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Humans are the most significant global geomorphological driving force of the 21st Century

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Supplementary Information

The data used to calculate the figures in the paper are contained within Table 1. Some of the data in these columns are themselves calculated figures. Additional notes relating to these calculations are provided below.

Mineral production statistics and overburden/waste

By using the world mineral statistics compiled by the British Geological Survey (BGS) since 1913 (British Geological Survey, 1913–2017) it is possible to make an approximate estimate of the amount of ground worked in order to produce the total world mineral output. To do this it is necessary to determine not only the mineral output, but also the waste factor (or overburden moved factor) for each mineral. For certain minerals, including coal, there will be different waste/overburden values depending on whether the coal has been deep (underground) mined or opencast (surface) mined. These values also vary between countries and over time.

The figures for mineral output must be used with caution. There are many factors that have changed the way that different minerals have been worked over time and the amount of waste or overburden associated with different working techniques vary. For example, coal mining was originally mined from bell pits, it then progressed to pillar and stall mines through to longwall mechanised mine extraction. Similarly, opencast mining has moved from digging at the outcrop using hand tools, to steam shovels and

then to draglines and bucket excavators that have permitted larger and larger amounts of overburden to be removed.

In parallel with changes in mining techniques, there have also been changes in the way minerals (especially metals) have been extracted from their ores so that smaller percentages of extractable mineral have become economic to work, depending on the market price. Taking copper as an example, early mines in the early 1800s extracted vein material with an average copper content of around 9%, by the early 1900s 2.5% copper was economic to work and now mines exploit disseminated copper with as little as 0.77% of the metal (Crowson, 2011).

To understand the amount of mineral extraction and waste/overburden moved it is necessary to make some assumptions and generalisations, but with care a general figure for the amount of material moved can be calculated.

Coal and iron ore are the main excavated minerals comprising approximately 56% of the world mineral output in 2015. Crude petroleum and natural gas accounted for another 37% so these four commodities account for 93% of world output. All the other minerals amount to about 7% of world output (**Figure 1**). To facilitate the calculation of the mineral and waste/overburden figures key years have been chosen based on the graphical information for coal and iron ore. For these years, all the minerals have been included (except oil and gas because the majority of these two commodities are extracted from within pore spaces of geological formations, thus requiring little material to be moved and without generating much waste) and estimated the total amount of waste/overburden that would have been expected at the particular time interval. The key years taken are 1925, 1950, 1975, 2000, 2010 and 2015 (Table 2).

The proportion of waste material excavated compared to mineral recovered is known as the stripping ratio. These can be quoted in mineral output statistics as a volume:volume, a volume:tonnage, or a tonnage:tonnage figure and they also change over time. A wide range of literature sources were consulted to obtain the best available data for stripping ratios for coal (for example, see Štýs, 1987; Lubomir & Vaclav, 2007; Mining

Technology, 2017; Mohr et al, 2011; Anglo American, 2012; Whitehaven Coal, 2012; Averitt, 1974; Rusek et al, 1978; Grim & Hill, 1974; IMC, 1999; Gibson, 1981; Lawson et al, 2003; Chang-Sheng, 2008; Ikonnikov, 1977; Singh, 2005; Khoshoo, 2008; Kable Intelligence Ltd, 2017; Semirara Mining, 2016; Fikkers, 2013; Atrum Coal, 2013) and these were used to infer a global average for each year (**Figure 2a**). Volumes of overburden/waste were converted to tonnages using density figures available on the SI Metric website (SI Metric, 2016).

There has also been a significant shift over the last century from underground to surface coal mining, particularly in countries such as the UK, USA and Australia (**Figure 2b**). However, due to a significant increase in the production of coal from China, from under 1 billion tonnes in 2000 to nearly 3.7 billion tonnes in 2015 (British Geological Survey, 1913–2017), and because more than 90% of the coal mined in China is still extracted from underground mines (Chang-Sheng, 2008), the inferred global average for the percentage of surface mined coal actually decreases after 2001. Again, a wide range of materials were consulted to obtain the best available data for the proportion split between surface and underground mining (for example, see Štýs, 1987; Mohr et al, 2011; Averitt, 1974; Grim & Hill, 1974; Chang-Sheng, 2008; Khoshoo, 2008; Energy Information Agency, 2017; US Environmental Protection Agency, 1982; Fisher & James, 1955; Harris, 1995; British Geological Survey, 1973–2016; Harris et al, 2006–2010; Zhang et al, 2004; Moolman & Fourie, 2000; Irving & Tailakov, 1994; Mbendi, 2016; Thompson, 2005; Chikkatur, 2008; Sanhati, 2011; New World Resources, 2011; Tarazanov, 2012; Oddenino, 1993; Fuginski, 2012; Kazakh Research Institute, 2002). The change in mining method has to be factored into calculations of overburden/waste because a large quantity of overburden is moved at surface mines whereas much less waste is generated at underground coal mines.

