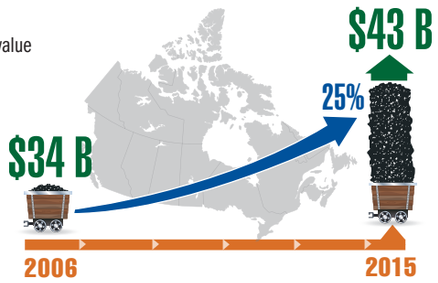
Natural Resources Canada | Ressources naturelles Canada

10 KEY FACTS from the Mining Sector Performance Report

1 Mineral Production

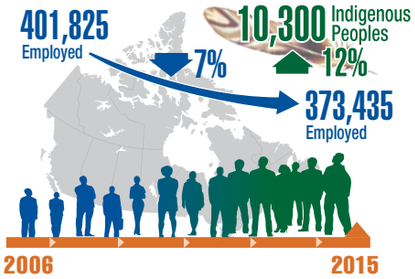
In 2015, Canada's mineral production value reached **$43 billion**, a **25%** increase over 2006 values.



Sources: Natural Resources Canada; Statistics Canada.

2 Employment

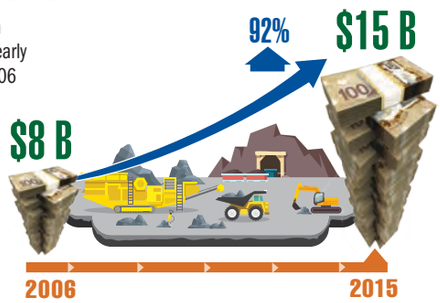
The number of people employed in the mineral industry fell from **401,825** in 2006 to **373,435** in 2015, a reduction of **7%**. Over this same period, the number of Indigenous Peoples employed increased **12%** to reach **10,300.**



Source: Statistics Canada.

3 Capital Investment

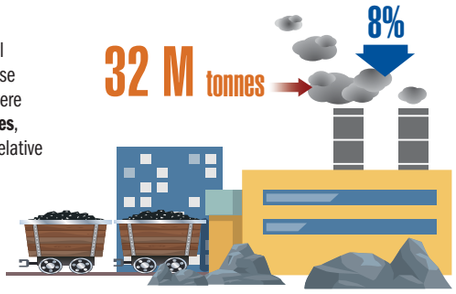
Capital investment in the mineral sector nearly doubled between 2006 and 2015, reaching **$15 billion** in 2015.



Source: Natural Resources Canada calculations, based on Statistics Canada data.

4 Greenhouse Gas Emissions

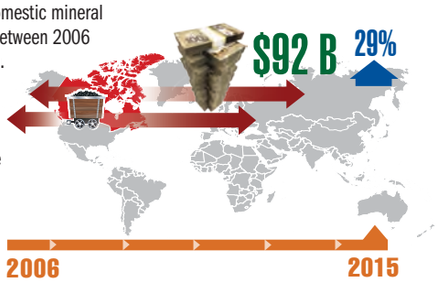
In 2014, mineral sector greenhouse gas emissions were **32 million tonnes**, an **8% decline** relative to 2005 levels.



Sources: Canadian Industrial Energy End-Use Data and Analysis Centre; Environment and Climate Change Canada.

5 Mineral Trade

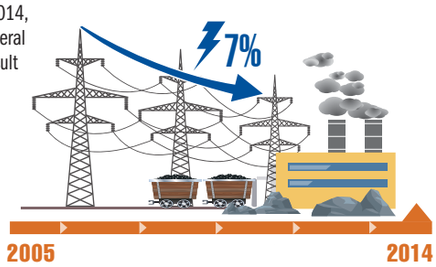
The value of Canada's domestic mineral exports increased **29%** between 2006 and 2015, to **$92 billion**. The mineral sector consistently makes a positive contribution to Canada's overall trade balance, totaling nearly $172 billion since 2006.



Source: Natural Resources Canada calculations, based on Statistics Canada data.

6 Energy Use

Between 2005 and 2014, energy use in the mineral sector fell **7%**, the result of energy efficiency gains in downstream mineral processing and manufacturing subsectors.



Sources: Canadian Industrial Energy End-Use Data and Analysis Centre; Environment and Climate Change Canada.

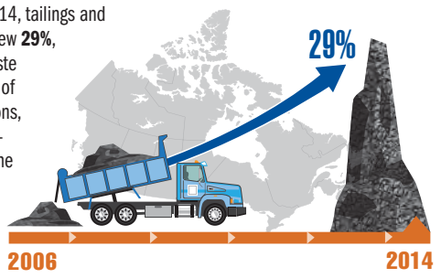
7 R&D Spending

Canada's mineral industry business expenditures on research and development totaled **$677 million** in 2013, a **10% decline** relative to 2007. However, estimated expenditures have trended upward over the last few years.

Source: Statistics Canada.

8 Tailings and Waste Rock Disposal

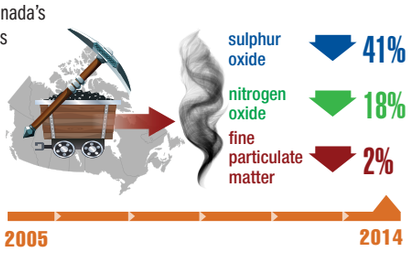
Between 2006 and 2014, tailings and waste rock disposal grew **29%**, led by increases in waste rock due to the arrival of large-tonnage operations, the extraction of lower-grade materials, and the development of deeper mines.



Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada, National Pollutant Release Inventory.

9 Air Emissions

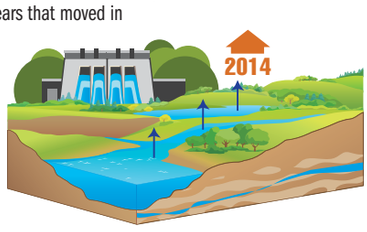
Between 2005 and 2014, Canada's mineral sector made progress in reducing emissions of sulphur oxide (**-41%**), nitrogen oxide (**-18%**), and fine particulate matter (**-2%**). However, during this period, coarse particulate matter levels nearly doubled.



Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada, National Pollutant Release Inventory.

10 Discharges to Surface and Groundwater

In 2013, mineral sector discharges to surface and groundwater were consistent with 2005 levels, despite fluctuations in intervening years that moved in relation to mineral activity. In 2014, levels increased substantially and were almost entirely attributable to the Mount Polley mine dam breach in British Columbia.



Source: Environment and Climate Change Canada, National Pollutant Release Inventory.

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