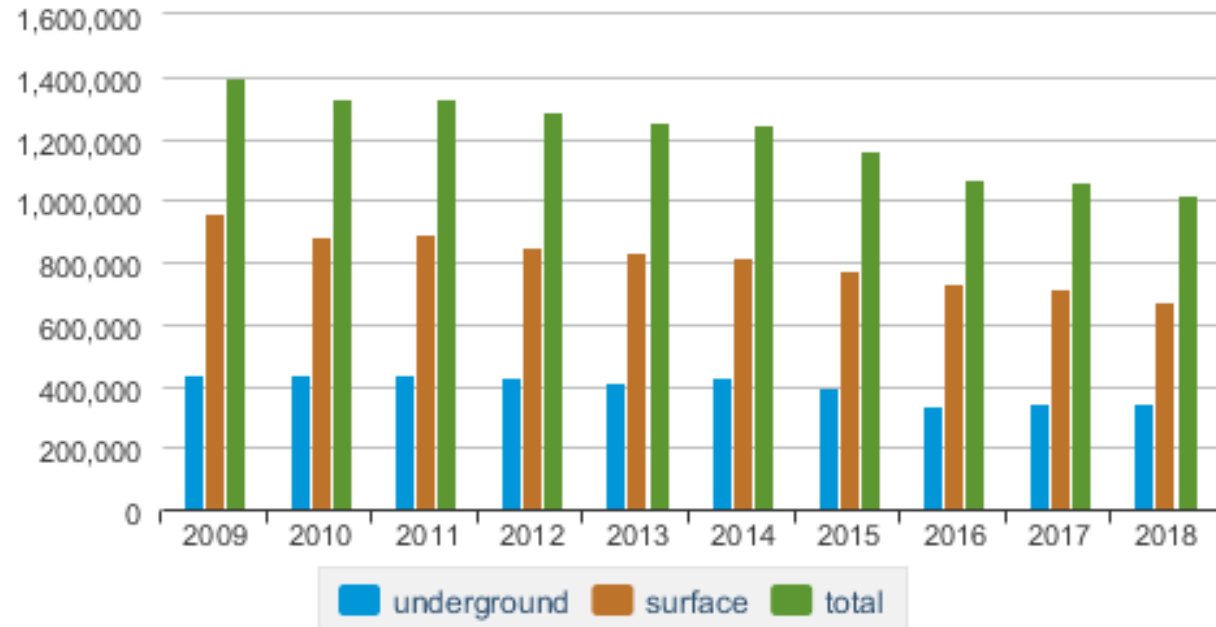
# Contemporary trends

- Abundance of cheap gas, economic crisis, environmental issues
  - abundance of coal
  - US coal forced to seek new markets
- Worldwide abundance, slowing economy (mostly in SE Asia) - US coal exports decreased (20% annually) as well production (20% since 2008)
- Cheap coal is putting a pressure on US producers (Columbia, Indonesia)
- US still a net exporter though
- Peak of imports in 2007, before the crisis
- 2019 - the lowest coal production since late 1970s (ca. 10% yearly decline and counting)



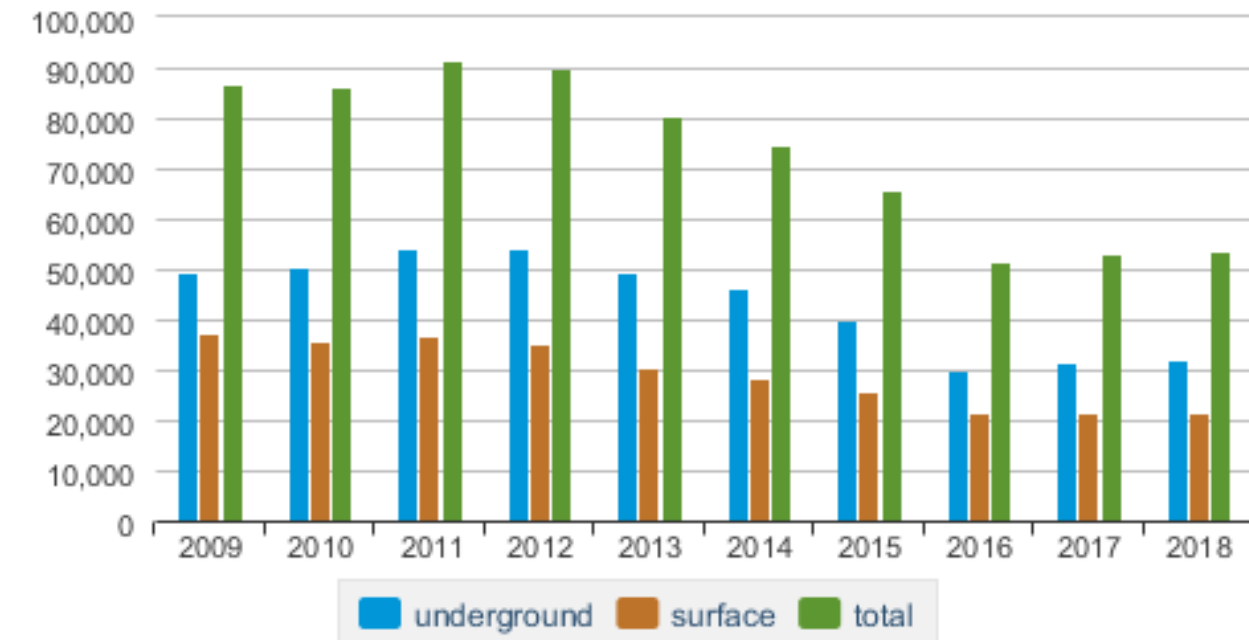
### Productive capacity of coal mines by mine type, 2009–18

