



**MINERAL
POLICY**
C E N T E R

*Protecting
Communities
and the
Environment*

GLOBAL MINING SNAPSHOT



1. Total tonnage of marketable minerals extracted in 1999 globally 9.6 billion tons
2. Total tonnage in 1970: 5 billion
3. Mining's share of Gross World Product: 0.9%
4. Mining's share of global employment: 0.5%
5. Average number of mine workers killed on the job each day: 40
6. Number of workers employed in the mining industry of South Africa, the world's largest gold producer, in 1985: 800,000
7. Number employed in 2000: 420,000
8. Percentage of world's undeveloped tracts of forest threatened by mining: about 40%
9. Share of world energy the mining industry consumes: 7-10%
10. Amount of energy saved if aluminum is produced from recycled materials rather than from bauxite ore: 95%
11. Amount saved if copper is recycled rather than produced from virgin ore: 80-85%
12. Amount saved in recycling steel: 50-70%
13. Number of Boeing 737s that could be produced had the 7 million tons of cans thrown away by Americans between 1990 and 2000 been recycled and the aluminum reclaimed: 316,000
14. Size of the world's entire commercial air fleet: 12,640
15. Percent of gold refined in 2001 that went to the jewelry trade: 82%
16. Average tonnage of waste generated at a minesite to produce a single gold ring: 20 tons
17. Percentage of world gold produced with the cyanide leaching technique: 85%
18. Dose of cyanide that will kill an average adult: 1 tsp of 2% cyanide
19. Percentage of world gold production that comes from open-pit mines: 45%
20. Average amount of waste produced by open-pit mines as compared with underground mines: 8-10 times more

1612 K Street, NW
Suite 808
Washington, D.C.
20006

Telephone:
202.887.1872

Fax:
202.887.1875

Email:
mpc@mineralpolicy.org

Website:
www.mineralpolicy.org

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Mineral Policy Center is an environmental nonprofit dedicated to protecting communities and the environment from the impacts of mining. For more information, go to www.mineralpolicy.org.