



Preliminary Estimate of Canada's Mineral  
Production for the Calendar Year 1942

The value of the mineral production of Canada reached an all-time high of \$564,200,000 in 1942, according to a preliminary estimate made by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. This is an increase of nearly \$4,000,000 over the 1941 total despite a drop in gold production of approximately \$20,000,000.

Metals as a group totalled \$392,762,562, a decrease of less than one per cent; fuels, including coal, natural gas and crude petroleum rose six per cent to \$90,305,631; other non-metallic minerals were recorded at \$36,139,178 or nearly two millions more than in 1941. The structural materials group aggregated \$44,982,908, representing a slight decrease from the preceding year.

No figures on the production of base metals in Canada have been released since 1939, but the combined value of copper, nickel, lead and zinc in 1942 was nearly one and a half million dollars in excess of 1941. The aggregate value of a group of metals of strategic importance, including antimony, bismuth, cadmium, chromite, cobalt, magnesium, molybdenite, tin, tungsten and manganese totalled \$4,177,813 as compared with \$2,389,949 in the previous year. Another group, comprising arsenic, iron ore, mercury, radium, uranium and selenium, increased in value to \$6,948,406 from \$4,684,885 in 1941. Silver output was nearly one million ounces less than in 1941 but the value was three per cent higher.

Gold production totalled \$185,947,877, or a decrease of nearly \$20,000,000 from the all-time high of \$205,789,392 in 1941. Despite this drop, gold is still the most important mineral product from point of value and represents 47 per cent of the total value of all metals produced and 33 per cent of the total mineral production of the country.

The cutting off of foreign supplies and the world-wide demand for certain metals and minerals used in the production of war equipment resulted in an intensive search being made for them, and also considerable metallurgical research for their extraction. Private companies, government departments and individual prospectors joined forces in this work and Canada increased her yield of natural riches in time of need.

Tungsten was known to occur with many of our gold lodes, and careful prospecting was recently instituted by means of the violet ray lamp. In the beginning, tungsten ore was shipped to the mines mill at Ottawa, and since then new mills have been erected in various parts of Canada, generally in close proximity to tungsten-bearing gold deposits. It is expected that molybdenite production will be greatly increased next year.

Deposits of chromite which were operated during World War I in Quebec were brought into production again. A promising discovery of chromite was made in Manitoba during the summer of 1942. A mine in British Columbia can supply the Canadian mercury consumption and have left considerable quantity for export. Iridium was produced for the first time in Canada during 1942 and the production of tin as a by-product from the ores of the Sullivan mine was commenced in a commercial way.

Perhaps the most outstanding achievement during the year was the production of the metal magnesium. The process which is being used was developed in the National Research Laboratories and consists in extracting the metal from dolomite rock. Refined zinc has been produced in Canada for some years, but arrangements were made to export large quantities of zinc concentrates to the United States. Known sources were developed in various sections of the country and the Golden Manitou in Quebec was brought into initial production.

Canada must import a large part of her consumption of iron ore, though the Algoma Ore Properties, a subsidiary of the Algoma Steel Corporation, Limited, furnished a substantial quantity of beneficiated ore during 1942. Plans for the financing of the Steep Rock Iron Mines in northwestern Ontario approached the final stages, and it is not improbable that before another year Steep Rock will be our next big mine in the making. The Eldorado Gold Mines Limited reopened its radium property at Great Bear Lake and resumed the shipment of concentrates to its refinery.



Coal production at 18,707,110 tons indicated an increase of nearly 500,000 tons over the previous year. Production from the mines of Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Saskatchewan was less, but output increased in Alberta and British Columbia. Natural gas production, estimated at 42,719,100,000 cubic feet, was slightly less than in 1941, and crude petroleum production at 10,363,360 barrels was 230,000 barrels higher.

Among the non-metallic or industrial minerals, asbestos is by far the most important, but no figures on production are released. Brucite, a magnesium oxide, occurring with limestone north of Ottawa, was recovered for the first time commercially. It is used in the manufacture of various refractories and can also be used as a source of magnesium metal.