thousand short tons



### Average number of employees by mine type, 2009–18

employees



eia Source: Annual Coal Report Table 11.

eia Source: Annual Coal Report Table 18.

# Contemporary trends

- Trump’s vows to revive the coal industry
  - limited impact
  - industry’s prospects remain weak
  - the market beats the administration’s plans
  - Support for sources (guaranteed prices, grid operators obliged to buy electricity from designated sources) that can be stockpiled (i.e. coal and nuclear)
  
- Power generation is shifting to natural gas and renewables
  - no significant shift despite alleviated environmental policies
  - e.g. on waste water from mines
  - “Trump Can’t Save Coal Country” (see IS)





# Coal in the US energy sector and on the global scale

- Lambert Point docks, Norfolk, Virginia – coal terminal





# World's biggest...

- Increase in steam coal production
- Coking coal stagnates
- SE Asia to fuel the demand
- US & Canada dropped out of the top exporters

| TOP COAL IMPORTERS (2016) | Total of which | Steam  | Coking |
|---------------------------|----------------|--------|--------|
| PR China                  | 256 Mt         | 197 Mt | 59 Mt  |
| India                     | 200 Mt         | 152 Mt | 48 Mt  |
| Japan                     | 189 Mt         | 138 Mt | 51 Mt  |
| South Korea               | 134 Mt         | 99 Mt  | 35 Mt  |
| Taiwan                    | 66 Mt          | 59Mt   | 7 Mt   |

| TOP COAL EXPORTERS | Total coal exported | Steam | Coking |
|--------------------|---------------------|-------|--------|
| Australia          | 389                 | 201   | 188    |
| Indonesia          | 370                 | 369   | 1      |
| Russia             | 171                 | 149   | 22     |
| Colombia           | 83                  | 82    | 1      |
| South Africa       | 76                  | 75    | 1      |

# Unwanted coal?

- Abundance of cheap natural gas (quiet revolution), massive increase of RES
  - RES development spurred by preferential treatment (grid operators), incentives and low production costs
- Tightening environmental measures (Obama's war on coal)
  - Clean Power Plan aimed on cutting CO2 pollution generated by PPs – aimed at coal PPs
  - criticized by Trump's administration - repealed and replaced by (much milder) Affordable Clean Energy rule (6/2019)
  - softened vehicle efficiency standards (light, medium and also heavy-duty)
  - Relaxed restrictions on methane (O&G producers to regulate themselves) 3 ways of cutting CO2 according to CCP – efficiency, substituting gas for coal, substituting RES for hydrocarbons
- Coordinating bodies: DoE, FERC

