How supply and demand affects mining

Likelihood of exploiting a mineral source

depends on

SUPPLY

DEMAND

GEOLOGICAL FACTOR
Ease of exploitation

DEPLETION RATES
Size of deposits

LOCATION IN RELATION TO CLIMATE
Ease of working

LOCATION IN RELATION TO TRANSPORT
Ease of access

PRICE FLUCTUATIONS
High or low world prices

HIGH CHANCE OF EXPLOITATION

LOW CHANCE OF EXPLOITATION

LIVEWORKSHEETS

- Only small reserves are left. The best deposits have been used, leaving those that are more difficult and expensive to mine.

- Difficult geology e.g. much folding and faulting
- Impossible to use machines

- Large deposits and plentiful reserves remain. Many good-quality deposits, easy to mine, are still present.

Amount of the resource that is known to exist; these reserves can be exploited when needed

Amount of the resource that people need to use.

- High prices encourage more production. Even small mines in remote areas can be profitable.

- In remote places far away from people and economic activities, new roads and railways will need to be built, adding to the cost of exploitation.

- Extreme climates, like those in hot deserts or cold polar lands, which make mining difficult and expensive.

- Simple geology e.g. thick layers in unbroken horizontal beds, at or near the surface.
- Easy to use machines

- Climate is easy to work in, with no extremes of weather, such as great heat, intense cold and heavy rain.

- Low prices reduce output. Production is confined to large, well-located mines where costs of production are low.

- Close to places where many people live and industries using minerals are already located, there is likely to be a dense network of existing roads and railways.

LIVEWORKSHEETS