

IV. OKLAHOMA'S MINERAL PRODUCTION IN 1925

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In producing over five hundred million dollars of new mineral wealth in 1925, Oklahoma surpassed all of her past records. This accomplishment gained for her undisputed second place in the rank of the states of the union in value of annual mineral production, Pennsylvania being the leader.

In 1901, when the first statistics were made of the production of minerals in Oklahoma Territory and Indian Territory, the combined wealth was \$4,000,000.00. In 1925 the new mineral wealth of Oklahoma was \$500,000,000.00; an increase of 12,400 per cent. In 1901 Oklahoma ranked 35th among the states in the value of her mineral products; in 1925 she ranked second.

Of Oklahoma's \$500,000,000 of mineral wealth produced last year, \$420,600,000, or over 84 per cent, was derived from petroleum, natural gas and natural gas gasoline. The zinc and lead industry furnished over \$56,900,000 new wealth, or over 11 per cent. So that Oklahoma's big five were petroleum and allied products and lead and zinc, amounting in all to more than \$477,000,000 or 96 per cent of her total minerals produced.

Oklahoma retained her rank of first place in value and second place in amount of production among the oil-producing states during 1925 with 22½ per cent of the total production of the United States. The major oil pools of Oklahoma in 1924 were still the principal producers throughout 1925. The day of greatest production was November 22, when the oil wells of the state put over 500,000 bbls. of crude petroleum into the tanks and pipelines serving the nation. The peak was due to the production from the Garber deep sand. Of the major pools, Tonkawa led in the state, with Burbank second, and Cromwell third.

Natural gas delivered to consumers in Oklahoma amounted to 215,000,000 M. cu. ft. during 1925. In 1914 natural gas production amounted to 78,167 M. cu. ft. This represents an increase of more than 275 per cent. Total production of natural gas in Oklahoma from 1902 to 1925 amounts to more than 2½ billion M. cu. ft.

Oklahoma, the leader in the natural gasoline industry, had in 1925, 352 natural gasoline plants with a rated daily capacity of 1,525,825 gallons. In 1911 Oklahoma produced 388,000 gallons of natural gas gasoline and in 1925 produced better than 1,000 times that much, 390,800,000 gallons. In this period of time (1911-1925) Oklahoma has produced 2,090,262,000 gallons of natural gas gasoline.

Oklahoma is the pace-setter of the world in zinc production. A single county in northeast Oklahoma, Ottawa, produced more zinc than all the rest of the United States combined last year, amounting to 280,688 short tons with an estimated value of \$42,662,000.00. This same district, generally known as the Miami-Picher-Commerce district, produced 82,775 short tons of lead with a value of more than \$14,000,000.00.

Petroleum and allied products and zinc and lead constitute a large part of our new mineral wealth, chiefly because these products are easily developed and readily marketed. Oil money and zinc money are quick money, and these products are always the first to be developed. The oil yet in the ground in Oklahoma will last for a long time. The greater number of Oklahoma's 288 oil and gas fields are still producing, and no one will venture to predict how many new fields are yet undiscovered. Extensive explorations and mining of zinc and lead have been made, and no one can even estimate how much more remains unmined.

It is not unlikely that some are curious as to what minerals might have supplied the remaining 4 per cent of Oklahoma's annual mineral value last year. There are fifteen commercially important minerals which are represented in Oklahoma's vast reserve stores of wealth-hidden treasures to any extent, since they have been practically untouched and unused in comparison to their potential possibilities. These fifteen are coal, asphalt, granite, sandstone, limestone, marble, glass sand, Portland cement rock, clays, gypsum, salt, novaculite, tripoli, volcanic ash and mineral waters. These minerals furnish at this time the meager 4 per cent which is accredited to "miscellaneous" by the statisticians.

A summary of the available minerals of this state reveals a store-house full of the most essential materials—fuels, metals, structural materials, salt. These are the very important minerals which form the basis of modern civilization, industry and commercial development.

Oklahoma is in the "white area" of business prosperity because of her people's industry in bringing forth the products of the soil and the mine stream. If she is to keep her place "in the white," she will probably have to draw upon this large and varied reserve of minerals which is now supplying only 4 per cent of the total annual mineral production.

Mineral Production of Oklahoma in 1925

	Value
Petroleum, 176,760,000 bbls.	\$347,000,000
Zinc, 280,668 short tons	42,662,000*

Natural gas gasoline, 390,800,000 gal. -----	41,600,000
Natural gas, 215,000,000 M. cu. ft. -----	32,000,000*
Lead, 82,775 short tons -----	14,271,000*
Coal, 2,239,000 short tons -----	8,384,000*
Cement, 2,300,000 bbls. -----	3,500,000
Gypsum, 342,000 short tons -----	2,737,000*
Clay products	2,000,000
Stone, 1,340,000 short tons -----	1,527,000
Sand and Gravel	1,000,000
Other minerals	3,500,000
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Total.....	\$500,181,000

*Estimated. Other statistics obtained from "Mineral Resources of the United States in 1925," U. S. Bureau of Mines.