

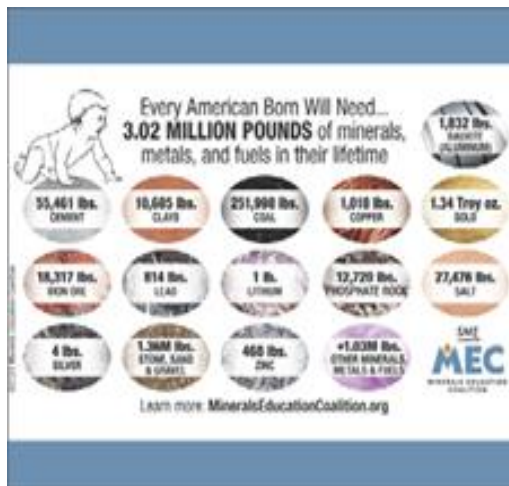
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Americans need more than three million pounds of minerals in their lifetime

SME Releases 2022 Mineral Baby Graphic



Americans’ mineral consumption reflects the ever-growing usage of batteries and other materials driven by the green economy. Mineral consumption in the United States in 2021 is illustrated by the iconic “Mineral Baby” graphic according to the Minerals Education Coalition (MEC) of the Society for Mining, Metallurgy & Exploration Inc. (SME). MEC annually calculates the amount of minerals and energy fuels that are consumed in the average lifetime of an American born in the current year.

To best reflect the growing importance critical minerals play in the shift towards a green economy, lithium and silver were called out separately this year, joining other key minerals like copper and zinc. Although the amount of lithium needed per person is small, according to the USGS, global consumption of lithium grew 33% from 2020 to 2021 due to its use in batteries, especially electric car batteries.

Additionally in the 2022 graphic, petroleum products were moved into other minerals/fuels to allow room for silver and lithium to be highlighted.

“This visual illustrates the important role that the production of minerals and energy have in our daily lives, our lifestyles and our high standard of living. Our cars, roads and homes all started with – and depend upon – mined materials,” said SME Executive Director and CEO David L. Kanagy.

“As the focus on sustainability increases, the types of minerals needed to supply those technologies changes.”

This data emphasizes the support the mining and minerals industry provides to the U.S. economy and to our daily lives. According to the 2022 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. The estimated value of nonfuel minerals produced at mines in the United States in 2021 was \$90.4 billion.”

Using information for the previous year provided by the USGS, the National Mining Association, the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the U.S. Census Bureau and other sources, MEC calculated the annual pounds of mined resources Americans used per capita as 39,431 pounds. With the average life expectancy of 76.6 years, the average American will need 3.02 million pounds of minerals, metals, and fuels to provide the products and materials they will depend upon in their lifetime.

To see the latest data, visit www.mineralseducationcoalition.org/stats. This marks the 27th year SME has issued this information.

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

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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.
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