1. QUANTITY OF PRODUCTION IN MINING

Mineral resources in Japan, reflecting a complicated geological structure, are multifarious in kinds but small in quantity. Except for a part of the nonmetallic minerals such as limestone, Japanese mineral resources are not sufficient to meet the demands of the country and Japanese mineral requirements are mostly filled by imports.

The total mining production in 1970 was ¥3,813,000 million. Amounts of production classified by mining industry and their percentages are as follows: ¥1,528,000 million (40%) for the coal and lignite mining industry, ¥1,028,000 million (27%) for the metallic mining industry, and ¥1,250,000 million (33%) for the nonmetallic mining industry. Amounts of production by items of mineral are: ¥958,000 million for coal, ¥638,000 million for copper ore, ¥428,000 million for limestone, ¥428,000 million for natural gas, ¥328,000 million for iron ore, and ¥1,428,000 million for silica used and glass.

Metal mines are scattered all over Japan and found abundantly in the Tōhoku Region, particularly centered in and around the northern part of Akita Prefecture. Nonmetallic mines also are scattered all over Japan. Near limestone mines, cement factories are often found. Recently, sulfur is recovered from crude oil as a by-product, and, consequently, many sulfur mines have closed down. A number of sulfur mines tapped down only to one mine at the end of 1972. Coal, aluminum, oilfield, and natural gas fields are extremely multiproduct. Coal produced in these prefectures of Hokkaido, Hokuriku, and Nagano accounted for 85% of the total national production of coal. The production of coal greatly decreased since 1969 and the number of coal fields tapped from 872 in 1960 to 79 in 1972. Petroleum (crude oil) produced in Aomori and Akita prefectures accounted for 97% of the total national production of petroleum. Natural gas produced in Niigata and Tōhoku prefectures accounted for 53% of the total national production of natural gas.

SELECTED POINTS OF THE LEGEND AND MAP COMPLEXION

Mine production by kind of mineral is divided into several groups and indicated by quaternary circle symbols. Small-scale mines with limited production were omitted from the map. The names of comparatively larger mines are shown. The sizes of quaternary circle symbols are varied, because the sizes have been determined so that they will be more or less proportionate to the prices per unit weight of various kinds of minerals.

Production is indicated by mineral contents in concentrate in case of metallic minerals, by concentrate in case of nonmetallic minerals except sulfur and by the sulfur content in the concentrate in case of sulfur.

Sources
2. Data from Japan Mining Industry Association, Japan Coal Association, The Institute of Limestone Quarry and Japan Natural Gas Association.

2. DISTRIBUTION OF MINES

The number of mines in Japan as of December 31, 1973 was about 1,448, out of which mines having 10 employees and over amounted to 262. The breakdown of the number of mines by kind of mineral was as follows: 19 metallic mineral mines, 130 nonmetallic mines, 50 coal fields, and 114 oilfields and gas fields. Metallic mineral mines and coal fields are of a comparatively larger scale, whereas nonmetallic mines and petroleum and gas fields are of a comparatively smaller scale.

The number of mine workers including contractor labor and temporary labor in 1972 was 16,069 persons. The number of mine workers classified by mining industry and their percentages to the total were as follows: 10,090 workers (65%) for the coal mining industry, 6,035 workers (38%) for the coal and lignite industry, 4,008 workers (5%) for the crude oil and natural gas fields, and 2,007 workers (3%) for the nonmetallic mining industry.

The number of miners and mine workers drastically declined since 1963, and the number of mine workers in 1972 dropped to 57% of that in 1963. In particular, workers in the coal and lignite industry dropped sharply to about one-third during the two years of 1962-1973.

SELECTED POINTS OF THE LEGEND AND MAP COMPLEXION

The number of workers means the number of registered miners (including contractor labor) as of December 31, 1973, but those of coal miners means the yearly average of regular workers in 1973.

Sources
2. Data from Japan Coal Association.

CHANGES IN PRODUCTION BY VALUE OF THE MINING INDUSTRY BY TYPE OF BUSINESS (1973)

NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES IN MINING INDUSTRY BY TYPE OF BUSINESS (1973)