

10-year trends in global metals prices are an excellent indicator of the vitality and future of the mineral exploration industry which employs geologists, geophysicists, engineers and hydrologists. As of September 2011, the mining industry rebounded dramatically from the 2008-09 global economic crisis:

Global Metals Prices:



Industrial metals play a critical role in the global economy and provide fundamental raw materials for manufacturing and construction. Metals are all around us and contribute to our elevated standard of living. Consider the importance of metals in electricity transmission, buildings, freeways, culverts, water and petroleum pipelines, electronics components, drilling hardware, and the aerospace industry. Emerging “green” technologies, e.g., windmills, turbines, solar collectors, electric cars, batteries, mass transit systems, catalytic converters and factory emission “scrubbers” require special metals or metal alloys for their viability. 21st century humanity is confronted with basic truths:

1. *Metals are extracted (mined) from the ground where they have been concentrated by special geologic processes,*
2. *Global metal production is tapering off because existing mines developed during the last mining boom of 1970-85 have not been replenished by new mineral discoveries, and*
3. *Significant mineral exploration and subsequent mine development are needed to sustain future global demand for metals.*

Hence, future job prospects are excellent for mineral exploration geoscientists.