

EMPLOYMENT

Employment in Canada's mining and mineral processing industries remains robust in 2006

In 2006, employment in the Canadian mining and mineral processing industries increased for the first time since 2000. The number of employees in the mining and mineral processing industries rose to 368 745 in 2006, an increase of more than 3.5% from the 356 128 workers employed in 2005.¹ (This figure includes employment from the four stages of mining and mineral processing as defined in this bulletin.) These workers accounted for almost 3% of the 14 million full-time employees in Canada. Employment in mining-related support activities, such as exploration, contract drilling and other services, is not accounted for in the Canadian total; however, these activities are responsible for the creation of many direct and indirect jobs.

The **first stage**, *mineral extraction and concentrating industries*, includes metal, nonmetal (including sand, gravel and stone quarrying), and coal mining. The number of workers employed in these sectors increased for the second straight year. In 2006, first-stage employment rose by 6.8% to 49 173. The metal mining industries, which accounted for the majority of first-stage jobs, employed 24 791 people in Canada, an increase of 5.2% since 2005. The number of workers employed in base-metal mining, which includes lead, nickel, copper and zinc, increased from 11 255 in 2005 to 11 838 in 2006. This increase was primarily due to the opening of the Duck Pond base-metal mine near Grand Falls and the re-opening of the Redstone and Levack base-metal mines near Timmins and Sudbury, respectively, all in Ontario. Base-metal employment, however, was adversely affected by the closure of Sudbury's

Gertrude mine. There was an increase in the number of workers employed in gold mining, attributed to the re-opening of six gold mines throughout Canada during the year.

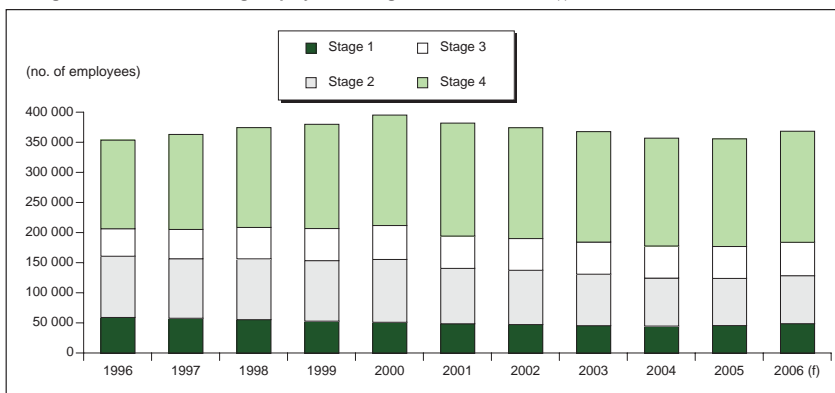
The nonmetal mining sector exhibited the largest growth with an increase of 9.1% for a total of 19 663 workers in 2006. The bulk of these new jobs came from the aggregate quarrying² and potash mining industries, representing almost 50% of nonmetal mining employment.

Employment in the coal mining industry also increased from 4451 full-time positions in 2005 to 4719 in 2006, an increase of 6.0%. This increase was partially attributed to the opening of the Wolverine metallurgical coal mine in Tumbler Ridge, British Columbia.

Employees in the mineral extraction and concentrating industries continue to benefit from high average weekly earnings: \$1109 per week in 2006, which is \$362 more than the national average of \$747.

The **second stage**, *primary metal manufacturing industries*, consists of the smelting and refining of nonferrous metals and the production of primary iron, steel and aluminum, and accounted for almost 22% of employment in the Canadian mining and mineral processing industries. Using 2006 revised estimates, survey results show that this stage was responsible for the employment of 79 740 workers, an increase of 1.8% since 2005. The closure of Norsk Hydro Canada Inc.'s Bécancour, Quebec, magnesium smelter in early 2007 is expected to affect employment levels for the second stage in the coming year.

Figure 1
Mining and Mineral Processing Employment, Stages 1 to 4, 1996-2006 (f)



Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

(f) Forecast.

Note: Excludes petroleum, natural gas, and services incidental to mining.

¹ Please note that starting with reference year 2001, Statistics Canada has modified its employment survey methodology with an aim to improving employment estimates derived from the survey. As a result, significant revisions to the Survey of Employment, Payrolls and Hours occurred, specifically the second, third and fourth stages of employment, as defined in this document.

² Aggregate quarrying includes sand and gravel, shale, clay, and refractory mineral commodities.



The **third stage**, *nonmetal semi-fabricating industries*, includes nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing. This stage was responsible for the creation of 2455 new jobs in 2006, an increase of 4.6% from 2005, for a total of 55 521 workers.

