

1.—Value of Mineral Production of Canada, 1886-1944

Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita	Year	Total Value	Value per Capita
	\$	\$		\$	\$		\$	\$
1886.....	10,221,255	2.23	1925.....	226,583,333	24.38	1937.....	457,359,092	41.41
1890.....	16,763,353	3.51	1930.....	279,873,578	27.42	1938.....	441,823,237	39.62
1895.....	20,505,917	4.08				1939.....	474,602,059	42.12
1900.....	64,420,877	12.15	1931 ¹	230,434,726	22.21	1940.....	529,825,035	46.55
1905.....	69,073,999	11.51	1932.....	191,228,225	18.19	1941.....	560,241,290	48.69
1910.....	106,823,623	15.29	1933.....	221,495,253	20.83	1942.....	566,768,672	48.63
1915.....	137,109,171	17.18	1935.....	312,344,457	28.80	1943.....	530,053,966	44.87
1920.....	227,859,665	26.63	1936.....	361,919,372	33.05	1944 ²	482,260,463	40.27

¹ Beginning with 1931, exchange equalization on gold production is included.

² Subject to revision.

Current Production.—The depression beginning in 1930 had a profound effect upon the production of minerals in Canada. The decline in general commodity prices and the increased price of gold provided a two-fold stimulus to production and, as in the 1920's, output of gold was increased. This rise in the price of gold since 1931 (\$20.67 per fine ounce in 1931 to \$38.50, Canadian funds, in 1945) resulted in the mines being able to produce from ore that was hitherto unprofitable, and stimulated prospecting to such a degree that many new mines were discovered. In addition, parts of Canada not hitherto of commercial importance were opened up and new communities were established with resultant markets for consumer goods and mine supplies. Base-metal prices declined to low levels, but the improvements that low prices and competition had brought about in productive facilities during the 1920's, together with the presence in the ores of small but appreciable quantities of precious metals, enabled the producing companies to carry on. After a period of readjustment, production expanded again. However, the serious reduction in industrial and construction operations materially restricted the production of coal, non-metallics other than fuels, and the various structural minerals.

The situation, therefore, prior to the outbreak of war in 1939 was that Canada's mineral industries were in a particularly strong position so far as their ability to make a substantial contribution to the country's war effort was concerned. Such a possible contribution had two aspects, namely:—

(1) The production at reasonable cost of those minerals that were essential for the manufacture of armaments, munitions and other war supplies as well as for non-war requirements.

(2) The creation of essential foreign credits by the production of gold and silver and of other minerals, surplus to national needs, for export sale to other countries.

The production of gold was reaching new high records each year so that in 1940 Canada stood second among the countries of the world with 13.1 p.c. of the total world production. Reliable world figures of gold production are difficult to obtain at present as accurate data are not available. As already indicated, developments in connection with base metals enabled Canadian companies to produce large supplies of copper, nickel, lead and zinc on a low-cost basis. The policy of the Department of Mines and Resources has been to encourage and assist in the location of deposits of other metals and minerals that were formerly imported, important among which were tungsten, manganese and magnesium. Metallurgical processes had been extended to include final refining operations of sufficient capacity to handle the