For other minerals, stripping ratios vary by commodity and with 54 minerals, other than coal, included in the research these ratios were assessed at the key year intervals of 1925, 1950, 1975, 2000, 2010 and 2015. The amounts for other years were then inferred using the changes in coal as a proxy (**Figure 3**). For many minerals, stripping ratios were obtained from Douglas & Lawson, 2000, but other sources were also consulted

and used where appropriate [for example, see Crowson, 2011; Sherlock, 1922; Müller & Frimmel, 2010; American Association for the Advancement of Science, 2001; World Bank Group, 1998; Johnson Matthey, 2016; Kogel et al, 2006; Symonds Group, 2001; Douglas & Lawson, 2002; Norgate & Haque, 2012; Shelton, 2013).

Aggregates and cement

The other minerals included above range from aluminium to zirconium, but do not include the extraction of construction aggregates or the materials used to manufacture cement (industrial limestone, clay and shale). However, aggregates and cement represent some of the largest amounts of materials moved by humans; in many countries they represent the largest material flow (Brown et al, 2011; Rogich et al, 2008). Global figures for the production of construction aggregates are not available but figures for Europe, the UK and the USA are published (Brown et al, 2016; Idoine et al, 2016; Bennet, 2016; Willett, 2016). The United States Geological Survey (USGS) also publish figures for worldwide production of cement, in addition to the production in the USA (van Oss, 2017), and the BGS publications include cement figures for the UK and several European countries (Brown et al, 2016; Idoine et al, 2016). Aggregates and cement are used in combination to produce concrete at reasonably fixed proportions but aggregates are also used without cement in products including road sub-base and ballast. The ratio between the production of cement and aggregates varies between countries due to factors including population density and the size of the country, but a typical global ratio can be inferred from the published data (**Figure S1**). This global ratio can then be applied to the published world cement manufacture figures to calculate an inferred series for worldwide aggregates production (**Figure 4**).

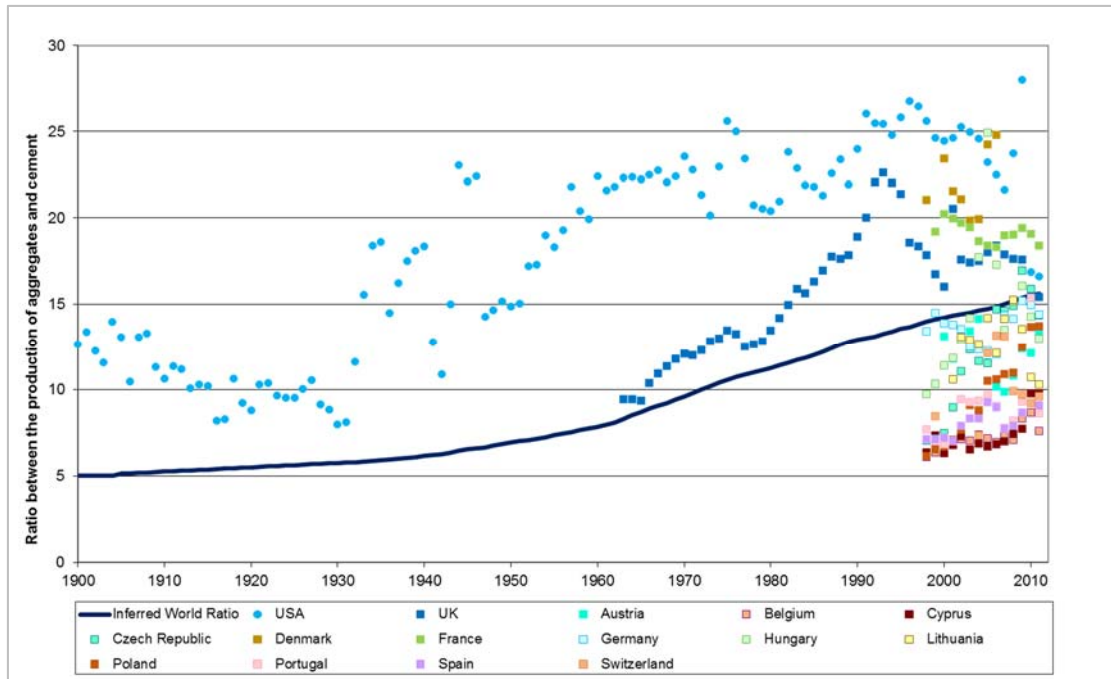


Figure S1. Production ratios between construction aggregates and cement, together with inferred world ratio.

Although the inferred world ratio on **Figure S1** appears to be below the individual data points for the years prior to 1998, this is an artefact of the availability of data. For all years prior to 1998 the country level data for the production of aggregates and cement are only available for the USA and UK and thus it is not possible to calculate the ratio for other countries. However, from 1998 onwards it can be seen that many countries have a ratio that is lower than both the USA and UK and hence the inferred world average is below that for the USA and UK.

