



# CANADIAN MINING

FACT SHEET

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## The Importance of Mining to the Canadian Economy

*The mining and mineral processing industries affect the daily lives of all Canadians. Each day, Canadians use products that are derived from the mineral richness of the earth.*

✕ Canada continues to be the world's leader in the production of potash and uranium, and ranks in the top five for the production of aluminum, asbestos, cadmium, cobalt, gypsum, magnesium, molybdenum, nickel, platinum group metals, salt, titanium concentrate, and zinc.

✕ Canada is one of the world's leading exporters of minerals and metals. The export of these commodities is a building block of national prosperity. The total value of Canadian mineral exports reached \$55.3 billion in 2004.

✕ In 2004, the mining and mineral processing industries contributed \$41.8 billion to the Canadian economy, or 4.0% of the national Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

✕ The mining and mineral processing industries directly employed 369 000 Canadians in 2004: some 45 000 were employed in mining, 59 000 in smelting and refining, and 265 000 in other mineral processing industries.

✕ These industries provided some of the highest weekly earnings in the economy, averaging over \$1000 both in the mining industry and in nonferrous smelting and refining. Weekly earnings in the Canadian economy averaged about \$700.

✕ In 2004, Canadian mineral production totaled \$24.1 billion. Of this total value, metals accounted for \$12.5 billion, nonmetals for \$10.0 billion and coal for \$1.6 billion.



✕ The creation of wealth per worker in the mining and minerals sector is among the highest in the Canadian economy; in fact, the mining industry ranks among the top 10 in GDP per worker.

✕ In 2004, about \$505 million was spent on research and development in the mining and mineral processing industries.

✕ At the start of 2005, there were over 200 producing mining establishments (metal, nonmetal and coal mines), over 3000 stone quarries and sand and gravel pits, and about 50 nonferrous smelters, refineries and steel mills operating in Canada.

✕ In 2004, nickel was the top metallic mineral produced in Canada with shipments valued at \$3.3 billion followed by gold at \$2.2 billion. The leading nonmetallic minerals were diamonds at \$2.1 billion followed by potash at \$1.9 billion.

✕ Final exploration and deposit appraisal expenditures for 2004 totaled \$1.2 billion and revised company spending intentions for 2005 indicate a further increase to \$1.4 billion.

✕ Capital investment reached \$6.6 billion in 2004, up 28% from 2003 and accounting for 3% of all capital investment in Canada.

✕ Over the last five years, minerals and mineral products accounted for some 65% of the volume handled at Canada's ports and for some 60% of rail revenue freight.

More facts on mining can be found at <http://miningstats.nrcan.gc.ca>



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