NEVADA’S MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 2001

Nevada’s mineral production (including petroleum and geothermal energy) in 2001 is estimated at $2.89 billion, 4% less than in 2000 and 16% less than its all-time high of $3.45 billion in 1996.

Nevada gold production in 2001 decreased by 5% to 8.125 million troy ounces, which is about 76% of all gold produced in the United States and about 10% of all gold produced in the world. The value of production decreased 5% to $2.275 billion.

Newmont Mining Corp., the largest gold-producing company in the United States, produced 2.703 million ounces of gold in Nevada in 2001, including: 1.503 million ounces from several Carlin trend mines in Eureka and Elko Counties, 832,000 ounces from the Twin Creeks Mine in Humboldt County, 261,000 ounces from the Lone Tree Complex in Humboldt County, 34,000 ounces from the Mule Canyon Mine in Lander County, and 24,000 ounces from the Trenton Canyon Mine in Lander County.

Barrick Gold was second in U.S. gold production, with 2.452 million ounces from Nevada mines in 2001. Its Betze-Post Mine in Eureka County retained its position as Nevada’s greatest gold producer by producing 1.550 million ounces, and its Meikle Mine in Elko County, with 712,688 ounces, had the highest production among underground gold mines in the United States in 2001.

Placer Dome U.S. Inc. was Nevada’s third largest gold producer with 1.292 million ounces produced in 2001: 1.184 million ounces from its Cortez operation (Pipeline Mine) in Lander County and 108,400 ounces from its Bald Mountain Mine in White Pine County.

Other major gold producers in 2001 included the Round Mountain Mine in Nye County (747,000 oz), the Jerritt Canyon Mine in Elko County (295,000 oz), and the Ken Snyder Mine in Elko County (199,000 oz).

Nevada produces more silver than any other state in the Union. Although only two mines in Nevada are currently being operated primarily for silver, most Nevada gold mining operations produce silver as well. Nevada mines yielded 17.452 million ounces of silver worth $89 million in 2001. Echo Bay Mines’ McCoy/Cove operation produced 12.328 million...
ounces of silver as well as 163,000 ounces of gold in 2001. Nevada’s second largest silver producer, Coeur d’Alene Mines’ Rochester Mine, produced 6.678 million ounces of silver along with 76,000 ounces of gold. Franco-Nevada Mining’s Ken Snyder Mine in Elko County, with 1.942 million ounces of silver and 198,000 ounces of gold, ranked third in silver production in 2001. No mines are currently being operated solely for mercury, but several gold mining operations produce enough by-product mercury to make Nevada the leading mercury-producing state.

Nevada’s copper production decreased drastically when BHP Copper’s Robinson Mine in White Pine County was shut down in early 1999. In 2001, Nevada’s only active copper mine, the Tonopah Mine in Nye County, produced 7 million pounds of copper before it closed in July 2001.

Nevada produced about $424 million worth of industrial minerals in 2001, 7% more than in 2000. Sand and gravel (aggregate) was the second most important mineral produced in Nevada in 2001, valued at $126 million, well behind gold but ahead of silver. Nevada leads the nation in production of barite, lithium minerals, and magnesia, and is second in the production of diatomite. Other important industrial minerals (in order of total value sold) were lime, cement, gypsum, magnesia, silica, and clay, valued at more than $5 million each.

Nevada’s geothermal electric power sales in 2001 were 1,247,000 megawatt-hours worth $87 million, about the same as in the seven previous years. Total geothermal power-generating capacity of Nevada’s 14 plants (on ten sites) stands at 216 megawatts, about the same as during the past nine years. No new plants have been installed in the past nine years, but the recent California energy crisis has spurred exploration and development.

There are two oil-producing areas in Nevada: Railroad Valley in Nye County and Pine Valley in Eureka County. Annual production reached a high of about 4 million barrels in 1990 but production has declined markedly in the past nine years. Nevada produced 0.57 million barrels of oil worth $10 million in 2001. One new producing well came on line in 2001.

Most of the production data reported here were collected by the Nevada Division of Minerals. Some of the 2001 figures are still preliminary. For more complete information on Nevada’s 2001 mineral production as well as other aspects of the Nevada mineral industry, see NBMG Special Publication MI-2001. The Nevada Mineral Industry 2001 (see page 4 for ordering instructions).
NBMG Publications in 2002

Rocks, Gemstones, Minerals, and Fossils in Nevada, by Stephen B. Castor and Daphne D. LaPointe. A 1:1,000,000-scale map of Nevada showing 349 locations of gemstones, fossils, and other minerals and rocks. Includes 11 color photos of minerals. The locations are listed on the back of the map along with eight black-and-white photos of minerals and an extensive list of references. NBMG Special Publication 29, 25.5 by 33 inch color plate, released January 2002, $10.00 plus shipping.

Geologic Map of the Battle Mountain Quadrangle, Lander County, Nevada, by P. Kyle House, Alan R. Ramelli, and Chester T. Wrucke. A 1:24,000-scale, full-color geologic map of the Battle Mountain 7.5' quadrangle in Lander County, with one cross section and 29 geologic units. The map focuses on late Pleistocene and Holocene alluvial deposits that comprise the broad floodplain of the Humboldt River. NBMG Map 130, 33x27-inch color plate, released February 2002, $26.00 plus shipping.

