



**Asia-Pacific  
Economic Cooperation**

---

**2016/SOM2/MTF/015**

Agenda Item: 6

## **Canadian Mineral Production in 2015**

Purpose: Information  
Submitted by: Canada



**10<sup>th</sup> Mining Task Force Meeting  
Arequipa, Peru  
9-10 May 2016**



## Canadian Mineral Production in 2015

This information bulletin provides an overview of Canadian mineral production<sup>1</sup> in 2015.

Despite lower prices for most mineral commodities, the total value of Canadian mineral production in 2015 was \$42.8 billion, only slightly lower (-2.6%) than the 2014 value of \$43.9 billion. The mining industry continued to face headwinds that included slower global growth and excess supply for most minerals, which were partly offset by favourable exchange rates. Results for individual commodities varied more broadly. As shown in Table 1, the production values of metals and coal were down in 2015. This decline was partially offset by an increase in the production value of nonmetals.

Canada's top five mineral products by value were: gold, potash, copper, nickel, and coal. Their combined value was \$25.2 billion, which accounts for almost two-thirds of the total value of mineral production in 2015.

The production value for each commodity reflects the level of output, prices, and exchange rates. Variations stem from the effect of changes to each of these factors. Over the past year, the lower value of the Canadian dollar relative to the U.S. dollar was favourable for domestic producers since most raw mineral products are priced in U.S. currency.

The mining industry makes notable contributions throughout the Canadian economy and supplies the raw materials needed to produce many of the consumer products we rely on in our daily lives—from utensils and hand tools to automobiles and cell phones.

### METALS

The value of metallic mineral production fell 7.1% in 2015 to \$22.5 billion. Table 1 reveals mixed results among major commodities, with volumes and values rising or falling at different rates.

Iron ore experienced the greatest decline with its production value down 32.9% on lower prices as a result of oversupply and declining Chinese demand. Iron ore prices declined 43.0% between 2014 and 2015 and lost over two-thirds of their value since a price peak in 2011.

Copper and nickel production values were down 9.8% and 11.7%, respectively, because the impact of the price decrease exceeded growth in output. The production value of zinc was also down 20.1%, mostly due to lower volumes (-18.4%) as a result of mine closures and curtailments.

Despite a price decrease of nearly 9% for gold in 2015, its volume and value both increased. With production of \$7.3 billion, gold remained the top-ranked commodity by value.

Uranium recorded the largest overall increase for metals as its production value grew 62.1% to \$1.5 billion, largely a result of production ramp-up at the Cigar Lake mine. Globally, Canada ranked second in uranium production.

### NONMETALS

The value of nonmetallic minerals production was up 8.7% in 2015 to \$17.2 billion.

Potash remained the top-ranked nonmetallic commodity by value with mine shipments valued at \$6.7 billion in 2015. Potash's growth of almost 20%, or over \$1 billion, represents the greatest gain of all Canadian mineral commodities for 2015. This gain was the result of increased volume and the positive impact of the exchange rate for domestic producers. Canada is the world's largest potash producer.

The volume and value of Canadian diamond production were down slightly in 2015 to approximately 11.6 million carats and \$2.1 billion, respectively.

Cement, sand and gravel, and stone all experienced gains in both value and volume of production in 2015.

The value of salt production increased 6.8% in 2015 while the volume grew 1.7%. Salt demand varies with the severity of winter weather. Based on the accuracy of forecasting the severity of the coming winter, surpluses (leading to increased inventories) or shortages (leading to price increases) may occur.

### COAL

For the third consecutive year, Canada's overall coal production value declined 20% as prices continued to recede. Although Canada produces both thermal and metallurgical coal, the latter had the most impact on production value. Since a cyclical high in 2011, the realized export price of metallurgical coal has declined by over 55%. Despite this, coal remains an important mineral with a total production value of \$3.1 billion in 2015, ranking it as the fifth-most valuable commodity mined in Canada.

### PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL PERSPECTIVES

Ontario once again led all jurisdictions with a mineral production value of \$10.8 billion, accounting for one-quarter of Canadian mineral production. On the strength of increased gold production, Quebec ranked second with mineral shipments of \$7.7 billion. Saskatchewan and British Columbia followed with production values of \$8.5 billion and \$5.9 billion, respectively. These four provinces accounted for over three-quarters of Canada's total value of mineral production in 2015.

