



Figure 1. Principal mineral commodity targets for worldwide exploration based on the number of active exploration sites, as compiled in this study for the years 1995 through 2004. Data are compiled by the U.S. Geological Survey. A, Precious metals (gold, iridium, palladium, platinum, rhodium, ruthenium, and silver) and diamond; B, Base metals (copper, lead, nickel, and zinc); C, Other minerals (includes ferrous metals and industrial minerals).