

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 of disseminating 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 (numbers and e-mail addresses are provided at the beginning of each section). 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.

Denis Lagacé
Director General
Mineral and Metal Policy Branch

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.

Table of Contents

Foreword	iii
Introduction	1
Aluminum	3
Copper	7
Gold	11
Lead	15
Magnesium	19
Nickel	23
Zinc	27
The Evolution of the International Metal Study Groups	31
Non-Ferrous Metals Consultative Forum on Sustainable Development	35
The Canadian and World Economic Situation and Outlook	39

Import and Export Tables

1. Canada, Value of Minerals and Mineral Products (Stages I to IV), Imports by Commodity, 1998-2000	43
2. Canada, Value of Minerals and Mineral Products (Stages I to IV), Exports by Commodity, 1998-2000	45