

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

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PRESS RELEASE

FALL IN COMMUNITY COAL STOCKS CONTINUES

Luxembourg, February 19: Pithead coal stocks in the European Coal and Steel Community recorded another substantial fall in January - this time by 700,000 tons. Provisional figures published by the High Authority placed stocks at the end of January at 30,567,000 metric tons, compared with 31,266,000 a month earlier and 25,605,000 at the end of January 1959. Stocks fell sharply in all the coal producing countries of the Community except France, and there was a particularly marked decline in Germany. They are now back at the level of May 1959.

Stocks of coke at coking plant also declined sharply, to 8,057,000 metric tons, from 8,583,000; at the end of January 1959 they stood at 7,257,000 tons.

Short-time working increased in January, amounting to the equivalent of a reduction in coal output of 496,000 tons, against 335,000 in December and 423,000 in November. The average number of days lost through short-time working during the month ranged from 0 in the Aachen, Lower Saxony and Lorraine coal fields to 3.58 in the South Belgian field. In the Ruhr, 0.03 days were lost.

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TOTAL COAL STOCKS AT PITHEADS (*)

at end of period

(provisional figures in '000 tons)

	Germany (Fed. Rep.)	Belgium	France	Italy	Nether- lands	Community
January 1960	11,173	7,350	11,156	110	778	30,567
December 1959	11,766	7,496	11,028	111	864	31,266
January 1959	10,005	7,084	7,718	30	768	25,605

*) Excluding coal stocks at coke ovens and at mine-owned briquetting works.

TOTAL COAL STOCKS AT COKE OVENS

at end of period

(Provisional figures in '000 tons)

	Germany (Fed. Rep.)	Belgium	France	Italy	Nether- lands	Community
January 1960	6,747	265	601	200*	244	8,057
December 1959	7,080	292	702	209	301	8,583
January 1959	5,655	290	662	339	310	7,257

* Estimate