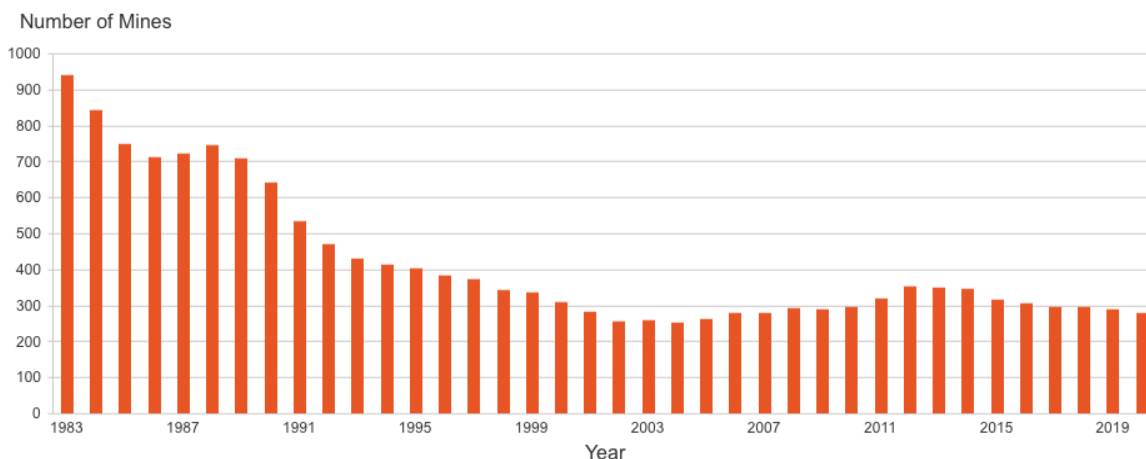




The Future Success Of A Hardrock Royalty Program Will Require More Mining

CDC Data Show Dramatic Decline in U.S. Mines¹

Number of active metal mines by year, 1983 – 2020



Note: Active mines are those mines that reported any employee hours during the year. Data Source: MSHA

How Many Mines Are Subject To The U.S. Mining Law Where A Future Hardrock Royalty Could Apply?

Federal land managers do not track mineral production and cannot answer this question²

- The chart above includes large and small mines in all stages of operation, closure, and care and maintenance, located on public and private lands throughout the U.S.
- Only some of the mines shown above are on western lands subject to the U.S. Mining Law.
- Nevada is the Nation's largest public lands mining state with over 50% of the country's active mining claims and 26 active metal mines³.
- WMC estimates there are roughly 50 to 60 active public lands metal mining operations throughout the West where the U.S. Mining Law applies.

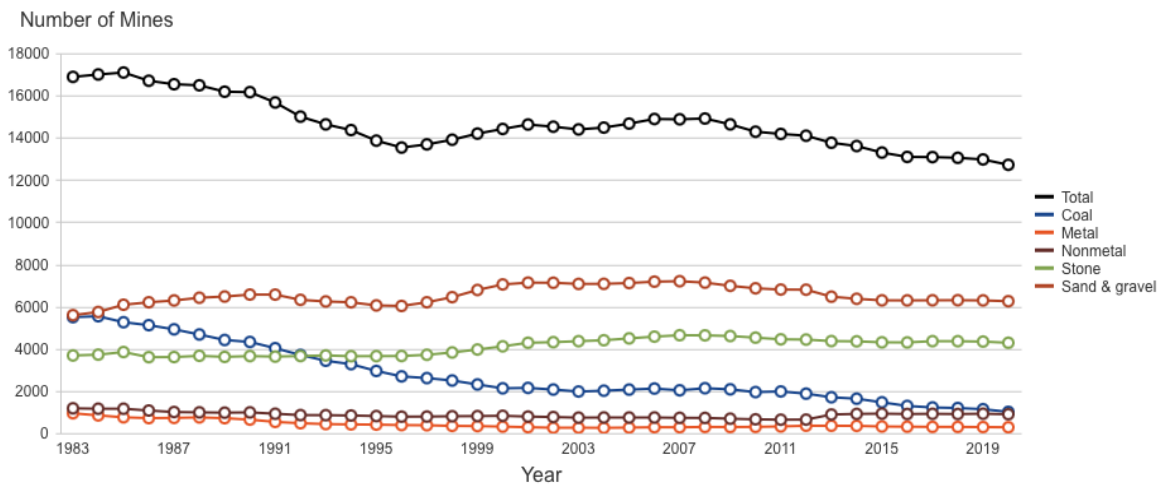
¹ <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/niosh-mining/MMWC/Mine>

² <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-19-435r>. Congress should obtain this information to inform its deliberations whether and how to develop a hardrock mining royalty program.

³ Muntean, J.L., Davis, D.A., and Ayling, B., 2020, The Nevada Mineral Industry 2019: Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Special Publication MI-2019, 254 p., page 3, <https://pubs.nbmj.unr.edu/The-NV-mineral-industry-2019-p/mi2019.htm>

Metal Mining is a Minute Fraction of U.S. Mining⁴

Number of active mines by sector and year, 1983 – 2020



Note: Active mines are those mines that reported any employee hours during the year. Data Source: MSHA

- Hardrock metal mineral deposits are rare and hard to find compared to other types of mines⁵.
- The decline and small size of the U.S. hardrock (metal) mining industry are the main reasons the U.S. depends on foreign countries – including adversaries like China – for critical minerals.
- Reducing the Nation’s critical minerals supply chain vulnerabilities will require policies to encourage mineral exploration and development and increase domestic mineral production.
- There are not enough metal mines on public lands subject to the U.S. Mining Law to justify developing a federal hardrock mining royalty program – unless Congress also enacts policies to increase mineral exploration and mine development.

Congress Should Enact Policies To Stimulate Hardrock Mineral Exploration and Development So A Future Hardrock Mineral Royalty Program Can Generate Meaningful Revenue

WMC's mission is to advocate for today's modern domestic mining industry which is essential to our Nation. WMC is a grassroots organization with members nationwide who work in all sectors of the mining industry including hardrock and industrial minerals, coal, energy generation, manufacturing, transportation, and service industries. WMC engages with members of Congress and their staff, federal land management and regulatory agencies, and state governments to discuss issues of importance to both the hardrock, coal, and industrial mining sectors.

For more information about WMC, please contact Emily Arthun at Emily.arthun@wmc-usa.org or visit our website at: www.wmc-usa.org

⁴ <https://wwwn.cdc.gov/niosh-mining/MMWC/Mine>

⁵ According to the National Academy of Sciences/National Research Council 1999 report, “Hardrock Mining on Federal Lands,” 1,000 mineral targets must be identified and tested to discover a deposit that can become a mine.