**TABLE 1. PRODUCTION OF CANADA'S LEADING MINERALS, 2014 AND 2015 (p)**

Commodity	2014		2015 (p)		Change	
	Volume	Value	Volume	Value	Volume	Value
	(000 tonnes except where indicated)	(\$ millions)	(000 tonnes except where indicated)	(\$ millions)	(%)	(%)
<b>METALLIC MINERALS</b>						
Copper	654.5	4,983.8	684.2	4,493.2	4.5	-9.8
Gold (kilograms)	151,472.1	6,817.2	152,746.9	7,293.5	0.8	7.0
Iron ore	43,172.8	4,173.5	45,953.6	2,798.4	6.4	-32.9
Nickel	218.2	4,069.2	225.9	3,593.6	3.5	-11.7
Platinum group elements (kilograms)	31,385.9	1,059.0	35,041.7	1,154.5	11.6	9.0
Uranium (1)	9.8	933.6	14.8	1,513.2	51.4	62.1
Other metals	n.a.	2,188.8	n.a.	1,658.7	n.a.	-24.2
<b>Total metals</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>24,225.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>22,505.2</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>-7.1</b>
<b>NONMETALLIC MINERALS</b>						
Cement (2)	12,135.8	1,692.1	12,480.0	1,772.8	2.8	4.8
Diamonds (000 carats)	12,011.6	2,236.0	11,600.0	2,132.5	-3.4	-4.6
Potash (K <sub>2</sub> O) (3)	10,818.0	5,581.3	11,350.4	6,661.0	4.9	19.3
Salt	14,473.4	752.3	14,718.6	803.6	1.7	6.8
Sand and gravel (4)	223,406.9	1,831.5	239,164.4	2,056.4	7.1	12.3
Stone (4)	147,739.3	1,541.3	165,091.0	1,690.5	11.7	9.7
Other nonmetals	n.a.	2,144.1	n.a.	2,035.8	n.a.	-5.1
<b>Total nonmetals</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>15,778.6</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>17,152.6</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>8.7</b>
Coal	69,035.0	3,896.7	61,700.0	3,111.2	-10.6	-20.2
<b>Total production</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>43,900.4</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>42,766.0</b>	<b>n.a.</b>	<b>-2.6</b>

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

(p) Preliminary; n.a. Not applicable.

(1) Uranium value is calculated using spot market prices. (2) Includes exported clinker. (3) Excludes shipments to potassium sulphate plants. (4) Excludes shipments of sand, gravel, and stone to Canadian cement, lime, and clay plants.

Note: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding.

**TABLE 2. MINERAL PRODUCTION BY PROVINCE OR TERRITORY (\$ MILLIONS), 2015 (p)**

Province or Territory	Metallics	Nonmetallics	Coal	Total	Share (%)
Newfoundland and Labrador	2,685.1	85.0	–	2,770.2	6.5
Prince Edward Island	–	4.6	–	4.6	0.0
Nova Scotia	–	212.3	–	212.3	0.5
New Brunswick	–	400.2	–	400.2	0.9
Quebec	5,890.3	1,784.3	–	7,674.6	17.9
Ontario	7,396.0	3,365.3	–	10,761.3	25.2
Manitoba	1,063.6	291.2	–	1,354.8	3.2
Saskatchewan	1,636.2	x	x	8,505.3	19.9
Alberta	1.4	x	x	2,574.5	6.0
British Columbia	2,968.9	x	x	5,903.5	13.8
Yukon	235.5	11.4	–	246.9	0.6
Northwest Territories	57.9	1,732.7	–	1,790.6	4.2
Nunavut	567.2	–	–	567.2	1.3
<b>Total</b>	<b>22,502.2</b>	<b>17,152.6</b>	<b>3,111.2</b>	<b>42,766.0</b>	<b>100</b>

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

- Nil; (p) Preliminary; x Confidential.

Notes: Numbers may not add to totals due to rounding. Production is based on shipments. For full details of the methods used in computing Canada's mineral production, please refer to [www.nrcan.gc.ca/mining-materials/statistics/8848](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mining-materials/statistics/8848).

**For additional information on the Canadian mining industry,  
visit the Mining/Materials web site at [www.nrcan.gc.ca/mining-materials](http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/mining-materials)**

<sup>1</sup> Data include mineral shipments by Canadian producers from Natural Resources Canada's *Annual Census of Mines Quarries and Sand Pits* and Statistics Canada's *Coal Monthly Survey*, and reflect 2014 actual values and 2015 preliminary estimates in Canadian dollars.