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We know a number of different fairly rare minerals and jewels, such as ruby, sapphire, emerald, diamond and many more. That is probably because those gems have a large price and definitely not every single one of us can afford them. That fact usually makes us want them. In comparison, we often donâ€™t know the names of other less popular gems or hard minerals, even if there are a large number and types of these. And why should we? Itâ€™s not like we look forward to owning them or they have a significant impact on our lives. That is actually where many of us are mistaken. Gems, minerals and even rocks do have an impact on our lives. And the one with the largest impact can be considered coal.

Coal has a large number of different uses in our industries today. In a way it also one of the biggest determinants of the level of our prosperity. How so? Thatâ€™s simple. Depending on the quantity and quality of coal within our economies, our purchasing ability changes. If, for example, there is little coal available to heating companies, the heating price naturally rises. If there is more than enough coal for the steel industry, the price of the cars drops. Itâ€™s all tightly interconnected, even though sometimes we fail to notice that. Of course, that does not mean that just any piece of coal is universal in all situations.

Generally, coal itself is also divided into different types with different qualities. There are four of those categories. The first one is called Antrachite and denotes the hardest coal, with the largest quantity of carbon in its composition (86%-98%). Such type of coal is mostly used for home heating, since its heat value is the highest in comparison with other types. It also burns cleanly and emits no volatile gases. The second type is Bituminous coal. It is the second hardest, being composed of 45% to 86% of carbon. This type of coal is used for electricity generation and for the making of coke for the steel industry.

The third type of coal, called Sub-bituminous, contains only 35% to 45% of carbon. Though it is not as hard and has lower heat value, it also contains less sulfur and burns cleaner. Due to that property it is used in steam-powered energy generation and can sometimes be called steam coal. The last type of coal is called Lignite and is the softest and geologically youngest coal. It is relatively easy to distinguish from other types due to its brownish color. This type contains only 25%-35% of carbon and is also mostly used for electric power generation.

All of these types of coal are crucial to the coal industry and all the different industries around the world as well. Since it is also impacting us, whether directly or not, we should not ignore it. The best way to see what will happen to heating, transportation and electricity prices in the near future is not to seek past trends, but to find out what is happening in the coal industry. Itâ€™s really much easier.

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To find information concerning different types of coal, such as steamcoal and brown coal, as well as the whole coalindustry, different websites can be of help. However, for the latest news around the world, a www.coalportal.com/steamcoal and a www.coalportal.com/coalindustry should be the best

available choice.

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