

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 moderate increases in metals output, resulted in a sustained advance to a record high level of 210 in 1954.

4.—Indexes of the Volume of Production of the Principal Mining Industries 1945-54

(1935-39=100)

NOTE.—Comparable figures from 1935 are given in the 1954 Year Book, p. 523.

Mineral	1945	1946	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954
Metallics	91.2	79.9	88.7	99.4	107.7	111.0	113.5	116.5	114.1	124.8
Gold.....	64.4	67.6	73.3	84.3	98.3	105.8	104.0	106.5	97.0	103.9
Silver.....	62.7	60.7	60.5	77.9	81.2	104.8	102.7	113.3	126.7	138.8
Copper.....	93.2	72.2	88.5	94.5	99.0	93.4	95.1	91.2	89.6	106.9
Nickel.....	126.5	99.1	122.2	135.9	132.8	127.7	141.2	144.2	147.4	163.4
Lead.....	89.4	91.2	83.3	86.1	67.7	64.6	61.6	65.1	76.3	85.6
Zinc.....	148.8	130.8	115.5	130.1	141.5	145.9	153.0	170.6	186.4	173.8
Non-metallics	153.4	170.4	189.2	204.3	175.4	247.2	271.9	267.3	258.1	264.3
Gypsum.....	117.3	210.1	280.0	349.3	346.4	403.6	371.4	370.3	393.8	405.5
Asbestos.....	135.5	150.3	163.1	176.9	141.8	218.5	245.3	245.2	232.3	235.9
Salt.....	161.8	129.5	178.9	177.7	181.2	207.2	233.1	234.6	231.2	232.2
Fuels	118.2	121.9	112.8	142.7	173.7	198.0	258.8	301.5	351.5	397.0
Coal.....	106.6	115.6	101.7	120.6	124.4	122.9	119.4	112.9	101.8	94.2
Petroleum.....	205.1	183.4	186.0	297.0	515.0	703.4	1,161.0	1,490.6	1,966.5	2,337.5
Natural gas.....	96.5	94.0	102.6	112.7	110.6	116.9	150.8	188.3	157.5	180.4
Total Mining	100.9	97.1	106.2	122.2	131.7	145.4	161.8	174.7	185.8	209.7

Subsection 2.—Provincial Distribution of Mineral Production

Provincial distribution of mineral production value showed only slight changes in 1954 from the 1953 figures. Ontario still remained the leading producer with a 33.4 p.c. contribution to the total value of output (34.9 p.c. in 1953). In 1940 this Province accounted for 49.4 p.c. by value of Canada's mineral production but this percentage has since steadily declined. In 1954 Ontario led in production of cobalt, copper, gold and nickel.

Quebec and Alberta shared second place in production value in 1954 with 18.7 p.c. of the total for each province and British Columbia, which at one time ranked second, came third with 10.7 p.c. production value. Alberta gained second place with its expansion of

* The construction of this index, which is a component of the revised index of industrial production, is described in DBS Reference Paper, *Revised Index of Industrial Production, 1935-51*.