# Unwanted coal?

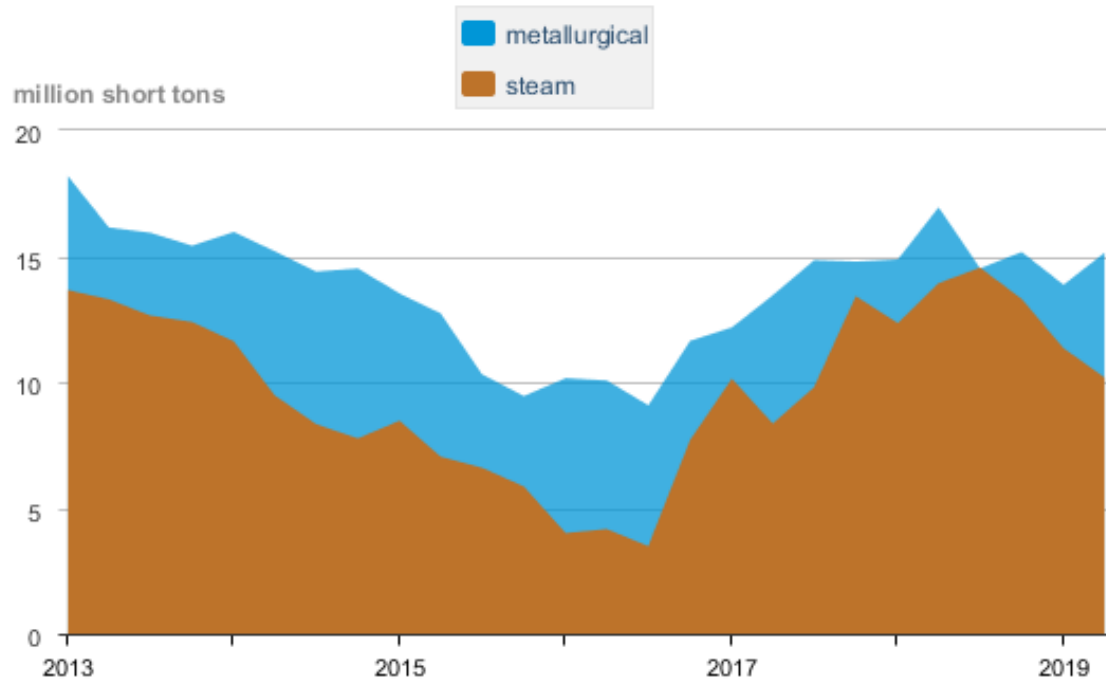
- Tightening measures and less favourable economy of coal-based sources is squeezing coal out of the market and also has wider consequences for other technologies (e.g. CCS)
- Combined-cycle power plants (coal + gas) – shift to gas-based production compared to a situation a decade ago
- **Coal-fired PPs**
  - Construction costs, environmental restrictions (increasing costs)
  - Unstable electricity prices – lower predictability of investment
  - More competitive sources

# Can export be the cure?

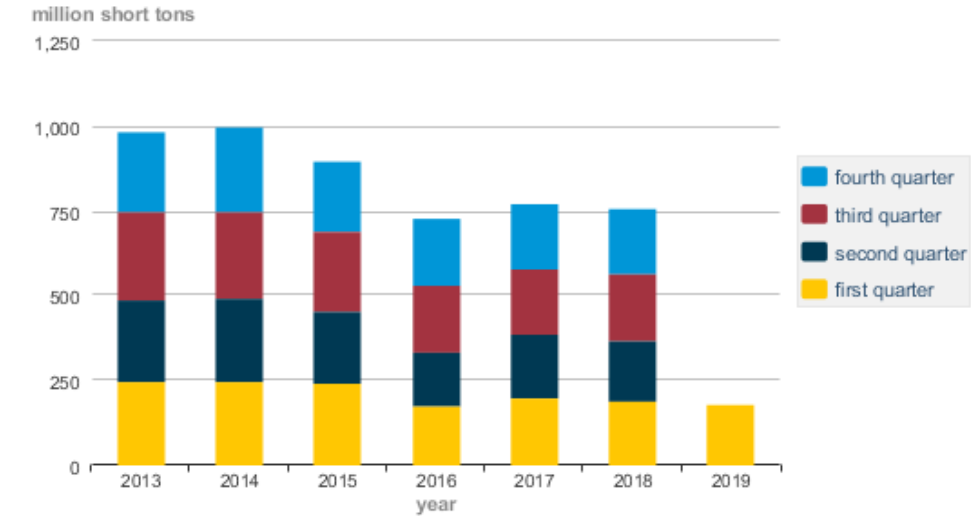
- Europe in the lead in imports until 2016
  - simplified: metallurgical- Europe, steam – Asia
- Consumption is predicted to rise out of the OECD countries (SE Asia)
- US coal exports – short- to mid-term lived trend
  - GER (20% US) & UK, NED, ITA importing US hard coal
- European environmental goals about to aggravate the position of US coal
- Coking coal demand predicted to be stable
- Exporting emissions/carbon leakage?

