

***Eastern Kentucky coal jobs down 10.6 percent in 2nd quarter***

New data shows decreased employment and production in Eastern Kentucky's coal industry for the second quarter of 2015. The industry now employs an estimated 5,889 people, following cuts to 10.6 percent of its workforce in the region. Eastern Kentucky coal employment is at a fraction of the level it was five years ago, when more than 13,000 people worked in the industry. ([www.wkyt.com](http://www.wkyt.com) August 1, 2015)

***In coal-mining Kentucky, shock and dismay over Clean Power Plan's new targets***

It is a tense time in Kentucky. The Environmental Protection Agency has just come out with its final rule on reducing carbon emissions – the strongest step ever taken to counter climate change in the United States – and this coal state is reeling. ([www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com) August 4, 2015)

***Crude oil slides below \$45 as oversupply fears persist***

Oil prices traded near multi-month lows Thursday as a persistent oversupply continued to spook the market. Resilient U.S. output coupled with high production from other major suppliers and worries about China's economy have soured investor sentiment in recent weeks. ([www.marketwatch.com](http://www.marketwatch.com) August 6, 2015)

***EPA toughens targets, stokes political fire in Appalachia***

Two Appalachian governors who've resisted calls to "just say no" to U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan are facing increased political pressure today after the final rule assigned their states much stiffer responsibilities for curbing heat-trapping emissions from power plants. ([www.eenews.net](http://www.eenews.net) August 4, 2015)

***Energy Efficiency Ranks As Key Priority among Higher Education Facility Leaders According to New Study***

According to a new study commissioned by Schneider Electric and the Alliance to Save Energy, energy efficiency is recognized among U.S. higher education institutions as key to fulfilling their schools' core mission, with almost 9 out of 10 respondents expecting to increase or maintain energy efficiency investments next year. ([www.prnewswire.com](http://www.prnewswire.com) August 4, 2015)

***Fire Sale on Stuff That Burns: Oil, Natural Gas, Coal Down***

These days it seems whatever can be burned to power a car, heat a home, make electricity or ship people and goods around the globe is being sold at bargain basement prices. Prices for coal, natural gas, oil and the fuels made from crude such as gasoline and diesel are all far less expensive than they have been in recent years. (<http://abcnews.go.com> August 4, 2015)

***TVA quadruples its income***

One of Chattanooga's biggest employers is getting more profitable by getting smaller. The Tennessee Valley Authority, which cut nearly 2,000 jobs over the past two years to trim its staff to the lowest level in 81 years, plans to cut another 200 jobs in the next year. ([www.timesfreepress.com](http://www.timesfreepress.com) August 5, 2015)

***U.S. Natural Gas Exports to Mexico Taking Off***

Just as Space X rockets may be taking off from the beaches at Boca Chica near Brownsville, natural gas exports to Mexico look to also sky rocket in the coming years. ([www.forbes.com](http://www.forbes.com) August 3, 2015)

***Coal Miner Alpha Natural Resources Files for Bankruptcy***

Alpha Natural Resources Inc. filed for bankruptcy in Virginia on Monday, becoming the latest victim of the coal industry's worst downturn in decades. The second-largest U.S. coal company has lost almost all its market value since 2011, when it bought Massey Energy Co. for about \$7 billion. ([www.bloomberg.com](http://www.bloomberg.com) August 3, 2015)

Kentucky Retail Fuel Prices (Dollars per gallon)

Product	8/6/2015	7/30/2015	7/23/2015	7/15/2015	Year Ago
<b>Gasoline (State avg.)</b>	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.67	\$ 2.74	\$ 2.78	\$ 3.48
Ashland	\$ 2.40	\$ 2.44	\$ 2.60	\$ 2.71	\$ 3.47
Covington	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.69	\$ 2.85	\$ 2.94	\$ 3.62
Lexington	\$ 2.31	\$ 2.39	\$ 2.53	\$ 2.70	\$ 3.45
Louisville	\$ 2.45	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.85	\$ 3.55
Owensboro	\$ 2.36	\$ 2.42	\$ 2.48	\$ 2.56	\$ 3.30
<b>Diesel (State avg.)</b>	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.75	\$ 2.79	\$ 2.82	\$ 3.83
Ashland	\$ 2.61	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.70	\$ 3.69
Covington	\$ 2.63	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.70	\$ 2.74	\$ 3.82
Lexington	\$ 2.65	\$ 2.68	\$ 2.71	\$ 2.73	\$ 3.80
Louisville	\$ 2.62	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.67	\$ 2.69	\$ 3.80
Owensboro	\$ 2.55	\$ 2.58	\$ 2.64	\$ 2.70	\$ 3.80

Note: The record high average price for gasoline in Kentucky is \$4.089, reported on July 10, 2008.  
 Source: Gasoline (unleaded regular) & Diesel: National AAA,

Spot Prices	8/3/2015	7/27/2015	7/20/2015	7/13/2015	Year Ago
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>West Texas Intermediate, fob</i>	\$ 45.25	\$ 47.17	\$ 50.11	\$ 52.19	\$ 96.93
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	\$ 2.76	\$ 2.92	\$ 2.88	\$ 2.88	\$ 3.77
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Central Appalachia</i>	\$ 54.90	\$ 54.90	\$ 54.90	\$ 54.90	\$ 57.25
Coal Price (dollars per short ton) <i>Illinois Basin</i>	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 34.35	\$ 44.00

Sources: <http://www.infomine.com/investment/metal-prices/coal/1-year> [http://ycharts.com/indicators/natural\\_gas\\_spot\\_price](http://ycharts.com/indicators/natural_gas_spot_price) <https://www.quandl.com/data/DOE/COAL-US-Coal-Prices-by-Region> <http://markets.ft.com/research/Markets/>

Futures		September 2015	October 2015	November 2015
Crude Oil (Dollars per barrel) <i>Light Sweet Crude Oil</i>	8/5/2015	\$ 45.15	\$ 45.55	\$ 46.18
	7/29/2015	\$ 48.79	\$ 49.16	\$ 49.72
Natural Gas (Dollars per MMBtu) <i>Henry-Hub</i>	8/5/2015	\$ 2.81	\$ 2.82	\$ 2.91
	7/29/2015	\$ 2.86	\$ 2.88	\$ 3.00
Propane (Dollars per gallon) <i>Mt Belvieu (OPIS)</i>	8/5/2015	\$ 0.39	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42
	7/29/2015	\$ 0.41	\$ 0.42	\$ 0.44

Source: CME Group



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