



Value of Diamond Production Keeps Canada's Mineral Industry Robust in 2003

Canada is one of the largest mining nations in the world, producing more than 60 minerals. In 2003, Canadian mineral production totaled \$20.2 billion, a modest increase compared to \$19.9 billion in 2002. Of this total value, metals accounted for \$9.7 billion, nonmetals for \$9.0 billion, and coal for \$1.5 billion. Canadian mineral production reflects the production and value of minerals produced in Canada from Canadian mines and quarries.

Nonmetallic mineral production experienced a significant increase in value, almost entirely due to a 127% increase in the volume of diamonds produced. In 2003, Canada completed its fifth full year of diamond mining, all in the Northwest Territories.

With a diamond production value of \$1.7 billion, Canada now ranks third in terms of the value of global production of rough diamonds.

The 13.8% increase in the value of nonmetallic mineral production offsets decreases in metal mining.

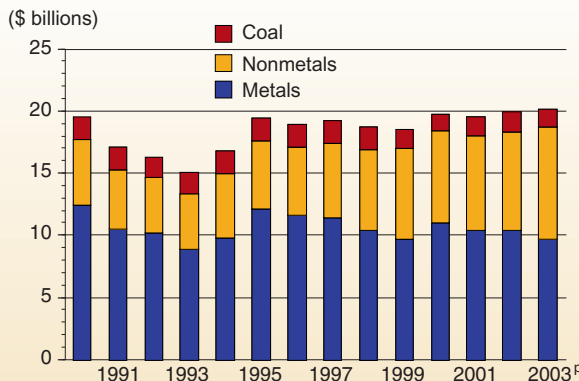
In reaction to lower metal prices in 2002, the volume of production in 2003 fell for most major metals. Although prices rebounded throughout 2003, metal production was slower to react and decreased output of precious and base metals caused the overall value of metallic mineral production to fall by 6.5%. Iron ore production was an exception; a 6.7% increase in output realized a 13.1% increase in value. Although nickel production declined by 13.8%, its overall value increased by 4.2% as a result of rising nickel prices.

Ontario continued to rank first among the provinces and territories in terms of mineral value, despite experiencing a major power outage in August 2003 and a strike at one of its nickel producers. Quebec's metallic mineral production remained virtually unchanged, its decline in precious- and base-metals production being offset by the rising value of iron ore production. Nonmetals production in Quebec decreased by 6.8%, primarily due to lower values of sand and gravel and stone. With a value of \$2.9 billion, British Columbia's mineral production remained almost the same in 2003 as in 2002. Saskatchewan saw increased volume and value for gold, silver and copper; however, these increases were



offset by decreases in the volume and value of uranium and zinc. The value of nonmetals in Saskatchewan remained constant, resulting in an overall mineral production value of \$2.4 billion. Canada's second diamond mine opened in the Northwest Territories early in 2003, contributing to the large increase in the volume and value of diamond production. In total, mineral production in the Northwest Territories reached \$1.8 billion in 2003, up from \$874 million in 2002.

Value of Non-Fuel Minerals Production, 1990-2003^P



Total Value of Canadian Mineral Production, 2002 and 2003^P

	2002 (\$ millions)	2003 ^P (\$ millions)	Change (%)
Metals	10 378.5	9 700.2	-6.5
Nonmetals	7 938.9	9 030.9	13.8
Total non-fuels	18 317.4	18 731.1	2.3
Coal	1 600.5	1 494.5	-6.6
Total production	19 918.0	20 225.6	1.5

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.
^P Preliminary.

Production of Canada's Leading Minerals, 2003P

	Production 2003P	Change From 2002 Production	Value 2003P	Change From 2002 Value
(000 tonnes except where noted)		(%)	(\$ millions)	(%)
METALLIC MINERALS				
Gold (kg)	140 528.8	-7.5	2 285.7	-3.9
Nickel	155.0	-13.8	2 007.0	4.2
Iron ore	32 957.3	6.7	1 444.9	13.1
Copper	534.3	-8.5	1 299.9	-9.7
Zinc	744.0	-19.5	854.9	-24.3
Other metals	n.a.	n.a.	1 807.7	-18.8
Total metals	n.a.	n.a.	9 700.2	-6.5
NONMETALLIC MINERALS				
Diamonds (000 ct)	11 200.4	126.9	1 722.5	117.5
Potash (K ₂ O)	9 144.9	9.4	1 647.8	1.3
Cement	14 063.0	2.6	1 495.9	4.1
Sand and gravel	235 574.0	-1.1	1 046.9	-0.6
Stone	119 355.7	-4.3	979.5	-2.4
Other nonmetals	n.a.	n.a.	2 138.3	5.6
Total nonmetals	n.a.	n.a.	9 030.9	7.6
FUELS				
Coal	62 163.0	-6.7	1 494.5	-6.6

Mineral Production by Province and Territory, 2003P

	Metallics	Nonmetallics	Coal	Total
	(\$000)			
Newfoundland and Labrador	892 421	44 157	–	936 578
Prince Edward Island	–	3 350	–	3 350
Nova Scotia	–	x	x	260 933
New Brunswick	441 285	230 586	17 083	688 953
Quebec	2 337 202	1 314 067	–	3 651 268
Ontario	3 274 102	2 269 115	–	5 543 218
Manitoba	768 696	102 484	–	871 180
Saskatchewan	574 454	x	x	2 373 360
Alberta	813	837 557	330 483	1 168 854
British Columbia	1 282 384	578 058	999 986	2 860 427
Yukon	25 908	10 627	–	36 535
Northwest Territories	72 964	1 728 033	–	1 800 997
Nunavut	29 940	–	–	29 940
Total	9 700 168	9 030 938	1 494 486	20 225 593

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.
 – Nil; ... Amount too small to be expressed; n.a. Not applicable; P Preliminary; x Confidential.
 Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

Percentage Share of Canada's Non-Fuels Mineral Output in 2003P

Ontario	27.4
Quebec	18.1
British Columbia	14.1
Saskatchewan	11.7
Northwest Territories	8.9
Alberta	5.8
Newfoundland and Labrador	4.6
Manitoba	4.3
New Brunswick	3.4
Nova Scotia	1.3
Yukon	0.2
Nunavut	0.1
Prince Edward Island	...

Leading Metal and Nonmetal Commodities by Value of Output (billions) in 2003P

Gold	\$2.3
Nickel	\$2.0
Diamonds	\$1.7
Potash	\$1.6
Cement	\$1.5
Coal	\$1.5
Iron ore	\$1.4
Copper	\$1.3
Sand and gravel	\$1.0
Stone	\$1.0
Zinc	\$0.9

For more information:

Further details on the most recent production survey results are available on Natural Resources Canada's Minerals and Mining Statistics Division web site at http://mmsd1.mms.nrcan.gc.ca/mmsd/production/default_e.asp, or by contacting:

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Additional information is available at these Internet sites:

MINERALS AND METALS
www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/topi-suje/met_e.htm

MINING IN CANADA
www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/topi-suje/min_e.htm