# Can export be the cure?

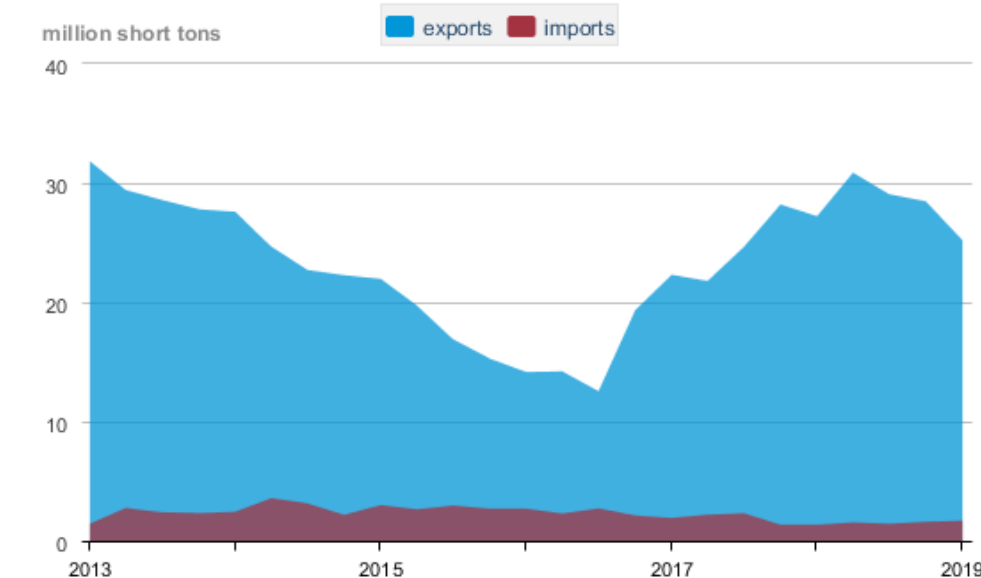
Quarterly U.S. steam and metallurgical coal exports, 2013-2019



Quarterly U.S. coal production, 2013-2019



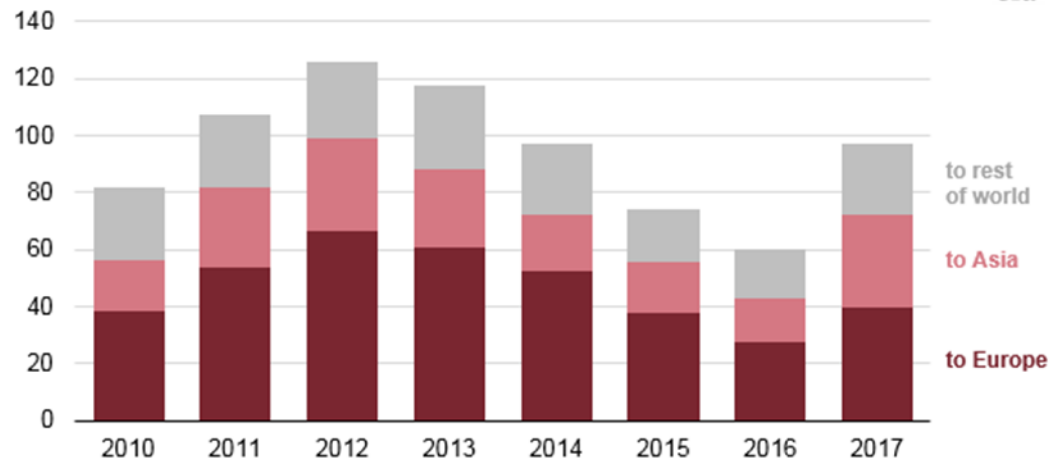
Quarterly U.S. coal exports and imports, 2013-2019



# Can export be the cure?

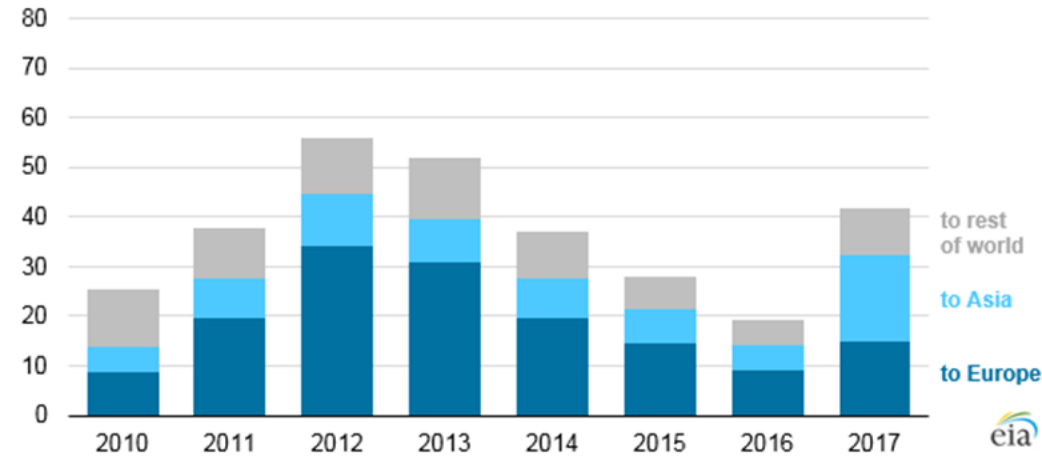
U.S. coal exports by destination (2010-2017)

