

and smelter in New Mexico will also be closed. The cutbacks, expected to be completed by January 15, will result in a 20 percent reduction in production, or about 243,000 tons.

The Miami mine in Gila County consists of an open-pit, an SX-EW plant, a 650,000-ton-per-year capacity smelter, a 380-million-pound-annual capacity electrolytic refinery, and a 135,000 ton-per-year rod plant. The mine produced 119 million pounds of copper in 2000.

Sierrita in Pima county consists of an open-pit copper-molybdenum mines, a 115,000-ton-per-day concentrator, two molybdenum roasting plants, a ferro-molybdenum plant, a rhenium plant, and an oxide and low grade sulfide dump leaching operation with SX-EW plant. Sierrita produced 245 million pounds of copper in 2000.

Bagdad in Yavapai County consists of an open-pit copper-molybdenum mine, an 85,000-ton-per-day concentrator, an oxide dump leach operation, and a 30-million-pound-per-year SX-EW plant. Bagdad produced 247 million pounds of copper in 2000.

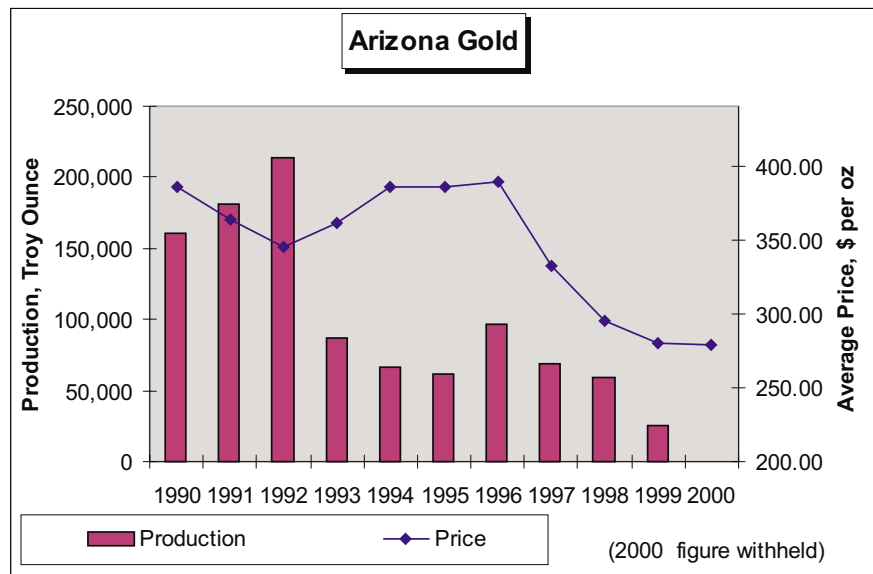
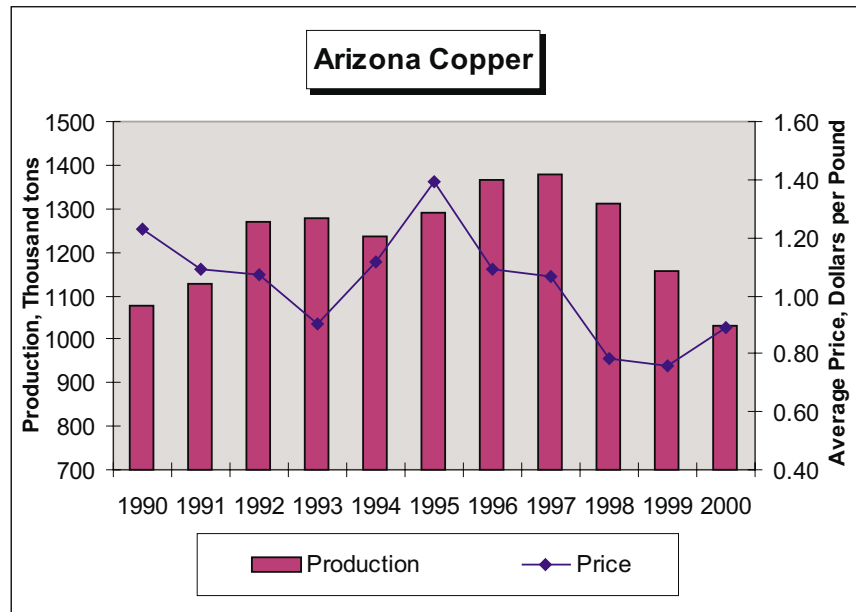
The cuts come in response to reduced demand and declining copper prices. Inventory levels have remained high and now stand at more than three times the optimal level. At the end of October copper was 61.5 cents a pound a 14 1/2 year low. The weakened global economy is a big factor in the decline in demand.

“This temporary curtailment plan will reduce copper production while maintaining our core workforce and the operational readiness of our properties so that resumption of the shuttered production can be effected quickly and efficiently,” Whisler says. “The plan also will maintain our internal production and consumption balances of concentrate, sulfuric acid and

copper anodes. Our U.S. rod mills will not be affected by this plan.”

Asarco, the other major copper producer in the State, has yet to announce plans for any changes in their Arizona operations. Asarco operates Ray, Mission, and Silver Bell mines and the Hayden smelter. Even with the announced cutbacks by Phelps Dodge, Arizona remains the Nation’s largest producer of copper.

Arizona production of copper and gold, plotted with price, for the last decade.



2002 Mineral Symposium

A date has been set, and a call for papers issued, for the *Tenth Annual Minerals of Arizona Symposium*. The symposium, co-sponsored by the Museum and the Arizona Mineral and Mining Foundation, will be held Saturday, March 23, 2002 at the Museum.

Anyone interested in presenting a paper related to Arizona minerals or an Arizona mineral locality may send an abstract to Ray Grant, 3262 W. Monterey Street, Chandler, AZ 85226 before February 1, 2002. The final program, will be announced in February.

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