

EUROPEAN COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY

HIGH AUTHORITY

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PRESS RELEASE

RISE IN COMMUNITY COAL STOCKS SLACKENS IN MAY

Luxembourg, June 22: Pithead coal stocks in the European Coal and Steel Community rose only slightly in May, after the substantial increases which occurred in March and April. Provisional figures published by the High Authority show stocks at the end of May at 32,009,000 metric tons, against 31,921,000 at the end of April, and 31,193,000 at the beginning of the year.

The whole of the May increase occurred in France, whose additions to pithead stocks this year have been far greater than any other Community country.

Stocks of coke at coking plant continued to decline in May, and by the end of the month were down to 7,140,000 metric tons, from 7,399,000 a month earlier, and 8,569,000 at the beginning of the year.

Stocks of coal held by major consumers rose slightly in March - the latest date for which statistics are available - to reach 16,130,000 metric tons, compared with 15,993,000 at the end of February, 16,867,000 at the beginning of the year and 19,298,000 at the end of May 1959.

Short-time working in the Community's coal industry was substantially less severe than in March and April, being equivalent to a reduction in coal output of 693,000 tons, against 872,000 in April, 1,020,000 in March, and 841,000 in May 1959. The average number of days through short-time working during May ranged from nil in the Nord Pas-de-Calais field, through 0.03 in the Ruhr, 1.50 in Lorraine, 3.85 in South Belgium, to 4.34 in the Campine, Belgium.

TOTAL COAL STOCKS AT PITHEADS

at end of period

(provisional figures in '000 tons)

	<u>Germany (Fed. Rep.)</u>	<u>Belgium</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Nether- lands</u>	<u>Community</u>
May 1960	11 232	7 425	12 405	159	788	32 009
April 1960	11 283	7 448	12 276	145	771	31 920

COKE STOCKS AT COKING PLANT

at end of period

(provisional figures in '000 tons)

	<u>Germany (Fed. Rep.)</u>	<u>Belgium</u>	<u>France</u>	<u>Italy</u>	<u>Nether- lands</u>	<u>Community</u>
May 1960	5 881	277	574	200 ^{*)}	208	7 140
April 1960	6 101	259	572	204	263	7 399

^{*)} estimate