million short tons



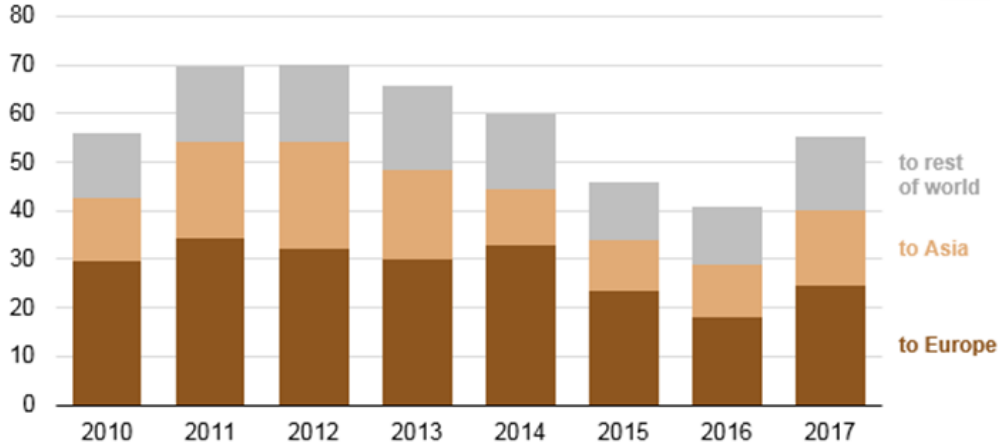
U.S. steam coal exports by destination (2010-2017)

million short tons



U.S. metallurgical coal exports by destination (2010-2017)

million short tons



# Can export be the cure?

Top destinations for US coal (metallurgical)

- Japan
- Brazil
- Ukraine
- Canada
- India
- South Korea

Top destinations for US coal (steam)

