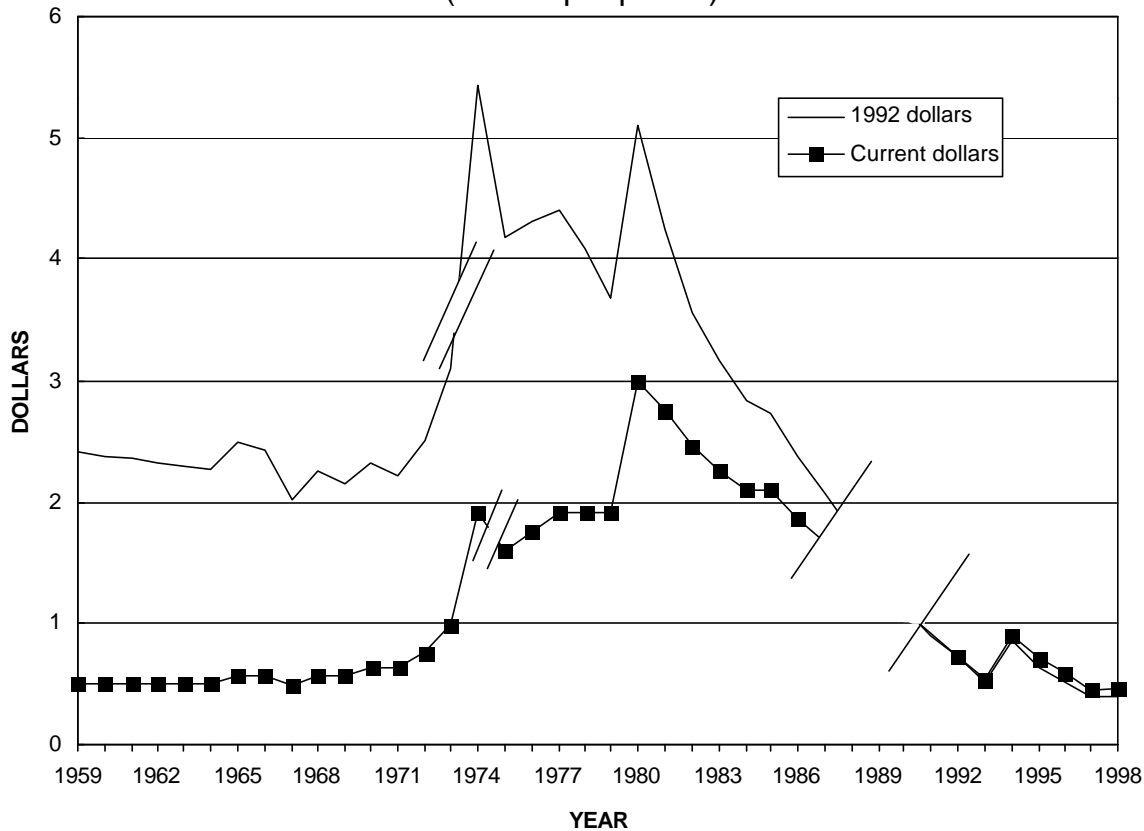


Yearend Arsenic Metal Price
(Dollars per pound)



Significant events affecting arsenic prices since 1958

1972-74	Consumption in lead-acid batteries growing; domestic production resumes in 1974
Mid-1970's	Hearings on effects of arsenic on health and environment
1980	Contraction in production capacity as plants that do not meet health and environmental standards are closed
1986	Domestic production ceases

A widely distributed element, arsenic is often found associated with various nonferrous metal ores. Although not a producer at present, historically, the United States has produced arsenic. The first domestic production, which was a byproduct of the smelting of gold and silver ores, came near the beginning of the 20th century (Greenspoon, 1976, p. 99).

Most of the arsenic used domestically is consumed as the trioxide, mainly in the manufacture of preservatives for pressure-treated wood but also in the manufacture of herb-

icides. The amount of arsenic consumed as metal domestically is very small, accounting for probably less than 3% of total arsenic demand. The major end uses for arsenic metal are as minor additives in nonferrous metal alloys, principally lead alloys used in lead-acid storage batteries and certain copper alloys.

During the early 1970's, demand for arsenic metal was growing, mainly in response to the increased use of the metal in the grids of lead-acid batteries. In the mid-1970's, the price

stabilized.

During this time, however, the United States and other countries began hearings on the health and environmental impacts of arsenic exposure. During the late 1970's, various domestic and foreign regulations related to arsenic exposure and emissions were adopted. The arsenic metal price peaked in 1980 as world producers raised their prices partly to compensate for the cost of modernizing their plants and partly in response to the elimination of some capacity by producers unable or unwilling to modernize their plants.

After 1980, induced by an ample supply and a static or possibly declining demand, the arsenic metal price began a long decline. Domestically produced metal was unavailable after 1986, and China became the sole world source of metal.

Reference Cited

Greenspoon, G.N., 1976, Arsenic, *in* Mineral facts and problems: U.S. Bureau of Mines Bulletin 667, p. 99-106.

Yearend Arsenic Metal Price¹
(Dollars per pound²)

Year	Price	Year	Price	Year	Price	Year	Price
1959	0.50	1969	0.56	1979	1.90	1989	NA
1960	0.50	1970	0.64	1980	3.00	1990	NA
1961	0.50	1971	0.64	1981	2.75	1991	NA
1962	0.50	1972	0.75	1982	2.45	1992	0.73
1963	0.50	1973	0.98	1983	2.25	1993	0.53
1964	0.50	1974	1.91	1984	2.10	1994	0.90
1965	0.56	1975	1.60	1985	2.10	1995	0.70
1966	0.56	1976	1.75	1986	1.85	1996	0.58
1967	0.48	1977	1.90	1987	NA	1997	0.45
1968	0.56	1978	1.90	1988	NA	1998	0.46

NA Not available.

¹ Prices are rounded to the nearest whole cent. Prices are shown as midpoints in a range where appropriate.

² To convert to dollars per metric ton, multiply by 2,204.62.

Note:

1959-74, London prices for 99.5%-pure metal, *in* Metal Bulletin.

1975-86, U.S. producer prices for 99%- to 99.5%-pure metal, *in* Metals Week.

1992-98, London prices for minimum 99%-pure metal, *in* Metal Bulletin.