



EMPLOYMENT

Demand for labour in the Canadian mining industry intensifies in 2007

Employment¹ in the Canadian mining and quarrying industry in 2007 reached over 51 000, up by 8.6% from 2006 to 2007. Such growth is not surprising as companies took advantage of increased demand and continuing high commodity prices. This is the second year in a row of employment growth in this industry, an occurrence not seen since the 1990s. The increase in Canada's total employment for the same period was 2.1%.

Despite significant gains in the mining industry, employment in the mining and mineral processing industries² as a whole declined slightly from the previous year to 363 000 workers, representing 2.6% of Canada's total employment of 14.1 million. The mineral processing industries include primary metal manufacturing, nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing, and fabricated metal product manufacturing. Mining-related support activities, such as exploration, contract drilling, and transportation, are not included in these estimates, but contribute to the creation of many direct and indirect jobs not accounted for here.

The mining and mineral processing industries represented 42.9% of the 867 000 workers employed in the natural resources industries

¹Source: Statistics Canada's Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours (SEPH), 2007. Please note that current and historical estimates from SEPH are based on the 2007 North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) instead of NAICS 2002. In addition to the move to NAICS 2007, estimates from this release are affected by changes made to the Business Register (BR), the central repository of information on businesses at Statistics Canada.

²The mining and mineral processing industries include those covered by NAICS codes 212, 327, 331, and 332.

(mining, energy, and forestry) in 2007. While employment in the mining and mineral processing industries remained stable, employment in the energy and forestry industries moved in opposite directions. The number of workers in energy grew by 3.2% to 266 000 while the number in forestry declined by 5.7% to 238 000.

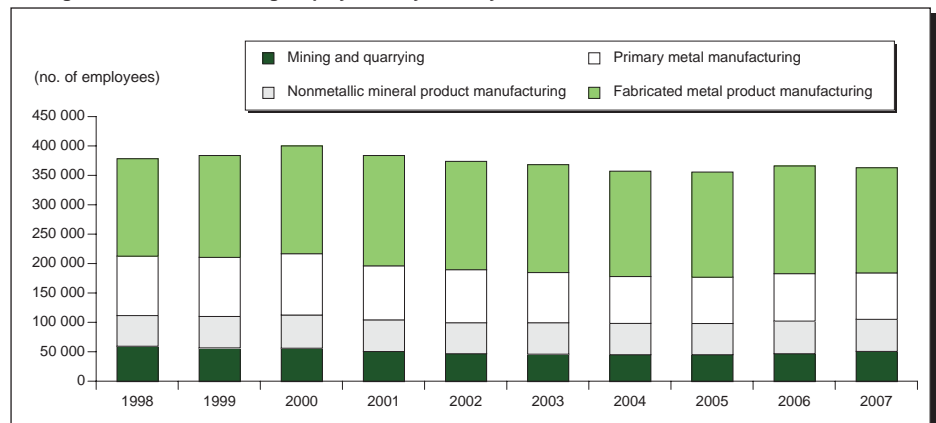
Following a period of relatively little change, employment increased for the second year in a row in the **mining and quarrying** industry, by 8.6%. Important gains occurred in all sub-industry groupings, including metal, nonmetal, and coal mining. Employment in metal and coal mining increased by 8.7% and 9.5%, respectively, in 2007, the largest increases recorded in the past 15 years. The nonmetal mining industry saw a gain of 8.2% for the same period.

A number of mine openings and re-openings in 2007 contributed to employment growth. Fifteen mines opened or re-opened while five closures were reported. Openings occurred in almost every province and territory and included metal, nonmetal, and coal mining operations.

Salaries remained very competitive in the mining and quarrying industry as 2007 average weekly earnings reached \$1214, a 7.5% increase from 2006. The national average increased by 3.2% to reach \$771.

Recruitment in the mining and quarrying industry remains a major challenge. The Mining Industry Human Resources Council's most recent report estimated that the mining and mining support services industries will require approximately 92 000 new workers

Figure 1
Mining and Mineral Processing Employment, by Industry, 1998-2007



Source: Statistics Canada, SEPH.
Note: Excludes oil and gas, and services incidental to mining.

