

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT
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BUREAU OF MINERAL INDUSTRIES
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MINERALS YEAR 1938

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Economics and Statistics



UNITED STATES
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
WASHINGTON : 1938

For sale by the Superintendent of Documents, Washington, D.C.

N49763

required to supply the domestic demand first and to export only quantities over and above such requirements. In the past, large quantities of crude copper have been shipped to the United States for refining, but completion of this plant should seriously reduce or eliminate this movement. In 1937, 14,600 metric tons of unrefined copper were imported into the United States from Yugoslavia compared with 17,300 tons in 1936. According to one report the company plans to produce sulphur as a byproduct of its operations to avoid damage to surrounding agricultural lands.

LEAD ¹

By E. W. PEHRSON and H. M.

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During the first 9 months of 1937 the lead industry made considerable progress, but much of this gain was wiped out by a decline in industrial activity during the closing quarter. The year 1937 as a whole represented substantial progress over 1936. Production and consumption exceeded 1936 and were the highest since 1930. Stocks showed a decline, and the average price of lead was higher than in 1936. Wages surpassed those paid in 1929, and production was up for the year.

Salient statistics of the lead industry in the United States, 1933-37, in short tons

	1925-29 (average)	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Production of refined primary lead:						
From domestic ores.....	800,525	249,713	250,000	250,000	250,000	250,000
From foreign ores and base bullion.....	123,104	13,903	13,903	13,903	13,903	13,903
	783,629	263,616	263,903	263,903	263,903	263,903
Recovery of secondary lead:						
As pig lead.....	126,600	131,800	131,800	131,800	131,800	131,800
In alloys.....	153,400	92,700	92,700	92,700	92,700	92,700
	280,000	224,500	224,500	224,500	224,500	224,500
Total production of pig lead (primary and secondary).....	910,229	395,476	395,476	395,476	395,476	395,476
Imports:						
Lead in base bullion.....	95,747	1,587	1,587	1,587	1,587	1,587
Lead in ore.....	40,000	5,958	5,958	5,958	5,958	5,958
Exports of refined pig lead.....	98,048	22,835	22,835	22,835	22,835	22,835
Refined primary lead available for consumption.....	660,916	240,950	240,950	240,950	240,950	240,950
Estimated consumption of primary and secondary lead.....	900,250	449,500	449,500	449,500	449,500	449,500
Prices:						
New York:						
Average for year.....	7.47	3.87	3.87	3.87	3.87	3.87
Quotation at end of year.....	6.25	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16	4.16
London average.....	5.87	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.21	2.21
Mine production of recoverable lead.....	664,230	272,677	272,677	272,677	272,677	272,677
World smelter production of lead.....	1,850,000	1,274,000	1,274,000	1,274,000	1,274,000	1,274,000

¹ Data include lead imported for immediate consumption plus material in transit.² Revised figures.³ Subject to revision.⁴ This report deals primarily with the smelting, refining, and consumption of lead. For details of mining operations see separate reports issued for the various countries.

Unfortunately, however, toward the end of 1937 it became evident that the peak of another cycle of prosperity had been passed and that the industry was facing another depression of unknown proportions. Other disturbing factors, from the viewpoint of the producer, were the reduction in the Government price for domestic silver and the announcement that the import duties on lead and lead products would be considered in trade-treaty negotiations with the United Kingdom and Canada scheduled for the spring of 1938. The latter opened the way for a possible reduction of 50 percent in the protection now afforded the lead industry by the tariff. Figure 1 shows trends in the lead industry of the United States since 1900.

A feature of the lead industry in 1937 was the violent fluctuation in price. From January 1 to March 10 the New York quotation

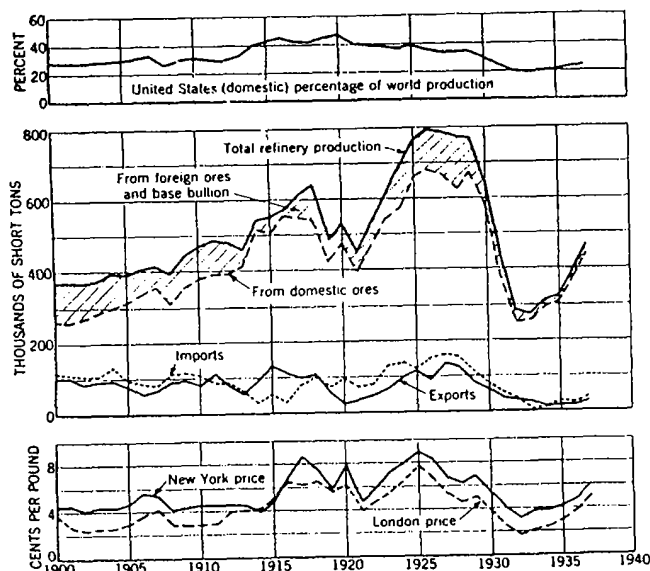


FIGURE 1.—Trends in the lead industry in the United States, 1900-1937. Imports include lead in ore, base bullion, and refined lead; exports include refined lead.

rose from 6.03 to 7.78 cents as a result of the speculative market in London, where at times prices actually exceeded those prevailing on the domestic market. About the middle of March speculative support abroad was withdrawn, and both markets moved downward abruptly. In a single day the New York price dropped 0.90 cent per pound. The domestic market finally was stabilized at 6.00 cents early in April, where it remained until the first part of August. A last flurry upward to 6.50 cents was short-lived, as the recession in the last quarter brought on a decline that carried the quotation down to 4.75 cents on December 31, 1937. London prices experienced an even greater decline—from a high of 7.92 cents in March to 3.45 cents at the close of the year. Normal differentials between New York and London thus were restored the latter part of 1937. Domestic stocks of lead dropped steadily from January to September and then rose

rapidly, as domestic shipments to consumers increased in the last quarter.

Outside the United States production exceeded all previous records. Compared with 1936, production abroad increased 11 percent in 1937 but in the first 9 months of 1938 it had increased 34 percent. Foreign consumption likewise increased 11 percent while the United States used a little less. However, increases in production and consumption were larger in the United States than in the rest of the world. Of the important foreign lead-producing countries, outputs except Spain, where civil war has cut production, were larger in 1937 than in 1936. Larger production of secondary lead in the United States, by the high prices early in 1937, was an important factor in the rise in prices on the London Metal Exchange.

Proposed trade agreements with the United Kingdom. On November 17, 1937, the Secretary of State announced the Government's intention to enter into a trade agreement with the United Kingdom. A full-scale agreement was expected to be completed by January 8, 1938, stated that Newfoundland and the British Empire also would be included in the negotiations. The agreement scheduled for consideration included litharge, lead, and other miscellaneous commodities. The agreement issued January 24, 1938, included lead-bearing materials of all kinds. The closing date for submission of applications for public hearing was February 14, 1938. Hearings began March 14, 1938.

Similar announcements with respect to Canada were made on November 18, 1937, and on January 29, 1938. The agreement to be considered in the Canadian negotiations was similar to the one with the United Kingdom, as lead bullion or base bullion, lead in pigs, lead in scrap, scrap lead, and alloys or compounds of lead were specially provided for. The closing date for application for public hearings was March 14, 1938. Hearings began April 4, 1938.

Tariff history.—There has been a tariff on lead in the United States since 1897, and it has ranged from a low of 15 percent ad valorem to 25 percent ad valorem. The Tariff Act of 1897 placed the duty on lead at 2½ cents per pound, where it has remained since 1897 to 1913, 0.75 cent from 1914 to 1922, and 1.25 cent from 1923 to date.

Effectiveness of tariff.—The effectiveness of the tariff is shown in figure 2, which compares the difference between foreign prices for lead with the import duty. The difference, except during periods when domestic lead was produced in the United States, the tariff has been instrumental in keeping domestic prices considerably above those prevailing abroad. The sharp reduction in the differential between the New York and London prices in 1937 indicates an upward trend in London prices relative to the New York market. The European rise in lead prices was due to military preparations in anticipation of the war. The cut in tariff provided by the act of 1937

pated to some extent. By the time the new duty had become effective the disparity between London and New York prices largely had been eliminated.

Owing to disturbed conditions during and immediately after the war, it is difficult to appraise accurately the net effect of the reduction in import duty during this period. Since 1924 the differential between New York and London has resumed pre-war proportions.

Seldom has the domestic price realized the full protection provided by the tariff. From 1900 to 1937 the annual differential between New York and London has averaged 1.25 cents per pound, whereas the tariff on pig lead averaged 1.89 cents. This may be ascribed to three factors:

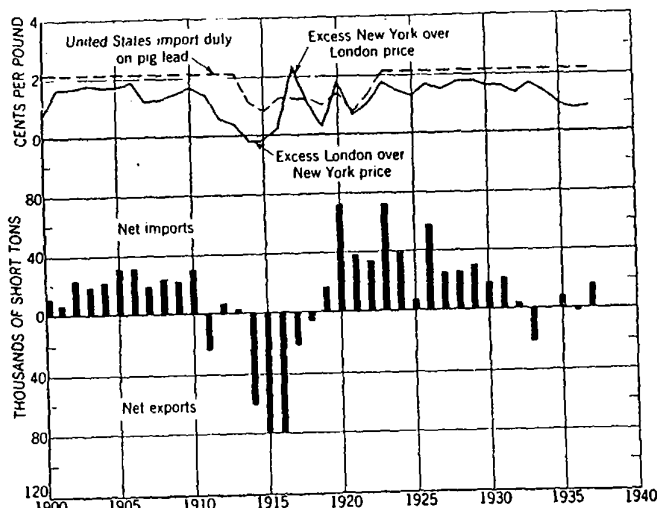


FIGURE 2.—Comparison of the import duty on pig lead with the differential between New York and London prices for lead and with the import-export position of the United States, 1900-1937.

