

Domestic coal production

China's coal deposits are widely dispersed, with more coal in the west and north and less in the east and south. The areas to the north of the Kunlun mountain range, the Qinling mountain range and the Dabie mountain range have more than 90% of China's coal deposits, with deposits concentrated in Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, Shaanxi and Ningxia. Along with an increase in coal demand, the pace of geological exploration for coal has quickened, and there's been an increase in the discovery large scale coal rich areas. By the end of 2008, an investigation found China's remaining coal reserves to be 1.25 trillion tons of which 330 billion tons, 920 billion tons, and 170 billion tons.

Trajectory 1

In this scenario, China continues to follow a policy of coal self-sufficiency and that the composition of energy consumption does not see any clear improvements. China's coal consumption needs are met by its coal production output. In 2020, China mines 4.6 billion tons of coal, in 2030 this reaches 5.4 billion tons and it continues to rise until in 2050 6 billion tons of coal are mined.

Trajectory 2

In this scenario, during 2010-2020 China's coal-rich areas establish large scale coal production bases. In 2020, China mines 4.5 billion tons of coal and in 2030, China mines 5.3 billion tons of coal. After this coal production stabilises due to environmental restrictions.

Trajectory 3

In this scenario, with the rapid development of coal resources 4.5 billion tons of coal are mined in 2020, but the costs of mining coal see a continuous rise. In 2030, 4.9 billion tons of coal are mined, after which production starts to decline. In 2050, the amount of coal mined drops to 4.7 billion tons of coal.

Trajectory 4

In this scenario, China starts to implement its strategy for controlling production of coal. In 2020 4 billion tons coal is mined, rising to 4.2 billion tons in 2030. After 2030, the composition of China's energy consumption sees continuous optimisation, with the proportion of energy produced by coal gradually declining. The amount of coal mined also decreases to 2.9 billion tons of coal in 2050.