

Gold.—Canadian gold production in 1964 decreased to an estimated 3,810,738 oz.t. valued at \$143,855,362 compared with 4,003,127 oz.t. worth \$151,118,045 in 1963. The average price for gold paid by the Royal Canadian Mint in 1964 was \$37.75 per oz.t. in Canadian funds, the same as in the previous year. On May 2, 1962, the Canadian dollar was stabilized at 92.5 cents in terms of the U.S. dollar but it can fluctuate 1 p.c. either side of the fixed value. The range in value for the Canadian dollar is thus set at \$0.916 to \$0.934 in relation to the U.S. dollar and the corresponding Royal Canadian Mint price between \$37.46 and \$38.22 per oz.t.

The Emergency Gold Mining Assistance Act (see p. 577) was extended to the end of 1967 but, despite the benefit of cost assistance, the gold mining industry is encountering increasing difficulty in continuing operations. One lode gold mine closed in 1964 as ore reserves were exhausted and a number of others were scheduled to close in 1965. Two new, but small, lode gold mines began operations in 1964 and two others operated on a minor, intermittent basis. In 1964, the proportion of gold coming from lode gold mines decreased to 81.9 p.c. from 82.5 p.c. and by-product gold from base-metal ores increased to 16.6 p.c. from 16.0 p.c. Placer gold accounted for 1.5 p.c., the same as 1963.

Ontario remained the principal producer, accounting for over 56 p.c. of the total. Quebec was second with approximately 24 p.c., followed by the Northwest Territories with 10 p.c. and British Columbia with about 3.4 p.c.

In Ontario, all the gold producing areas recorded decreases in 1964 and production declined to an estimated 2,135,269 oz.t. from 2,338,854 oz.t. in 1963. Thirty lode gold mines operated in the province in 1964, two of which were small, intermittent producers. Thirteen mines operated in the Porcupine area but one of them, Kenilworth Mines Limited, was on a very small scale. Delnite Mines Limited closed in August. Six mines were in operation in the Red Lake—Patricia district. McKenzie Red Lake Gold Mines Limited, Cochenour Willans Gold Mines, Limited and Pickle Crow Gold Mines, Limited suffered substantial production declines. At Larder Lake, Kerr Addison Mines Limited decreased production about 15 p.c. Five mines operated at Kirkland Lake but total production was about 5.7 p.c. lower. Production at the three mines in the Port Arthur mining division declined by over 15 p.c. An estimated 62,000 oz.t. of gold was recovered as a by-product from base-metal ores in Ontario compared with 59,962 oz.t. in 1963.

Twelve lode gold mines operated in Quebec in 1964 and gold production increased about 3 p.c. to an estimated 944,941 oz.t. from 917,229 oz.t. in 1963. One new lode gold mine, Norbeau Mines (Quebec) Limited, began operations in the Chibougamau copper-gold district in September and a number of prospective gold producers were under development. Gold recovered as a by-product from base-metal ores represented about 45 p.c. of the provincial total.

In the Northwest Territories, a new lode gold mine, Tundra Gold Mines Limited, began operations in March and helped to increase total gold output by almost 4 p.c. Giant Yellowknife Mines Limited and Discovery Mines Limited, which located new high-grade ore deposits, both increased production substantially.

Two lode gold mines were in continuous production in British Columbia. Production declined sharply at Bralorne Pioneer Mines Limited but increased slightly at The Cariboo Gold Quartz Mining Company, Limited; production from the two mines was down over 12 p.c.

Manitoba and Saskatchewan together accounted for an estimated 103,611 oz.t. in 1964 compared with 117,897 oz.t. in 1963. San Antonio Gold Mines Limited, the only lode gold producer in the two provinces, improved production considerably in 1964. Most of the remaining production is derived from the base-metal ores mined in the Flin Flon area. In the Yukon Territory, all gold came from placer operations. The dredge and hydraulic operations of The Yukon Consolidated Gold Corporation, Limited at Dawson recovered about 95 p.c. of Canada's total placer gold production. Some gold was recovered in New Brunswick and Newfoundland as a by-product of base-metal production.