

# **West Virginia Coal:** ***Legislative Update, Water Quality Issues***



**Jason Bostic**

***West Virginia Coal Association***

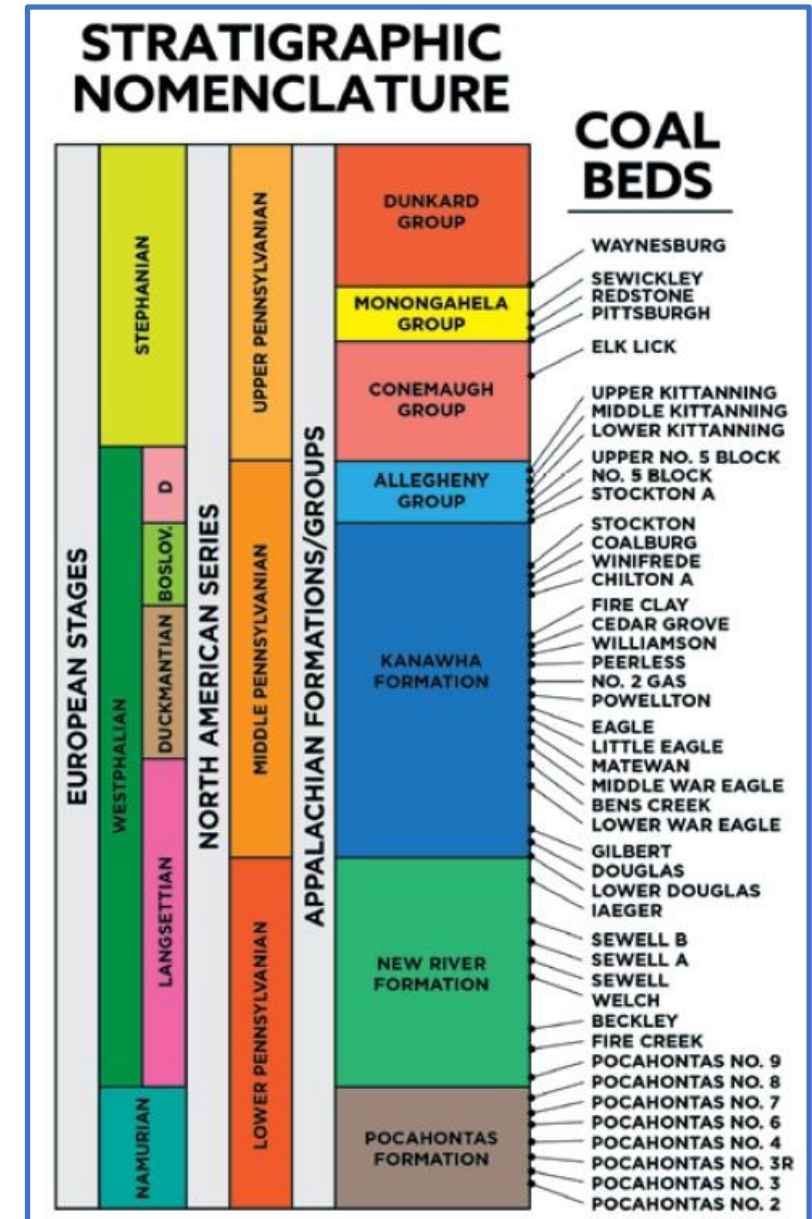
**West Virginia Mine Drainage Task Force**

**May 5, 2026**

# West Virginia Coal Facts

- Total Production: 87.8m tons
- Total Employment: 60,254
- **-\$6.2 billion in direct wages**
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Coal Producing State
- Largest Underground Mining State
- Most Longwall Mining Systems in U.S.
- Largest Coal Employment State
- Largest Metallurgical Coal Producer
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Largest Thermal Coal Producer
- *Largest International Coal Exporting State:*  
*Thermal & Metallurgical*
- *Largest Supplier of Met Coal to Domestic Steel Industry*
- **\$10.5 million AML Tax**
- **\$24.5 million SRF Tax**
- **\$280.6 million in Severance Tax**

