

WANTED: 5 BILLION TONS OF MINERALS

According to the **US Bureau of Mines**, based on our current standard of living, **every American requires 36 thousand-40 thousand pounds of new minerals each year.** For the US population, that's about **5 billion tons annually.** While there will undoubtedly be changes in technology that will affect future generations, based on current technology and use, a lifetime supply for a child born in 1992 looks something like this:

MINERAL	POUNDS	PRODUCTS
Lead	800	Batteries, solder, electronic components.
Zinc	840	Brass (alloyed with copper), coatings for steel, used in rubber and paints.
Copper	1,500	Electrical motors, generators, communications equipment, electrical wiring.
Aluminum	3,200	Beverage cans, lawn chairs, aircraft, ships, automobiles.
Iron and Steel	91,000	Kitchen utensils, automobiles, ships, buildings.
Clays	27,000	Bricks, paper, paint, glass, pottery, abrasives.
Salt	26,000	Cooking, plastics, de-icing, detergents.
Coal	500,000	Generating electricity, making iron and steel, manufacturing chemicals.
Stone, Sand and Gravel, Cement, Slag	1,000,000	Roads and highways, building construction, schools, offices, factories

Supplies of mineral products are driven by consumer demand. Even before processing, raw, non-fuel minerals contribute more than **\$30 billion per year** to the US economy. **Another \$300 billion** is added when the raw product is processed to produce steel, aluminum, copper, brick and glass.

And, finally, by the time those materials are converted and sold as consumer goods such as automobiles, toasters, glassware and china, cans, bottles, vacuum cleaners, airplanes and TV sets, **over \$5 Trillion** will have been added to the nation's economy all because we have been able to locate, mine and process our mineral resources.

Developed by the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Mines