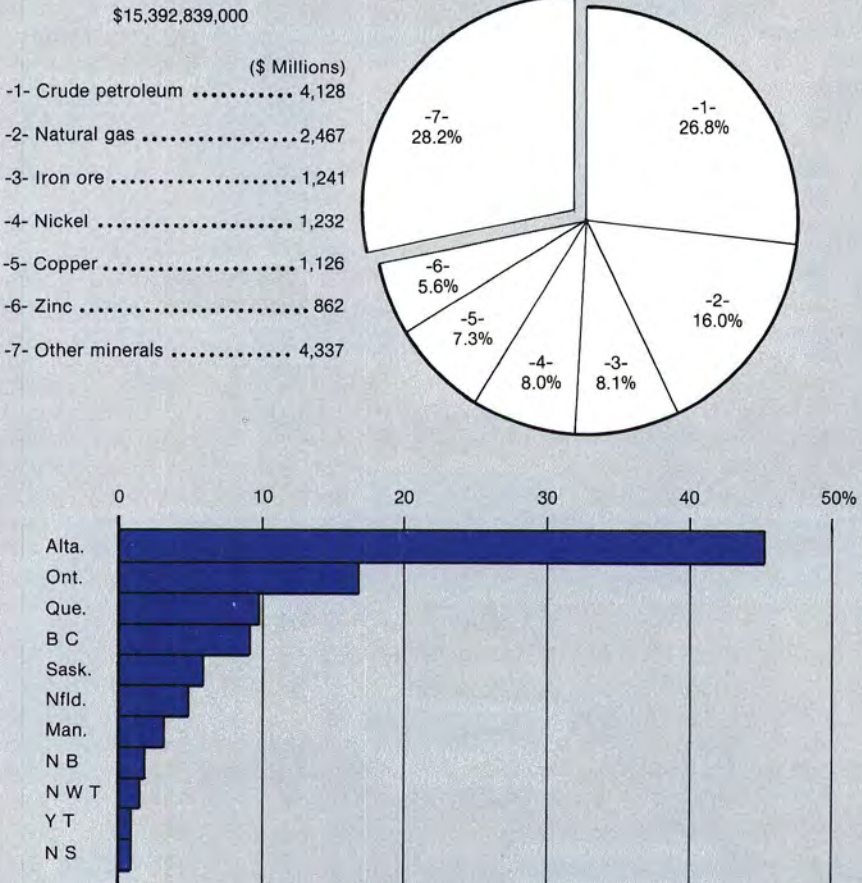


Leading minerals and areas of production, 1976



Basic oxygen production amounted to 7.9 million tonnes, up from 7.3 million tonnes in 1975. This type of steelmaking accounted for roughly 60% of total steel production. Electric steel and steel castings production at 2.1 million tonnes was down nearly 400 000 tonnes. Basic open-hearth production was down by 100 000 tonnes to 3.0 million tonnes.

Average steel furnace capacity utilization declined marginally to 75.8% during the year. This compares with 76.6% in 1975 and 81.9% in 1974. Some of the 1976 experience was due to some new capacity not being available for the entire year and to capacity affected by strikes. However, it also reflected measures to reduce operating levels because of sluggishness in many steel product markets through much of the year.

Many companies continued with expansion programs during the year. STELCO, the largest Canadian steel producer, continued building a new steel complex at Nanticoke, Ont., on Lake Erie in 1976. Initial capacity will be 1.2 million tonnes with start-up