Excavation during construction works

As noted in the main paper, the majority of construction works (e.g. buildings, roads, railways, tunnels, dams, docks, etc.) also require earthworks. These range from minor stripping of soil to major tunnelling and cutting and embankment construction. A detailed examination of a number of construction projects revealed a wide range of figures for the amounts of excavation required per tonne of cement and aggregates used. Calculations based on figures for 12 major roadbuilding schemes, across 10 countries, provided a multiplier of 21.5 times the estimated cement and aggregates used, whereas a similar calculation based on 6 major railway schemes in 6 countries resulted in a

multiplier of 2.1 times and from 6 building projects (airport terminal, office buildings, dam, etc.) in 5 countries a multiplier of 1.7 times. For this research figures that are double the amount of global aggregates and cement production were used, but this is an area that would benefit from further work. Other sources of excavation and fill, such as unsurfaced gravel roads and mountain road or rail cuttings, have not been quantified.

Dredging

Dredging is carried out for a number of reasons including:

- the construction of new ports;
- the maintenance or deepening of existing ports and associated navigation channels;
- the protection of existing coastal infrastructure from sea level rise or tidal flooding;
- to increase flow capacity in rivers as part of a flood prevention strategy;
- the reclamation of land along a coast for building expansion; and
- to prepare the sea bed for maritime infrastructure such as pipelines or offshore wind turbines.

The extraction of aggregates from the sea floor has been excluded from this calculation to avoid double-counting. Dredging carried out for the extraction of fish and other sea-food is also excluded from the calculations but is estimated at 14.8 million km² per annum (Watling & Norse, 1998).

Global figures for the amounts of material moved during dredging operations are not published. However, estimates have been made based on the limited information that is available. The International Association of Dredging Companies (IADC) has published annual figures for the turnover of the industry in recent years (IADC, 2017) and these can be converted to approximate cubic metres using figures for the typical cost per cubic metre moved in each year. The latter were derived from a number of sources [for example, see US Army Corps of Engineers, 2014; Sydney Coastal Councils, 2013; Owen & Park, 2009; Halcrow, 2009; Boskalis, 2017; Van Oord, 2012; National Marine Dredging Company, 2009; Gordon, 2013; Subsea World News, 2012; Middle East Dredging Company, 2008; United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organisation, 1998). In some years the figures released by the IADC specifically do not include data for the USA and China and consequently these need to be added. Data for the USA is published by the US Army Corps of Engineers through their Navigation Data Center (US Army Corps of Engineers, 2017) and data for China have been compiled by Frost & Sullivan Consultants but are summarised in freely available reports (Hong Kong Exchanges and Clearing Ltd, 2011).

For the years prior to 2000, world totals for the amounts of material moved during dredging operations have been postulated based on the USA reported figures (US Army Corps of Engineers, 2017), interpolated USA figures for years missing in the reported series and the calculated world totals for 2000–2015 (**Figure 5**). USA figures were converted from cubic yards to cubic metres and all of the cubic metres figures were converted to metric tonnes using a density of 1.8 t/m³.

Anthropogenic global sediment flux

The figure for anthropogenic global sediment flux of 316 Gt for 2015 was calculated by summing the results of the above calculations, which are in summary:

- World coal production (reported) with associated overburden and waste (calculated), adjusted for changes over time for stripping ratio and underground/surface working
- World production of metals and minerals other than coal (reported in key years, interpolated for the remainder) with associated overburden and waste (calculated)
- World cement production (reported)
- World aggregates production (estimated from a cement/aggregates ratio)
- Minimum quantity of material moved during the course of civil engineering earthworks related to construction (estimated based on cement and aggregates production)
- Material moved by World dredging operations (limited reported data with significant estimates to fill data gaps)

These figures are also quoted in the main paper in cubic kilometres, which are obtained by assuming an average density of 2.1 t/m^3 . This is a higher figure than that mentioned earlier to convert dredged material to metric tonnes due to the wider range of materials involved.

An average density of 2.1 t/m^3 has been used as an approximation to enable the tonnages of material to be calculated as volumes. This figure is very approximate due to the large number of variables. These include the wide range of rock types, the ages of the rocks, the porosity of the rocks, whether the rock are wet or dry, the bulking factor when the materials were excavated and the compaction factor when they have been emplaced. Studies of rock density consulted include Manger (1963), Sharma (1997) and Ofoegbu et al (2008). Original densities range from as little as 1.25 t/m^3 for lignite, $1.35\text{-}1.55 \text{ t/m}^3$ for coal, $1.6\text{-}2.0 \text{ t/m}^3$ for sand and $1.5\text{-}2.0 \text{ t/m}^3$ for clay through $2.1\text{-}2.75 \text{ t/m}^3$ for shales, $1.63\text{-}2.7 \text{ t/m}^3$ for sandstone, $2.1\text{-}2.8 \text{ t/m}^3$ for limestone to the denser igneous rocks with $2.52\text{-}2.75 \text{ t/m}^3$ for granite and $2.8\text{-}3.1 \text{ t/m}^3$ for basalt. There is considerable variation in densities within each rock type depending on the age of the rocks, depth of burial (compaction) and cementation.

