

February 2018

# Northern Ireland Annual Coal Inquiry

Geographical Area: Northern Ireland  
Theme: Economy  
Frequency: Annual

## Key Points

- In 2017, 1.5 million tonnes of coal and other solid fuels were shipped into Northern Ireland through the four main ports. This is 11% less than the 1.7 million tonnes imported in 2016.
- A greater proportion of coal and other solid fuels was imported for domestic or industrial use (59%) than for the generation of electricity (41%) in 2017.
- The amount of coal and solid fuels imported in 2017 was just over half that imported in 1995 (2.8 million tonnes), but still 40% above the lowest recorded (1.1 million tonnes) in 2009.
- From the start of this series in 1988 until 1993, more coal and solid fuels were imported annually for domestic or industrial use than for the generation of electricity, however, between 1995 and 2007, the reverse was true. Since 2008, the main reason for import has been interchangeable.

## Notes

The Annual Coal Inquiry collects information on all coal and other solid fuels shipped into Northern Ireland each year and the purpose for which it was imported: for domestic or industrial use, or for the generation of electricity. It covers all types of solid fuels including coal, anthracite, lignite, coke and manufactured smokeless fuels. Figures are inclusive of all sources of coal shipped (bulk cargo and containerised) to Northern Ireland including cross channel and foreign imports.

The information is obtained by surveying all coal importing ports in Northern Ireland annually (in January to collect data for the previous year). This is a voluntary census and the response rate for 2017 was 100 per cent.

The latest publication presents statistics for the years 1988 to 2017. Splits for 'Domestic Use' and 'Industrial Use' are available up until 2014.

## For further information contact:

Steven Roberts  
Economic & Labour Market Statistics Branch  
Colby House  
Stranmillis Court  
Belfast  
BT9 5RR

**Tel:** (028) 9052 9897

**Email:** [steven.roberts@nisra.gov.uk](mailto:steven.roberts@nisra.gov.uk)

**Web:** [NI Annual Coal Inquiry](#)

**Twitter:** [@ELMSNISRA](#)