Preliminary data indicate that total Kentucky coal production decreased by 5.1 percent during the third quarter of 2013 from the second quarter of 2013.

Western Kentucky production decreased by 0.3 percent to 10.3 million tons, accounting for 52 percent of total production. Eastern Kentucky production decreased by 10 percent.

Coal production at underground mines decreased to 13.4 million tons, or 68 percent of total production, while surface mines produced 6.4 million tons.

During the third quarter of 2013, coal production at underground coal mines in Kentucky decreased by 4.4 percent while production at surface mines decreased by 6.6 percent.
The rate of Eastern Kentucky coal production decreased by 10 percent during the third quarter of 2013 from the second quarter of 2013. Production slowed at surface mining operations by 9.9 and 9.8 percent in underground and surface mines respectively.

Pike County remained the largest coal producing county in Eastern Kentucky and the second largest producing county overall, producing over 2.6 million tons during the third quarter of 2013.
Western Kentucky coal production decreased 0.3 percent during the third quarter of 2013 from the second quarter of 2013. Underground coal mines decreased production by 1.2 percent while surface mining increased by 5.6 percent. Union County remained Kentucky’s leading coal producing county, producing nearly 3.3 million tons during the third quarter of 2013.
Eastern Kentucky coal mines reduced total employment by 403 persons, or 4.8 percent, during the three months of July, August, and September 2013. Coal mines in Western Kentucky decreased total employment by 36 jobs during the third quarter.

Kentucky coal mines reduced on-site employment by 439 workers, or 3.4 percent, during the third quarter of 2013. As of September 2013, an estimated 12,393 persons are employed at Kentucky coal mines. Layoffs included 323 coal miners, 194 underground and 129 surface. Coal preparation plants reduced employment by 119, while on-site office staff increased again by a total of 3 jobs.

Eastern Kentucky coal mines reduced total employment by 403 persons, or 4.8 percent, during the three months of July, August, and September 2013. Coal mines in Western Kentucky decreased total employment by 36 jobs during the third quarter.