Once a rock is extracted there is also a considerable bulking factor that reduces the overall bulk density, this varies considerably depending on how the rock breaks up, it is also much lower for unconsolidated sedimentary rocks. Once extracted and re-deposited there is a further change in volume due to compaction, this can be a large reduction in mechanically compacted materials in civil engineering, or a low reduction in tipped materials. Bulking factors and final densities after deposition are tabulated by Ofoegbu et al (2008). Considering the large amount of variables, it is considered that a figure of 2.1 t/m^3 is a reasonable approximation for the density of average emplaced materials. However, a rigorous analysis has not been undertaken, this would require assigning individual figures to all the types of material excavated and emplaced. The 2.1 t/m^3 accords with the fill condition bulk densities given by Ofoegbu et al (2008).

As noted in the main paper, this figure for anthropogenic global sediment flux is many times larger than the natural sediment flux of the world's rivers. Humans are clearly the most significant annual sediment mover on the planet.

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| Year | Annual World Coal Production (million tonnes) | Calculated overburden/waste for coal (million tonnes) | Calculated World coal plus overburden/waste surface and underground (million tonnes) | Calculated World mineral and metal production (excl. oil/gas) incl. waste/overburden (million tonnes) | World cement manufacture (million tonnes) 1925 is estimated | Calculated World aggregates production [based on ratio to cement] (million tonnes) | Calculated world cement and aggregate production (million tonnes) | Calculated World civil engineering earthwork [assumed to be twice the aggregate and cement totals] (million tonnes) | Approximate World dredging tonnages (see supplemental information) (million tonnes) | Total mineral extraction, overburden/waste, cement, aggregates, civil engineering and dredging (million tonnes) | Calculated total annual volume of anthropogenic sediment flux (km3) |
|------|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1925 | 1 372 | 589 | 1 960 | 571 | 61 | 341 | 401 | 803 | 338 | 4 073 | 2 |
| 1926 | 1 362 | 603 | 1 965 | 585 | 62 | 353 | 415 | 830 | 378 | 4 173 | 2 |
| 1927 | 1 473 | 670 | 2 144 | 663 | 68 | 385 | 453 | 905 | 405 | 4 569 | 2 |
| 1928 | 1 463 | 684 | 2 147 | 688 | 72 | 412 | 484 | 967 | 486 | 4 772 | 2 |
| 1929 | 1 555 | 752 | 2 307 | 746 | 75 | 429 | 504 | 1 007 | 540 | 5 104 | 2 |
| 1930 | 1 412 | 709 | 2 121 | 692 | 72 | 416 | 488 | 976 | 594 | 4 871 | 2 |
| 1931 | 1 260 | 656 | 1 916 | 643 | 62 | 359 | 421 | 841 | 648 | 4 469 | 2 |
| 1932 | 1 128 | 623 | 1 750 | 586 | 49 | 286 | 335 | 670 | 759 | 4 102 | 2 |
| 1933 | 1 168 | 684 | 1 853 | 619 | 48 | 281 | 329 | 658 | 810 | 4 269 | 2 |
| 1934 | 1 280 | 795 | 2 075 | 704 | 58 | 341 | 399 | 799 | 1 078 | 5 055 | 2 |
| 1935 | 1 321 | 870 | 2 191 | 740 | 65 | 386 | 451 | 903 | 918 | 5 203 | 2 |
| 1936 | 1 443 | 1 009 | 2 451 | 822 | 63 | 374 | 436 | 873 | 918 | 5 501 | 3 |
| 1937 | 1 534 | 1 137 | 2 672 | 890 | 83 | 496 | 579 | 1 158 | 1 353 | 6 651 | 3 |
| 1938 | 1 443 | 1 134 | 2 576 | 866 | 86 | 520 | 606 | 1 211 | 1 057 | 6 316 | 3 |
| 1939 | 1 575 | 1 311 | 2 886 | 961 | 93 | 567 | 660 | 1 321 | 827 | 6 654 | 3 |
| 1940 | 1 687 | 1 539 | 3 226 | 1 063 | 81 | 498 | 579 | 1 158 | 1 167 | 7 193 | 3 |
| 1941 | 1 773 | 1 710 | 3 483 | 1 152 | 88 | 546 | 634 | 1 267 | 864 | 7 401 | 4 |
| 1942 | 1 784 | 1 818 | 3 602 | 1 178 | 81 | 506 | 587 | 1 173 | 731 | 7 270 | 3 |
| 1943 | 1 798 | 1 975 | 3 773 | 1 223 | 71 | 452 | 523 | 1 047 | 702 | 7 268 | 3 |
| 1944 | 1 727 | 2 037 | 3 764 | 1 209 | 55 | 354 | 409 | 818 | 739 | 6 939 | 3 |
| 1945 | 1 345 | 1 718 | 3 063 | 969 | 50 | 324 | 374 | 747 | 702 | 5 855 | 3 |
| 1946 | 1 468 | 2 025 | 3 493 | 1 101 | 73 | 479 | 551 | 1 102 | 667 | 6 914 | 3 |
| 1947 | 1 648 | 2 421 | 4 069 | 1 269 | 86 | 571 | 656 | 1 313 | 675 | 7 982 | 4 |
| 1948 | 1 695 | 2 646 | 4 341 | 1 339 | 102 | 689 | 791 | 1 581 | 661 | 8 712 | 4 |
| 1949 | 1 697 | 2 841 | 4 538 | 1 391 | 115 | 788 | 903 | 1 806 | 675 | 9 312 | 4 |
| 1950 | 1 821 | 3 226 | 5 047 | 1 555 | 133 | 924 | 1 057 | 2 115 | 702 | 10 476 | 5 |
| 1951 | 1 933 | 3 617 | 5 550 | 1 720 | 149 | 1 043 | 1 192 | 2 384 | 729 | 11 575 | 6 |
| 1952 | 1 930 | 3 853 | 5 784 | 1 776 | 161 | 1 135 | 1 296 | 2 592 | 756 | 12 204 | 6 |
| 1953 | 1 961 | 4 166 | 6 127 | 1 883 | 178 | 1 273 | 1 451 | 2 901 | 783 | 13 145 | 6 |
| 1954 | 1 971 | 4 402 | 6 373 | 1 971 | 195 | 1 413 | 1 608 | 3 216 | 810 | 13 978 | 7 |
| 1955 | 2 134 | 5 002 | 7 135 | 2 219 | 217 | 1 597 | 1 814 | 3 629 | 837 | 15 635 | 7 |
| 1956 | 2 256 | 5 602 | 7 858 | 2 436 | 235 | 1 754 | 1 989 | 3 978 | 864 | 17 125 | 8 |
| 1957 | 2 337 | 6 076 | 8 413 | 2 641 | 247 | 1 864 | 2 111 | 4 222 | 864 | 18 251 | 9 |
| 1958 | 2 439 | 6 629 | 9 068 | 2 877 | 263 | 2 008 | 2 271 | 4 541 | 864 | 19 621 | 9 |
| 1959 | 2 520 | 7 230 | 9 749 | 3 074 | 294 | 2 281 | 2 575 | 5 150 | 891 | 21 440 | 10 |
| 1960 | 2 632 | 7 958 | 10 589 | 3 342 | 317 | 2 485 | 2 801 | 5 602 | 918 | 23 253 | 11 |
| 1961 | 2 479 | 7 892 | 10 371 | 3 272 | 333 | 2 649 | 2 982 | 5 964 | 945 | 23 535 | 11 |

