



In 1961, for the third consecutive year, nickel production set a new high and again topped the list of metals with a substantial rise in value to \$357,500,000 from \$295,600,000 in 1960. Nickel was followed, in order, by copper, uranium, iron ore, gold, zinc, lead and silver. These eight metals accounted for almost 96 p.c. of metallic minerals output which, in turn, accounted for nearly 52 p.c. of the total value of mineral production. The new northern Manitoba Thompson project of The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited was officially opened on Mar. 25 and reached its productive capacity of 75,000,000 lb. of electrolytic nickel a year by mid-1961. Canada's total nickel production capacity at the end of the year was nearly 500,000,000 lb. with 382,000,000 lb. of it being located in the Sudbury area of Ontario. Copper production recorded another all-time high of 445,000 tons, slightly above the previous year's 439,000 tons. Canada retained its position as the fourth largest copper supplier in the Western World following the United States, Northern Rhodesia and Chile. Five copper mines began production in 1961 and 13 others were being developed for production. Uranium production and deliveries continued to decline in 1961 as the industry made further adjustments under a 'stretch-out' plan for deliveries to the United States that was announced by the Federal Government late in 1959. There were eight mines operating at the end of 1961 compared with 10 a year earlier and 19 at the end of 1959.

Iron ore production in 1961 from 13 mines was 18,200,000 long tons valued at \$180,500,000, placing Canada in sixth position among world producers. From the resource development point of view, the iron ore industry continued to be one of the strongest individual sectors of the mineral economy. One 8,000,000-ton-a-year project at Gagnon, Que., began production of high-grade concentrates following three years of development and construction; two large mining projects in the Wabush Lake area of Labrador continued to be developed, one for production in 1963 and the other in 1964-65. The principal export markets continued to be the United States, Britain, Western Europe and Japan with about 1,300,000 tons being shipped to the latter market from British Columbia in 1961.