

World Production.—The world production of silver was estimated by the Director of the United States Mint, as shown in Table 15 of this chapter, p. 336, at 267,913,031 fine oz. for 1938. The silver production of Canada in 1938 was 22,219,195 fine oz., or about 8.3 p.c. of the estimated world total for that year. This placed Canada third, next to Mexico and the United States.

In Table 23 the world production, value, and average price of silver are given for each year from 1900 up to the present. In spite of the decreasing importance of silver, except in China and India, production has increased because of the fact that silver is a by-product in the mining of other metals.

23.—Quantities and Values of World Production of Silver, with Annual Average Prices, 1900-38.

(From the Annual Report of the Director of the United States Mint.)

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1860 to 1899, inclusive, will be found at p. 346 of the 1939 Year Book.

Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average Price per Fine Oz. ¹	Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average Price per Fine Oz. ¹	Year.	Quantity.	Value.	Average Price per Fine Oz. ¹
	'000 oz. fine.	\$'000.	\$		'000 oz. fine.	\$'000	\$		'000 oz. fine.	\$'000	\$
1900...	173,561	107,626	0.620	1914...	172,264	95,282	0.553	1926...	253,795	159,569	0.629
1901...	173,011	103,807	0.600	1915...	173,001	88,338	0.511	1927...	253,981	144,947	0.570
1902...	162,763	86,265	0.530	1916...	180,802	121,410	0.672	1928...	257,925	151,214	0.586
1903...	167,689	90,552	0.540	1917...	186,125	156,345	0.839	1929...	260,970	139,961	0.536
1904...	164,195	95,233	0.580					1930...	248,708	96,310	0.387
1905...	172,318	105,114	0.610	1918...	203,159	200,000	0.985				
1906...	165,054	111,724	0.677	1919...	179,850	201,588	1.121	1931...	195,920	56,842	0.290
1907...	184,207	121,857	0.661	1920...	173,296	176,658	1.019	1932...	164,893	46,506	0.282
1908...	203,131	108,655	0.535	1921...	171,286	108,074	0.631	1933...	169,159	59,201	0.350
1909...	212,149	110,351	0.520	1922...	209,815	158,207	0.754	1934...	190,398	91,930	0.483
1910...	221,716	119,897	0.541					1935...	220,704	142,535	0.646
1911...	226,193	121,981	0.539	1923...	246,010	172,276	0.700	1936...	253,696	115,175	0.454
1912...	230,904	141,937	0.615	1924...	239,485	178,311	0.744	1937...	274,538	124,077	0.452
1913...	210,013	126,970	0.604	1925...	245,214	172,498	0.703	1938...	267,913	116,641	0.435

¹ At the average par price of a fine ounce of silver in London, excepting the years 1918-22, inclusive, and 1931-38, for which the means of the New York bid and asked prices were used.

² Preliminary figures.

Subsection 10.—Zinc.

The zinc-mining industry of Canada has recently made rapid strides, largely on account of the application of improved metallurgical methods in the treatment of the lead-zinc ores of British Columbia and the production of electrolytic zinc from the Flin Flon copper-zinc ores of Manitoba.

The principal zinc-mining regions of British Columbia are situated in the Kootenay district, where there are large deposits of silver-lead-zinc ore. The chief producing mine is the Sullivan near Kimberley, while other mines are located in the Ainsworth and Slocan divisions of the West Kootenay district. The Britannia mine on Howe Sound, while primarily a copper-gold property, produces zinc concentrates when the market is favourable.

In northwestern Manitoba, the Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon mines have ores in which zinc is closely associated with copper and gold, and refined zinc has been made at the Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Company's smelter from Flin Flon ores since the autumn of 1930. Zinc concentrates were shipped also during 1939 by the Waite-Amulet Mines and by the Normetal Mining Corporation in the Rouyn district. Production by provinces in 1938 is given in Table 6, p. 321.