| Year | Annual World Coal Production (million tonnes) | Calculated overburden/waste for coal (million tonnes) | Calculated World coal plus overburden/waste surface and underground (million tonnes) | Calculated World mineral and metal production (excl. oil/gas) incl. waste/overburden (million tonnes) | World cement manufacture (million tonnes) 1925 is estimated | Calculated World aggregates production [based on ratio to cement] (million tonnes) | Calculated world cement and aggregate production (million tonnes) | Calculated World civil engineering earthwork [assumed to be twice the aggregate and cement totals] (million tonnes) | Approximate World dredging tonnages (see supplemental information) (million tonnes) | Total mineral extraction, overburden/waste, cement, aggregates, civil engineering and dredging (million tonnes) | Calculated total annual volume of anthropogenic sediment flux (km3) |
|------|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1962 | 2 550 | 8 536 | 11 086 | 3 494 | 359 | 2 904 | 3 262 | 6 525 | 972 | 25 339 | 12 |
| 1963 | 2 652 | 9 322 | 11 974 | 3 766 | 378 | 3 137 | 3 515 | 7 031 | 991 | 27 276 | 13 |
| 1964 | 2 753 | 10 154 | 12 907 | 4 048 | 416 | 3 533 | 3 948 | 7 896 | 844 | 29 644 | 14 |
| 1965 | 2 804 | 10 837 | 13 641 | 4 263 | 433 | 3 771 | 4 204 | 8 408 | 846 | 31 362 | 15 |
| 1966 | 2 835 | 11 469 | 14 304 | 4 451 | 464 | 4 131 | 4 596 | 9 191 | 846 | 33 387 | 16 |
| 1967 | 2 720 | 11 510 | 14 229 | 4 434 | 480 | 4 342 | 4 822 | 9 644 | 846 | 33 975 | 16 |
| 1968 | 2 745 | 12 139 | 14 884 | 4 612 | 515 | 4 740 | 5 255 | 10 510 | 846 | 36 108 | 17 |
| 1969 | 2 871 | 13 254 | 16 126 | 4 967 | 543 | 5 105 | 5 648 | 11 296 | 846 | 38 884 | 19 |
| 1970 | 2 944 | 14 175 | 17 119 | 5 211 | 572 | 5 489 | 6 061 | 12 122 | 846 | 41 359 | 20 |
| 1971 | 2 950 | 14 627 | 17 577 | 5 369 | 590 | 5 782 | 6 372 | 12 744 | 846 | 42 908 | 20 |
| 1972 | 3 041 | 15 522 | 18 563 | 5 687 | 661 | 6 610 | 7 271 | 14 542 | 846 | 46 908 | 22 |
| 1973 | 3 065 | 16 287 | 19 352 | 5 854 | 702 | 7 160 | 7 862 | 15 725 | 846 | 49 640 | 24 |
| 1974 | 3 107 | 16 980 | 20 087 | 6 090 | 703 | 7 313 | 8 016 | 16 033 | 846 | 51 072 | 24 |
| 1975 | 3 253 | 18 277 | 21 530 | 6 498 | 702 | 7 408 | 8 110 | 16 221 | 846 | 53 205 | 25 |
| 1976 | 3 349 | 19 228 | 22 577 | 6 832 | 735 | 7 906 | 8 641 | 17 282 | 846 | 56 178 | 27 |
| 1977 | 3 510 | 20 427 | 23 937 | 7 266 | 797 | 8 649 | 9 446 | 18 891 | 846 | 60 386 | 29 |
| 1978 | 3 558 | 20 963 | 24 521 | 7 507 | 853 | 9 383 | 10 236 | 20 472 | 846 | 63 583 | 30 |
| 1979 | 3 719 | 22 182 | 25 901 | 8 033 | 872 | 9 684 | 10 556 | 21 112 | 846 | 66 449 | 32 |
| 1980 | 3 806 | 22 928 | 26 734 | 8 335 | 883 | 9 935 | 10 818 | 21 636 | 846 | 68 369 | 33 |
| 1981 | 3 844 | 23 512 | 27 356 | 8 572 | 887 | 10 108 | 10 995 | 21 990 | 864 | 69 778 | 33 |
| 1982 | 3 996 | 24 811 | 28 807 | 9 071 | 887 | 10 249 | 11 137 | 22 274 | 873 | 72 162 | 34 |
| 1983 | 4 018 | 25 319 | 29 337 | 9 282 | 917 | 10 724 | 11 641 | 23 282 | 882 | 74 423 | 35 |
| 1984 | 4 231 | 27 052 | 31 283 | 9 901 | 941 | 11 152 | 12 093 | 24 186 | 891 | 78 354 | 37 |
| 1985 | 4 456 | 28 903 | 33 359 | 10 605 | 959 | 11 513 | 12 472 | 24 944 | 900 | 82 280 | 39 |
| 1986 | 4 567 | 30 044 | 34 611 | 11 006 | 1 008 | 12 298 | 13 306 | 26 611 | 918 | 86 453 | 41 |
| 1987 | 4 669 | 31 147 | 35 816 | 11 439 | 1 053 | 13 057 | 14 110 | 28 220 | 936 | 90 522 | 43 |
| 1988 | 4 783 | 32 128 | 36 911 | 11 910 | 1 118 | 14 087 | 15 205 | 30 410 | 954 | 95 389 | 45 |
| 1989 | 4 865 | 32 904 | 37 769 | 12 260 | 1 042 | 13 338 | 14 380 | 28 759 | 972 | 94 140 | 45 |
| 1990 | 4 711 | 32 298 | 37 009 | 12 060 | 1 043 | 13 455 | 14 498 | 28 995 | 990 | 93 552 | 45 |
| 1991 | 4 383 | 30 049 | 34 432 | 11 352 | 1 185 | 15 405 | 16 590 | 33 180 | 1 053 | 96 607 | 46 |
| 1992 | 4 509 | 32 039 | 36 548 | 11 859 | 1 123 | 14 711 | 15 834 | 31 669 | 1 080 | 96 990 | 46 |
| 1993 | 4 404 | 32 411 | 36 815 | 11 715 | 1 291 | 17 106 | 18 397 | 36 794 | 1 125 | 104 845 | 50 |
| 1994 | 4 516 | 34 398 | 38 914 | 12 147 | 1 370 | 18 358 | 19 728 | 39 456 | 1 170 | 111 415 | 53 |
| 1995 | 4 630 | 36 250 | 40 880 | 12 640 | 1 445 | 19 580 | 21 025 | 42 050 | 1 260 | 117 854 | 56 |
| 1996 | 4 699 | 37 415 | 42 115 | 12 970 | 1 493 | 20 379 | 21 872 | 43 745 | 1 350 | 122 052 | 58 |
| 1997 | 4 766 | 38 828 | 43 593 | 13 296 | 1 547 | 21 349 | 22 896 | 45 791 | 1 440 | 127 017 | 60 |
| 1998 | 4 602 | 38 743 | 43 345 | 12 978 | 1 540 | 21 560 | 23 100 | 46 200 | 1 530 | 127 153 | 61 |

