

Foreword

The 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 mineral and metal demand, supply and price.

Within the Branch, the International and Domestic Market Policy 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 Division maintain close contact 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 forecasts to the year 2005. We would appreciate your feedback and encourage you to contact the specialists directly with your comments by telephone, facsimile or electronic mail (number 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 pchevali@nrca.gc.ca.

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NOTE TO READER

This Outlook has been prepared based on information available to Natural Resources Canada (NRCan) at the time of writing. The authors and NRCan make no warranty of any kind with respect to the content and accept no liability, either incidental, consequential, financial or otherwise, arising from the use of this document.

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