1. The tariff was not effective during periods when the United States was a net exporter of lead, as from 1914 to 1916.
2. Competitive conditions in the domestic industry.
3. Influence of lower duties on lead imported in the form of ore, of which substantial quantities have been smelted in the United States.

From 1900 to 1937 net imports of lead have comprised 2.6 percent of the total consumed in the United States. It is evident, therefore, that despite the higher domestic price, the tariff has not excluded foreign lead from the domestic market.

Grade of ores mined in the principal lead-producing regions of the world.—The accompanying table compares the dollar yield of ores mined in the principal lead-producing regions of the world. The data were compiled on the basis of the metal recovered per ton of ore treated in the latest year for which representative data were available. The metal yield was converted into dollar yield at the following average world prices in 1936: Gold, \$35 per ounce; silver, 45 cents per ounce; copper, 9.465 cents per pound; lead, 3.91 cents per pound; and zinc, 3.31 cents per pound. The same prices were applied to the

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United States in order that the average values be comparable to those in other regions of the world.

Average value per short ton of ores mined in the principal lead-producing regions of the world, based on 1936 world prices

Region or mine	Value of	
	Gold and silver	Copper
United States:		
Southeastern Missouri.....	\$0.02	
Idaho.....	1.59	
Utah.....	5.41	
Tri-State region.....		
Montana.....	3.77	
Arizona.....	5.48	
Nevada.....	4.30	
New Mexico.....	1.87	
Average United States.....	1.92	
Australia, Broken Hill.....	2.30	
Canada, Sullivan mine.....	1.04	
India, Bawdwin mine.....	5.63	
Mexico:		
Chihuahua.....	3.47	
Durango.....	0.12	
Coahuila.....	3.61	
Zacatecas.....	6.46	
Average Mexico.....	4.43	
Newfoundland, Buchans mine.....	1.43	
Yugoslavia, Trepcia mines.....	1.22	

¹ Gold \$35 per ounce; silver 45 cents per ounce; copper 9.465 cents per pound; and zinc 3.31 cents per pound.

The data show that the grade of ore mined for lead in the United States varies greatly for different regions but that it is much below the ore from other parts of the world, such as Newfoundland, Mexico, and Canada. A significant feature is the extremely low grade ore mined in the Southern Tri-State regions. These two districts contributed about 95 percent of the total United States output in 1937. The weight of lead ores mined in districts that contributed about 95 percent of the total United States output was \$8.23 per ton compared with \$19.10 in Newfoundland, and \$13.38 at the Sullivan mine (the principal source of Canadian lead). The table shows that little or no precious metals, whereas in neighboring regions silver yield ranges from \$1.43 to \$6.46 per ton.

Variations in grade of ore do not necessarily result in variations in costs of production. Thus in the Sullivan district, where the extensive deposits permit mechanized operations, production costs compare favorably with those in smaller mines where the ore may be of lower grade. Nevertheless it may be assumed that the United States is in a world market with foreign producers of high grade ore. Those in Canada, Newfoundland, and Mexico, however, would be handicapped severely because of their low grade of ore.

DOMESTIC PRODUCTION

Refined pig lead produced in the United States is derived from three main sources—domestic ore, foreign ore and base bullion, and secondary materials. The following table lists the production from each of these sources from 1933 to 1937.

Total pig lead produced in the United States, 1933-37, in short tons

Year	From domestic ores and base bullion	From foreign ores and base bullion	From secondary materials	Total
1933.....	249,713	12,053	131,800	395,476
1934.....	299,841	11,395	121,500	435,736
1935.....	310,505	14,059	150,800	481,364
1936.....	387,698	11,458	137,500	536,656
1937.....	443,142	24,175	154,500	621,817

PRIMARY LEAD

Refinery production.—Production of refined primary lead in 1937 increased 17 percent but was 40 percent below the 1925-29 average. The production of lead derived from domestic ores increased about 14 percent in 1937. Production from foreign ores and base bullion increased 111 percent but was equivalent to only 24 percent of the 1929 output; it represented only 5 percent of the total output of refined primary lead.

Refined primary lead produced in the United States, 1933-37

Year	Production (short tons)				Sources (short tons)			Value	
	Desilverized lead ¹	Soft lead ²		Total production ³	From domestic ores and base bullion	From foreign ores	From foreign base bullion	Average per pound	Total
		Desilverized	Undesilverized						
1933.....	165,791	12,307	85,578	263,676	249,713	7,677	6,286	\$0.037	\$10,512,000
1934.....	165,408	22,744	102,024	311,236	299,841	10,241	1,154	.037	23,031,000
1935.....	192,544	35,233	96,783	324,560	310,505	13,659	399	.010	25,065,000
1936.....	239,944	47,462	111,750	399,156	387,698	11,401	57	.010	36,722,000
1937.....	272,051	55,317	139,940	467,317	443,142	23,393	782	.059	55,142,000

¹ The lead content of antimonial lead is excluded.

² Desilverized soft lead is excluded.

³ Includes lead derived from Missouri ores and other nonargentiferous ores.

Source of primary lead.—Of the total refined lead produced in 1937, 95 percent was derived from domestic ores and 5 percent from foreign ores and base bullion. Production from foreign ores increased 105 percent in 1937. In 1928 more than 128,000 tons of foreign bullion were refined in the United States, but in recent years this trade has been reduced to very small proportions, although there was a small increase in 1937. Details of the sources of lead derived from domestic ores are given in the section on Mine Production.

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Refined primary lead produced in the United States, 1933-37,

Source	1933	1934
Domestic ore.....	249,713	299,841
Foreign ore:		
Australia.....		115
Canada.....	3,472	2,614
Europe.....	2,600	45
Mexico.....	257	1,011
South America.....	1,348	4,028
Other foreign.....		2,628
	7,077	10,241
Foreign base bullion:		
Mexico.....	6,021	703
South America.....	265	461
	6,286	1,164
Total foreign.....	13,063	11,395
Grand total.....	263,676	311,236

Antimonial lead.—Antimonial lead or hard lead is a byproduct of the refining of base bullion, but the amount of this source is only a small part of the country's production. The major part is derived from the smelting of antimony and some is produced by mixing metallic antimony with soft lead.

Several lead-smelting plants operate on scrap metal. Production data from such plants are summarized in Secondary Metals in this volume. A large quantity of scrap also is treated at primary smelters and refineries. Production of antimonial lead at these plants is shown as follows.

Antimonial lead produced at primary lead refineries

Year	Production (short tons)				Antimony content		Lead content
	From domestic ore	From foreign ore	From scrap	Total	Short tons	Percent	From domestic ore
1933.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	17,805	1,720	9.7	4,168
1934.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	10,607	2,353	13.0	5,601
1935.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	10,384	1,720	10.6	4,685
1936.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	23,230	2,162	9.3	7,442
1937.....	(1)	(1)	(1)	27,624	2,579	9.4	7,833

¹ Segregation discontinued.

SECONDARY LEAD

Recovery of secondary lead increased 5 percent in 1937. Recovery of battery scrap for smelting and refining increased and stocks of scrap were considerably lower at the end of the year. As the output of domestic refined primary lead was 481,364 tons in 1937, the ratio of secondary to primary lead production was 11.3 percent. If lead consumption continues to increase, this ratio may be expected, as additional supplies

have to come largely from the mines. Additional details on secondary lead production in 1937 are given in the chapter on Secondary Metals in this volume.

Secondary lead recovered in the United States, 1933-37

[Compiled by J. P. Dunlop]

Year	Pig lead (short tons)			Lead in alloys (short tons)	Total recovered lead		
	At primary plants	At secondary plants	Total		Short tons	Value	Ratio to domestic refined primary lead (percent)
1933.....	41,632	90,168	131,800	92,700	224,500	\$10,613,000	86
1934.....	33,657	90,943	124,600	83,900	208,500	15,421,600	70
1935.....	44,748	112,052	156,800	113,600	270,400	21,632,000	87
1936.....	34,556	102,944	137,500	125,400	262,900	21,189,800	68
1937.....	29,980	124,514	154,500	120,600	275,100	32,401,800	62

LEAD PIGMENTS

Lead pigments manufactured in 1937 contained 222,451 tons of lead, an increase of 1 percent over 1936. Of the 1937 total, 204,961 tons were derived from refined pig lead; white lead comprising 44 percent, litharge 39 percent, red lead 16 percent, and sublimed lead and orange mineral 1 percent. Sublimed lead and leaded zinc oxide are the principal pigments in which the lead content is derived from ores.