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|------|---|---|--|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1999 | 4 323 | 37 590 | 41 913 | 12 321 | 1 600 | 22 560 | 24 160 | 48 320 | 1 620 | 128 335 | 61 |
| 2000 | 4 310 | 38 679 | 42 989 | 12 423 | 1 660 | 23 572 | 25 232 | 50 464 | 1 861 | 132 969 | 63 |
| 2001 | 4 638 | 42 139 | 46 777 | 13 498 | 1 750 | 25 025 | 26 775 | 53 550 | 2 018 | 142 618 | 68 |
| 2002 | 4 815 | 43 847 | 48 662 | 14 108 | 1 850 | 26 640 | 28 490 | 56 980 | 2 176 | 150 416 | 72 |
| 2003 | 5 210 | 47 550 | 52 760 | 15 371 | 2 020 | 29 290 | 31 310 | 62 620 | 2 334 | 164 395 | 78 |
| 2004 | 5 711 | 52 217 | 57 928 | 16 962 | 2 190 | 31 974 | 34 164 | 68 328 | 2 491 | 179 874 | 86 |
| 2005 | 6 046 | 55 371 | 61 417 | 18 078 | 2 350 | 34 545 | 36 895 | 73 790 | 2 649 | 192 830 | 92 |
| 2006 | 6 345 | 57 597 | 63 942 | 19 034 | 2 620 | 38 907 | 41 527 | 83 054 | 2 589 | 210 146 | 100 |
| 2007 | 6 572 | 59 102 | 65 674 | 19 781 | 2 820 | 42 300 | 45 120 | 90 240 | 3 355 | 224 170 | 107 |
| 2008 | 6 815 | 60 680 | 67 494 | 20 512 | 2 850 | 43 235 | 46 085 | 92 169 | 3 769 | 230 029 | 110 |
| 2009 | 6 849 | 60 349 | 67 198 | 20 684 | 3 050 | 46 818 | 49 868 | 99 735 | 4 062 | 241 547 | 115 |
| 2010 | 7 153 | 62 324 | 69 476 | 22 587 | 3 290 | 50 995 | 54 285 | 108 570 | 4 259 | 259 177 | 123 |
| 2011 | 7 931 | 67 934 | 75 865 | 24 429 | 3 650 | 56 575 | 60 225 | 120 450 | 4 877 | 285 846 | 136 |
| 2012 | 8 201 | 69 012 | 77 214 | 25 752 | 3 820 | 59 592 | 63 412 | 126 824 | 5 826 | 299 029 | 142 |
| 2013 | 8 226 | 69 370 | 77 596 | 26 571 | 4 070 | 63 899 | 67 969 | 135 938 | 6 832 | 314 906 | 150 |
| 2014 | 8 165 | 68 702 | 76 867 | 27 270 | 4 180 | 65 626 | 69 806 | 139 612 | 8 086 | 321 640 | 153 |
| 2015 | 7 860 | 65 788 | 73 649 | 26 951 | 4 100 | 64 370 | 68 470 | 136 940 | 9 857 | 315 867 | 150 |