5/7/2026



# West Virginia Coal Facts

- Shipped to 100 Locations in 38 States

-36 Power Plants

-29 Steelmaking Facilities (Coke Ovens, BFs, EAFs) & Ferro Alloy Plants\*

-19 Industrial / Chemical Facilities

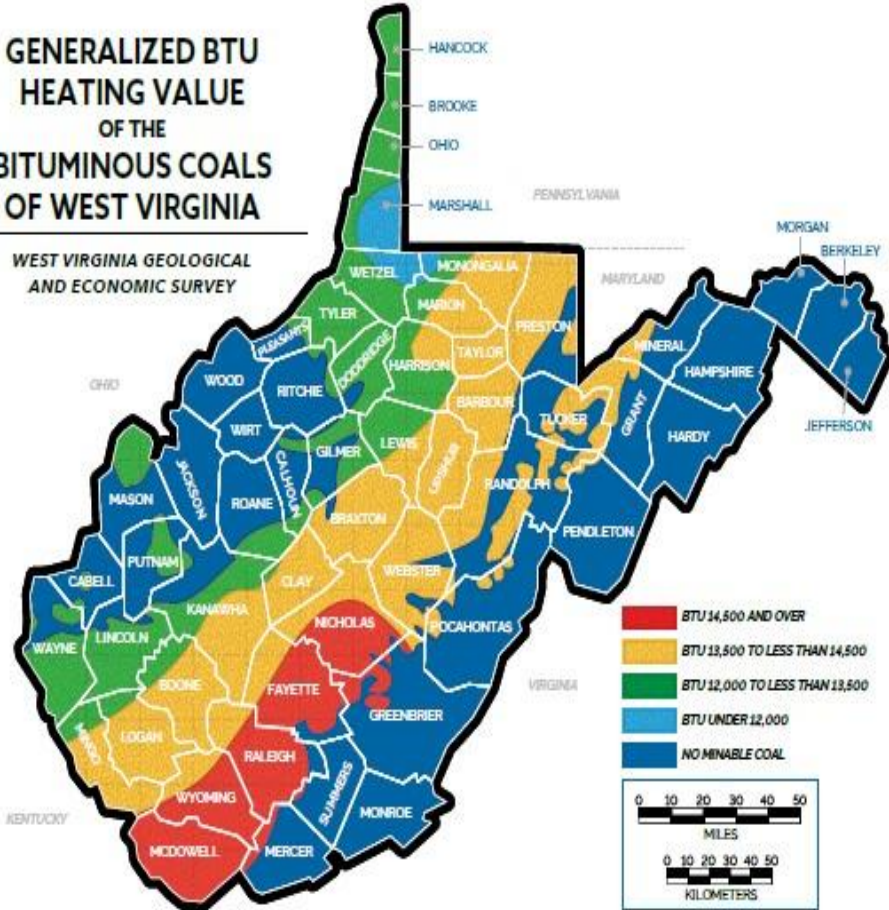
-16 International Export / Transloading Docks