Lead in pigments,¹ 1933-37, by sources, in short tons

Year	Lead in pigments from—				Year	Lead in pigments from—			
	Domestic ore ²	Metal	Scrap	Total		Domestic ore ²	Metal	Scrap	Total
1933.....	6,875	143,027	56	149,958	1936.....	15,062	204,997	37	220,096
1934.....	7,538	157,294	379	165,211	1937.....	17,363	205,961	127	223,451
1935.....	12,109	185,151	144	197,401					

¹ Includes also lead recovered in zinc oxide and leaded zinc oxide.

² No pigments from foreign ore.

MINE PRODUCTION

Production of lead from domestic mines increased 25 percent in 1937 and was the largest recorded since 1930. All three of the major producing regions shared in the larger volume of output, with percentage increases as follows: Southeastern Missouri 41 percent, Coeur d'Alene 11, and Utah 28. Production in the Joplin region increased 29 percent. Southeastern Missouri contributed 33 percent of the 1937 total, Coeur d'Alene 21 percent, Utah 19 percent, and Joplin 11 percent. Most of the more important minor producing States made increases in 1937. Nevada's output was affected adversely by approaching exhaustion of the Tybo mine, and the power shortage in Montana caused a slight decline in production in that State. Further details of production by mines, districts, and States can be found in the various State reports.

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Mine production of recoverable lead in the United States, 1933-37, in short tons

State	1925-30 average	1933	1934
Western States and Alaska:			
Alaska.....	982	1,157	747
Arizona.....	0,743	1,721	3,439
California.....	2,070	381	412
Colorado.....	30,112	2,402	4,218
Idaho.....	141,610	74,393	71,324
Montana.....	18,871	6,582	10,005
Nevada.....	9,807	2,303	10,091
New Mexico.....	6,730	11,043	9,305
Oregon.....	0	5	21
South Dakota.....	21	3	360
Texas.....	213	58,688	58,077
Utah.....	149,509	840	291
Washington.....	1,323		1
Wyoming.....			
Central States:	370,097	150,488	169,251
Arkansas.....	38	10	40
Illinois.....	552	240	40
Kansas.....	26,121	6,089	6,805
Kentucky.....	135	176	104
Missouri.....	202,240	84,080	90,493
Oklahoma.....	58,300	18,038	16,747
Wisconsin.....	1,745	640	234
Eastern States:	280,137	110,073	114,463
New York.....			
Tennessee.....	4,000	3,116	3,625
Virginia.....			
North Carolina.....	4,000	3,116	3,625
	664,230	272,677	287,339

¹ Subject to revision.

Mine production of recoverable lead in the principal lead-producing United States, 1933-37, in short tons

District	State	1933	1934
Southeastern Missouri region:	Missouri.....	83,970	89,500
Coeur d'Alene region:	Idaho.....	73,020	70,330
Joplin region:	Kansas, Missouri, Oklahoma.....	28,137	24,460
Bingham:	Utah.....	33,030	32,420
Park City region:	Idaho.....	11,557	12,390
Tintic:	Idaho.....	6,433	5,710
Rush Valley:	Idaho.....	5,916	5,590
Butte:	Montana.....	4,185	5,390
San Juan Mountains:	Colorado.....	906	1,650
Eagle:	Montana.....	1,521	2,500
Ploche:	Nevada.....	1,026	4,640
Oro Blanco:	Arizona.....	1,026	1,670
Warm Springs:	Idaho.....	21	21
Willow Creek:	New Mexico.....	7,075	6,143
Ophir:	Utah.....	87	1,340
Metaline:	Washington.....	722	237
Tybo:	Nevada.....	107	4,285
Central:	New Mexico.....	3,408	2,846
Leadville:	Colorado.....	505	524
Cataract:	Montana.....	46	259
Banner:	Arizona.....	385	77
Flint Creek:	Montana.....	59	400
Bisbee (Warren):	Arizona.....	(¹)	64
Smelter:	Montana.....	424	676
Upper Mississippi Valley:	Iowa, northern Illinois, Wisconsin.....	640	234
Tombstone:	Arizona.....	872	1,200
Austinville:	Virginia.....	(¹)	(¹)
St. Lawrence County:	New York.....	(¹)	(¹)

¹ Data not yet available.

² Bureau of Mines not at liberty to publish figures.

³ Not listed according to rank.

STOCKS

Lead stocks, as reported by the American Bureau of Metal Statistics, are shown in the following table. Stocks of refined and antimonial lead include metal held by all primary refiners and by most refiners of secondary material who produce common lead. Foreign lead refined in the United States and entered for domestic consumption is included.

Lead stocks at end of year at smelters and refineries in the United States, 1933-37, in short tons

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Refined pig lead.....	191,624	223,593	215,595	165,159	119,837
Antimonial lead.....	11,437	10,437	6,711	6,607	0,294
	203,061	234,030	222,306	171,856	120,131
Lead in base bullion:					
At smelters and refineries.....	12,780	6,045	15,072	0,187	10,950
In transit to refineries.....	2,191	1,628	1,800	1,070	2,210
In process at refineries.....	10,403	11,567	10,233	14,100	14,413
	25,380	19,140	33,165	24,357	27,561
Lead in ore and matte and in process at smelters.....	67,263	60,690	58,562	50,098	62,081
	205,704	313,869	314,033	246,311	208,803

Considerable further progress was made during the first 9 months of 1937 in liquidating the large stocks of refined lead accumulated from 1929 to 1934, but in the last 3 months of the year the downward trend was reversed as shipments to consumers fell off abruptly. Inventories of refined metal reached a low of 90,742 tons at the end of September. Although the quantity of metal on hand at the end of 1937 was excessive, it includes metal sold and awaiting delivery. Early in 1937 the speculative demand for metal was exceptionally high, and the large stocks on hand at the beginning of the year aided in preventing a run-away price situation. Unfilled orders apparently declined during 1937, because at the close of the year consumers were reported to be "underbought to an unusual extent."²

Virtually no published data are available on stocks held outside of the United States. The British Metal Corporation, in its annual review of the lead industry issued in January 1938, states that "the very tight lead position which existed in the first quarter of 1937 was alleviated as output overtook consumption in the second half of the year. Stocks have grown a little but they are not large."

DOMESTIC CONSUMPTION

New supply.—The following table shows the refined primary lead available for consumption from 1933 to 1937. The computation does not take into account variations in producers' stocks, and as these have changed considerably during the past 5 years the quantities given do not indicate the true trend in the actual consumption of new lead. The supply available for consumption in 1937 was 18 percent greater than in 1936 but was equivalent to only 65 percent of the

² Correll, Irvin H., *Lead in 1937: Metals*, Vol. 8, No. 7, January 1938, p. 13.

LEAD

1925-29 average. As total consumption in 1937, it is evident that more of the lead is consumed by primary than by secondary metal.

Refined primary pig lead available for consumption in short tons

	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Supply:					
Imports.....					20,000
Production.....					26,000
Withdrawn:					
Exports.....					2,000
Supply available for consumption.....					24,000

¹ Includes small quantities of foreign lead reexported.

² Revised figures.

Consumption by uses.—Owing to the secondary lead from lead-consuming industries, pig lead greatly exceeds the supply available. The following table gives the American Bureau of Metal Statistics' estimate of the total consumption of lead by industry.

Lead consumed in the United States in short tons

Purpose	1937
White lead.....	59,000
Red lead and litharge.....	38,000
Storage batteries.....	147,000
Cable covering.....	31,000
Building.....	20,000
Automobiles.....	5,000
Railway equipment.....	32,000
Shipbuilding.....	2,000
Ammunition.....	22,000
Terneplate.....	11,000
Foil.....	16,000
Boaring metal.....	11,000
Solder.....	16,000
Type metal.....	11,000
Calking.....	12,000
Castings.....	5,000
Other uses.....	30,000
Total.....	440,000

¹ Source: American Bureau of Metal Statistics. These estimates are irrespective of whether its origin be primary or secondary.

The total industrial use of lead increased in 1937, but was still 30 percent below the 1929 record. In this chapter of this series, recovery of lead from scrap has lagged behind general industrial production. The low rate of consumption in the utility industry, a 51-percent increase in the use of lead in building indicate substantial growth in these outlets for lead were still 58 and 59 percent of 1929 levels. All other major uses in 1937

metal, were either increased or maintained at 1936 levels. The use of foil was affected adversely by the high prices early in the year, which prompted the use of substitutes, particularly aluminum.

Recent developments in the uses of lead include a new process for making white lead. According to United States Patent 2106555, the addition of small quantities of alkali metals to pig lead greatly accelerates the reaction between lead and the corroding reagent. The sodium compounds formed are removed from the basic lead carbonate by washing. Lead titanate appears to be making progress as a paint pigment, although there still appears to be some uncertainty as to its ultimate field of use. Oil- and gas-filled cables are supplanting overhead high-tension lines in England. Higher first costs are offset by lower maintenance costs and removal of hazards to aviation. In the oil-filled cables each wire is lead-sheathed, and the entire cable is encased in lead. The use of tellurium lead in chemical plants is expanding because of its exceptional resistance to corrosion and moderate strength.