Table 1: Data used to calculate the global anthropogenic sediment flux (see paper and supplemental information for details of calculations and their implications); figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.

| Year | 1925 | 1950 | 1975 | 2000 | 2010 | 2015 |
|---|---|---------------|---|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Minerals/metals - shown as gross weight | Converted to metric tonnes, but shown unrounded | | Metric tonnes, degrees of rounding differ by commodity and year | | | |
| Bauxite | 1 412 305 | 84 331 901 | 77 000 000 | 139 157 577 | 228 000 000 | 294 000 000 |
| Arsenic (white) | 65 927 | 46 916 | 39 373 | 66 014 | 39 310 | 37 110 |
| Asbestos | 324 119 | 1 071 930 | 4 200 000 | 2 055 207 | 2 029 137 | 1 600 000 |
| Barytes | 490 737 | 1 351 343 | 5 200 000 | 6 009 764 | 9 100 000 | 7 900 000 |
| Bentonite and fullers earth | 189 667 | 366 054 | 6 542 000 | 15 741 258 | 18 500 000 | 21 700 000 |
| Bromine | not available | 46 486 | 277 546 | 543 551 | 650 000 | 569 000 |
| Cadmium | 461 | 5 806 | 15 700 | 19 423 | 23 300 | 24 900 |
| Chromium ores and concentrates | 314 975 | 2 341 988 | 8 400 000 | 14 676 586 | 27 800 000 | 35 300 000 |
| Diatomite | 117 680 | 446 488 | 1 400 000 | 1 609 834 | 1 777 000 | 2 374 000 |
| Feldspar | 410 358 | 782 356 | 2 870 000 | 13 049 778 | 22 236 000 | 26 150 000 |
| Fluorspar | 261 451 | 863 640 | 5 000 000 | 4 260 597 | 7 200 000 | 6 400 000 |
| Graphite | 121 926 | 131 070 | 442 000 | 2 031 555 | 2 100 000 | 2 200 000 |
| Gypsum | 10 465 284 | 20 930 568 | 59 000 000 | 97 331 379 | 146 900 000 | 268 200 000 |
| Iodine | not available | not available | 11 200 | 18 904 | 27 700 | 34 900 |
| Kaolin | 2 770 406 | 3 260 240 | 14 000 000 | 22 401 372 | 27 100 000 | 25 300 000 |
| Lithium minerals | not available | 18 027 | 118 000 | 222 822 | 653 720 | 576 095 |
| Magnesite | 775 458 | 9 550 842 | 9 500 000 | 20 141 895 | 37 500 000 | 44 900 000 |
| Manganese ore | 2 844 932 | 7 620 353 | 25 000 000 | 19 883 560 | 45 200 000 | 53 200 000 |
| Mercury | 3 629 | 4 808 | 8 800 | 1 436 | 2 100 | 2 400 |
| Mica | 21 998 | 86 872 | 209 000 | 327 295 | 348 000 | 810 000 |
| Phosphate rock | 8 839 609 | 22 881 378 | 109 000 000 | 132 476 901 | 182 000 000 | 265 000 000 |
| Rare earth minerals | not available | 508 | 38 800 | 80 708 | 105 520 | 154 036 |
| Salt | 23 369 081 | 45 417 301 | 162 000 000 | 210 240 580 | 279 300 000 | 289 600 000 |
| Sillimanite minerals | not available | 70 908 | 311 500 | 453 965 | 457 962 | 526 055 |
| Talc | 365 589 | 1 290 380 | 4 700 000 | 7 663 407 | 7 500 000 | 8 200 000 |
| Tantalum and niobium minerals | not available | 2 195 | 20 000 | 72 127 | 251 000 | 377 000 |
| Titanium minerals | 14 930 | 905 298 | 3 236 000 | 10 039 474 | 10 800 000 | 10 300 000 |
| Zirconium minerals | not available | 47 146 | 553 000 | 1 003 625 | 1 391 561 | 1 341 000 |
| Beryl | not available | 6 198 | 3 050 | 5 465 | 3 547 | 5 742 |
| Borates | 166 632 | 602 582 | 2 298 000 | 4 687 174 | 5 231 464 | 6 039 020 |