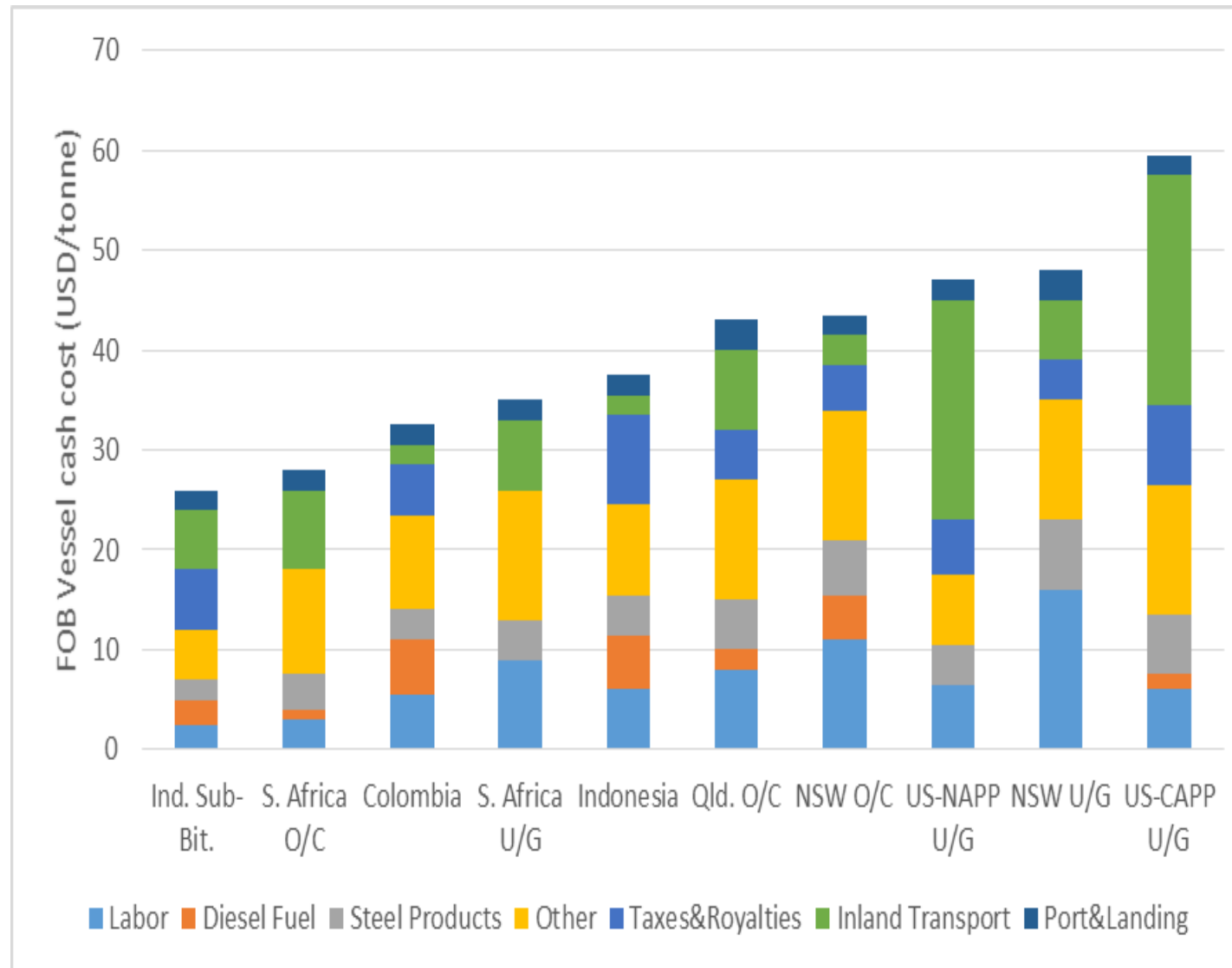
- S. Korea
- India
- Japan

# Can export be the cure?

- Asian consumers as the future of coal consumption
- Importance of costs that increase the selling price
  - production, inland transport, taxes,... (Free-on-Board - FOB)
  - increasing production costs (no more 'easy coal')
  - high costs of inland transport
  - production is set to decline
- Long distance to major consumers compared to Indonesia and Australia
- S American coal has more favourable economy and is pushing to US markets