To assist the consumer in obtaining lead products of standard quality, the Lead Industries Association on January 1, 1937, adopted a seal of approval. The seal is available to manufacturers whose products meet the standards set up by the association for lead pipe, lead traps, and bends.

PRICES

The two major markets for lead in the United States are New York and St. Louis; much of the lead produced in the United States is sold at prices based on quotations in these markets. The New York quotations are influenced to some extent by the lower prices usually prevailing on the London market, so that the New York price seldom exceeds the St. Louis price by as much as the freight differential, normally 0.35 cent a pound.

The New York quotation for lead in 1937 averaged 6.01 cents per pound, an increase of 28 percent over the 1936 average of 4.71 cents and 12 percent below the 1929 average of 6.83 cents. At the beginning of the year the price stood at 6.03 cents, and the market was in the midst of a speculative boom, which began in the fall of 1936 following the announcement of the British rearmament program. Domestic demand for metal was exceptionally good, and shipments to consumers increased from 46,000 tons in January to 63,000 in March. Prices reached a peak of 7.78 cents on March 10. Up to this time advances in the domestic quotation were dictated by the London market. Quotations on the London Metal Exchange at times exceeded New York prices, and large exports of domestic metal were averted only by successive increases in domestic prices. On March 12 the London market broke sharply. Domestic quotations likewise moved to lower levels at an exceedingly rapid rate, the quotation reaching 6.00 cents on April 7—a level maintained until August 4. Meanwhile domestic shipments had dropped to 43,000 tons in June, but as production had failed to show much improvement, stocks declined steadily. Following a pick-up in sales during July, the quotation advanced to 6.50 cents on August 11, where it held until September 15. Thereafter it fell steadily to 4.75 cents at the end of the year, as the recession in industrial activity gained momentum in the closing quarter.

LEAD

Average monthly and yearly quoted prices of lead at St. Louis, 1935-37, in cents per pound

Month	1935			1936	
	St. Louis	New York	London	St. Louis	New York
January.....	3.54	3.69	2.25	4.35	4.80
February.....	3.38	3.53	2.22	4.37	4.80
March.....	3.43	3.58	2.35	4.45	4.80
April.....	3.54	3.69	2.64	4.45	4.80
May.....	3.81	3.96	3.02	4.45	4.80
June.....	3.87	4.02	3.03	4.45	4.80
July.....	3.97	4.12	3.20	4.45	4.80
August.....	4.10	4.25	3.50	4.45	4.80
September.....	4.20	4.41	3.58	4.45	4.80
October.....	4.30	4.51	3.99	4.49	4.80
November.....	4.35	4.50	3.94	4.96	5.10
December.....	4.35	4.50	3.70	5.40	5.60
Average.....	3.91	4.06	3.12	4.66	4.71

¹ St. Louis: Metal Statistics, 1938, p. 411. Average daily quotation for lead (open market), as reported daily in the American Metal Market.

New York: American Metal Market, daily issues. Pig lead, New York market from West.

London: Metal Statistics, 1938, p. 415. Average price of foreign lead in Metal Statistics, converted to cents per pound at average exchange rate.

² London quotations in pounds sterling per long ton, as follows: 1935, £23.3250.

The London quotation ranged from a high of 31.12 (U. S. exchange basis) on March 11 to a low of 2.22 on December 31, 1937. On December 31, 1936, the price was 2.22, following the collapse on the London market in March 1937. Prices were more severe than in the United States. In March 1937 were the same in London as in New York. In November New York exceeded London by 1.32 cents. The average differential for the year was 0.86 cent compared with 1.36 in 1936, and 1.79 cents in 1929. The 1937 average was the highest since 1926 in London and 1929 in New York.

FOREIGN TRADE¹

The foreign trade of the United States in lead consists of imports of ore and base bullion, which are smelted and the export of this lead either as refined lead or as lead products. Since 1927, however, this trade has been almost entirely in refined lead. In 1937 only 40,806 short tons of lead in ore, base bullion, and scrap lead were imported compared with 161,300 in 1927. Of refined lead decreased from 125,267 to 20,000 in the same period lead exported in manufactures was 12,004 to 8,679 tons.

Imports.—Total imports of lead in ore and base bullion for immediate consumption and entries for manufacture were 40,806 short tons in 1937 owing to larger shipments from Peru. No ore was received from Newfoundland of base bullion, which had virtually ceased in 1936, and imports of refined lead, which for 1937 were 40,806 short tons, and imports of refined lead, which for 1937 were 40,806 short tons.

¹ Figures on imports and exports compiled by M. B. Price, of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

a few hundred tons, increased to 4,903 tons in 1937, including 2,345 tons from Peru and 1,769 from Australia. Total imports of lead increased 73 percent but were only 35 percent of the 1929 total.

Total lead imported into the United States, 1933-37, by classes, in short tons¹

Year	Lead in ore and matte	Lead in base bullion	Pigs, bars, sheets, and old	Total lead content
1933.....	5,058	1,537	109	7,654
1934.....	10,611	2,450	283	13,344
1935.....	20,025	2,602	1,322	24,039
1936.....	20,713	312	2,600	23,615
1937.....	34,103	1,800	4,003	40,806

¹ Data include lead imported for immediate consumption plus material entering the country under bond.

Total lead imported into the United States, in ore, base bullion, and refined, 1933-37, by countries, in short tons¹

Year	Canada	Mexico	Newfoundland	South America	Europe	Other countries	Total
1933.....	1,629	2,154	.....	1,485	2,368	18	7,654
1934.....	1,160	3,270	3,357	5,455	67	35	13,344
1935.....	236	9,780	6,837	6,643	512	25	21,059
1936.....	1,692	10,501	3,955	6,801	341	205	23,615
1937.....	5,749	17,068	.....	13,220	535	4,225	40,806

¹ Data include lead imported for immediate consumption plus material entering the country under bond.

Total lead imported into the United States in ore, matte, and base bullion, 1933-37, by countries, in short tons¹

Country	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
In ore and matte:					
Canada.....	1,629	902	58	1,419	5,211
Chile.....	651	1,443	1,102	574	474
Mexico.....	862	1,283	7,980	10,462	15,970
Newfoundland.....	.....	3,357	6,818	3,955	.....
Peru.....	522	3,645	3,716	4,007	10,132
Sweden.....	2,292	81	345	206	2,316
Other countries.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....
	5,958	10,611	20,025	20,713	34,103
In base bullion:					
Mexico.....	1,281	1,087	1,746	30	1,067
Peru.....	306	463	784	52	239
Other countries.....	.....	.....	102	221	404
	1,587	2,450	2,602	312	1,800

¹ Data include lead imported for immediate consumption plus material entering the country under bond.

Lead remaining in warehouses in the United States, Dec. 31, 1933-37, in short tons

[Stated in the form in which the material was entered for warehouse]

Year	Lead in ore and matte	Lead in base bullion ¹	Year	Lead in ore and matte	Lead in base bullion ¹
1933.....	21,540	1,058	1936.....	33,401	1,930
1934.....	15,709	600	1937.....	57,509	2,022
1935.....	22,598	2,173			

¹ Pigs, bars, sheets, and old included with base bullion.

Lead imported for consumption in the United States, 1933-37

Yea	Lead in ores, flux dust, and mattes, n. s. p. f.		Lead in base bullion		Pigs, bars, and old	
	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value	Short tons	Value
1933.....	19,239	\$1,154,093	306	\$31,700	45	
1934.....	10,700	558,558	2,220	117,720	1,285	
1935.....	8,273	258,054	1,184	66,559	1,590	
1936.....	5,836	228,548	703	45,340	2,321	
1937.....	9,093	700,323	1,828	189,408	4,183	

¹ Reclaimed scrap, etc. No imports of pigs, bars, etc., recorded.

Miscellaneous products containing lead imported into the United States, 1933-37

Year	Babbitt metal, solder, white metal, and other combinations containing lead	Gross weight (short tons)	Lead content (short tons)	Value
1933.....		349	51	\$30,711
1934.....		700	102	71,444
1935.....		128	24	44,000
1936.....		331	67	112,000
1937.....		618	178	213,000

Exports.—Exports of refined lead rose in Germany and the United Kingdom showing a decrease. Data are not available indicating lead exported in 1937 was of domestic bonded warehouse inventories with import that several thousand tons of domestic metal went abroad.

Refined lead exported from the United States, 1933-37

Year	Pigs, bars, and old	Foreign lead exported in manufactures with benefit of draw-back (short tons)	Year
	Short tons	Value	
1933.....	22,835	\$334,580	1936.....
1934.....	5,909	305,994	1937.....
1935.....	9,982	472,017	

¹ Includes small quantities of foreign lead reexported.

Refined pig lead¹ exported from the United States, 1933-37, by destinations, in short tons

Destination	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
COUNTRY					
Argentina.....	113	(²)		3	8
Brazil.....	329	475	338	706	652
Canada.....	6	21	45	45	7
Germany.....	5		11	2	568
Japan.....	21,236	4,454	5,324	8,629	7,330
Mexico.....	5	21	33	8,049	8,122
Netherlands.....	360	4	188		
Philippine Islands.....		169	217	223	569
United Kingdom.....		30	8	123	2,220
Uruguay.....	140	221	112		
Other countries.....	641	508	701	444	610
	22,815	5,000	6,982	18,313	20,001
CONTINENT					
North America.....	41	107	157	8,282	8,337
South America.....	730	1,076	658	1,021	784
Europe.....	5	40	212	133	2,919
Asia.....	22,053	4,084	5,045	8,865	7,960
Africa and Oceania.....		2	(²)	12	32
	22,835	5,000	6,982	18,313	20,001

¹ Includes small quantities of foreign lead reexported.

