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FEATURE: Coal-to-gas switching – tipping the balance

Coal demand underwent a remarkable resurgence in the 2000s, with global consumption increasing by around 50% between 2000 and 2014. But global coal producers are now suffering financially as a result of a weakening market, with 80% of China's producers registering losses in 2015 and nearly half of US coal production coming from companies who have filed for bankruptcy protection. Nevertheless, coal's resurgence remains a significant obstacle to gas demand growth.

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