TABLE 1. CANADIAN MINING AND QUARRYING EMPLOYMENT, 1991-2007

	Metal Mining	Nonmetal Mining	Coal Mining	Total
	(number)			
1991	37 111	19 442	12 879	69 431
1992	35 565	18 766	10 625	64 956
1993	32 911	18 468	9 748	61 126
1994	31 901	19 408	9 850	61 160
1995	32 830	19 544	10 161	62 536
1996	32 904	17 590	10 270	60 764
1997	35 511	19 095	9 730	64 337
1998	32 354	19 431	8 304	60 090
1999	29 555	19 987	7 812	57 353
2000	29 468	20 031	7 199	56 698
2001	25 633	19 517	6 030	51 180
2002	22 417	19 316	5 700	47 433
2003	21 902	19 875	4 841	46 617
2004	21 403	19 621	4 543	45 567
2005	20 758	19 799	5 037	45 595
2006	21 137	20 789	5 336	47 263
2007	22 975	22 486	5 844	51 305

Source: Statistics Canada, SEPH.
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

between 2006 and 2016.³ The report also identified high demand for several occupations, including engineers, construction trade workers, scientists, technicians, managers and supervisors, and general miners.

Four strikes and lockouts involving 1300 employees occurred in the mining and quarrying industry in 2007. All of these labour disputes occurred in the metals sector. Comparatively, in 2006, only one dispute was reported in the metals sector and two were reported in the nonmetals sector involving a total of 860 workers.

The **primary metal manufacturing** industry, composed of establishments primarily engaged in the smelting and refining of ferrous and nonferrous metals, employed 79 000 in 2007, a moderate 2.3% drop from 2006 when the industry benefited from a 2.5% increase following a downward trend since 2001. Average weekly earnings closely tracked those in the mining and quarrying industry, rising by 7.7% to reach \$1209 in 2007.

³Mining Labour Market Transition Project, Final Report, Mining Industry Human Resources Council, 2007.

⁴The Jericho diamond mine went into care and maintenance in early 2008.

The **nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing** industry employed 55 000 in 2007, a 1.7% decrease from the previous year; in 2006 it had registered its largest gain in five years of 4.6%. The industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in stone processing, in combining nonmetallic minerals with additives, and in the heat-treating of nonmetallic mineral preparations. Average weekly earnings, at \$839 in 2007, have remained relatively stable for the past five years.

The **fabricated mineral product manufacturing** industry comprises establishments primarily engaged in forging, stamping, forming, turning,

and joining processes to produce ferrous and nonferrous metal products. This industry was the largest employer among the mining and mineral processing industries, accounting for about half (179 000) of all workers. As with the other mineral processing industries, this was a 2.3% reduction in the number of employees. Average weekly salaries in this industry rose by 4.7% in 2007 to reach \$906.

Provincial/Territorial Employment in the Mining and Quarrying Industry in 2006

With the opening of the Jericho⁴ diamond mine in Nunavut, all provinces and territories had employment in the mining and quarrying industry in 2006. Employment increased most significantly in Nova Scotia, up 7.5% from 2005. Other jurisdictions that experienced employment increases include Quebec (6.0%), Manitoba (4.9%), Alberta (4.5%), and British Columbia (3.3%).

Employment was highest in Ontario with 28.0% of all employees, or almost 13 000, even though employment was down slightly (2.8%) from 2005. Employment also declined in New

Brunswick (3.4%), Saskatchewan (5.5%), and Newfoundland and Labrador (15.9%), where the Voisey's Bay mine transitioned from construction to production.

Ontario and Quebec together accounted for roughly 50% of total employment in mining and quarrying and for almost two thirds of employment in the metal mining industry. This industry was the principal mining and quarrying industry employer in Manitoba and Newfoundland and Labrador, accounting for 86.9% and 91.6%, respectively.

Nonmetal mining was the main mining and quarrying industry employer in Saskatchewan, where most of Canada's potash mining took place, and in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut, where all of Canada's diamond mines operated. This industry was responsible for two thirds of Saskatchewan's mining and quarrying employment and for almost all of it in the Northwest Territories and Nunavut.

The majority of employment in Canada's coal mining industry occurred in British Columbia where 57.8% of coal workers were employed. The coal mining industry and the metal mining industry employed roughly equal numbers of employees in British Columbia, together accounting for 87.4% of mining and quarrying employment in that province.

TABLE 2. PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL MINING EMPLOYMENT DATA, 2006

	Metal Mining	Nonmetal Mining	Coal Mining	Total
	(number)			
Newfoundland and Labrador	1 949	180	—	2 129
Prince Edward Island	—	x	—	x
Nova Scotia	—	x	x	1 124
New Brunswick	x	x	x	1 968
Quebec	6 160	3 039	—	9 199
Ontario	8 202	4 767	—	12 969
Manitoba	2 053	310	—	2 363
Saskatchewan	x	3 573	x	5 434
Alberta	—	x	x	2 948
British Columbia	2 883	832	2 872	6 587
Yukon	—	x	—	x
Northwest Territories	x	1 267	—	x
Nunavut	—	106	—	106
Total	23 691	17 672	4 973	46 336

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.
— Nil; x Confidential.
Note: Numbers may not add due to rounding.

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

