

4.—Indexes of Volume of Mineral Production, by Principal Minerals, 1928-39
(1926=100)

Mineral	1928	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939
METALLICS												
Cobalt.....	143.9	139.8	104.4	78.4	73.8	70.2	89.5	102.5	133.5	76.3	69.1	110.2
Copper.....	152.3	186.4	228.0	219.6	186.1	225.4	274.1	314.8	316.3	398.2	429.2	457.4
Gold.....	107.8	109.9	119.8	153.6	173.5	168.1	169.4	187.3	213.7	233.5	269.4	290.4
Lead.....	119.1	115.1	117.3	94.2	90.2	93.9	122.0	119.5	135.0	145.2	147.6	136.9
Nickel.....	147.2	167.8	157.9	99.9	46.2	126.7	195.8	210.8	258.3	342.2	320.4	344.1
Platinum metals.....	110.8	131.5	357.4	470.3	287.2	260.3	1220.8	1106.8	1331.9	1463.9	1694.4	1454.6
Silver.....	98.1	103.4	118.2	91.9	82.0	67.9	73.4	74.3	82.0	102.7	99.3	103.5
Zinc.....	123.1	131.6	178.5	158.2	114.9	132.8	199.1	213.9	222.2	247.0	254.4	263.1
FUELS												
Coal.....	106.6	106.2	90.3	74.3	71.2	72.2	83.8	84.3	92.4	96.1	86.7	94.3
Natural gas.....	117.6	147.8	152.9	134.7	121.9	120.5	120.6	129.7	146.4	168.6	174.1	183.2
Petroleum.....	171.3	306.6	417.7	423.3	286.6	314.3	387.1	396.9	411.7	807.7	1911.4	2147.5
NON-METALLICS (EXCLUDING FUELS)												
Asbestos.....	97.7	109.5	86.7	58.8	44.0	56.7	55.8	99.8	107.8	146.8	103.7	130.4
Gypsum.....	141.0	137.1	121.2	97.7	49.6	43.4	52.2	61.3	94.4	118.5	114.2	160.9
Quartz.....	121.7	114.6	97.5	84.3	81.5	80.1	117.4	100.4	451.0 ¹	593.5 ¹	594.6 ¹	682.1 ¹
Salt.....	114.1	125.8	103.5	98.7	100.4	106.7	122.6	137.2	149.0	174.8	167.6	161.7
Sulphur ²	100.0	110.9	97.8	129.8	137.8	148.7	133.6	174.8	316.5	339.2	291.3	547.5
STRUCTURAL MATERIALS³												
Cement.....	126.6	141.1	126.7	116.7	51.7	34.5	43.5	41.9	51.8	70.9	63.4	65.8
Lime.....	122.9	162.9	118.6	83.3	77.5	78.2	88.9	98.0	113.2	132.7	117.6	133.4
Sand and gravel.....	164.2	162.7	166.8	127.1	84.6	68.6	86.8	124.0	129.3	157.8	188.3	182.9
Stone.....	129.0	150.4	156.2	131.3	73.3	45.9	63.7	67.5	77.9	108.4	80.0	85.1

¹ Beginning 1936 includes low-grade natural silica sand used as non-ferrous smelter flux. ² 1928=100, previous years not being comparable. ³ Excluding clay products.

Subsection 2.—Provincial Distribution of Mineral Production

Since 1907, Ontario has been the principal mineral-producing province of Canada and, in recent years, has contributed about 50 p.c. of the total mineral production of the Dominion. The rise in the price of gold has been especially favourable to Ontario's mineral production, while the Sudbury nickel-copper deposits are another outstanding feature in the mineral resources of the Province. In 1938 Ontario's production was 49.7 p.c. of the total and in 1939, 49.0 p.c. For many years, British Columbia—where most of the important metals are found and substantial quantities of coal exist—was firmly entrenched in second place. However, since 1930, Quebec has challenged British Columbia's position, having taken over second place in the two latest years. Whereas formerly non-metallics (especially asbestos) and structural materials made up nearly all of the mineral production of Quebec, more than half the value is now made up of metals, particularly gold and copper. Quebec's production in 1938 and 1939 was, respectively, 15.6 p.c. and 16.3 p.c. of the total, while British Columbia accounted for 14.6 p.c. in 1938 and 13.7 p.c. in 1939. Nova Scotia and Alberta are the most important coal-producing provinces. The discovery and development of the Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon orebodies resulted in the Provinces of Manitoba and Saskatchewan becoming important producers of base metals and gold and silver. Alberta, besides being a big producer of coal, is the most important province for the production of petroleum and natural gas, and this activity has shown a rapid increase in recent years.