

Section 4.—Production of Metallic Minerals

The metals of chief importance in Canada are copper, gold, iron, lead, nickel, those of the platinum group, silver and zinc. These metals are dealt with individually in the following subsections. In addition, there are a number of metals produced in minor quantities, principally as by-products in the treatment of metalliferous ores (see Tables 2 and 6).

Subsection 1.—Copper

Canada is a leading producer and exporter of copper, producing 371,085,128 lb. in 1946, including refined copper and the copper content of concentrates and matte exported. The earliest important copper-mining district in Canada was in the Eastern Townships of Quebec, but the most important copper-bearing ore deposits are now located in northwestern Quebec, the Sudbury district in Ontario, the Flin Flon area in Manitoba and Saskatchewan, and in British Columbia. Production from the Sudbury district became important about 1889 and from the mines of British Columbia about 1896. From 1899 to 1929, British Columbia was the leading copper-producing province, production coming from the Rossland and Boundary districts, the Copper Mountain mine, and the Britannia and Hidden Creek mines along the coast. Shortly after the First World War, large development programs were carried out in connection with the Noranda, Waite-Amulet and other copper-producing properties in western Quebec, the Flin Flon and Sherritt-Gordon properties in western Manitoba, and a very large expansion program at the nickel-copper properties of Sudbury. In 1946, the mines in Ontario accounted for 48 p.c. of the Dominion's copper production; Quebec was credited with 19 p.c.; Saskatchewan, 16 p.c.; Manitoba, 11 p.c.; and British Columbia, 6 p.c.

A refinery at Montreal East, Que., treats anodes from the smelter at Noranda, Que., and also the blister copper from the smelter at Flin Flon, Man. The refinery at Copper Cliff, Ont., treats the blister copper from the smelter of the International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited, at Copper Cliff. The Falconbridge Mines Limited, Falconbridge, Ont., regained possession of its refinery at Kristiansand, Norway, in May, 1945, and resumed shipments of matte to that point for treatment. The concentrates from mines in British Columbia are shipped to a United States smelter at Tacoma, Wash.

9.—Copper Produced, by Provinces, with Total Values, 1936-46

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1886-1910, inclusive, will be found at p. 272 of the 1916-17 Year Book; for the years 1911-28 at p. 335 of the 1939 edition; and for 1929-35 at p. 331 of the 1946 edition.

Year	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	British Columbia	Totals	
						Quantity	Value
	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	lb.	\$
1936.....	66,340,175	287,914,078	29,853,220	14,971,609	21,169,343	421,027,732 ¹	39,514,101 ¹
1937.....	94,653,132	322,039,208	44,920,835	22,436,843	45,797,988	530,028,615 ¹	68,917,219 ¹
1938.....	112,645,797	309,030,106	65,582,772	18,156,157	65,759,265	571,249,664 ¹	56,554,034 ¹
1939.....	117,238,897	328,429,665	70,458,890	18,133,149	73,253,408	608,325,570 ¹	60,934,859 ¹
1940.....	134,166,955	347,931,013	75,267,937	20,484,954	77,742,582	655,593,441	65,773,061
1941.....	143,783,978	333,829,767	67,018,563	32,324,512	66,327,166	643,316,713 ¹	64,407,497 ¹
1942.....	140,911,876	308,282,414	47,595,586	56,781,466	50,015,521	603,661,826 ¹	60,417,372 ¹
1943.....	131,163,776	277,840,560	38,014,872	85,948,719	42,222,205	575,190,132	67,170,601
1944.....	108,055,172	285,307,278	43,878,639	73,514,499	36,302,628	547,070,118 ¹	65,257,172 ¹
1945.....	102,685,069	239,450,875	41,126,155	65,900,701	25,751,252	474,914,052	59,322,261
1946 ²	70,032,553	179,333,433	40,000,000	61,000,000	20,719,142	371,085,128	47,013,560

¹ Includes 779,307 lb. valued at \$73,855 produced in Nova Scotia in 1936; 189,609 lb. at \$23,620 in 1937; 75,567 lb. valued at \$7,535 produced in N.W.T. in 1938; 1,269,179 lb. value: at \$128,086 produced in Nova Scotia and 42,382 lb. valued at \$4,277 produced in N.W.T. in 1939; 32,727 lb. valued at \$3,301 produced in N.W.T. in 1941; 74,963 lb. valued at \$7,561 in 1942; and 11,902 lb. valued at \$1,428 in 1944. ² Subject to revision.