# FOB costs: Comparison

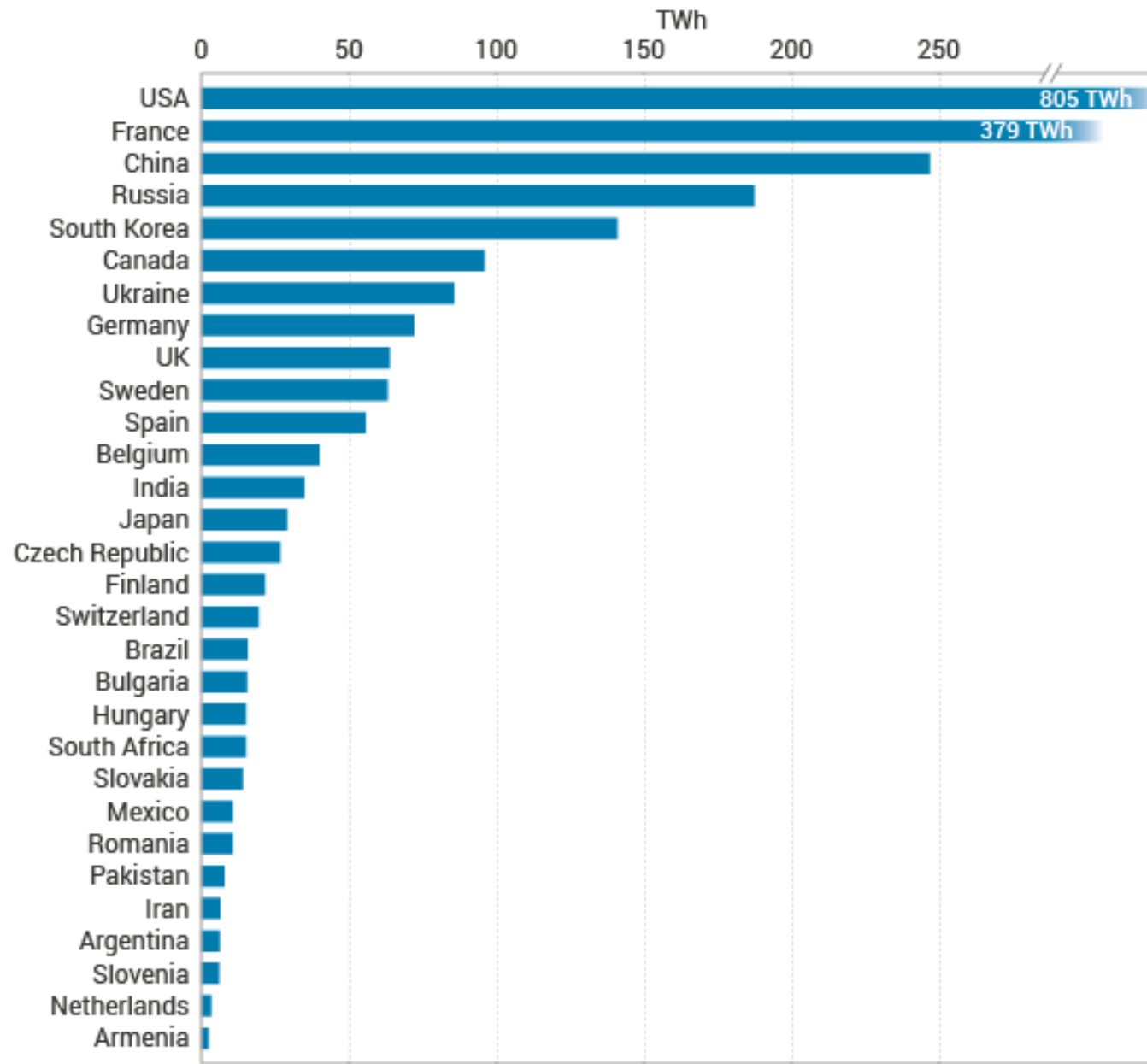


# Nuclear energy

- US is the world's biggest nuclear-based electricity producer (30% of world's production)
- 20% of produced electricity
- 98 reactors in 30 states, 2 under construction
- Operated by 30 different companies
- Majority built between 1967 – 1990
  - 1953 „Atoms for Peace“
  - influence of the project Independence
  - BWR & PWR reactors
- Key role of private investments
- Chicago Pile 1 – 1st reactor (1942, Uni. of Chicago)
- Part of the Manhattan Project
- Atoms for Peace – D. Eisenhower
  - redirected the effort towards peaceful utilization of atomic energy







Source: IAEA PRIS Database



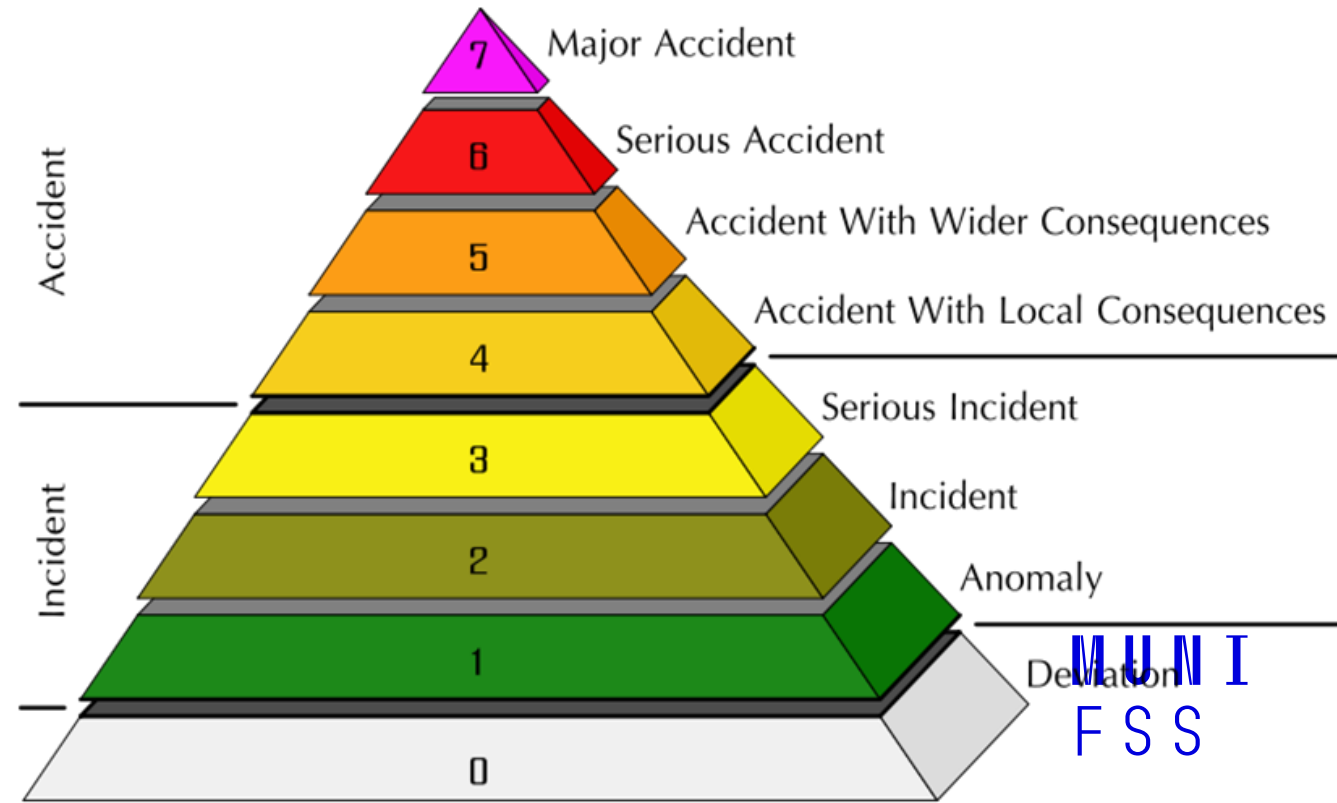
# Nuclear sector – history

- US as a pioneer of research and use of nuclear fission
- Used in military – submarines and ships (development of PWR)
- Construction boom in 1960s & 1970s
- Advantage of regulated electricity market + state-owned utilities – financing was secured
  - Consumers payed the costs
- Deregulation accelerated in 1990s (EP Act of 1992)
- 1st commercially operated NPP – Shippingport, PA – 1957



