

increased its shipments by 18% in 1973 to 8,805,000 tons. QCM continued to develop the Mount Wright iron ore project, despite construction slowdowns induced by labour strikes. QCM also commenced development of the Fire Lake ore deposit which was scheduled for start-up in 1975. Fire Lake ore will provide feed material to the Lac Jeannine concentrator and will replace ore from the Lac Jeannine mine, where ore reserves will be depleted by 1976.

Shipments from Wabush Mines in 1973 increased only marginally to 5.4 million tons compared with 5.3 million tons in the previous year.

With high domestic and US demand, most Ontario mines shipped iron ore at near capacity in 1973. Shipments equalled 11,274,047 tons, 6% above the 1972 level of 10,666,969 tons. Shipments from The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO) were 624,000 tons of iron pellets, still well below rated capacity of 850,000 tons.

British Columbia's two iron ore producers had a good year in 1973 as shipments of 1,420,145 tons increased 25% compared with shipments of 1,139,745 tons in 1972. Texada Mines Ltd. continued to ship its entire production via its own bulk carrier to Japan. Wesfrob Mines Limited shipped the larger portion of its production to Japan with smaller quantities destined for consumers in Oregon and Australia.

Since a large portion of Canadian iron ore is exported (75.3% in 1972), the industry is especially sensitive to prevailing world market conditions. In 1973 a firm upward trend of general economic activity prevailed in most industrialized countries propagating a world-wide boom in steel production. World crude steel output increased by 9% to attain a new record level of 696 million tons. Thus in response to strong world demand for iron ore, total Canadian exports were 37,072,698 tons, an increase of 28% compared with 28,812,277 tons in 1972. Marked increases in Canadian iron ore exports were effected in the consumer markets of the US, Britain, Japan and the Federal Republic of Germany.

Imports increased dramatically in 1973 to 2.7 million tons, continuing the ominous reversal of a downward trend that commenced in 1964 and was maintained until 1970. Canadian imports of iron ore are expected to increase to almost 5 million tons by 1975, as import shipments from the Tilden mine in Michigan and both the Eveleth Taconite Company and Hibbing Taconite Company in Minnesota start flowing into the Canadian steel mills of The Steel Company of Canada, Limited (STELCO), Dominion Foundries and Steel, Limited (DOFASCO) and Algoma Steel Corporation Limited. Additional small quantities of high-grade Brazilian and Swedish iron ores are imported by Sidbec-Dosco Limited to be used in its new direct reduction plant at Contrecoeur, Que.

Domestic shipments reached a record high of 10.5 million tons in 1973, some 600,000 tons more than in 1972, when the previous record was set. Consumption of iron ore by Canadian steel mills increased from the 1972 level of 11.7 million tons to 13.5 million tons in 1973, an increase of about 15%.

**Lead and zinc.** Canadian production of lead in 1973 was 376,939 tons valued at \$122 million. Mine production increased 2.0% in volume and 7.0% in value compared to the previous year (Table 12.12). Output of refined lead was 206,012 tons, a 34-ton increase from 1972.

Production of zinc in 1973 was 1.4 million tons valued at \$652.9 million. Production increased 8.6% but 37.5% in value compared to the previous year (Table 12.13). Output of refined zinc was 585,000 tons in 1973, up 11% from 1972.

Exports of refined lead in 1973 decreased by 11% from 1972. Exports of lead and zinc in ores and concentrates and lead in ores and concentrates were substantially higher in 1973. The increased exports of zinc in ores and concentrates were due mainly to additional shipments from large concentrate stocks accumulated during prior smelting capacity shortages. The increased exports of refined zinc were due mainly to a drop in US domestic metal production resulting from smelter closures and to substantial increases in US consumption.

In the Atlantic provinces lead production declined 8.5% to 52,745 tons and zinc production increased 140 tons to 201,258 tons in 1973. Three companies produced lead and zinc, one in Newfoundland and two in New Brunswick. Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited in New Brunswick was the Maritimes' largest producer. American Smelting and Refining Company, Buchans Unit, was the only active producer in Newfoundland. Dresser Minerals, Division of Dresser Industries, Inc. continued to mill a surface stockpile of ore accumulated from previous operations at its mine in Nova Scotia.