

Strengthening America's Infrastructure

METALLURGICAL COAL

Metallurgical coal, also known as coking coal, is used to produce coke, an integral component used in steelmaking. Steel is essential for building the critical infrastructure and the products that make our quality of life possible.

Metallurgical coal is a high-grade component in the chemical reactions that transform iron into steel.

The steel industry uses coal coke to smelt iron ore into iron to make steel. The high temperatures created by burning coal coke give steel its strength and flexibility. Every ton of steel produced requires approximately 0.77 tons of metallurgical coal.¹

Nearly every industry including energy, construction, transportation and equipment manufacturing requires steel,

which is necessary for building infrastructure such as railways, bridges, tunnels, skyscrapers, wind turbines, and power plants. By 2050, steel use is projected to be 1.3 times higher than present levels in order to meet the needs of our growing population.

Around 1.1 billion tons of metallurgical coal are used in global steel production annually, which accounts for 90 percent of total coal consumption worldwide.

Global steel demand continues to surge to record highs and is expected to increase more than 32 percent by 2050. The U.S. has approximately 190 metallurgical coal mines, directly employing more than 12,000 individuals. U.S. coking coal plants consumed 14 million short tons of coal in 2023.

The U.S. was the 3rd largest global exporter of metallurgical coal in 2022, supplying 13 percent of the market. Leading importers of U.S. metallurgical coal in 2023 were India, Brazil, China, Japan and the Netherlands.



Around 70 percent of the steel produced today uses metallurgical coal, making the world's infrastructure stronger and safer.

While half of the steel used around the world is used for buildings and infrastructure, it is also used for cars (12%), other metal products (10%) mechanical equipment (16%), transportation (5%), appliances (2%) and electrical equipment (3%).²

¹ Steel produced via integrated mills

² World Steel Association