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Mongolia Largest Exporter of Coal to China Again Last Month

A breakdown of China's October coal import data by country has been released and shows that Mongolia was again the largest exporter of coal to China (as was also seen in September). This has remained a fairly rare event and has marked only the second month all year that Mongolia has provided the largest amount of coal exports to China. Remaining of note is that prior to September, this year had seen 46% of China's imports sourced from Indonesia, 32% sourced from Australia, 10% sourced from Russia, 7% sourced from Mongolia, and 5% sourced from a variety of smaller exporters. September marked a change, though, with 28% sourced from Mongolia and 17% sourced from Russia. This shift continued last month, with 28% of China's coal imports sourced from Mongolia and 26% sourced from Russia. Only 20% was sourced from Indonesia and only 18% was sourced from Australia. Of note much more recently, though, is that recent weeks have seen the coronavirus pandemic intensify in Mongolia. This has started to slow down the clearance of inland Mongolian coal shipments, and other coal exporters stand to benefit in the near term.

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