



and processing techniques for more efficient production. The need to be highly competitive is imperative because a condition of abundant supply in world markets exists for many mineral commodities. The Canadian mineral industry depends greatly on a strong position in world markets; in recent years the value of mineral and mineral product exports has been the equivalent of almost two thirds of mineral production value.

The ten leading minerals in terms of value of output in 1963 accounted for 78.7 p.c. of total output, essentially the same as in 1962. Production values were higher for copper, iron ore, zinc, asbestos, oil, natural gas, cement, and sand and gravel but lower for gold, nickel and uranium. The leading minerals, valued in millions of dollars with 1962 figures in brackets, were: crude petroleum, 633 (552); nickel, 363 (384); iron ore, 292 (263); copper, 288 (283); gold, 150 (156); uranium, 149 (158); and asbestos, 135 (130). Canada leads the Free World in the production of nickel, asbestos and platinum metals; is second in cadmium, cobalt, uranium, zinc, sulphur and gold; third in titanium, gypsum, magnesium and lead; and ranks high among world producers of copper, iron ore, silver and several other mineral commodities. Although the United States is Canada's principal export market, having taken 60 p.c. of all mineral exports in 1963, Canadian minerals and mineral products are finding new markets every year and some mineral exports are marketed in as many as forty or fifty countries.

Mineral trends are apparent from an examination of 1963 production values of the three industry sectors and of the provinces. Metals output was valued at \$1,504,500,000, \$8,100,000 higher than in the previous year; shipments of industrial minerals (non-metallic minerals and structural materials) were worth \$607,500,000, up from \$566,000,000 in 1962; and mineral fuels output increased to \$882,400,000 from \$780,900,000 in 1962. Mineral production gains were recorded for all provinces except Ontario, which had a decline of 4 p.c., and Prince Edward Island. Output in the Yukon Territory advanced but there was a 13-p.c. decline in the Northwest Territories. Ontario continued to be Canada's