

4.—Indexes of Volume of Mineral Production, by Principal Minerals, 1931-42

(1926=100)

NOTE.—Indexes for 1927-30 will be found at p. 319 of the 1940 Year Book.

Mineral	1931	1932	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942
METALLICS												
Cobalt.....	78.4	73.8	70.2	89.5	102.5	133.5	76.3	69.1	110.2	119.5	39.6	12.6
Copper.....	219.6	186.1	225.4	274.1	314.8	316.3	398.2	429.2	457.4	492.6	483.4	453.6
Gold.....	153.6	173.5	168.1	169.4	187.3	213.7	233.5	269.4	290.4	302.8	304.7	276.0
Lead.....	94.2	90.2	93.9	122.0	119.5	135.0	145.2	147.6	136.9	166.3	162.1	180.5
Nickel.....	99.9	46.2	126.7	195.8	210.8	258.3	342.2	320.4	344.1	373.7	429.5	434.0
Platinum metals.	470.3	287.2	260.3	1220.8	1106.8	1381.9	1463.9	1694.4	1454.6	1023.3	1134.6	2598.1
Silver.....	91.9	82.0	67.9	73.4	74.3	82.0	102.7	99.3	103.5	106.5	97.2	92.5
Zinc.....	158.2	114.9	132.8	199.1	213.9	222.2	247.0	254.4	263.1	282.8	341.7	387.0
FUELS												
Coal.....	74.3	71.2	72.2	83.8	84.3	92.4	96.1	86.7	94.3	106.6	110.6	114.5
Natural gas.....	134.7	121.9	120.5	120.6	129.7	146.4	168.6	174.1	183.2	214.7	226.4	237.9
Petroleum.....	423.3	286.6	314.3	387.1	396.9	411.7	807.7	1911.4	2147.5	2357.3	2780.6	2844.0
NON-METALLICS (EXCLUDING FUELS)												
Asbestos.....	58.8	44.0	56.7	55.8	99.8	107.8	146.8	103.7	130.4	124.1	171.0	157.3
Gypsum.....	97.7	49.6	43.4	52.2	61.3	94.4	118.5	114.2	160.9	163.9	180.3	64.1
Quartz ¹	84.3	81.5	80.1	117.4	100.4	451.0	593.5	594.6	682.1	800.7	884.5	748.9
Salt.....	98.7	100.4	106.7	122.6	137.2	149.0	174.8	167.6	161.7	177.0	213.6	249.0
Sulphur ²	129.8	137.8	148.7	133.6	174.8	316.5	339.2	291.3	547.5	442.2	673.8	787.0
STRUCTURAL MATERIALS³												
Cement.....	116.7	51.7	34.5	43.5	41.9	51.8	70.9	63.4	65.8	86.8	96.1	104.8
Lime.....	83.3	77.5	78.2	88.9	98.0	113.2	132.7	117.6	133.4	173.2	208.0	213.8
Sand and gravel.	127.1	84.6	68.6	86.8	124.0	129.3	157.8	188.3	182.9	183.3	184.7	154.0
Stone.....	131.3	73.3	45.9	63.7	67.5	77.9	108.4	80.0	85.1	116.4	124.1	124.7

¹ Beginning with 1936 low-grade natural silica sand used as non-ferrous smelter flux is included.² 1928=100, previous years not being comparable.³ 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 one-half 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 1940 Ontario's production was 49.4 p.c. of the total but it has since declined to 47.7 p.c. in 1941, 45.7 p.c. in 1942 and 43.8 p.c. in 1943. For many years British Columbia, where most of the important metals are found and substantial quantities of coal exist, was in second place, but for the past six years Quebec has held that position. A great part of Quebec's mineral production is made up of gold, copper and asbestos. 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.