Barite production more than doubled during the past year. This came largely from a barite property in Nova Scotia; this property began shipments for the first time in 1941. Gypsum production in Nova Scotia showed a marked decline. Large quantities of raw gypsum are shipped in the crushed form to the United States by boat from Nova Scotia, and shipping conditions on the eastern seaboard may have had something to do with the reduction in gypsum output.

Mica production rose sharply. This mineral is used in considerable quantity as an insulation in electrical equipment and is a war mineral of primary importance. Interest centered around a discovery of a high-grade muscovite in the Mattawa area of Ontario. This is the first large commercial output of muscovite mica in Canada. Salt production rose 18 per cent to 658,458 tons. Part of this increase was due to the greater demand in the manufacture of heavy chemicals.

One of the most interesting developments is the increase in output of peat moss. Peat moss has wide uses, as an absorbent, an insulator, and in metallurgical processes. Production during the year under review rose to over one million dollars.

The whole non-metallic list indicates the possibilities in the development of this branch of the Canadian mining industry in post-war reconstruction and markets obtained at this time may prove of great value in days to come.

In the structural materials group, cement and lime production indicated an increase. It is not possible to make a very close estimate of the stone and sand and gravel production as the sources are wide and the uses varied. Lime increased from 860,885 tons to 897,554 tons. New uses are being continually discovered for lime and with the growth in the chemical and metallurgical industries in Canada the grade and quality of the lime now being used is much improved.

In any well-balanced economy the primary industries have an important place. With our annual production from our mines of over a half-billion dollars, and representing as it does such a wide range of products, the men who are responsible for this production have every reason to feel proud of their accomplishments and contributions during the third year of this titanic struggle.

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#### Bank Debits to Individual Accounts

The amount of cheques cashed at the clearing house centres was \$4,967,000,000 in November against \$3,427,000,000 in the same month last year. The gain was nearly 45 per cent, a great part of the increase being due to heavy payments on the Third Victory Loan. Expansion was also shown in business activity and wholesale prices were on a somewhat higher level than in November last year. Debits in the first 11 months of this year aggregated \$41,332,000,000 against \$35,556,000,000 in the like period of last year, an increase of 16.3 per cent.

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#### Indexes of Country General Store Sales

Country general store sales averaged 15 per cent heavier in November this year than in the corresponding month last year, with all regions of the country participating in the upswing. Unadjusted indexes of sales on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 139.9 and 121.7, respectively. During the eleven months ended November, sales averaged 13.8 per cent higher than in the like period of 1941.

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### Department Store Sales in November

Canadian department stores reported dollar volume of business 22 per cent greater in November this year than last and five per cent more than in the previous month. Unadjusted indexes on the base 1935-1939=100 stood at 189.9 for November, 181.8 for October and 155.4 for November, 1941. Sales in the first eleven months of this year averaged 14 per cent greater than in the similar period of 1941.

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### Visible Supply of Wheat

Stocks of Canadian wheat in store or in transit in North America at midnight on December 24 totalled 464,371,898 bushels compared with 463,153,666 a week earlier and 504,967,611 in the corresponding week last year. The amount in Canadian positions on the latest date was 443,083,062 bushels, the balance of 21,288,834 bushels being in United States positions.

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### Farmers' Marketings of Wheat

Farmers' marketings of wheat in western Canada during the week ending December 24 totalled 4,991,134 bushels compared with 7,038,196 in the previous week. From the commencement of the crop year to December 24 farmers' marketings aggregated 139,146,318 bushels compared with 146,685,254 in the like period of the previous crop year.

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### Civil Aviation in September

Revenue passengers transported by civil aircraft increased to 19,398 in September from last year's corresponding traffic of 18,612, a gain of 4.2 per cent, while the revenue passenger miles increased by 19 per cent. Revenue freight carried dropped from 1,365,784 pounds to 1,266,705 or by 7.3 per cent, but the ton miles increased by 54.2 per cent. A particularly sharp increase was recorded in the amount of mail carried, the total being 592,920 pounds compared with 272,063, a gain of 118 per cent.

