

the base-metal industries, metal production has expanded again, and while the net sales in 1939 were not on a comparable basis with those of 1929, employees were 87 p.c. above, and salaries and wages 96 p.c. above 1929. While the outbreak of war in Europe in September exercised little appreciable effect upon the production of minerals in 1939, it is probable that the armament programs that preceded the conflict had been a factor in the increasing activity of various metallic mineral industries.

Among the fuel industries the demand for coal declined during the depression years owing to reduced requirements in industrial and railway 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 that 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 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 the period prior to 1929.

7.—Principal Statistics of the Mineral Industries of Canada, by Groups, 1929-39, and by Provinces, 1939

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 at 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 at 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.	\$	\$	\$
METALLICS						
1929.....	528	427,498,173	31,125	50,279,511	11,221,987	163,050,366
1930.....	352	427,439,265	30,623	48,851,303	11,323,313	137,015,892
1931.....	327	390,908,034	25,434	41,829,288	10,340,523	132,382,514
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
1935.....	619	437,471,769	38,603	59,528,350	10,199,214	217,353,515
1936.....	867	507,796,987	46,455	72,016,670	151,846,099 ¹	173,588,815 ²
1937.....	1,000	584,692,790	55,046	90,798,501	188,371,440 ¹	211,444,303 ²
1938.....	883	583,631,536	56,491	94,466,952	268,514,346 ^{1,4}	276,885,288 ²
1939.....	785	574,099,672	58,225	98,570,473	260,417,691 ^{1,4}	278,367,293 ²
					249,452,335 ^{1,4}	286,895,798 ²

For footnotes, see end of table, p. 247.