² Less than 1 ton.

TECHNOLOGY

Mining.—The use of mechanical loading in the southeastern Missouri lead district is probably more highly developed than in any other area where underground mining is practiced. Heretofore power shovels have been used exclusively, but since November 1936 scrapers have been adopted for certain types of work, such as loading ore shot down in pillar-robbing operations. In some instances a floor of commercial ore 6 to 12 feet thick has been left between the pillars. This ore is removed by benching and loaded into cars by scrapers. Apparently the use of scrapers was dictated primarily by the lower first cost of scraper equipment compared with that of power shovels. Many rich pillars are removed entirely, and roof support is provided by large concrete towers.⁴ In the Tri-State region mechanical loading made little progress until recently. Scraper loaders are now being used in some mines in conjunction with belt conveyors. According to Clarke,⁵ multiple rope haulage has been used advantageously in the Tri-State district where physical conditions precluded the use of animals or locomotives.

Approximately 5,000 feet of the 22,000-foot tunnel being driven to provide drainage and haulage for several mines in the Bingham district, Utah, was completed at the end of 1937, when the tunnel was progressing approximately 20 feet per day. Lambly⁶ has described mining and milling methods at the Pend Oreille mine in Washington. Rock-drill practice and comparative costs of conventional and detachable bits at several mines have been presented in Bureau of Mines Information Circulars 6936 and 6951. The Bureau's Information Circular 6978, by J. Kruttschmitt and V. I. Mann, describes mining methods and costs at Mount Isa, Australia.

⁴ Chellson, H. C., More Lead from Southeast Missouri: Eng. and Min. Jour., Vol. 138, No. 6, June 1937, p. 283.

⁵ Clarke, S. S., Multiple Rope Haulage in the Tri-State District: Min. Cong. Jour., Vol. 24, No. 2, February 1938, p. 18.

⁶ Lambly, C. A. R., Mining and Milling at Pend Oreille: Min. Cong. Jour., Vol. 24, No. 3, March 1938, p. 12.

Milling.—The increased demand for lead in primarily on production schedules. Although improvements were reported in mechanical equipment, apparently no important advance was made in technology during the year. The new 750-ton flotation van Mining Co. was put into operation in Australia. The old Hercules mill, which was used formerly, returned to the owners.

Smelting.—Oldright⁷ records several minor improvements in smelting in 1937. The capacity of sintering increased, costs have been reduced, and operation improved by increasing the width of the pallets from 42 to 48 inches. Pallets 10 feet wide are under consideration. Blast-furnace capacity has been increased greatly. The trend continued in 1937. Enriched ore, concentrates, better sintering, and speedier smelting at higher temperatures have been the principal improvements in capacity. The recovery of bismuth by lines practiced at Trail, B. C., and East Helena, Montana, considered at Port Pirie. The continuous process is to be highly successful at Port Pirie but as yet has not been elsewhere. The new plant at Northfleet, England, for Mount Isa bullion by the Parkes process as described in the April 1937 Bulletin of the Bureau of Mines and Metallurgy. The Bureau of Mines is interested in removing bismuth from lead products.

WORLD ASPECTS OF LEAD INDUSTRY

International cooperation.—No new developments along this line during 1937.

World production.—World smelter production in 1937 and was equivalent to 96 percent of 1929. Production increased 17 percent in the United States and 15 percent elsewhere. Compared with 1929, States output declined 34 percent and that of the United States increased 12 percent in 1937. The 10 principal countries of the total output each contributed: United States 25, Australia 14, Mexico 13, Canada 11, India 5, U. S. S. R. 3, Italy 2, and France 2. In 1937, made substantial increases in output in 1937 of the United States, Mexico, and India produced 1929. Among the minor producers there were Peru and Tunisia, but there were exceptional decreases in the United Kingdom. The British Empire produced 10 metric tons of smelted lead in 1937, an increase of 100 percent since the 5-year period 1925-29, the Empire has advanced from 22 to 30 percent, although the United States declined from 42 to 25 percent.

⁷ Oldright, G. L., Some Advance at the Lead Smelters: Eng. and Min. Jour., Vol. 138, No. 6, June 1937, p. 71.

LEAD AND ZINC PIGMENTS AND LITHOPONS

By H. M. MEYER and A. V. WILSON

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The lead and zinc pigments industry during 1938 showed a marked improvement of industry in general over its previous year. The greater total values of sales for both classes of pigments, however, the total quantity of neither class increased. Production in the principal uses for pigments—automotive tires, and storage batteries—held up well during the early months of the year; some of them declined during the third quarter, but all declined to a low rate of consumption in the final quarter. The total production into the early months of 1938.

Salient statistics of the lead and zinc pigments industry (average) and 1933-34

	1925-29 (average)	1933	1934
Production (sales) of principal pigments:			
White lead (dry and in oil) short tons.....	154,483	72,082	72,082
Litharge.....do.....	84,845	61,193	61,193
Red lead.....do.....	41,302	21,988	21,988
Zinc oxide.....do.....	154,208	98,542	98,542
Lead zinc oxide.....do.....	26,609	22,808	22,808
Lithopons.....do.....	177,745	140,831	140,831
Value of products:			
All lead pigments.....	\$60,002,000	\$20,819,000	\$24,000,000
All zinc pigments.....	41,314,000	24,143,000	24,143,000
Total.....	101,406,000	44,962,000	48,143,000
Value per ton received by producers:			
White lead (dry).....	178	112	112
Litharge.....	176	101	101
Red lead.....	193	120	120
Zinc oxide.....	133	105	105
Lead zinc oxide.....	124	88	88
Lithopons.....	98	83	83
Foreign trade:			
Lead pigments:			
Value of exports.....	1,346,000	327,000	400,000
Value of imports.....	30,000	2,000	2,000
Zinc pigments:			
Value of exports.....	2,150,000	230,000	360,000
Value of imports.....	931,000	567,000	370,000
Export balance.....	2,535,000	112,000	47,000

¹ Import balance.

Lead pigments again made a better showing than zinc pigments for, whereas they fell 9 percent in quantity compared with only 5 percent for zinc pigments, their total value gained 4 percent compared with 1 percent. The total value of lead pigments, however, has declined more sharply in relation to the 1925-29 average, lead having dropped 41 percent and zinc 32 percent. Prices for lead pigments generally followed the average price for pig lead, rising early in the year and declining as the year progressed to close the year at their lowest levels. Price increases in the various grades of lead-free zinc oxide, anticipating a higher slab zinc price, rose in June ahead of the price for metal and held at the higher level throughout the rest of the year. The increased popularity of leaded zinc oxide containing a higher lead content continued in 1937 with sales only slightly below the record level attained in 1936. Lithopone was the only pigment covered by this report that failed to increase in price in 1937, probably due to its continued competitive position in regard to titanium pigments.

PRODUCTION

In this report, sales are used as being more significant than production, for no account is taken of stocks on hand at the beginning and end of the year. The quantities consumed by the producers in manufacturing products at their own plants are included under sales. Production figures are used only in calculating metal content of pigments and salts in the section of this report on Raw Materials Used in the Manufacture of Lead and Zinc Pigments and Zinc Salts.

The total value of lead and zinc pigments sold by domestic producers in 1937 was approximately \$63,714,000 compared with \$62,068,000 in 1936. Thus it was 3 percent more than in 1936, despite declines of 9 percent in the total quantity of lead pigments and of 5 percent in zinc pigments, combined with a drop in the average value of lithopone sold. The higher total values are obviously explained by higher average values for other lead and zinc pigments than lithopone, all of which increased in 1937. The increases in average values of the important pigments, as reported by the producers, ranged from 11 to 23 percent, lagging behind the gains of 28 percent in the average quoted price of pig lead at New York and of 33 percent in zinc at St. Louis.

Lead pigments.—Sales of all lead pigments except basic lead sulphate were lower in 1937 than in 1936, the declines ranging from 3 percent each for litharge and red lead to 17 percent for white lead (dry and in oil). The increase in sales of basic lead sulphate totaled only 2 percent, but it would have been considerably larger if the quantity of this pigment used in the manufacture of leaded zinc oxide were not excluded to avoid duplication in reporting lead tonnages. The use of basic lead sulphate in the manufacture of leaded zinc oxide has expanded sharply in recent years. Litharge sales were only 1 percent below the average for 1925-29, red lead was 18 percent less, and white lead (dry and in oil) 36 percent less.

Lead pigments sold by domestic manufacturers in

Pigment	1936		
	Short tons	Value (at plant exclusive of container)	
		Total	Average
Basic lead sulphate or sublimed lead:			
White.....	7,531	\$843,268	
Blue.....	891	102,566	
Red lead.....	34,800	4,057,322	
Orange mineral.....	248	48,196	
Litharge.....	80,246	9,960,563	
White lead:			
Dry.....	34,775	4,367,337	
In oil.....	83,032	14,200,617	

¹ Weight of white lead only but value of paste.