-48 Countries Around the Globe

*\*includes shipments of finished coke from W.Va. met coal*

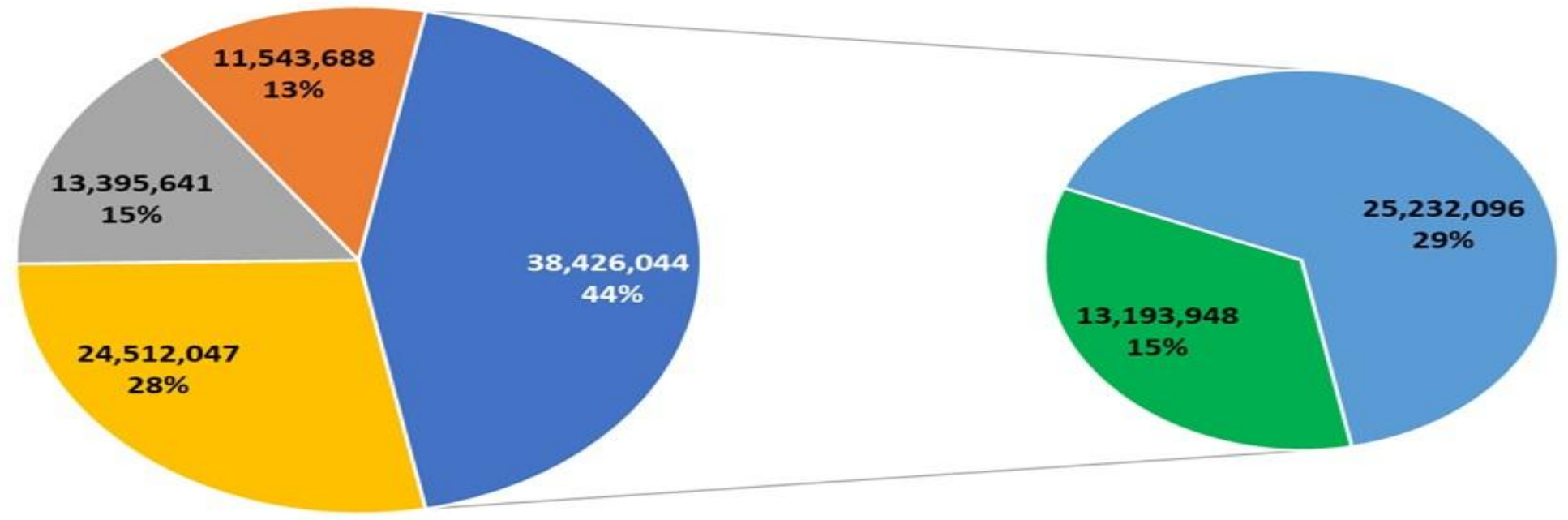
## GENERALIZED BTU HEATING VALUE OF THE BITUMINOUS COALS OF WEST VIRGINIA

WEST VIRGINIA GEOLOGICAL AND ECONOMIC SURVEY



# West Virginia Coal Production 2025\*

(tons)  
\*Preliminary Totals



- Export Metallurgical
- Domestic Metallurgical
- Export Thermal
- Total Domestic Thermal
- Domestic Thermal to WV Power Plants
- Domestic Thermal to Power Plants in Other States

# *Regulatory Update: Federal Issues*

- **Executive Orders**
  - Energy Emergency
  - Expedited Permitting Procedures
- **Clean Air Act**
  - Clean Power Plan (and its cousins)
  - Endangerment Finding
  - Good Neighbor Rule
- **Clean Water Act**
  - WOTUS
- **SMCRA**
  - Ten Day Notice Rule



# ***Regulatory Update: State Issues***

- **Program Amendment Approvals**
  - Contemporaneous Reclamation / Inactive Status (10 Years)
  - Federal Conformity Revisions
  
- **Water Quality Standards Changes (EPA)**
  - Hardness-Based Aluminum
  - Selenium (8.0 to 9.5)

# 2026 Legislative Session

NEWS

Randy Smith, retired coal miner, is new Senate president; Hanshaw returns as House speaker

By Brad McElhinny  
January 8, 2025 - 1:49 pm



Randy Smith takes to the dais as the new president of the West Virginia Senate. (Will Price/West Virginia Legislative Photography)

- **Utility Rates**
  - Appropriate Use of Coal Plants vs. PJM
- **State Energy Policy**
- **WQStds (Selenium)**
- **Aboveground Storage Tanks**
  - Coal Industry “Level Two” Tanks
  - Outside ZCC
  - Register & Label
- ***Metallurgical Coal Severance Rates***