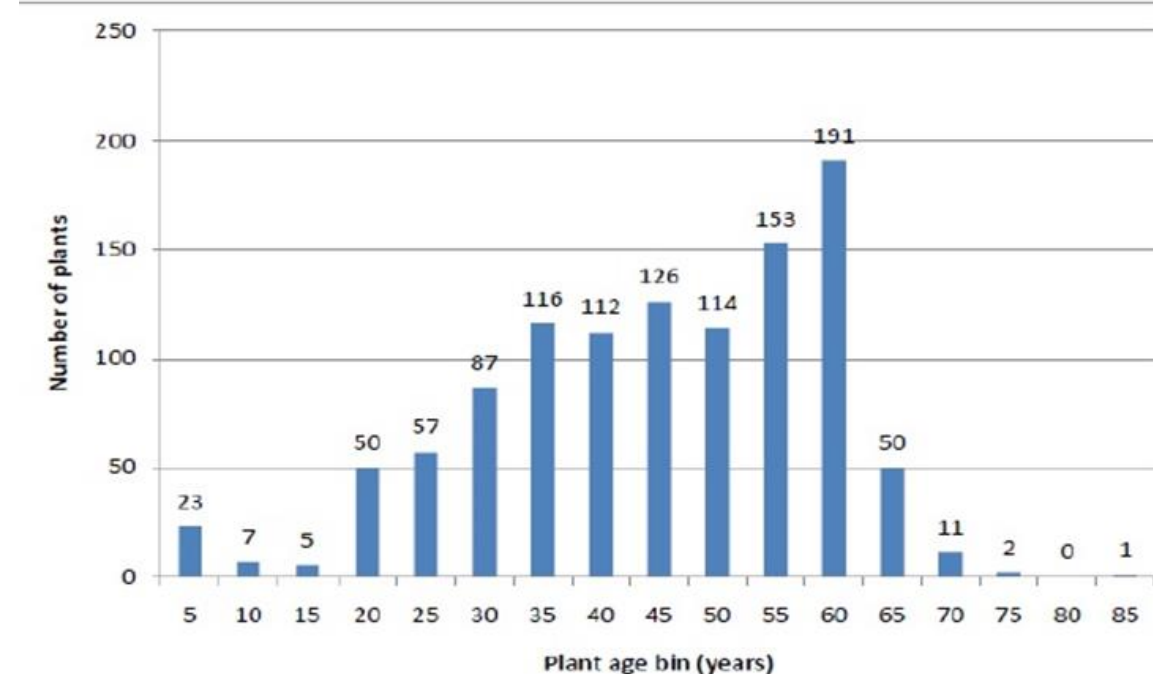
# Three Mile Island

- A major setback for the industry
- 28.3.1979 – cooling section malfunction – partial meltdown of the core
- Level 5 accident of the INES scale



# Trends in the Sector

- No new projects between 1977-2013
  - economy of nuclear sources (compared to e.g. gas PPs)
  - increasing fixed costs (construction, insurance,...)
  - tightening safety measures (after TMI)
- Ageing PPs (nuclear and coal) – need investments
- NPPs life can be extended up to 60 years
- Sector is heterogenous and commercially driven
  - undermines planning
- **Energy Policy Act of 2005**
  - tax reliefs for newly installed units, state guarantees for loans and decommissioning



# Trends in the Sector

- Fixed vs. Variable costs – problems of financing of the construction vs. cheap fuel and operation
- Cheap gas and RES making the NPPs' economy unfavourable
- Ageing NPPs can theoretically be operated up to 80 years – 40 years life cycle was calculated as a life-span needed to repay the initial costs and with regard to the lifetime of the reactor vessel
- Gas-fired PPs – relatively lower investment risk given the lower initial costs
- EP Act of 2005 – substantial investment incentives for the nuclear sector – applications for new projects piled up



# Trends in the sector

- Government's long-term (since the late 1990s) efforts to spur new projects
  - Conducted by DoE (Nuclear Power 2010, NE Research Initiative, Plant ageing, Generation IV,....)
- Problematic economy of the sector
  - low prices and uncertain return of initial costs (up to 13 reactors are considered as uneconomical and poised to close even before the end of their life expectancy)
  - deregulated market is not able to guarantee return of costs within the life-cycle of a power plant
  - rise of RES and gas – lower initial costs and more favourable economy
  - Gas-based electricity price so low that it possesses even bigger threat to nuclear (and coal) than RES
- 3/2017 - Westinghouse filed for bankruptcy reorganization
- Higher taxation of CO2 emitting sources would help
- Given the current situation, operators are inclined to rather close the PP than to upgrade it