Geologic Map of the Stony Point Quadrangle, Lander County, Nevada, by Alan R. Ramelli, P. Kyle House, Chester T. Wrucke, and David A. John. A 1:24,000-scale, full-color geologic map of the Stony Point 7.5' Quadrangle depicting 33 geologic units. The map shows alluvial deposits of the Humboldt River and adjacent piedmont areas, Quaternary faults bounding the Shoshone and Sheep Creek Ranges, Miocene volcanic rocks of the northern Nevada rift, and highly deformed Paleozoic rocks (Slaven Chert and Valmy Formation). NBMG Map 131, 33x27-inch color plate, released March 2002, $26.00 plus shipping.


Major Mines of Nevada 2001, by The Nevada Division of Minerals. This thirteenth issue of an annual series of reports on the major mines and mills in Nevada lists the names and addresses of operators, numbers of employees, and annual production in 2001. Map locations of all major mines are shown and an overview of mineral production and its effect on Nevada’s economy is presented. NBMG Special Publication P-13, 28 pages, released June 2002, $3.00 plus shipping*.


Geologic Map of the White Horse Pass Area, Elko County, Nevada, by N.J. Silberling and K.M. Nichols. A 1:24,000-scale, full-color geologic map of the White Horse Pass area in southeast Elko County, with two cross sections and 24 geologic units. The structural evolution of this area is discussed in the accompanying text. NBMG Map 132, 35x42-inch color plate, 8 pages, released June 2002, $33.00 plus shipping.

Mining claim procedures for Nevada prospectors and miners (fifth edition), by Keith G. Papke and David A. Davis, 2002. A guide for the prospector, providing information on locating lode and placer claims, locating a mill site, tunnel rights, patenting, amending and assessment work on mining claims; list of county recorders; and appendices of laws, notices certificates, and affidavits for the miner. Special Publication L-6, 56 pages, $10.00 plus shipping*.

State and federal permits required in Nevada before mining or milling can begin, compiled by Doug Driesner, revised September 2002. A summary of permits and actions required by state and federal laws and regulations before and during planning, development, construction, operation, and closure of mines and mills in Nevada. Special Publication L-6, 10 pages, $3.00 plus shipping*.


Geologic Map of the Southern Sand Springs Range, Churchill and Mineral Counties Nevada, by Joseph I. Satterfield. A 1:24,000-scale, full-color geologic map of the southern Sand Springs Range with 5 cross sections and descriptions of 42 geologic units. Accompanying text describes the geology of the southern Sand Springs Range, emphasizing the large expanse of pre-Cretaceous metamorphic rocks within and three phases of Mesozoic folds and faults. NBMG Map 133, 42x36-inch color plate, 15 pages, released December 2002, $34.00 plus shipping.

Gold Deposits of the Carlin Trend, edited by Tommy B. Thompson, Lewis Teal, and Richard O. Meeuwig. This bulletin was written primarily by the company geologists directly involved in the Carlin trend and includes discussions of the geology and history of the trend, detailed descriptions of major gold deposits, a 1:24,000-scale geologic map of the northern Carlin trend, 1:18,000-scale geologic map of the Maggie Creek mining district, 7 cross sections, 106 figures, and a comprehensive bibliography. NBMG Bulletin 111, 204 pages, and three color plates (27x40-, 40x28-, and 32x25-inch), to be released January 2003, $35.00 plus shipping.*

*Also available at www.nbmg.unr.edu/dox.htm.
Open-File Reports

OF01-4 Las Vegas Valley 1998 Subsidence Report, by John Bell, Alan Ramelli, and Craig dePolo. The 1997–98 study (OF01-4) consists of: conventional level survey of benchmark level lines across geologic faults, GPS survey of benchmark network established in 1991, re-inventory of earth fissures, and application of synthetic aperture radar interferometry (InSAR). 123 pages including 15 in color and one large color plate, $46.00 plus shipping.

OF01-5 Las Vegas Valley 2000 Subsidence Report, by John Bell, Geoff Blewitt, and Falk Amelung. The 2000 subsidence study was designed to be a follow-up to the 1997–98 study (1998 Subsidence Report to the Las Vegas Valley Water District) and to provide a final report on land subsidence in the Las Vegas Valley throughout the year 2000. The 2000 study builds on the results obtained in the earlier study. 45 pages, 7 color plates, $17.00 plus shipping.


OF01-7 Nevada Oil and Gas Well Database Map, by Ronald H. Hess. Includes: NVOILWEL Nevada oil and gas well catalog (L-12), Nevada oil and gas well database map (OF96-6), List of oil and gas wells drilled in Nevada since 1907 (L-8), Oil and gas developments in Nevada (B104 text only, color plate not included), several digital base layers of Nevada data in Shapefile and Arc/Info export file format, georeferenced raster graphic of the Nevada state base map, and 18 USGS digital raster graphic maps (DRG) topo maps in tiffw format.CD-ROM and text, $65.00 plus shipping.

OF02-1 Nevada Geologic Map Index Update 2001, by Ronald H. Hess and Michael D. Dennis. This CD-ROM supersedes OF97-2 (Interactive index of geologic mapping in Nevada), and lists 2,202 geologic maps for Nevada. CD-ROM, $65.00 plus shipping.

OF02-2 Active Metal and Industrial Mineral Mines in Nevada, 2001, by David A. Davis. Supersedes OF99-16. 1:1,000,000-scale black-and-white photocopy, $10.00 plus shipping, folded or rolled.


OF02-4 Evidence of a Hidden Hydrothermal System: The North Valley Hydrothermal Explosion Craters, Western Nevada, USA, by John H. Stewart and David J. Roddy. 8 pages, $2.40 plus shipping.

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