| | | | | | | |
|---|--|---------------|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Nepheline syenite | not available | not available | 669 000 | 1 865 000 | 5 808 000 | 6 007 900 |
| Perlite | not available | not available | 911 000 | 2 984 014 | 3 318 083 | 3 609 401 |
| Strontium minerals | 1 902 | 8 645 | 41 000 | 353 434 | 857 065 | 539 610 |
| Vermiculite | not available | 232 095 | 521 000 | 517 903 | 519 828 | 433 393 |
| Wollastonite | not available | not available | 61 000 | 727 673 | 1 025 029 | 1 338 427 |
| Natural sodium carbonate | not available | not available | not available | 10 636 070 | 12 941 825 | 14 099 076 |
| Diamond | 1 | 3 | 8 | 22 | 25 | 25 |
| Potash (K ₂ O content) | 1 295 482 | 3 304 800 | 14 880 000 | 16 133 815 | 18 000 000 | 22 740 000 |
| Metals - shown as tonnes metal content | Converted to metric tonnes, but shown unrounded | | Metric tonnes, degrees of rounding differ by commodity and year | | | |
| Antimony | 28 449 | 45 519 | 72 100 | 118 060 | 163 000 | 143 000 |
| Bismuth | 574 | 920 | 4 300 | 4 217 | 3 300 | 4 300 |
| Cobalt | 814 | 6 884 | 50 300 | 35 190 | 137 000 | 148 000 |
| Copper | 1 483 429 | 2 540 118 | 7 250 000 | 13 206 324 | 16 100 000 | 19 200 000 |
| Gold | 585 | 753 | 1 200 | 2 555 | 2 660 | 3 110 |
| Lead | 1 585 033 | 1 666 317 | 3 600 000 | 3 051 684 | 4 400 000 | 5 000 000 |
| Molybdenum | 789 | 23 372 | 136 000 | 135 761 | 245 000 | 292 000 |
| Nickel | 37 594 | 147 733 | 752 000 | 1 226 506 | 1 605 000 | 2 092 000 |
| Platinum group metals | 7 | 19 | 178 | 444 | 481 | 459 |
| Silver | 778 | 5 505 | 9 242 | 18 201 | 23 387 | 27 511 |
| Tin | 149 359 | 169 883 | 228 000 | 249 026 | 329 000 | 341 000 |
| Tungsten | 9 168 | 18 492 | 48 000 | 30 644 | 63 400 | 80 900 |
| Vanadium | 4 165 | 2 813 | 26 000 | 32 531 | 69 000 | 72 000 |
| Zinc | 1 402 145 | 2 154 020 | 62 000 000 | 8 806 594 | 12 500 000 | 13 200 000 |
| Uranium | 288 | not available | 20 400 | 34 547 | 53 400 | 60 500 |

Table 2: Data for ‘all other minerals’, i.e. excluding coal, oil, natural gas, iron ore, aggregates and cement, degrees of rounding differ by commodity and year (see paper and supplemental information for details of how these figures have been used in the calculations). Source: British Geological Survey (1913–2017).