

## Information Sheet

**R**      **St. Joseph Lead Company.**  
**541**      **Business summaries, 1917-1919.**  
            **One folder.**

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These are monthly business summaries for "St. Joseph Lead Company & Subsidiaries," from January 1917 through September 1919. Included are production statistics, cost allocations, and statements of "Average Profit per Ton Ore Mined."

The St. Joseph Lead Company was organized in 1864 to exploit the mineral resources of Missouri's "lead belt," mostly in St. Francois County. At the time of these reports it was the largest producer of lead in the district.

These summary sheets tabulate "PRODUCTION AND VALUE" figures for the firm, including "TOTAL" figures as well as individual statistics for the company's mining operations at Rivermines, Leadwood, and Bonne Terre. Separately figured are costs of prospecting, mining, freighting, milling, marketing, taxes, insurance, and smelting, as well as profits (or losses) from subsidiary enterprises such as the Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway, the St. Francois County Railway, and the Bonne Terre Farming and Cattle Company.

During the first two-thirds of 1917 the firm's operations were very successful, reaching a peak profit of over five dollars per ton of ore mined. The company produced an average of about 200,000 tons of ore per month, with a total estimated value of about \$1,500,000. However, there was a precipitous drop in profit per ton beginning in late 1917 and continuing into 1918, although tonnages mined and estimated market values remained fairly steady. Profit per ton mined improved to almost three dollars by mid-1918, but the post-war slump brought that down to only eleven cents per ton in February 1919. However, by July 1919 profit-per-ton had recovered to over one dollar, while production fell to about 150,000 tons per month. The total estimated value of ore mined bottomed out at only \$430,000 in February 1919, rising to \$730,000 by late summer.

These statistics will be useful to mining and economic historians. They reflect the wartime and immediate postwar economic environments, and show fluctuations in production and profits due to weather, labor unrest, and commodity prices.

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*25 March 1993*

*City of Bonne Terre*

*Gift*

## Shelf List

These are monthly business summaries for "St. Joseph Lead Company & Subsidiaries," from January 1917 through September 1919. Included are production statistics, cost allocations, and statements of "Average Profit per Ton Ore Mined."

"ACTUAL COSTS & CALCULATED PROFITS (Based on Production of Mills)"

1917 January through December, inclusive (12 items).  
 1918 January through December, inclusive (12 items).  
 1919 January through September, inclusive (9 items).

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25 March 1993

City of Bonne Terre

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**Selected Data**

These are monthly business summaries for "St. Joseph Lead Company & Subsidiaries," from January 1917 through September 1919. Included are production statistics, cost allocations, and statements of "Average Profit per Ton Ore Mined."

<u>Year</u>	<u>Month</u>	<u>Profit per ton</u>	<u>Total ore mined</u>	<u>Total est. value</u>
1917	January	\$ 3.715941	212680	\$ 1,180,000
1917	February	\$ 3.662160	179689	\$ 1,100,000
1917	March	\$ 4.117086	217093	\$ 1,400,000
1917	April	\$ 5.143279	203655	\$ 1,510,000
1917	May	\$ 5.730379	233529	\$ 1,840,000
1917	June	\$ 5.905345	218794	\$ 1,790,000
1917	July	\$ 5.434992	164917	\$ 1,360,000
1917	August	\$ 5.872062	215961	\$ 1,750,000
1917	September	\$ 3.837840	217106	\$ 1,330,000
1917	October	\$ 2.033408	243869	\$ 1,140,000
1917	November	\$ 1.021552	211404	\$ 770,000
1917	December	\$ 0.068757	169321	\$ 680,000
1918	January	\$ 1.650423	207760	\$ 870,000
1918	February	\$ 1.864287	188383	\$ 830,000
1918	March	\$ 2.073503	208735	\$ 1,010,000
1918	April	\$ 2.168726	206173	\$ 1,010,000
1918	May	\$ 2.038053	204755	\$ 980,000
1918	June	\$ 2.989611	187767	\$ 1,050,000
1918	July	\$ 2.990333	194192	\$ 1,080,000
1918	August	\$ 2.703485	209387	\$ 1,190,000
1918	September	\$ 2.534876	179738	\$ 970,000
1918	October	\$ 2.398574	199039	\$ 1,050,000
1918	November	\$ 1.840671	167719	\$ 860,000
1918	December	\$ 0.460798	146842	\$ 620,000
1919	January	\$ 0.527206	152811	\$ 550,000
1919	February	\$ 0.113190	131573	\$ 430,000
1919	March	\$ 0.736217	162638	\$ 550,000
1919	April	\$ 0.622707	167828	\$ 540,000
1919	May	\$ 0.649298	180632	\$ 580,000
1919	June	\$ 0.871325	165151	\$ 560,000
1919	July	\$ 1.106876	159456	\$ 650,000
1919	August	\$ 1.097627	175588	\$ 730,000
1919	September	\$ 1.119918	172737	\$ 730,000

**Index Cards**

Bonne Terre (Mo.).  
Bonne Terre Farming and Cattle Company.  
Business records—Missouri—Saint Francois County.  
Lead industry and trade—Missouri—Saint Francois County.  
Lead mines and mining—Missouri—Saint Francois County.  
Leadwood (Mo.).  
Mines and mineral resources—Missouri—Saint Francois County.  
Mississippi River & Bonne Terre Railway.  
Rivermines (Mo.).  
Saint Francois County (Mo.).  
St. Francois County Railway Company.  
St. Joseph Lead Company—Records and correspondence.