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### Population of British Columbia

Final figures made public by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics show that the population of the Province of British Columbia in 1941 stood at 817,861 as compared with 694,263 in 1931, a gain of 123,598. The urban population increased to 443,334 in 1941 from the 1931 total of 394,739, while the rural total advanced to 374,467 from 299,524.

The population of cities and towns with more than 5,000 inhabitants in 1941 was as follows, 1931 figures being in brackets: Vancouver, 275,353 (246,593); Victoria, 44,068 (39,082); New Westminster, 21,967 (17,524); Trail, 9,392 (7,573); North Vancouver, 8,914 (8,510); Prince Rupert, 6,714 (6,350); Nanaimo, 6,635 (6,745); Kamloops, 5,959 (6,167); Nelson, 5,912 (5,992); Vernon, 5,209 (3,937); Kelowna, 5,118 (4,655).

Population figures for other cities, towns and villages: Cranbrook, 2,568 (3,067); Fernie, 2,545 (2,732); Revelstoke, 2,106 (2,736); Rossland, 3,657 (2,848); Chilliwack, 3,675 (2,461); Duncan, 2,189 (1,843); Port Alberni, 4,584 (2,356); Prince George, 2,027 (2,479).

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### Production of Iron and Steel in November

The Canadian production of pig iron in November amounted to 170,578 net tons as compared with 175,424 in the previous month and 149,783 in the corresponding month last year. The aggregate output for the eleven months ended November was 1,810,633 tons as compared with 1,361,873 in the like period of 1941.

Production of steel ingots and castings during November totalled 270,812 net tons compared with 271,127 in October and 247,931 in November, 1941. During the eleven months ended November the production aggregated 2,689,078 tons as compared with 2,345,325 in the corresponding period of 1941.

November moutput of ferro-alloys amounted to 16,733 net tons compared with 18,266 in October and 19,127 in November, 1941. The total for the eleven months ended November was 194,069 tons compared with 193,232 in the same period of 1941.

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### Output of Central Electric Stations

Recording the first decline posted so far this year, the Canadian output of central electric stations in November declined to 3,180,153,000 kilowatt hours from last year's corresponding output of 3,183,982,000 kilowatt hours. The drop was all in secondary power, which decreased to 238,077,000 kilowatt hours from 485,471,000. The cumulative output for the eleven months ended November was 33,860,710,000 kilowatt hours as compared with 30,224,560,000 in the like period of 1941.

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### Production of Concentrated Milk in November

The combined total of all items of concentrated whole milk and by-products manufactured during November was 15,432,736 pounds, an increase of 10 per cent over the output in the same month last year. The production of evaporated whole milk was up 15 per cent, skim milk powder 15 per cent, while condensed whole milk decreased 27 per cent. During the eleven months ended November the production of concentrated milk aggregated 251,203,756 pounds compared with 228,581,588 in the like period of 1941.

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### Reports Issued During the Week

1. Production of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
  2. Sales of Asphalt Roofing, November (10 cents).
  3. Production of Iron and Steel, November (10 cents).
  4. Output of Central Electric Stations, November (10 cents).
  5. Population of Ontario by Age Groups, 1941 (10 cents).
  6. Preliminary Report on Department Store Sales, November (10 cents).
  7. The Fur Goods and Fur Dressing Industries, 1941 (25 cents).
  8. Population of British Columbia by Rural and Urban Sub-Divisions, 1941 (10 cents).
  9. Civil Aviation, September (10 cents).
  10. Canadian Milling Statistics, November (10 cents).
  11. Canadian Grain Statistics (10 cents).
  12. Monthly Indexes of Country General Store Sales, November (10 cents).
  13. Bank Debits to Individual Accounts, November (10 cents).
  14. Preliminary Estimate of Mineral Production, 1942 (10 cents).
  15. Canada's Leading Mineral Products, October (10 cents).
  16. Production of Concentrated Milk, November (10 cents).
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