

In the Yukon Territory, the total recovered in 1962 was 54,086 oz.t. compared with 66,878 oz.t. in 1961, all coming from placer operations. About 80 p.c. of Canada's placer gold production comes from dredging and hydraulicking operations of The Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation, Limited in the Dawson area.

The only gold production in the Maritime Provinces was 299 oz.t. recovered from base-metal ores in New Brunswick. Newfoundland's 1962 production was 16,375 oz.t. compared with 14,429 oz.t. in 1961, all of it coming as a by-product from copper and lead-zinc mines.

Uranium.—The principal uranium deposits in Canada are found in three geographically and geologically different areas. The deposits in the Elliot Lake–Blind River district of northern Ontario occur in quartz-pebble conglomerates and are by far the largest in Canada; ore reserves are estimated at 290,000,000 tons grading 0.12 p.c. U_3O_8 . The deposits in the Bancroft area of southeastern Ontario are the only pegmatitic granite dykes being worked for uranium in Canada. Some of the orebodies in these dykes are unusually large and persistent in depth, and average about 0.10 p.c. U_3O_8 . Vein-type deposits, containing pitchblende, are being mined in the Beaverlodge Lake area on the north shore of Lake Athabasca in northern Saskatchewan. The grade of the ore in these deposits, ranging between 0.18 and 0.25 p.c. U_3O_8 , is relatively high compared with the other two types. The measured, indicated and inferred uranium ore reserves in Canada as of Jan. 1, 1962 were estimated at 300,000,000 tons, grading 0.12 p.c. U_3O_8 [equivalent to 360,000 tons of uranium oxide (U_3O_8)] and are considered to be the largest in the world. The reserves calculated for the Elliot Lake district constitute about 98 p.c. of the total.

In 1958, Canada was the world's leading producer of uranium concentrates. In 1959 the value of uranium production amounted to \$331,000,000 and was, for the second consecutive year, higher than the value of any other mineral produced in the country with the exception of petroleum. In 1960 the value of output declined to approximately \$270,000,000 and in 1961 production of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) amounted to 9,641 tons valued at \$195,700,000. Preliminary estimates for 1962 were 8,400 tons valued at \$151,425,000. Production has declined as mines have continued to close following the announcement of the United States Atomic Energy Commission in November 1959 that it would not continue to purchase uranium from Canada in excess of contract commitments that were to expire in 1962 and 1963. As a result of this decision, arrangements were made to allow Canadian producers to stretch out to the end of 1966 the undelivered portion of uranium under their sales contracts. At the end of 1962, eight mines (seven companies) were producing uranium compared with 23 at the peak period in 1959. In the Elliot Lake district, four mines operated throughout the year—Denison Mines Limited, Stanrock Uranium Mines Limited, and two mines (Milliken and Nordic) owned by Rio Algom Mines Limited; in the Bancroft area, two mines, operated by Macassa Gold Mines Limited (Bicroft) and Faraday Uranium Mines Limited, remained in operation; and in the Lake Athabasca district, two mines continued to operate—the government-owned mine of Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited and the privately owned mine of Gunnar Mining Limited. In 1962, a contract was signed with the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority for the delivery of 12,000 tons of uranium oxide (U_3O_8) over a period extending until early in 1970. This contract will permit each of the seven producers to extend its period of operations approximately $16\frac{1}{2}$ months past the completion date of existing contracts with the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

The Mines Branch of the federal Department of Mines and Technical Surveys, in collaboration with Eldorado Mining and Refining Limited and the Canadian Uranium Research Foundation, continued its program of research into non-nuclear uses of uranium. This program was undertaken in an effort to find new uses for uranium and thereby to provide an additional outlet for production during a period of otherwise declining demand. As part of this program, a new uranium steel alloy, developed by the Mines Branch in 1960, has been undergoing tests on a commercial scale.