

# Foreword

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**T**he Minerals and Metals Sector is the focus of federal expertise for mineral and metal commodity information. Within the Sector, the Mineral and Metal Policy Branch acts as the federal government's main source of in-depth knowledge, intelligence and expertise on mineral and metal commodity markets. One of its tasks is to forecast metal and mineral demand, supply and price.

Within the Branch, the Nonferrous Division is responsible for the major base metals, the precious metals, certain associated minor by-products, and the secondary materials such as scrap.

The commodity specialists of the Nonferrous Division maintain close contacts with industry on a wide range of topics and issues. This year-end publication represents a more formal means to disseminate metal market developments through the first three quarters of the year and provides forecasts to the year 2005. We would appreciate your feedback and encourage you to contact the commodity specialists directly with your comments by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail (numbers and e-mail addresses are provided at the beginning of each chapter). You can also provide feedback to the coordinator of this publication, Patrick Chevalier, at tel. (613) 992-4401, fax (613) 943-8450, or e-mail [pcheval@nrcan.gc.ca](mailto:pcheval@nrcan.gc.ca).

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## NOTE TO READER

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# Table of Contents

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Foreword	iii
Introduction	1
Aluminum	3
Copper	7
Gold	11
Nickel	13
Zinc	17

## Import and Export Tables

1. Canada, Value of Minerals and Mineral Products (Stages I to IV), Imports by Commodity, 1996-98	21
2. Canada, Value of Minerals and Mineral Products (Stages I to IV), Exports by Commodity, 1996-98	23