Lead pigments sold by domestic manufacturers in short tons

Year	White lead		Basic lead sulphate or sublimed	
	Dry	In oil	White	
1933.....	24,028	48,354	7,320	
1934.....	22,569	50,105	6,399	
1935.....	27,972	68,859	7,572	
1936.....	34,775	83,032	7,631	
1937.....	32,061	65,552	7,514	

Zinc pigments and salts.—Sales of all zinc pigments and salts in 1937 were 5 percent below the drop in leaded zinc oxide being so small that the pigment at relatively the peak rate of 1936. The total value of zinc pigments made a moderate increase, the average values for zinc oxide and of zinc oxide were 10 percent below the total value for 1925-29, whereas sales of zinc oxide were relatively the same as in 1936 but 52 percent below the average for 1925-29. Sales of lithopone for 1937 were 13 percent below the average for 1925-29. Sales of lithopone for 1937 reported by producers were 14 percent higher than the average for 1925-29. Large amounts of basic lead sulphate and leaded zinc oxide. Such quantities are included in the zinc oxide total and, to avoid duplication, are excluded from the sulphate.

Complete data covering zinc chloride production were not available owing to the refusal of one large producer to make an accurate report. Both quantity and value of zinc sulphate and zinc chloride were higher than in 1936.

Distribution of basic lead sulphate sales, 1933-37.

Pigment or salt	1936			1937		
	Short tons	Value (at plant, exclusive of container)		Short tons	Value (at plant, exclusive of container)	
		Total	Average		Total	Average
Zinc oxide ¹	126,800	\$11,370,323	\$90	114,632	\$11,777,131	\$103
Leaded zinc oxide ¹	40,512	3,508,073	87	40,343	4,199,952	104
Lithopone.....	158,319	12,076,754	82	154,771	12,060,790	78
Zinc chloride, 66° B.....	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)	(¹)
Zinc sulphate.....	8,687	388,081	45	10,521	589,017	60

¹ Zinc oxide containing 5 percent or more lead is classed as leaded zinc oxide.
² Figures not available.

Distribution of basic lead sulphate sales, 1933-37.

Industry	1933
Paints.....	7, 072
Rubber.....	161
Storage batteries.....	99
Other.....	613
	7, 945

Litharge.—Litharge is used principally in batteries, but consumption for this purpose is a small portion to the output of batteries, owing to the fact that battery makers to substitute a black oxide, they manufacture themselves. This substitution was made in 1923, and by 1929 a total of 33,000 tons of tonnage declined after 1929, but reached a peak when 42,000 tons were made. The black oxide is included in Bureau of Mines totals for litharge. The manufacture of insecticides has made rapid strides since 1937 established a new high record. Its use represented 8 percent of the total in 1930 to 18 percent in 1937. Chrome pigments was the only other material which required a larger tonnage in 1937 than in 1930. The decline in the use of litharge for batteries was the most drastic.

Year	Zinc oxide	Lead-zinc oxide	Lithopone	Zinc chloride (50% li.)	Zinc sulphate
1933.....	08,542	22,868	140,831	32,187	5,098
1934.....	87,088	20,566	145,565	19,614	0,783
1935.....	99,607	23,979	150,486	(1)	7,108
1936.....	128,809	40,512	158,319	(1)	8,687
1937.....	114,652	40,343	154,771	(1)	10,521

¹ Figures not available.

Distribution of litharge sales, 1933-37, by industry

White lead.—About 95 percent of the white lead made is used in the manufacture of paint. The quantity consumed for this purpose was 17 percent below that so used in 1936 and 31 percent below that in 1929.

Industry	1972
----------	------

Industry	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Paint	68,368	75,008	91,207	113,363	93,580
Ceramics	1,017	1,434	1,834	2,653	2,506
Other	2,907	2,202	3,700	2,301	2,127
	72,082	78,734	96,831	118,407	98,213

Basic lead sulphate.—The outstanding use of basic lead sulphate is in the manufacture of paint, and 96 percent of the quantity reported for 1937 was used for that purpose. This product was the only lead pigment that increased in total quantity in 1937. The increase was larger than is apparent from the statistics in the following table because basic lead sulphate used in the manufacture of leaded zinc oxide is excluded therefrom. The use of this pigment in making leaded zinc oxide has advanced rapidly in the past few years, and nearly 5,000 tons were reported to have been so used in 1937. To avoid duplication in reporting pigments production, the Bureau of Mines attempts to measure the output of final products only, and for statistical purposes basic lead sulphate is considered in this instance as an intermediate product.

Industry	1933
Storage batteries	27,327
Insecticides	11,128
Chrome pigments	3,973
Oil refining	6,070
Ceramics	6,438
Varnish	610
Rubber	2,875
Linoleum	106
Other	3,668
	61,193

Red lead.—The principal uses of red lead storage batteries and paints. The amount of storage was relatively the same in 1937 as in 1929, however, having dropped 12 percent in 1937, but 21 percent.

Distribution of red lead sales, 1933-37, by industry

Industry	1933
Storage batteries.....	12, 940
Paints.....	7, 182
Ceramics.....	715
Other.....	1, 142
	21, 968

Orange mineral.—Sales of orange mineral in 1937 were 17 percent less than in 1936 and 70 percent below their 1929 tonnage. This pigment is used chiefly in making ink and color pigments, and the tonnage involved is quite small.

Distribution of orange mineral sales, 1933-37, by industries, in short tons

Industry	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Ink manufacture.....	18	24	85	71	76
Color pigments.....	90	68	125	77	51
Other.....	117	142	42	100	79
	231	234	252	248	206

Zinc oxide.—Sales of zinc oxide in 1937 dropped 10 percent from those in 1936 despite an increase of 26 percent in the quantity consumed in the manufacture of floor coverings and textiles. All other uses declined, rubber dropping only 8 percent compared with larger percentage losses in other applications. Of the production for 1937, 69 percent was made by the American process and 31 percent by the French process compared with 58 and 42 percent, respectively, in 1936. The higher ratio of American- to French-process zinc oxide was caused largely, no doubt, by the tight situation as to supplies of zinc metal during the year. The proportion of French-process oxide made from scrap zinc increased from 22 percent in 1936 to 25 percent in 1937. A fair-sized tonnage of zinc oxide is used in the manufacture of leaded zinc oxide. This tonnage is not included as zinc oxide but is shown in the total for leaded zinc oxide.

Distribution of zinc oxide sales, 1933-37, by industries, in short tons

Industry	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Rubber.....	53,869	50,145	57,734	72,885	67,061
Paints.....	29,218	23,741	25,289	33,149	27,987
Floor coverings and textiles.....	4,087	4,781	7,179	7,178	9,019
Ceramics.....	2,030	2,063	4,028	6,102	5,216
Other.....	8,729	5,458	5,407	7,486	6,309
	98,542	87,088	90,697	126,800	114,652

Leaded zinc oxide.—The manufacture of paints uses virtually all the leaded zinc oxide made, 98 or more percent being employed regularly for this purpose. Total sales of leaded zinc oxide made a new high record in 1936, and activity in 1937 was at virtually the record level. This record rate of operation reflects the present trend toward higher content of lead in exterior paints. The total for 1937 includes about 5,000 tons of basic lead sulphate used to increase the lead content of this product, which tonnage is excluded from basic lead sulphate totals to avoid duplication in reporting metal tonnages.

Distribution of leaded zinc oxide sales, 1933-37, by industries, in short tons

Industry	1933	1934	1935	1936	1937
Paints.....	22,483	20,370	29,032	40,156	39,584
Rubber.....	46	28	36	32	97
Other.....	334	102	308	224	662
	22,868	20,506	29,976	40,512	40,343

Lithopone.—Sales of lithopone declined 2 percent in 1937 from those in 1936. A 5-percent drop was also shown in the average value

reported by producers, the only decrease among the important pigments. Lithopone stands on a basis of regular lithopone content of normal lithopone sold as such. Prior to 1929 the basis of standard grade plus high-strength lithopone was the increased use of high-strength lithopone in the importance of paint as a consumer of lithopone in 1929 in relation to floor coverings and textiles. Total sales in 1929 compared with 18 percent for floor coverings and textiles in the following year. In linoleum and felt-base floor coverings and textiles (oilcloth, shade cloth, art cloth, etc.) in 1937 included 2,145 tons used in printing ink.

Lithopone is employed extensively in the field is now subject to intense competition.

Distribution of lithopone sales, 1933-37, by industries, in short tons

Industry	1933
Paints, etc.....	106,000
Floor coverings and textiles.....	18,400
Rubber.....	5,000
Other.....	10,200
	140,600

The use of ordinary-strength lithopone and titanated lithopone, which usually contains a small amount of lead, has increased sharply since the output of the latter as much lithopone was used in this way. The Bureau of Mines was able to obtain more data on titanated lithopone recently and has revised the figures already published. The revised totals for 1932, 1933, and the figures given are included in the foregoing table.

