



German History in Documents and Images

Volume 5. Wilhelmine Germany and the First World War, 1890-1918
German Industrial Production (1912-18)

This table shows the lack of raw materials for German industry. After 1913, German output fell in every major production category. This development had wide-reaching implications for the German war effort. The main cause of Germany's defeat was material shortages.

Year	Raw Iron	Steel	Iron and Steel Castings	Zinc	Lead	Copper	Aluminum	Rolling Mill	Total
1912	92.5	95.1	101.3	96.6	92.9	92.1		90.6	94.2
1913	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0
1914	74.5	79.7	79.2	84.6	95.3	93.5		77.3	78.4
1915	60.1	69.8	83.5	66.5	64.2	119.2		74.8	74.5
1916	68.8	62.6	67.0	63.9	57.1	161.5		94.3	79.5
1917	68.0	83.1	93.6	66.9	47.6	149.8		101.1	91.9
1918	61.4	68.6	74.6	66.4	42.5	141.3		85.1	77.1

Source: Walther G. Hoffmann, *Das Wachstum der deutschen Wirtschaft seit der Mitte des 19. Jahrhunderts* [*The Growth of the German Economy since the Middle of the 19th Century*]. Berlin: Springer Verlag, 1965, p. 354.

Translation: Jeffrey Verhey