

Although the year 1926 was not a normal year in mineral production to the same extent as in some other productive fields, the rapid changes that have resulted from circumstances arising since 1926 can be seen more clearly by using it as a base year. Table 4 shows the indexes of volume of mineral production, using 1926 as the base year, by principal minerals, for the period 1929-40. The very large increase in the production of petroleum is especially noteworthy.

4.—Indexes of Volume of Mineral Production, by Principal Minerals, 1929-40
(1926=100)

NOTE.—Indexes for 1927 and 1928 will be found at p. 319 of the 1940 Year Book.

Mineral	1929	1930	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
METALLICS												
Cobalt.....	139.8	104.4	78.4	73.8	70.2	89.5	102.5	133.5	76.3	69.1	110.2	
Copper.....	186.4	228.0	219.6	186.1	225.4	274.1	314.8	316.3	398.2	429.2	457.4	
Gold.....	109.9	119.8	153.6	173.5	168.1	169.4	187.3	213.7	233.5	269.4	290.4	
Lead.....	115.1	117.3	94.2	90.2	93.9	122.0	119.5	135.0	145.2	147.6	136.9	
Nickel.....	167.8	157.9	99.9	46.2	126.7	195.8	210.8	258.3	342.2	320.4	344.1	
Platinum metals.....	131.5	357.4	470.3	287.2	260.3	1220.8	1106.8	1381.9	1463.9	1694.4	1454.6	
Silver.....	103.4	118.2	91.9	82.0	67.9	73.4	74.3	82.0	102.7	99.3	103.5	
Zinc.....	131.6	178.5	158.2	114.9	132.8	199.1	213.9	222.2	247.0	254.4	263.1	
FUELS												
Coal.....	106.2	90.3	74.3	71.2	72.2	83.8	84.3	92.4	96.1	86.7	94.3	106.6
Natural gas.....	147.8	152.9	134.7	121.9	120.5	120.6	129.7	146.4	168.6	174.1	183.2	214.7
Petroleum.....	306.6	417.7	423.3	286.6	314.3	387.1	396.9	411.7	807.7	1911.4	2147.5	2357.3
NON-METALLICS (EXCLUDING FUELS)												
Asbestos.....	109.5	86.7	58.8	44.0	56.7	55.8	99.8	107.8	146.8	103.7	130.4	1
Gypsum.....	137.1	121.2	97.7	49.6	43.4	52.2	61.3	94.4	118.5	114.2	160.9	163.9
Quartz.....	114.6	97.5	84.3	81.5	80.1	117.4	100.4	451.0 ²	593.5 ²	594.6 ²	682.1 ²	800.7 ²
Salt.....	125.8	103.5	98.7	100.4	106.7	122.6	137.2	149.0	174.8	167.6	161.7	177.0
Sulphur ³	110.9	97.8	129.8	137.8	148.7	133.6	174.8	316.5	339.2	291.3	547.5	1
STRUCTURAL MATERIALS⁴												
Cement.....	141.1	126.7	116.7	51.7	34.5	43.5	41.9	51.8	70.9	63.4	65.8	86.8
Lime.....	162.9	118.6	83.3	77.5	78.2	88.9	98.0	113.2	132.7	117.6	133.4	173.2
Sand and gravel.....	162.7	166.8	127.1	84.6	68.6	86.8	124.0	129.3	157.8	188.3	182.9	183.3
Stone.....	150.4	156.2	131.3	73.3	45.9	63.7	67.5	77.9	108.4	80.0	85.1	116.4

¹ War-time restrictions preclude the publication of data for 1940.
grade natural silica sand used as non-ferrous smelter flux is included.
being comparable.

² Beginning with 1936 low-
³ 1928=100, previous years not

⁴ Excluding clay products.

Subsection 3.—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 1939 Ontario's production was 49.0 p.c. of the total and in 1940, 49.5 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 three latest years. Whereas formerly non-metallics (especially asbestos)