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# The Economics of Activated Carbon

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# The Economics of Activated Carbon

8th Edition, 2008

## Some highlights from the report

In 2007/08, tightening availability and rising production costs have led to sharp price rises for activated carbon, a market characterised by surplus capacity and stable pricing over the previous decade. Prices of coal-based grades rose by up to 80% between the beginning of 2007 and mid-2008, with the tight market balance also exerting pressure on prices of other grades of activated carbon.

Through the early 2000s, price increases were restrained by the large surplus capacity worldwide, following capacity expansions in Asia, especially China. In 2008, production in China, which accounts for some 40% of both world activated carbon capacity and exports, has fallen. The reduced supply, the imposition of anti-dumping duties on US imports of steam-activated carbon from China since spring 2007, elimination of VAT (value added tax) rebates for Chinese exporters, currency fluctuations, and rising energy and freight rates, have all exerted upward pressure on activated carbon prices.

World activated carbon consumption is estimated at 650,000t in 2007, slightly over estimated production of 635,000t. Growth in consumption in current markets is forecast to be 5%py through 2015. Growth will be led by water treatment applications both in the USA, to control disinfection by-products in drinking water, and in the industrialising countries, to upgrade the quality of drinking and wastewater. In China, 10,000 wastewater treatment plants are scheduled for construction by 2010, raising the proportion of wastewater treated from 29% to 50%.

The next five years could see the emergence of the largest-ever market for activated carbon – the use of powdered activated carbon to control mercury emissions from coal-fired power plant flue gas in North America. Driven by state environmental legislation in the USA and limitations on new power plant construction, this market is estimated to increase from 5,000t powdered activated carbon in 2007 to 125,000t in 2010. Growth in demand for activated carbon could accelerate to close to 400,000t in 2015 if US federal legislation, requiring installation of 600-700 activated carbon injection systems, is introduced. Total world demand for activated carbon therefore has the potential to rise by nearly 10%py to 1.36Mt in 2015, with mercury emission control accounting for 30% of projected total consumption.

For the full list of contents, including 144 tables, please visit [www.roskill.co.uk/activated](http://www.roskill.co.uk/activated)

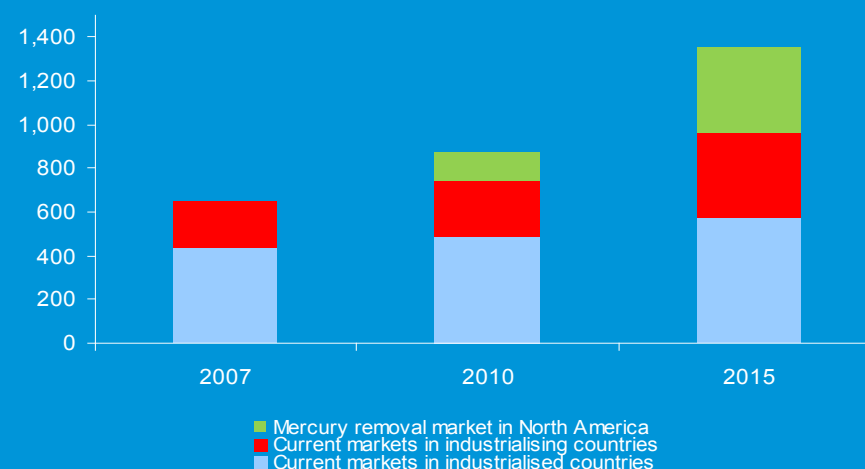
## A detailed global study

The report contains 289 pages, illustrated with 144 tables and 36 figures.

### Main sections

1. Summary
2. Introduction, properties and specifications for activated carbon
3. Processing of activated carbon
4. World production of activated carbon
5. Review of activated carbon producing countries
6. World consumption of activated carbon
7. Liquid-phase uses for activated carbon
8. Gas-phase uses for activated carbon
9. International trade in activated carbon
10. Price trends for activated carbon

### World: Forecast consumption of activated carbon, 2010 and 2015 (000t)



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