The **fourth stage**, *metal fabricating industries*, includes structural, ornamental, and other metals fabrication. The metal fabricating industries accounted for the largest proportion of employment in the Canadian mining and mineral processing industries, employing 184 311 people in 2006, an increase of 3.1% over the previous year.

TABLE 1. CANADIAN MINING EMPLOYMENT, STAGE 1, 1991-2006 (f)

	Metal Mining	Nonmetal Mining	Coal Mining	Total
	(number)			
1991	42 092	15 838	10 817	68 747
1992	37 774	14 757	9 726	62 257
1993	34 746	14 719	8 860	58 325
1994	33 380	15 927	8 888	58 195
1995	35 182	16 948	9 063	61 193
1996	34 257	16 121	9 177	59 555
1997	33 012	16 376	8 938	58 326
1998	30 734	17 038	8 157	55 929
1999	28 527	17 781	7 058	53 366
2000	27 574	18 152	5 850	51 576
2001	25 935	17 707	5 465	49 107
2002	25 172	17 359	5 135	47 666
2003	23 846	17 534	4 592	45 972
2004	22 614	18 332	4 341	45 287
2005	23 571	18 016	4 451	46 038
2006 (f)	24 791	19 663	4 719	49 173

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

(f) Forecast.

First-stage labour productivity (real Gross Domestic Product per person-hours worked) decreased by 6.6% in 2005. This decline in productivity is likely due to producers mining in areas of lower mineral concentration, which have been made viable due to higher commodity prices. These areas require more person-hours worked per unit produced, hence reducing the rate of labour productivity.

Throughout 2005, all provinces and territories in Canada with the exception of Nunavut (where the Lupin mine closed in 2005) had persons employed in the first stage of the mineral mining and processing industries. Ontario accounted for 29% of all these employees, with the first stage of the mining industry employing 13 348 people in 2005, an increase of 1.8% from 2004. Quebec's share for Stage 1 fell slightly in 2005 by 1.2% to 18.9%. The provinces of British Columbia, Alberta, and Saskatchewan collectively accounted for 32.0% of first-stage employment, for a total of 14 728 jobs, an increase of 3.5% from 2004. The largest increase occurred in Newfoundland and Labrador where the number of people employed in first-stage mining rose by more than 50% to 2532 full-time employees in 2005. Most of this increase can be explained by the opening of the Voisey's Bay nickel mine. Most provinces experienced increased employment in first-stage mining; however, there were slight decreases in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Quebec, and Manitoba.

Canada's metal mining industry was responsible for just over half of first-stage employment in 2005. Thanks mainly to the opening of the Voisey's Bay nickel mine, Newfoundland and Labrador in particular benefited from increased employment in the metal mining industry, which accounted for almost 92% of the province's first-stage employment. Almost 85% of first-stage jobs in Manitoba were in the metal mining sector. Metal mining accounted for approximately two thirds of mining industry employment in both Ontario and Quebec. These two provinces collectively accounted for about 60% of Canadian employment in the metal mining industry.

Nonmetal mining is most significant in Saskatchewan, where most of the country's potash mining takes place. Nonmetal mining was responsible for 3891 jobs in Saskatchewan, nearly 85% of its first-stage employment. Ontario (4907 workers), Quebec (2929 workers), and the Northwest Territories (1331 workers) were also significant employers in the nonmetal mining sector. British Columbia accounted for the majority of employment in Canada's coal mining sector, employing 2535 of Canada's 4451 coal workers.

TABLE 2. PROVINCIAL AND TERRITORIAL MINING EMPLOYMENT DATA, STAGE 1 ONLY, 2005

	Metal Mining	Nonmetal Mining	Coal Mining	Total
	(number)			
Newfoundland and Labrador	2 322	210	—	2 532
Prince Edward Island	—	x	—	x
Nova Scotia	—	x	x	1 046
New Brunswick	x	x	x	2 037
Quebec	5,752	2,929	—	8 681
Ontario	8,441	4,907	—	13 348
Manitoba	1,903	350	—	2 253
Saskatchewan	x	3,891	x	5 753
Alberta	—	x	x	2 683
British Columbia	2 900	857	2 535	6 292
Yukon	—	x	—	x
Northwest Territories	x	1,331	—	x
Nunavut	—	—	—	—
Total	23 571	18 016	4 451	46 038

Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

— Nil; x Confidential.

Note: Official 2006 productivity figures and 2006 provincial/territorial employment figures were not available at the time of publishing.

For More Information

For additional information on the mining industry in Canada, please visit www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms or send an e-mail to info-mms@nrcan.gc.ca. Historical information on employment in the Canadian mining industry is available in the Statistical Report section of the Canadian Minerals Yearbook, which is available on the Internet at www.nrcan.gc.ca/mms/cmy/2005CMY_e.htm.

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



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