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2023 Mineral Consumption Data Released

MEC's iconic Mineral Baby shows steady demand for natural resources supporting all aspects of human life



Compiled by the Minerals Education Coalition (MEC), the 2023 Mineral Baby captures certain increases in mineral consumption including lithium, which is currently being harnessed for the green energy transition due to its instrumental role in battery technology. Increases are also shown this year in key construction resources such as cement and iron ore. Overall, the amount of minerals, metals and fuels that every American born in 2023 will need in their lifetime is 3.07 million pounds, clearly demonstrating how important mining and minerals are to our daily lives.

“This one-of-a-kind visual aid serves to remind everyone about the sheer volume of resources required to maintain our modern way of life,” said David L. Kanagy, SME Executive Director and CEO. “With increased awareness, we can continue to build a consensus around sustainable production and refinement of these critical metals and minerals.”

Governments worldwide continue to rely on the extraction and processing of natural resources to ensure a high standard of living for their citizens. In the United States, the mining and minerals industry is supporting major investments allocated by the \$1.2 trillion Bipartisan Infrastructure Law of 2021. The law includes funding for major transportation, telecommunications and energy projects, all of which require significant quantities of mined materials to execute.

According to the 2023 U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Commodity Summaries, “minerals remained fundamental to the U.S. economy, contributing to the real gross domestic product at several levels, including mining, processing, and manufacturing finished products.” Per their data, in 2022, the estimated total value of nonfuel mineral production in the United States was \$98.2 billion, an increase of 4% from the revised total of \$94.6 billion in 2021.

Since 1995, the amount of minerals, metals and fuels that an American born in the current year will need in their lifetime has been presented in an iconic educational infographic known as the “Mineral Baby.” Mineral Baby infographics are created using statistics from the National Mining Association and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS), in combination with life expectancy data from the U.S. Census Bureau and the Centers for Disease Control. These statistics represent an entire year and thus utilize figures from the previous year.

For more information, visit mineralseducationcoalition.org/stats.

About SME

The Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration (SME) brings together the mining and mineral industry's brightest and most dedicated professionals. Over 13,000 global members advance their careers with the world-class technical resources, educational programs, networking opportunities and professional development tools from SME. Our members are focused on sharing best practices for safety, environmental stewardship and moving mining forward. SME. *Inspiring mining professionals worldwide.*

About MEC

The Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) is the Society for Mining, Metallurgy and Exploration Foundation's designated program to develop and deliver accurate and timely K-12 education materials and activities and conduct public awareness outreach about mining and minerals.