

Coal Industry Showing Signs of Improvement as Foreign Coal Demand Grows

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The Paragon Report Provides Stock Research on Arch Coal and Patriot Coal

NEW YORK, NY -- (Marketwire) -- 06/20/12 -- The emergence of natural gas as a cheaper energy alternative in the U.S. has been a major problem for coal investors in 2012. Coal stocks may finally be on the upswing as foreign demand for coal remains strong. China has recently approved 23 billion in steel projects, and India's coal production is failing to meet their growing demand. The Paragon Report examines investing opportunities in the Coal Industry and provides equity research on [Arch Coal Inc.](#) (NYSE: ACI) and [Patriot Coal Corporation](#) (NYSE: PCX).

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The Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) in its monthly report expects India's coal imports this year to increase by 28.3 percent (127 million tons). "Domestic coal production is not sufficient to meet the rising demand from power, cement and steel industries. Therefore, the country relies on imported coal," CMIE said.

In addition, the \$23 billion in approved steel projects will look to boost demand for metallurgical coal, which plays a crucial role in the steel making process. Steel output in China is expected to reach 700 million tons in 2012 according to the China Iron and Steel Association.

Paragon Report releases regular market updates on the Coal Industry so investors can stay ahead of the crowd and make the best investment decisions to maximize their returns. Take a few minutes to register with us free at www.ParagonReport.com and get exclusive access to our numerous stock reports and industry newsletters.

Arch Coal possess one of the industry's most geographically diverse and balanced operating profiles providing a powerful foundation on which to build out metallurgical and thermal volumes. The company serves a broad mix of power producers and industrial accounts here and around the world -- offering a vast metallurgical and thermal product slate and a wide range of logistical options for delivery.

Patriot Coal is a leading coal producer and marketer in the eastern United States, with operations and coal reserves in Appalachia and the Illinois Basin. In 2011, the company sold 31.1 million tons of coal, of which 76% was sold to domestic and global electricity generators and industrial customers and 24% was sold to domestic and global steel and coke producers. Shares of the company surged 20 percent Monday.

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