Lithopone used in the manufacture of titanated lithopone, 1929-37¹

Year	Short tons	
1929.....	1,000	1934.....
1930.....	1,400	1935.....
1931.....	4,600	1936.....
1932.....	5,100	1937.....
1933.....	7,000	

¹ Revised figures, except for 1937.

Zinc sulphide.—Production of this pigment by the plants in 1937; but owing to the fact that a large part of the total, the Bureau of Mines has representative statistics. Most of the regular lithopone to make high-strength lithopone.

Zinc chloride.—The Bureau of Mines has production because of the refusal of producers to supply reliable data.

Range of quotations on lead pigments and zinc pigments and salts at New York (or delivered in the East), 1934-37, in cents per pound

Product	1934	1935	1936	1937
Basic lead sulphate, or sublimed lead, less than carlots, barrels.....	6.25	6.25	6.25-6.75	6.50-9.25
White lead, or basic lead carbonate, dry, carlots, barrels.....	6.25-6.50	6.50	6.50-7.25	6.75-9.25
Litharge, commercial, powdered, barrels.....	6.00-6.75	6.00-7.00	6.00-8.50	6.25-10.75
Red lead, dry, 95 percent or less, less than carlots, barrels.....	7.00-7.75	7.00-8.00	7.50-9.50	7.75-11.75
Orange mineral, American, small lots, barrels:				
Ex-white lead.....	10.75-11.50	9.50-11.00	10.50-11.25	10.25-14.25
Ex-red lead.....	9.50-10.25	9.00-10.50	10.50-11.25	
Zinc oxide:				
American process, lead-free, bags, car lots.....	5.75-6.50	5.00-6.50	5.00-5.25	5.25-7.50
American process, 5 to 35 percent lead, barrels, carlots.....	5.75-6.50	5.13-6.50	5.13-6.38	5.38-6.88
French process, red seal, bags, carlots.....	8.38	5.50-8.38	5.50-6.75	5.75-7.50
French process, green seal, bags, carlots.....	9.38	6.00-9.38	6.00-6.25	6.25-8.00
French process, white seal, barrels, carlots.....	10.63	6.50-10.63	6.50-6.75	7.00-8.75
Lithopone, domestic, 5-ton lots, bags.....	4.50	4.50	4.25-4.50	4.25-4.63
Zinc sulphide, less than carlots, bags, barrels.....	10.50-13.25	10.50-11.75	9.25-11.75	9.25-9.50
Zinc chloride, works:				
Solution, tanks.....	2.00	2.00	2.00	2.00-2.25
Fused, drums.....	4.25-5.75	4.50-5.75	4.25-5.75	4.25-5.75
Zinc sulphate, crystals, barrels.....	2.65-4.50	2.65-2.80	2.65-3.95	2.80-4.05

FOREIGN TRADE¹

Imports of lead and zinc pigments and salts increased 17 percent in value in 1937, and exports increased 25 percent. The excess value of exports over imports rose from \$579,000 in 1936 to \$765,000 in 1937 but was far below the average of \$2,535,000 for 1925-29.

The following table shows the values of various pigments and salts imported and exported for 1936-37.

Value of foreign trade of the United States in lead and zinc pigments and salts, 1936-37

	1936		1937	
	Imports	Exports	Imports	Exports
Lead pigments:				
White lead.....	\$5,443	\$265,685	\$6,677	\$207,381
Red lead.....	201	113,807	285	158,923
Litharge.....	51	108,093	31	220,134
Orange mineral.....	911	(¹)	928	(¹)
Other lead pigments.....	5,292	(¹)	9,406	(¹)
	11,898	545,675	17,327	588,438
Zinc pigments:				
Zinc oxide.....	92,112	190,045	97,686	378,332
Lithopone.....	273,571	229,942	302,417	231,622
Zinc sulphide.....	9,100	(¹)	13,856	(¹)
	374,873	419,987	413,959	609,954
Lead and zinc salts:				
Lead arsenate.....		64,215	42	91,377
Other lead compounds.....	25,980	(¹)	36,615	(¹)
Zinc chloride.....	33,368	(¹)	44,191	(¹)
Zinc sulphate.....	17,252	(¹)	29,966	(¹)
	76,600	64,215	110,814	91,377
Grand total.....	463,371	1,029,877	542,100	1,287,769

¹ Figures not available.

Lead pigments and salts.—Imports of these commodities are of negligible proportions. The most important item is the group of lead compounds, which include lead acetate, lead nitrate, and others, but only 213 tons of this class entered the country in 1937.

¹ Figures on imports and exports compiled by M. B. Price, of the Bureau of Mines, from records of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.

LEAD AND ZINC PIGMENTS AND SALTS

Lead pigments and salts imported for consumption in short tons

Year	Basic carbonate white lead	Red lead
1933.....	3	1
1934.....	15	1
1935.....	6	1
1936.....	32	2
1937.....	34	1

¹ Less than 1 ton.

² Includes also—1933: Lead pigments n. s. p. f., \$665 (11,984 pounds); sublimed lead (basic sulphate) \$39 (210 pounds); 1934: Lead pigments n. s. p. f., \$10 (33 pounds); sublimed lead (basic sulphate) \$39 (210 pounds); 1935: Lead pigments n. s. p. f., \$5,264 (39,010 pounds); 1937: Lead pigments n. s. p. f., \$5,264 (39,010 pounds); and suboxide of lead, n. s. p. f., \$2 (10 pounds), and suboxide of lead, n. s. p. f., \$2 (10 pounds), and suboxide of lead, n. s. p. f., \$2 (10 pounds).

The principal exports are white lead, litharge, and arsenate. The total amount of these exports was \$765,000 in 1937, a drop from \$800,000 in 1936, because a drop in exports of white lead was more than offset by small gains in exports of the other items. Exports of white lead, red lead, and litharge caused an increase in total value of lead pigments and salts of 2 percent of domestic production of these items.

Lead pigments and salts exported from the United States in short tons

Year	White lead	Red lead
1933.....	1,048	1
1934.....	1,561	1
1935.....	2,337	1
1936.....	1,862	1
1937.....	1,236	1

¹ Includes an unknown quantity of orange mineral.

White lead, red lead, and litharge exported from the United States in short tons, 1934-37, in short tons

Destination	White lead		
	1934	1935	1936
Countries:			
Argentina.....	69	98	126
Canada.....	91	56	74
Netherlands.....	463	827	387
Netherland West Indies.....	10	3	3
Panama.....	201	205	453
Philippine Islands.....	130	190	170
United Kingdom.....	47	93	13
Others.....	550	865	636
	1,561	2,337	1,862
Continents:			
North America.....	475	441	764
South America.....	177	202	218
Europe.....	590	1,242	707
Asia.....	147	285	174
Africa.....	167	166	9
Oceania.....	5	1	(¹)

¹ Less than 1 ton.

Zinc pigments and salts.—Imports of all zinc pigments and salts except zinc oxide gained in 1937. The decline in zinc oxide, although small, held imports of this pigment at slightly less than the low rate established in 1936. Imports of lithopone represented less than 4 percent of domestic sales of this product, although they held the highest ratio of imports to sales of the pigment group covered here.

Zinc pigments and salts imported for consumption in the United States, 1933-37, in short tons

Year	Zinc oxide		Lithopone	Zinc sulphide	Zinc chloride	Zinc sulphate	Total value
	Dry	In oil					
1933.....	2,359	182	5,596	27	431	193	\$600,474
1934.....	1,204	64	3,927	12	382	140	404,250
1935.....	1,932	59	4,608	16	504	135	508,476
1936.....	694	96	4,781	30	520	385	425,493
1937.....	680	95	5,601	113	667	593	488,110

Exports of zinc oxide made a substantial gain in 1937—from 1,330 tons in 1936 to 2,953 tons—while exports of lithopone remained at substantially the 1936 level. Canada is the principal country of destination of exports of both zinc oxide and lithopone. Increased exports of zinc oxide to Canada and Asia were chiefly responsible for the larger shipments of this product.

Zinc pigments and salts¹ exported from the United States, 1933-37, in short tons

Year	Zinc oxide	Lithopone	Total value	Year	Zinc oxide	Lithopone	Total value
1933.....	722	1,180	\$230,024	1936.....	1,330	2,538	\$419,987
1934.....	1,155	2,401	305,189	1937.....	2,953	2,071	609,954
1935.....	1,140	2,372	302,308				

¹ Zinc salts not separately recorded.

Zinc oxide and lithopone exported from the United States, by destinations, 1934-37, in short tons

Destination	Zinc oxide				Lithopone			
	1934	1935	1936	1937	1934	1935	1936	1937
Countries:								
Argentina.....	36	35	55	48	33	74	35	63
Canada.....	439	453	704	1,583	1,803	1,052	1,812	1,740
Cuba.....	87	115	80	207	185	198	186	258
France.....	12	16	13	111	1	2	3	1
United Kingdom.....	68	56	80	29	104	138	199	199
Others.....	613	460	398	976	275	308	303	410
	1,155	1,140	1,330	2,953	2,401	2,372	2,538	2,671
Continents:								
North America.....	788	724	882	1,972	2,046	1,969	2,104	2,184
South America.....	65	78	130	149	115	118	57	90
Europe.....	110	94	99	148	125	140	218	217
Asia.....	63	132	52	467	6	16	25	24
Africa.....	13	5	6	67		3	4	1
Oceania.....	110	107	101	160	109	126	130	155

GOLD, SILVER, COPPER, AND LEAD

(MINE REPORTS)

By CHAS. W. HARRIS

SUMMARY OF PRODUCTION

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The total gross value of recovered metal from Alaska ores and gravels in 1937 was \$17,000,000, or 17 percent over 1936. This advance was due to better milling facilities at lode mines and to the recovery of placer gold. The value of the Government prices for gold and silver was \$17,000,000, or 17 percent over 1936. During 1937 prices for the base metals. During 1937 normal and not subject to labor strikes.

