



## COLOMBIAN COAL

### I. Sector Potential (strengths and opportunities)

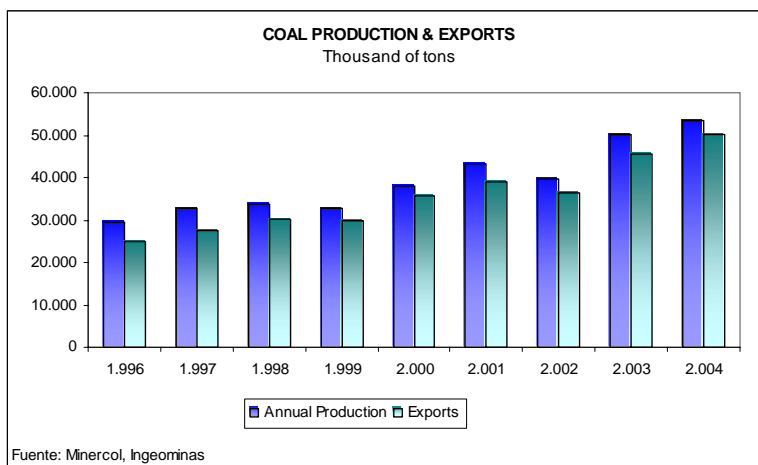
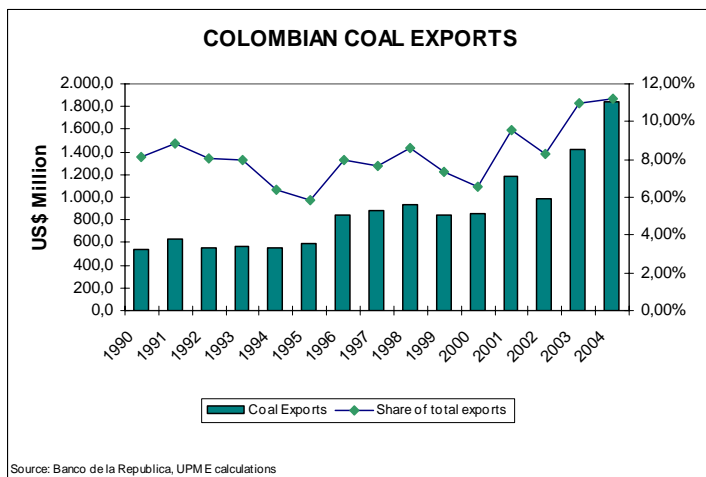
Colombia has the largest coal reserves of coal in Latin America, and it is the world's fifth leading exporter of thermal coal.

Colombian coal is recognized worldwide for its low ash and sulfur contents, high volatile components, and calorific value.

For the country's economy, coal is consolidated as the second export item behind oil. The main coal export destinations are Europe and the United States.

The national production growth has been remarkable in the last twenty years, as stimulated by major export-oriented projects carried out by foreign investors such as Drummond, Exxon, BHP Billiton, Glencore International, Amcoal, and Rio Tinto.

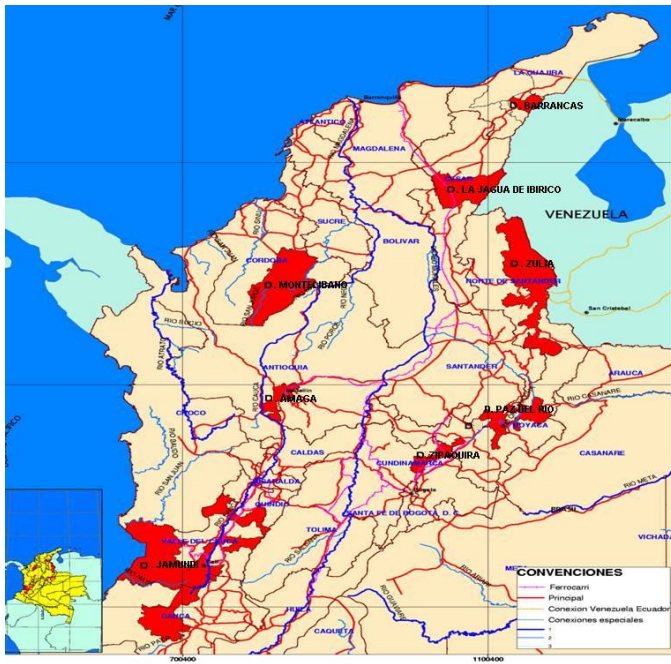
In 2004, the production level exceeded 50 million tons, out of which 93.6% destined to international markets.





REPUBLICA DE COLOMBIA  
 MINISTERIO DE MINAS Y ENERGÍA  
**UNIDAD DE PLANEACIÓN MINERO ENERGÉTICA**

Colombian coals are mostly hard (thermal, metallurgic-coking) coals, and anthracites. Today, thermal coal accounts for 97% of both production and exports. Colombia has measured reserves and resources amounting to 7,063.58 million tons, and a potential of 16,992.80 million tons of thermal and coking coals. Currently, there are 8 coal exploitation/development zones (districts) with reserves of different types of coal:



Zone (District)	Departments [Provinces]	Types of Coal	Resources plus measured reserves Mt
BARRANCAS	La Guajira	Thermal	3,933.30
LA JAGUA DE IBIRICO	Cesar	Thermal	2,035.40
ZULIA	Santander, Norte de Santander	Anthracite, thermal, metallurgic	175.77
PAZ DEL RÍO	Boyacá	Thermal, metallurgic	170.37
ZIQUAIRÁ	Cundinamarca	Anthracite, thermal, metallurgic	263.23
MONTELÍBANO	Córdoba-Norte de Antioquia	Thermal	381.00
AMAGÁ	Antioquia-Antiguo Caldas	Thermal	90.06
JAMUNDÍ	Valle del Cauca – Cauca	Thermal	41.45
<b>TOTAL</b>			<b>7,063.58</b>

Source: MINERCOL, Ingeominas

The main exploitation/development centers in the country are situated northeast, at the departments (provinces) of La Guajira and Cesar. In this zone, the world's largest open cut export-coal mining operation of El Cerrejon is located.

Most part of Colombian exports take place through Puerto Bolívar, the largest coal terminal in the Americas, and the other coal sales through the Port of Buenaventura on the Pacific Ocean, the Port of Santa Marta on the Caribbean Sea, and several other ports at Lago de Maracaibo in Venezuela, on the Atlantic.

*II. Major Indicators:*

COAL	2002	2003	2004 p
<i>Production</i>			
Volume (tons)	39,594	50,067	53,466
<i>Exports</i>			
Volume (tons)	36,534	45,494	50,029
FOB (US\$ Million)	990.2	1,422.5	1,841.0

Source: DANE, DIAN, UPME calculations



## **USEFUL LINKS:**

### **The Ministry of Mines and Energy** [*"Ministerio de Minas y Energía"*]

([www.minminas.gov.co](http://www.minminas.gov.co))

The institution responsible for formulating and fixing the mining-energy sector policies.

### **The Mining-Energy Planning Unit** [*"Unidad de Planeación Minero Energética"*], **UPME**

([www.upme.gov.co](http://www.upme.gov.co))

An agency of technical nature in charge of advising the Ministry of Mines and Energy, in the planning of the mining and energy sectors' development activities.

### **The Colombian Geology and Mining Institute** [*"Instituto Colombiano de Geología y Minería"*], **INGEOMINAS**

([www.ingeominas.gov.co](http://www.ingeominas.gov.co))

The entity in charge of producing information on Colombian geological potential and responsible for the administration of the national mining resources.