Developments in the Blind River area, where companies already in production or preparing for production have officially published reserves of 250,000,000 tons with average grade of 2.0 lb. of uranium or better, have almost overnight made Ontario a major world source of this metal. By September 1956, Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited, the Crown purchasing agent, had signed contracts or given letters of intent to eight companies in the area covering the sale of over $1,100,000,000 worth of uranium precipitates by Mar. 31, 1963. By 1958, eleven concentration plants are expected to be in operation handling an estimated daily throughput of 34,300 tons. At the beginning of the review period the area had one producer, Pronto Uranium Mines Limited, with a milling capacity of 1,500 tons daily. By July 1957, it had three additional properties in production, the Quirke Lake and Nordic Lake mines of Algom Uranium Mines Limited each at 3,000 tons daily and the property of Consolidated Denison Mines Limited. Four others were scheduled to start operations before the end of 1957. These comprised two (the Lake Nordic at 4,000 tons daily and the Panel at 3,000 tons daily) of the three properties of Northspan Uranium Mines Limited; Can-Met Explorations Limited at 2,500 tons daily, and Stanleigh Uranium Mining Corporation Limited at 3,000 tons daily. Stanrock Uranium Mines Limited and Milliken Lake Uranium Mines Limited, each at 3,000 tons daily, and Northspan at its Spanish American property at 2,000 tons daily are preparing for production during the first half of 1958. The largest operation is that of Consolidated Denison with its 6,000-ton plant, the largest single uranium plant in the world. Northspan holds the largest contract ($275,000,000) with Eldorado Mining and Refining. Capital outlays to bring the eleven plants in the area into production are estimated at $275,000,000. A model townsite, Elliot Lake, is under construction and is expected to have a population of 30,000 by 1960.

Uranium production is also coming from the Bancroft area in the southeastern part of the Province where three companies, Bicroft Uranium Mines Limited, Faraday Uranium Mines Limited, and Greyhawk Uranium Mines Limited started to produce during the review period and a fourth, Canadian Dyno Mines Limited, was scheduled to start in April 1958. The Greyhawk mine is shipping its ore to the nearby Faraday mill for treatment. Bicroft and Faraday are each operating 1,000-ton plants while Canadian Dyno is erecting a 1,100-ton plant.

Ontario's output of cobalt comes from the cobalt and silver ores of the Cobalt-Gowganda area in northern Ontario and as a by-product from the nickel-copper ores of the Sudbury district. Production in 1956 at 3,574,000 lb. valued at $9,055,000 was slightly higher than in 1955. Cobalt ore shipments from the Cobalt-Gowganda area were made chiefly to Deloro Smelting and Refining Company Limited at Deloro, Ont. The ores and concentrates were sold under the Canadian Government's premium price plan on behalf of the United States Government. The plan had been in effect since the start of the Korean emergency in 1951 and was terminated at the end of 1956. International Nickel continued to produce high-purity electrolytic cobalt at its Port Colborne refinery. Deliveries of cobalt in all forms by the Company in 1956 amounted to 1,543,000 lb. while Falconbridge Nickel delivered 543,000 lb.

About 70 p.c. of the Province's production of silver comes from the Cobalt area and the remainder as a by-product from nickel and lode gold mines. Output in 1956 amounted to 6,479,000 oz. t. valued at $5,812,000.

Gold production in Ontario came from thirty gold mines in the Patricia, Thunder Bay, Porcupine, Kirkland Lake and Larder Lake areas and as a by-product from the base-metal mines in the Sudbury area. The 1956 production of 2,498,000 oz. t. was slightly lower than in 1955 but output during the first half of 1957 showed a slight increase over the same period in 1956. One mine, that of Starrat Nickel Mines Limited in the Red Lake area, ceased production in 1956 because of the exhaustion of ore reserves. Kerr-Addison Gold Mines Limited in the Larder Lake area, Canada's leading gold producer, in 1956 recorded an all-time high production of 473,000 oz. t., an increase of 46,000 oz. t. over the 1955 output.