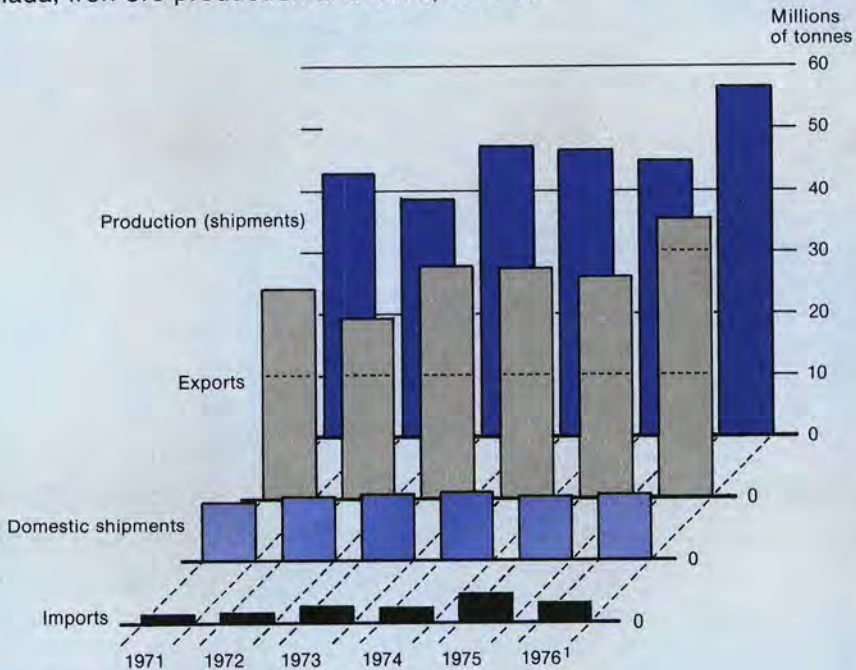


Canada, iron ore production and trade, 1971-76



1. Imports, domestic shipments and exports taken from the first nine months of 1976.

In 1979 STELCO will start receiving some 3.5 million tonnes of pellets a year from its equity participation in the Erie, Eveleth and Hibbing mines in Minnesota and the Tilden mine in Michigan, while Algoma will receive some 3.1 million tonnes of pellets a year from its investment in the Tilden mine.

Quebec Cartier continued to develop the Mount Wright project in Quebec. Production in 1976 was some 8 million tonnes. Included in the development is construction of a concentrator with a minimum production capacity of 18 million tonnes of iron ore concentrate (66% iron) with provision for an ultimate annual capacity of 24 million tonnes. Maximum capacity was expected to be reached in 1978. Two-thirds of production would be exported to Europe and one-third to US Steel. Quebec Cartier has 8.23% ownership in a group involved in the Fire Lake development in Quebec. Other participants include Sidbec, a provincial steel agency, with 50.1% of the ownership, and British Steel Corp. with 41.67%. The new company formed to develop Fire Lake is called Sidbec-Normines Ltd. Crude ore from Fire Lake is transported by rail to the Lac Jeannine concentrator where 6 million tonnes a year of concentrate are expected to be produced from both the Fire Lake mine and the Lac Jeannine mine, where ore reserves neared depletion in 1977. At Port Cartier a pellet plant was under construction to use concentrate from the Lac Jeannine concentrator. When completed the plant was expected to produce 3 million tonnes a year of pellets with an iron content of 65% and a silica content greater than 6% and 3 million tonnes a year of pellets grading 68% iron and less than 2% silica. The former product is for use in standard blast furnaces, the latter for use as direct reduction feed mainly for Sidbec's operations at Contrecoeur.

Most design problems have been solved at IOC's Sept-Îles, Que., pellet plant and it was expected full production would be attained in 1978. The pellet plant is designed for an annual production of 6.0 million tonnes; in 1976 production reached 3.7 million