

4.—Indexes of the Volume of Production of the Principal Mining Industries 1947-56

(1935-39=100)

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

Mineral	1947	1948	1949	1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
Metallics	88.7	99.4	107.7	111.0	113.5	116.5	114.1	124.8	138.0	142.3
Gold.....	73.3	84.3	98.3	105.8	104.0	106.5	97.0	103.9	108.2	104.7
Silver.....	60.5	77.9	81.2	104.8	102.7	113.3	126.7	138.8	124.3	125.1
Copper.....	88.5	94.5	99.0	93.4	95.1	91.2	89.6	106.9	115.3	125.8
Nickel.....	122.2	135.9	132.8	127.7	141.2	144.2	147.4	163.4	180.6	184.4
Lead.....	83.3	86.1	67.7	64.6	61.6	65.1	76.3	85.6	78.6	73.5
Zinc.....	115.5	130.1	141.5	145.9	153.0	170.6	186.4	173.8	199.5	195.4
Non-metallics	189.2	204.3	175.4	247.2	271.9	267.3	258.1	264.3	304.4	316.3
Gypsum.....	280.0	349.3	346.4	403.6	371.4	370.3	393.8	405.5	476.4	506.0
Asbestos.....	163.1	176.9	141.8	218.5	245.3	245.2	232.3	235.9	268.0	271.4
Salt.....	178.9	177.7	181.2	207.2	233.1	234.6	231.2	232.2	310.0	385.9
Fuels	112.8	142.7	173.7	198.0	258.8	301.5	351.5	397.0	506.2	646.1
Coal.....	101.7	120.6	124.4	122.9	119.4	112.9	101.8	94.2	93.3	93.3
Petroleum.....	186.0	297.0	515.0	703.4	1,161.0	1,490.6	1,966.5	2,337.5	3,143.7	4,189.1
Natural gas.....	102.6	112.7	110.6	116.9	150.8	188.3	157.5	180.4	220.4	249.0
Total Mining	106.2	122.2	131.7	145.4	161.8	174.7	185.8	209.7	242.0	272.5

Subsection 2.—Provincial Distribution of Mineral Production

The continued rise in mineral production in 1956 was shared by all provinces except Nova Scotia where values dropped 0.8 p.c. The Yukon Territory also increased its output but the Northwest Territories reported a decline of 10.3 p.c.

Ontario again led the provinces, producing 31.0 p.c. by value of the mineral output of Canada. Although Ontario's physical production is rising rapidly, the percentage contribution of this Province to the Canadian total is slowly declining, having been 49.4 in 1940 and 35.1 in 1950. Ontario's advance of 9.8 p.c. in 1956 over 1955 resulted mainly from increases in nickel, copper and iron ore. Quebec retained second place, its share of the Canadian total being 20.6 p.c. as compared with 19.9 in 1955 and 21.1 in 1950. Quebec's increase in value of output in 1956 was 19.5 p.c., the highest gains being in copper, iron ore and asbestos. Alberta followed Quebec closely, contributing 19.8 p.c. of the nation's total in 1956, most of it made up of petroleum and natural gas. The increase in the Province in 1956 was 25.4 p.c.

British Columbia, with 9.6 p.c. of Canada's value of mineral production in 1956, contributed 77.7 p.c. of the lead, 52.4 p.c. of the zinc and 32.4 p.c. of the silver. Saskatchewan reported an increase in mineral production of 34.0 p.c. in 1956 and advanced its share of the Canadian total to 5.5 p.c. from 4.7 p.c. in the previous year. Newfoundland with a production doubled in value since 1954, also increased its portion of the Canadian total to 4.2 p.c. in 1956 from 3.8 p.c. in 1955, mostly as a result of heavier iron ore shipments. Manitoba and Nova Scotia each contributed 3.2 p.c. of the total in 1956. The decline in the latter province was caused by lower production of copper, lead and zinc. New Brunswick's contribution, though the lowest among the provinces, showed an encouraging increase of 15.3 p.c. in 1956.