

price for gold stimulated its production and the readjustment of costs stabilized the base-metal industries, metal production has expanded again, and while the net sales in 1937 were not on a comparable basis with those of 1929, employees were 76.8 p.c. above, and salaries and wages 80.5 p.c. above 1929. While industrial statistics for 1938 are not yet available, the production figures for this latest year indicate that metal production was well maintained in spite of lower prices for base metals.

Among the non-metallic industries the demand for coal declined during the depression years owing to reduced requirements in industrial and transportation activities. Similarly, the demand for asbestos and gypsum was affected by the lower level of industrial and construction operations. Salt was an exception to the general rule, as its production was well maintained throughout, partly owing to its increased consumption in certain chemical industries. A large measure of recovery has taken place in this group of industries, especially in the production of non-metallic minerals other than fuels.

The production of clay products and other structural materials is directly dependent upon construction activities within Canada. During the early years of the depression, these activities were partly maintained by governmental relief projects and by the carrying to completion of some large operations which had commenced before 1930. As a result, construction reached its lowest level in Canada during 1933, and the group of industries producing clay products and other structural materials was at a lower level of operation in that year than in any other year recorded since 1921. From 1929 to 1933 there was a decline of 71 p.c. in net sales, 69 p.c. in employees, 74 p.c. in salaries and wages and 76 p.c. in expenditures for fuel and electricity, a large item in the cost of production in these industries. However, construction has been more active in Canada since 1933 (see Chapter XV) and this increased activity has been accompanied by a welcome change to a rising trend in the production of clay products and other structural materials, although these industries are still at a low level compared with their activity prior to 1929.

6.—Summary of the Principal Statistics of the Mineral Industries in Canada, by Groups, 1929-37, and by Provinces, 1937.

NOTE.—For the years 1921-28, see the 1936 Year Book, pp. 355-356. In the past, the net value of production, called "net sales", in these industries has been gross sales less freight and treatment charges in the case of mines, and less the value of ores charged in the case of smelters. According to a recommendation adopted by the Conference of Commonwealth Statisticians in Ottawa, 1935, the net figure, called the "net income from sales", is now obtained from net sales as defined above by a further deduction of the costs of fuel, electricity, and consumable supplies used in the production process. In the table below, however, to facilitate comparison with previous years, figures for 1935 are given to show deductions and resultant net by both methods, and figures since then on the new basis only.

Group and Year.	Plants or Mines.	Capital Employed.	Employees.	Salaries and Wages.	Fuel and Electricity for Heat and Power. ¹	Net Sales. ²
	No.	\$	No.	\$	\$	\$
METALLIC MINERALS.						
1929	528	427,498,173	31,125	50,279,511	11,221,987	163,050,366
1930	352	427,439,265	30,823	45,851,303	11,328,313	137,015,392
1931	327	390,998,034	25,434	41,829,288	10,340,523	132,352,514
1932	330	269,180,464	21,931	34,983,704	8,551,463	119,790,072
1933	402	406,998,952	25,443	37,937,871	7,084,253	150,145,926
1934	636	465,583,818	34,143	50,818,448	9,144,600	186,785,532
					10,199,214	217,353,515
1935	619	437,471,769	38,603	59,528,350		
					151,846,099 ³	173,588,815 ²
1936	867	507,796,987	46,455	72,016,670	188,371,440 ¹	211,444,303 ²
1937	1,000	584,692,790	53,046	90,798,501	268,514,346 ^{1,4}	276,885,288 ²

For footnotes, see end of Table, p. 331.