

Subsection 3.—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 paragraphs. 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).

Copper.—Copper production increased about 2.4 p.c. in 1951 to 270,500 tons. This was the largest tonnage reported in the post-war period but it was less than the amount recovered in each of the years from 1938 to 1944, inclusive, and was about 16 p.c. below the record of 321,700 tons in 1941.

According to the preliminary figures, the output in Ontario, which usually accounts for about one-half of the total, was approximately 10 p.c. greater in 1951 than in 1950. In British Columbia and in the Manitoba-Saskatchewan producing area there were small advances over the previous year but in Quebec there was a decline of about 4 p.c. and in Newfoundland a decrease of more than 14 p.c.

About 48 p.c. of Canada's copper comes from the nickel-copper mines in the Sudbury district of Ontario. Converter copper is produced and further treated at Copper Cliff, and nickel-copper matte produced at Falconbridge is exported to Norway for refining. Mines in northern Quebec account for 26 p.c. of Canada's copper production. These ores are treated at Noranda to produce copper anodes which are shipped to Montreal, Que., for refining. Ores from the Flin Flon-Sherritt Gordon area in northern Manitoba, and extending over the border into Saskatchewan, are also treated at Noranda and the blister copper recovered is shipped to Montreal for refining. Mines in this area account for 17 p.c. of production. British Columbia mines account annually for about 8 p.c. of Canada's copper, and concentrates produced in this area are exported to the United States for treatment. Concentrates from Newfoundland, that amount to about 1 p.c. of the total, are exported to Belgium and to the United States.

Output of refined copper was slightly greater in 1951 than in 1950, amounting to 246,000 tons. A larger percentage was channelled into Canadian industry, the amount being 134,000 tons or 54 p.c. of production compared with 107,000 tons or 45 p.c. of the total in 1950. Exports dropped off accordingly to 102,000 tons from 134,000 tons. About 51 p.c. of the 1951 exports went to the United Kingdom compared with 48 p.c. in the previous year while only 28 p.c. went to the United States as against 38 p.c. in 1950. About 37,000 tons of copper were exported in the form of ores and concentrates or in nickel-copper matte.

7.—Copper Production, by Provinces, with Total Values, 1942-51

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1866-1910, 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 1929-41 at p. 331 of the 1946 edition.

Year	Newfoundland	Quebec	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	British Columbia	Totals	
							Quantity	Value
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	\$
1942.....	...	70,456	154,141	23,798	28,391	25,008	301,831 ¹	60,417,372 ¹
1943.....	...	65,582	138,920	19,007	42,974	21,112	287,595	67,170,601
1944.....	...	54,027	142,654	21,939	36,757	18,152	273,535 ¹	65,257,172 ¹
1945.....	...	51,342	119,726	20,563	32,950	12,876	237,457	59,322,261
1946.....	...	34,899	89,712	19,250	31,356	8,750	183,968	46,632,093
1947.....	...	42,561	113,934	15,316	33,151	20,900	225,862	91,541,888
1948.....	...	48,813	120,383	18,060	31,074	21,502	240,732	107,159,756
1949.....	3,617	67,822	113,042	16,960	34,960	27,055	263,457	104,719,151
1950.....	3,221	72,891	117,210	20,817	28,982	21,086	264,209	123,211,407
1951 ^p	2,755	69,896	128,889	15,460	31,577	21,906	270,483	149,313,083

¹ Includes 37 tons valued at \$7,561 produced in N.W.T. in 1942; and 6 tons valued at \$1,428 in 1944.