

Ontario was the leading silver-producing province with its output in 1973 accounting for more than 41% of Canadian mine production. The largest producer in Canada was Ecstall Mining Limited which produced copper, lead and zinc concentrates containing about 10.5 million oz t of silver at its Kidd Creek mine near Timmins.

In Manitoba and Saskatchewan most of the silver continued to come from nine base-metal mines operated by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited near Flin Flon and Snow Lake, Man.

Base-metal ores continued to be the main source of British Columbia's mine production of silver. Cominco Ltd., the province's major silver producer, recovered silver from the lead-zinc-silver ores of its Sullivan mine in southeastern British Columbia and from purchased ores and concentrates. Operations were suspended August 31, 1973 at the silver-zinc-copper-lead property of Bralorne Resources Limited because of a labour shortage and uneconomic operating conditions. The property, located 28 miles south of Houston, began production in March 1972.

Much greater silver production in 1973 in the Northwest Territories resulted from higher output by Echo Bay Mines Ltd. Echo Bay and Terra Mining and Exploration Limited, which operate silver-copper properties near Port Radium on the east shore of Great Bear Lake, were the principal silver producers in the Northwest Territories.

An increase of 21.8% in silver production in 1973, compared with 1972, in the Yukon Territory resulted from greater outputs at the zinc-lead-silver mine of United Keno Hill Mines Limited and the copper-silver property of Whitehorse Copper Mines Ltd.

Base-metal ores continued to be the main source of Canadian silver output, accounting for almost 95% of total mine production in 1973. The major portion of the remaining 5% came from silver-cobalt ores mined in the Cobalt district of northern Ontario and the balance was by-product recovery from lode gold ores.

Canadian silver production was valued at \$120.0 million in 1973 (Table 12.15). The \$45.2 million increase from 1972 resulted from higher prices and greater output. The price of silver in Canada fluctuated in 1973 between a low of \$1.966 an oz t and a high of \$3.279. Reported consumption of silver in 1973 was 16,870,929 oz t compared with 8,424,314 oz t in 1972. The increase resulted mainly from a greater use of silver in coinage.

In 1973 refined silver was produced at five Canadian primary silver refineries, the largest of which was Canadian Copper Refiners Limited at Montreal East, Que. It recovered 14.6 million oz t from the treatment of anode and blister copper. The silver refinery of Cominco Ltd. at Trail, BC, was the second-largest producer, recovering some 9.6 million oz t of by-product silver in the processing of lead and zinc ores and concentrates. Other producers of refined silver were The International Nickel Company of Canada, Limited (INCO) at Copper Cliff, Ont. (from nickel-copper concentrates) and the Royal Canadian Mint at Ottawa, Ont., (from gold bullion). At Belledune, NB, Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited, Smelting Division, recovered by-product silver bullion from lead concentrates treated in a blast furnace.

**Uranium.** Canadian uranium shipments decreased 2.5% in 1973 to 4,759 tons of uranium oxide ( $U_3O_8$ ) (Table 12.16). The bulk of production came from the Elliot Lake area of Ontario where Denison Mines Limited and Rio Algom Mines Limited recover uranium from quartz-pebble conglomerates. Eldorado Nuclear Limited, Canada's third largest producer, recovers uranium from pitchblende occurring in vein-type deposits near Uranium City, Sask. Denison operated its mill at about 70% of its nominal 6,000 ton-a-day capacity. Rio Algom operated its Quirke mill at 95% of its full 4,500 ton-a-day capacity during 1973. The New Quirke mine now supplies the mill's total feed and is operating at about 6,500 tons a day, well in excess of its original design capacity. In Saskatchewan, Eldorado continued operating its 1,800 ton-a-day mill at about half capacity.

Uranium exploration activity in Canada was low in 1972. Amok Ltd. continued its program at Cluff Lake in the Carswell Dome area of Saskatchewan and identified two deposits of conventional grade in addition to the high-grade ore body announced in 1972.

Gulf Minerals Canada Limited continued development work at its Rabbit Lake property, near the southwestern end of Wollaston Lake in northern Saskatchewan. Construction of the mill, capacity 4.5 million lb. of uranium oxide a year, proceeded on schedule with first production expected in 1975.