

Northair Mines Ltd. was constructing a 300 tons-a-day (272 t/d) mill at its gold-silver property about 70 miles (113 km) north of Vancouver and expected to start milling early in 1976.

Gold production in the Yukon Territory was 26,000 oz t (808 690 g) compared with 26,472 oz t (823 371 g) in 1974. Gold was recovered from base-metal operations and placer mines.

Gold produced in the Northwest Territories was recovered from lode gold mines near Yellowknife. Production in 1975 was 186,000 oz t (5 785 247 g) compared with 184,467 oz t (5 737 565 g) in 1974. Cominco Ltd. was sinking a new surface shaft to a depth of 5,800 ft (1 768 m) at its Con mine and increasing mill capacity from 450 to 650 tons (408 t to 590 t) a day.

Silver. Canada's mine production of silver in 1975, 39,101,000 oz t (1 216 178 kg), was 3.71 million oz t (115 353 kg) less than in 1974. Canada in 1975 lost its position as the world's largest mine producer of silver, a rank it held from 1968 to 1974 with the exception of 1970. In 1975, the USSR and Peru outranked Canada.

Mine production of silver in the Atlantic provinces increased 5.4% in 1975 from the previous year. Greater output by New Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited at its zinc-lead-copper-silver mine near Bathurst, NB accounted for most of the increase. Silver output in Quebec, recovered mainly from base-metal ores, was slightly higher in 1975 than in 1974.

Ontario was the leading silver-producing province with its output in 1975 accounting for 37% of Canadian mine production. The largest producer in Canada, and probably the world, was Texasgulf Canada Ltd., which recovered over 9 million oz t (280 000 kg) of silver in copper, lead and zinc concentrates at its Kidd Creek mine near Timmins.

In the Prairie region much of the silver came from nine base-metal mines operated by Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited near Flin Flon and Snow Lake, Man. Most of the remainder was derived from the Fox and Ruttan copper-zinc mines operated by Sherritt Gordon Mines Limited at Lynn Lake and Ruttan, Man., respectively.

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. By-product silver output from the Sullivan mine was considerably higher in 1975 than in 1974 because of a four-month suspension of operations caused by a labour strike in 1974. Because of depressed copper prices some of BC's copper producers curtailed operations in 1975 and thereby reduced their by-product silver output.

Silver production in 1975 in the Northwest Territories was substantially lower than in 1974 because of reduced 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 12.5% in silver production in 1975 over 1974 in the Yukon Territory resulted mainly from greater by-product output at the lead-zinc-silver mine of Cyprus Anvil Mining Corporation at Faro.

Base-metal ores continued to be the main source of Canadian silver output, accounting for over 98% of total mine production in 1975. Most of the remaining 2% came from silver-cobalt ores mined in the Cobalt district of northern Ontario and the balance was by-product recovery from lode and placer gold ores.

Canadian silver production was valued at \$176.6 million in 1975 (Table 12.4). The \$21.5 million decrease from 1974 resulted from reduced output and slightly lower prices. The price of silver in Canada fluctuated in 1975 between a low of \$3.925 an oz t (\$126.192/kg) and a high of \$5.413 (\$174.032/kg). Reported consumption of silver in 1975 was 10.62 million oz t (330 000 kg) compared with 10.67 million oz t (332 000 kg) in 1974.