

Uranium producers are allowed to sell as much surplus uranium as they can to countries that hold bilateral agreements with Canada for co-operation in the peaceful uses of atomic energy, but there have been very few sales of this nature. Apart from the special contract agreements for the sale of uranium to the United States and Britain, Canada holds bilateral agreements with Australia, Japan, Pakistan, Sweden, Switzerland, West Germany and EURATOM (Belgium, West Germany, France, Italy, Luxembourg and the Netherlands). For other countries, a Canadian producer may, subject to government approval, sell up to 2,500 lb. of uranium.

Lead and Zinc.—On the basis of lead produced from domestic ores and the recoverable lead content of ores and concentrates exported, Canada's output in 1962, estimated at 190,609 tons, was substantially lower than the 1961 output of 230,435 tons. A large part of this reduction was accounted for by lower metal production at the Trail smelter in British Columbia operated by The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited. Output at Trail in 1962 was 152,217 tons compared with 171,833 tons in 1961. The average price of lead was 9.93 cents a pound; in 1961 it was 10.21 cents. Exports of lead in all forms during 1962 totalled 185,297 tons, most of it going as metal to Britain (48,082 tons) and to the United States (89,424 tons). Five countries imported lead in concentrates from Canada: Britain, 4,227 tons; Belgium and Luxembourg, 16,018 tons; West Germany, 10,020 tons; and the United States, 29,230 tons. Domestic consumption of primary and secondary lead in 1962 amounted to 77,286 tons.

Unlike lead, estimated production of zinc in all forms, including that from zinc plant residues, at 457,144 tons was considerably higher than the 416,004 tons produced in 1961. Quebec mines completing their first full year of production accounted for a large part of the increase and the remainder was accounted for by production increases at long-established mines, most of them in British Columbia and Ontario. Production of refined zinc from Canada's two refineries—at Trail, B.C., and at Flin Flon, Man.—was 280,158 tons in 1962 compared with 268,007 tons in 1961. The average price of Prime Western grade zinc was 11.50 cents a pound in 1962 and 11.97 cents in 1961. Zinc exports during 1962 totalled 453,180 tons—242,457 tons in ores and concentrates and 210,723 tons as metal. Most of ores and concentrates (194,743 tons) went to the United States and the largest sales of zinc metal were made to Britain, the United States and India which imported 92,338 tons, 74,733 tons and 20,266 tons, respectively. Domestic consumption of primary and secondary zinc in 1962 amounted to 68,074 tons.

Five companies, operating six lead-zinc mines and one copper-zinc mine in the southern part of British Columbia produced nearly all of that province's lead and zinc. By far the largest portion was produced by The Consolidated Mining and Smelting Company of Canada Limited which concentrates about 11,900 tons of lead-zinc ore a day—10,000 tons at the Sullivan mine at Kimberley, 1,200 tons at the H.B. mine at Salmo, and 700 tons at the Bluebell mine at Riondel. Other producers in this part of the province include Sheep Creek Mines Limited at Toby Creek, Canadian Exploration, Limited at Salmo, and Reeves MacDonald Mines Limited at Remac. At Britannia, 20 miles north of Vancouver, Howe Sound Company was the province's only producer of copper-zinc ore. Among the smaller lead and zinc producers were Mastodon-Highland Bell Mines Limited at Beavertown in the south-central part of the province, Silbak Premier Mines, Limited at Stewart north of Prince Rupert, and several others in the Slocan district. Most of the concentrates from these mines, and some Yukon Territory and foreign concentrates were treated at the Trail smelter.

All the lead and nearly all the zinc produced in Saskatchewan and Manitoba came from the large Flin Flon mine, the Coronation and Schist Lake mines at Flin Flon and the Chisel Lake mine at Snow Lake, Man. Stall Lake Mines Limited at Snow Lake produced, in the latter part of 1962, some copper-zinc ore which it shipped to Hudson Bay's 6,000-ton-a-day mill at Flin Flon. Copper and zinc concentrates produced in this mill were treated in Hudson Bay's copper-zinc smelter and electrolytic zinc refinery at Flin Flon. The lead concentrate was sold to a custom smelter.