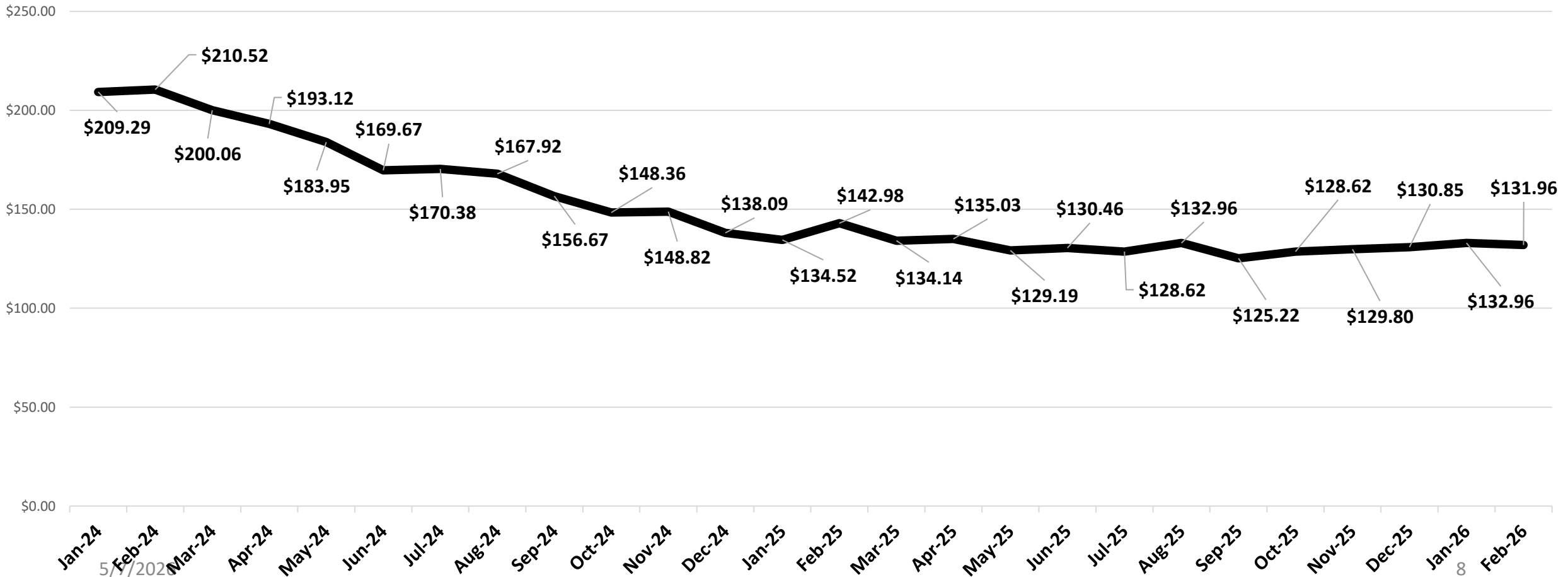
# 2026 Legislative Session

## Average U.S. Export Metallurgical Coal Price

2024-Feb. 2026

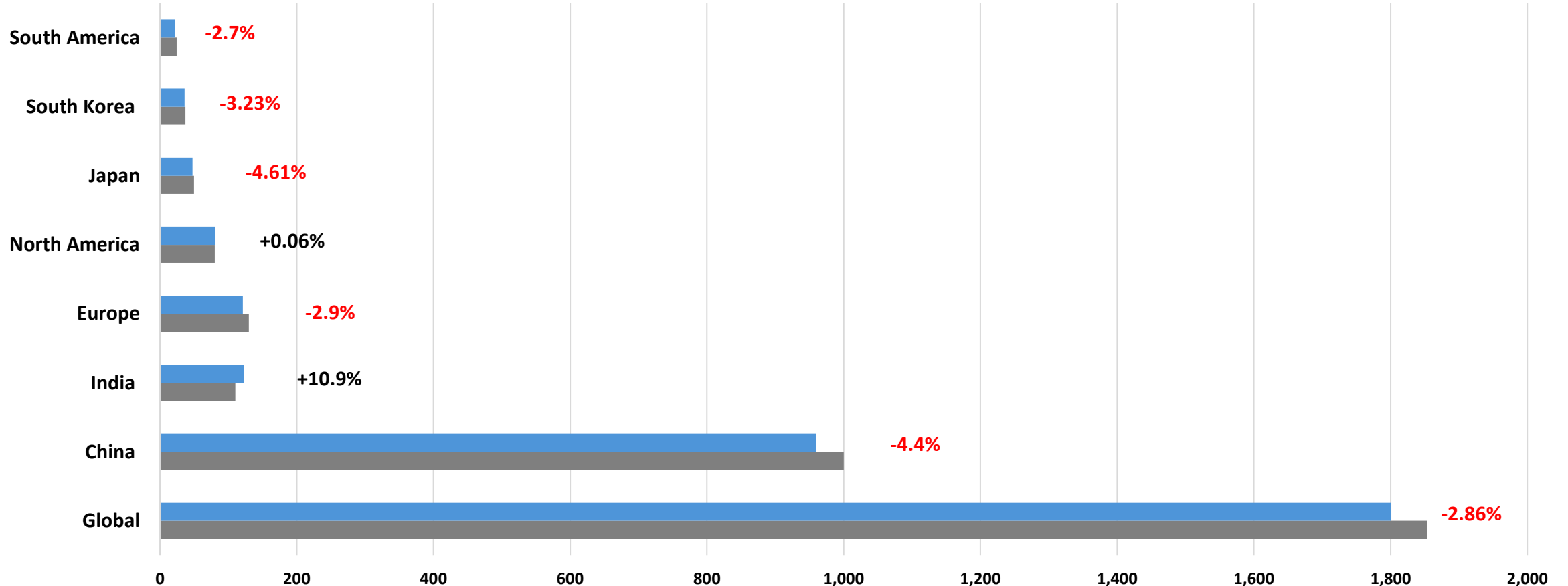
(\$/Ton)

Source: U.S. Commerce Department, EM454 and IM 145



# 2026 Legislative Session

World Steel Production:  
2024 vs. 2025  
(million metric tons)



# *Other Issues*

- **Public Service Commission Proceedings**
  - Coal Plant Upgrades / Utility Rates
- **Federal Judiciary Interference**
  - CWA 404 and 401 Permitting
    - Corps sets Water Quality Standards?!?*
- **TMDL**
  - Federal Consent Decree
    - Unworkable mandate
- **Union Pacific / Norfolk Southern Rail Merger**
  - Reshape 60 years of Coal Transportation



• WEST VIRGINIA COAL ASSOCIATION •

***Thank You!***