

in Quebec, 4.2% in Ontario, 65.9% in the Yukon Territory and 17.7% in the Northwest Territories. There was a major shift westward in copper mining capacity as production increased 9% in the Prairie Provinces and 66.4% in British Columbia.

Few new mines were scheduled for production, a result of low copper prices of 1971-72, possible excess production capacity in the world, temporary saturation of the Japanese market for copper concentrates and a slowdown in exploration in Canada.

Copper production in Newfoundland in 1972 totalled 9,513 tons valued at \$9.7 million from three mines, one of which closed in mid-1972. In New Brunswick copper production was 10,310 tons valued at \$10.5 million from two mines; another closed early in 1972. In Quebec production declined slightly to 176,432 tons valued at \$179.7 million from 184,823 tons valued at \$195.2 million in 1971. About 30 mines were operated during 1972, the main centres of production being Rouyn-Noranda, Val d'Or, Matagami, Chibougamau, Murdochville and Stratford Centre. Strikes at Campbell Chibougamau Mines Ltd., lasting three months, and Madeleine Mines Ltd., lasting one and a half months, adversely affected production.

Copper was produced at a number of mines in Ontario in 1972, the main operations being the nickel-copper mines of the Sudbury district, copper-zinc and copper mines near Timmins, and copper-zinc mines near Manitouwadge. Producers' shipments amounted to 289,723 tons valued at \$293.5 million compared to 302,370 tons valued at \$317.5 million in 1971. Seven mines closed and one opened in 1972.

Production in Manitoba and Saskatchewan was 72,378 tons valued at \$73.7 million. The major producer was Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited, which produced copper in the Flin Flon and Snow Lake areas. Sherritt Gordon Mines, Limited at Lynn Lake, INCO at Thompson and Anglo-Rouyn Mines Limited at La Ronge were the other producers. Production returned to normal levels in 1972 after a five-month strike at Hudson Bay Mining had reduced production in 1971. The Ruttan Lake mine of Sherritt Gordon Mines, Limited was the only new Canadian producer to begin operations in 1973.

Production of copper in British Columbia in 1972 amounted to 233,506 tons valued at \$237.8 million compared to 140,310 tons valued at \$148.1 million in 1971. Large open-pit mines were opened by four companies during the year: Gibraltar Mines Ltd. at McLeese Lake, Lornex Mining Corporation Ltd. at Highland Valley, Noranda Mines, Limited at Babine Lake and Similkameen Mining Company Limited at Princeton. The combined mill capacity of these mines is 101,000 tons a day.

Production in the Yukon Territory declined substantially in 1972. Whitehorse Copper Mines Ltd., which was the only producer in 1971, resumed production from the new Little Chief mine in December. Hudson-Yukon Mining Co., Limited produced copper during 1972, but operations were suspended in 1973 because of geological problems. Production of copper in the Northwest Territories developed principally as a by-product of silver mining.

Nickel. Canadian production of nickel in 1972 amounted to 258,987 tons valued at \$717.5 million. The nickel market, which began to fall late in 1970, continued to do so into 1972. World production of nickel declined 8.2%; Canadian production declined 12.0% compared with the previous year (Table 12.10).

Early in 1972, The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO) announced that in addition to the 22% reduction in 1971, operations would be cut back by 10% to prevent further inventory accumulation. Falconbridge Nickel Mines Limited, in a move to offset rising costs and restrain nickel output, announced plans to reduce production by 5% effective April 1972. Both INCO and Falconbridge negotiated new three-year labour contracts in 1972 without strikes.

The nickel market gained strength during the latter half of 1972 in response to improving world economic activity and by the end of the year producers' inventories were declining. Three new nickel-copper mines began production during 1972. At Lac Édouard, Que., *Société Minière d'Exploration Ltée* (Somex) started tuning up its nickel-copper mine and concentrator in September. Concentrates from this mine, currently producing 240 tons a day, will be processed at the Sherritt Gordon Mines, Limited refinery in Alberta. INCO started mining its deposit at Shebandowan, Ont. at mid-year. The Wellgreen nickel-copper mine at Kluane Lake, YT, was placed in production by Hudson-Yukon Mining Co., Limited. However, the mine was