

commonly called "mines" in the United States, is practically beyond computation. Tabulating only such mines as made returns of production or labor, statistics reduced the list to 6,004. The number of employees, amount of wages paid and average number of days employed during the year were as follows :

Employees.	No. employed.	Aver. per day.	Aver. No. days employed per yr.	Aver. wages per year.
Foremen or overseers	1,592	\$4 21	215	\$905
Mechanics.....	3,283	3 57	244	871
Laborers.....	17,121	2 65	193	512
Boys under 16 years	82	1 05	172	181
Foremen or overseers	1,357	4 21	237	998
Miners.....	29,222	3 13	236	739
Laborers.....	4,062	2 47	240	593
Boys under 16 years	43	1 54	207	319
Office force.....	873			
Total	57,635			

Expenditures during the year, including wages, value of supplies, etc., were \$63,451,136. The total value of mining plant was \$465,960,566, made up of the following items: buildings, \$7,565,918; railroads on surface, \$1,475,674; machinery, \$14,985,215; underground improvements, \$95,806,648; mine supplies, \$3,919,480; cash, \$4,112,810; and estimated value of mines exclusive of above items, \$338,094,821. The value of mills and reduction work was \$20,362,772. Total value of mines and works, \$486,323,438. Of the 6,004 mines on which returns of production on labor statistics were made, 266 were reported idle, 1,009 were reported working but not producing bullion, 28 as producing over \$500,000 worth of bullion, 44 as producing \$250,000 to \$500,000, 107 as producing \$100,000 to \$250,000; 95 from \$50,000 to \$100,000; 437 from \$10,000 to \$50,000; and 1,408 from \$1,000 to \$10,000.

From these statistics it appears that the labor employed in the actual production of the precious metals is both extremely well paid and very productive, better paid and more productive in fact than in any other industry thus far (May, 1891) reported in the bulletins issued by the Eleventh Census. The average earnings of all persons employed at the gold and silver mines (57,635) was \$725 a year, while the average output per man amounted to \$1,723 a year. In the granite quarrying industry, according to the census report, the average value of the output for each person employed in 1889 was \$648, and the average wages a year \$446.