All tonnage figures are short tons and do not include moisture.

The value of metal production hereinafter is given at the following prices.

Prices of gold, silver, copper, and lead

Year	Gold ¹	Silver ²	Copper ³	Lead ⁴
		Per fine ounce		
1933.....		\$25.50		
1934.....		34.95		
1935.....		35.00		
1936.....		35.00		
1937.....		35.00		

¹ 1933-34: Yearly average weighted Government price; 1935-36: Act of Jan. 31, 1934. Treasury legal coinage value of gold (\$20.671836) per fine ounce.
² 1933: Average New York price for bar silver; 1934: Treasury average weighted Treasury buying price for newly mined silver.
³ Yearly average weighted price of all grades of primary metal.
⁴ \$0.646464.

The following tables show the mine production of copper, and lead in Alaska in 1934-1937, by type of output of gold and silver in 1937, by type

the tungsten filament of powerful incandescent lamps such as are used in motion picture projection and photography, is claimed to eliminate the sudden surge of current when these high-watt bulbs are snapped off or on, thereby prolonging their life.

SELENIUM

Selenium supplies are scanty only when copper refining is curtailed, and notwithstanding great activity in glassmaking during the last 2 years no shortage has threatened. Probably the chief use of selenium is for decolorizing glass, replacing manganese dioxide first as a war-time substitute and subsequently because it had inherent advantages over manganese, which so long had almost a monopoly of the term "glassmakers' soap." The manufacture of red signal glasses has accounted for a considerable tonnage, and the vogue for multiple tail lights on automobiles boosted demand notably. For this reason experiments with molded plastics for tail-light lenses are watched with some concern by selenium producers. Mixtures of selenium with varying proportions of cadmium sulphide afford a complete series of excellent pigments ranging from yellow to red and are increasingly important in pottery glazes. Alone or mixed with sulphur, selenium is employed in the rubber industry as a secondary vulcanizing agent for tire-carcass stocks, belt frictions, oil-resisting stocks, wire insulation, clothing, electricians' gloves, motor mounts, nontarnishing ("sulphurless") articles, etc. Flameproofing, photovoltaic cells, and sundry other minor applications in the aggregate use a sizable quantity of selenium, but the steel industry may be the most promising outlet for further growth in demand. Already selenium is used in copper alloys and stainless steel to make them more machinable but vastly greater amounts might be used if it were employed generally in ordinary free-cutting steels, replacing bessemer screw stock. In copper alloys, selenium improves machinability without hot-shortness; and in copper, selenium does not cause cold-shortness, has comparatively little effect on tensile strength, and reduces ductility only slightly.¹³

Selenium is marketed chiefly as a black to steel-gray amorphous powder, but cakes and sticks are also obtainable. Ferroselenium, sodium selenite, selenious acid, and selenium dioxide are other market products. Prices throughout 1937 remained nominally unchanged at \$1.75 to \$2 a pound for the standard 99.5-percent black, powdered variety. The London quotation was 7s.

Domestic sales in 1937 rose to 282,593 pounds from 226,402 pounds in 1936. Production, by four companies (three plants), was 435,821 pounds in 1937 and 352,480 pounds in 1936. Imports in 1937, mainly now from Canada, were 92,523 pounds valued at \$161,382 or \$1.74 a pound.

TELLURIUM

Fairly large quantities of tellurium could be recovered from residues of lead and copper refineries, but commercial demand, nonexistent until a few years ago, continues to develop slowly. Expansion of

¹³ Smith, C. S., Copper Alloys Containing Sulphur, Selenium, and Tellurium: *Am. Inst. Min. and Met. Eng. Tech. Pub. 870*, December 1937, 10 pp.

consumption probably will depend largely on the Tellurium, like selenium, imparts free-cutting properties to plain carbon steels. Wider use of tellurium lead is in the United States and abroad, but the amount required to harden, toughen, and increase the corrosion resistance of lead is so small (0.02 to 0.085 percent) that 50 to 75 tons annually would treat all the lead used in the United States. Tellurium plants and suffice for general building construction. Tellurium lead now costs only a fraction of a cent a pound over ordinary lead and, according to the manufacturer, is superior for lining tanks and for pipes and coils in plants handling sulphurous acids, hot chromic solutions, copper sulphate, chlorine gas, hydrochloric acid fumes, and hydrofluoric acid. A potential domestic market could be more than double that of lead. Lead comes into general use for lead cable coverings, used in rubber hose and cable coverings and greatly increases the toughness and abrasion resistance of rubber. It is used as an accelerator as selenium and so must be added in small quantities but is recommended for low-sulphur compounds. Tellurium is superior to selenium where heat resistance is a factor. Tellurium of tellurium is used at electrolytic zinc plants to facilitate the recovery of cobalt by the Tainton process, but, as crude tellurium slimes seem to be equally effective, purchases of the metal for this purpose have dropped. Tellurium has some minor uses in research may develop others, but, although generally used in electrolytic residues, tellurium continues to be used in quantities completely than its companion byproduct, selenium.

Tellurium-vapor arc lamps give a continuous instead of a flickering light. Tellurium is ordinarily found in metallic vapor lamps. Owing to the ease of construction and operation the tellurium lamp is not a novelty curiosity at present but will receive attention as an illuminant in the future.¹⁴

Tellurium is usually marketed as slabs and sticks of high purity, but for use in compounding rubber it is furnished in the form of a fine powder (derbilt & Co. (230 Park Ave., New York, N. Y.) in the form of a gray powder ("Telloy"), extra-fine grinding being necessary for use in latex. The New York quotation (Engineering and Metallurgical Metal and Mineral Markets) has continued nominally unchanged for several years at \$2 a pound. London trade journals quote it at 7s. a pound. Tellurium dioxide is also available, and has been made to make a ferro-alloy.

Four American companies reported production in 1937 of 51,409 pounds, the domestic output being 51,409 pounds, 57,956 pounds in 1936. Sales were 23,365 pounds in 1937 and 19,000 pounds in 1936. Foreign producing countries are the United States, Canada, and Mexico. Canada produced 51,622 pounds valued at \$103,244 in 1937, compared with 35,591 pounds valued at \$62,997 in 1936.

TITANIUM

Commercial uses for titanium in recent years have advanced independent of the course of general business.

¹⁴ Marden, J. W., Bessie, N. C., and Melster, G., Measurement of Light From a Tellurium Vapor Arc: *Jour. Franklin Inst.*, vol. 225, no. 1, January 1938, pp. 45-52.

¹⁵ Hess, F. L., Rare Metals and Minerals: *Min. and Met. Eng.*, vol. 1, 1937, pp. 1-10.

Ilmenite for making white pigments has come mostly from two places on the southwestern shores of India, the beaches at Manavala-kurichi and Quilon in Travancore having supplied more than 700,000 tons so far. These same sources are expected to continue to produce on a large scale for years to come; but there is some question whether the rate of production at these points can be indefinitely expanded, and interest is developing in other beaches around the point of British India and in Ceylon. A Travancore company is said to have acquired an exclusive lease on Ceylon ilmenite deposits in 1937. Black sands of Australia, Africa, Brazil, and other countries are also likely to be worked, and the nelsonite resources near Piney River and Roseland, Va., may be expected to come into greater utilization. Other domestic localities may undergo development.

Progress in technology and utilization of zirconium compounds during the last 7 or 8 years is reviewed. A seemingly simple method for dissociating zirconium, described in a French report;¹⁸ by this method zircon is melted and then cooled rapidly, the dissociated zircon crystallizing in the silica, which remains vitreous.

From Australia comes word that Zircron-1 operations at Byron Bay, New South Wales, are due to marketing difficulties. Discoveries of zirconium reported,¹⁹ an extensive deposit already being exploited on the Tuzi River and another important occurrence 10 miles northwest of Eshowe. In the U. S. S. R. have been devised for obtaining the element from zirconium-silicate), large quantities of which are thrown away in the nepheline-syenite tailings on the Kola Peninsula.

Further increase was recorded in imports of the United States, which rose to 17,868,139 pounds compared with 11,565,340 pounds valued at \$1,937. Australia supplied 14,913,380 pounds with the remainder being divided almost equally between India. Ferrozirconium and zirconium ferrosilicon (Norway) increased to 230,449 pounds valued at \$22,400 pounds of zirconium silicon valued at \$1,224,000.

¹⁰ Chem. Age, vol. 36, no. 934, May 22, 1937, p. 467.

¹⁷ Fast, J. D., *Zirconium: Photo-Prints* (Philadelphia), vol. 10, no. 2, p. 100.