

The total volume of mineral output attained a wartime peak in 1941 when the production index stood at 132. Principally because of the steady recession in the mining of gold and other principal metals during the next five years, the index gradually declined and reached a ten-year low point of 97 in 1946. Since then, sharp gains in the production of petroleum and other non-metals, together with a moderate increase in metals output, resulted in a sustained advance to a record high level of 175 in 1952.

4.—Indexes of the Volume of Production of the Principal Mining Industries, 1935-52

(1935-39=100)

Mineral	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943
Metallics—									
Gold.....	78.3	89.5	97.7	112.7	121.6	126.8	127.6	115.7	87.3
Silver.....	80.3	88.7	111.0	107.4	111.9	115.5	105.2	100.1	84.1
Copper.....	82.2	82.6	103.9	112.1	119.3	128.6	126.2	118.4	112.9
Nickel.....	71.4	87.6	116.0	108.7	116.6	126.7	145.6	147.1	148.6
Lead.....	87.3	98.7	106.0	107.8	100.0	121.5	118.5	132.0	114.5
Zinc.....	89.0	92.4	102.7	106.0	109.4	117.7	142.2	161.2	169.7
Non-metallics—									
Gypsum.....	61.3	86.5	107.6	106.1	138.5	148.5	167.7	89.3	83.8
Asbestos.....	66.8	90.6	127.5	97.3	117.8	109.2	142.2	129.4	137.1
Salt.....	86.4	94.5	110.6	105.9	102.5	112.0	135.9	157.3	164.8
Fuels—									
Coal.....	92.2	101.1	105.9	95.2	105.6	118.5	122.0	125.9	116.8
Petroleum.....	35.0	36.3	71.2	168.4	189.2	207.7	245.0	250.6	243.0
Natural gas.....	80.7	95.4	103.7	105.9	114.3	126.8	121.4	114.5	97.4
Total Mining.....	79.5	89.2	103.8	109.4	118.0	125.7	132.0	129.5	116.1
	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 ^a
Metallics—									
Gold.....	69.8	64.4	67.6	73.3	84.3	98.3	105.8	104.0	106.5
Silver.....	66.1	62.7	60.7	60.5	77.9	81.2	104.8	102.7	113.3
Copper.....	107.3	93.2	72.2	88.5	94.5	99.0	93.4	95.1	91.2
Nickel.....	141.6	126.5	99.1	122.2	135.9	132.8	127.7	141.2	144.2
Lead.....	78.6	89.4	91.2	83.3	86.1	87.7	64.6	61.6	65.1
Zinc.....	153.1	143.8	130.8	115.5	130.1	141.5	145.9	153.0	170.6
Non-metallics—									
Gypsum.....	98.5	117.3	210.1	280.0	349.3	346.4	403.6	371.4	370.3
Asbestos.....	120.9	135.5	150.3	163.1	176.9	141.8	218.5	245.3	245.2
Salt.....	168.3	161.8	129.5	178.9	177.7	181.2	207.2	233.1	234.6
Fuels—									
Coal.....	112.3	106.6	115.6	101.7	120.6	124.4	122.9	119.4	112.9
Petroleum.....	244.1	205.1	183.4	186.0	297.0	515.0	703.4	1,161.0	1,490.6
Natural gas.....	93.1	96.5	94.0	102.6	112.7	110.6	116.9	150.8	188.3
Total Mining.....	104.1	100.9	97.1	106.2	122.2	131.7	115.4	161.8	174.7