

Output of the zinc industry remained relatively unchanged in 1986 compared with the previous year. The nickel industry, characterized by world over-supply, experienced a drop in value of output of 12% as the price declined during the year.

The output of molybdenum increased in 1986 as some producers resumed operations after lengthy shutdowns. Volume of production fell from 11 557 t in 1984 to 7 852 t in 1985, then recovered to 12 914 t in 1986. Iron ore continued to suffer from offshore competition and a lagging North American steel industry. Volume and value of production fell in 1986 as closures continued. Six producers remain, down from 17 in 1979 and forecasts show little improvement for the rest of the 1980s.

Asbestos continued to be pressured by health concerns and shrinking demand. Volume of production fell for the sixth consecutive year. Other non-metals remained stable with moderate growth throughout the year. Structural materials benefited from the residential construction boom and increased from \$2.1 billion in 1985 to \$2.2 billion in 1986.

10.2 Provincial and territorial summary, 1986

The value of Canadian mineral production in 1986 was \$33.9 billion, a decrease of \$10.9 billion, or 24% below the previous year. Metallic mineral output increased \$235 million or 2.7%, non-metals declined 2.5%, and structural materials increased by 3.5%. The main factor affecting the total production value was the output of energy commodities, which fell over \$11 billion, or more than 35%. Physical output of crude petroleum remained close to 1985 levels, but the value decreased by 47% or \$8.7 billion.

Newfoundland. The value of mineral production decreased by 12% from 1985 to \$764 million. Output of iron ore, zinc and asbestos, the three most important commodities, fell in value in 1986. Expenditures on exploration, chiefly for gold, increased.

Prince Edward Island. Production fell by 11.3% to \$1.7 million. The province produces only sand and gravel for local use.

Nova Scotia. The value of production increased by 9.6% from 1985 to \$357 million; with \$176 million for coal and \$50 million for gypsum.

New Brunswick. Mineral production increased by 3.4% to \$526 million; with \$205 million for zinc, \$51 million for lead, \$51 million for silver, and \$26 million for coal. Potash contributed to the growth in the non-metallic sector.

Quebec. Production decreased slightly, about 1.5%, to \$2.3 billion. With the exception of gold and construction materials, most commodities experienced a decline in value and in quantity. Gold ranked first with an estimated value of \$477 million, followed by iron ore at \$400 million, asbestos at \$200 million, and cement at \$192 million.

Ontario. The value of output was \$4.8 billion, an increase of 3.6% from 1985. Metals and non-metallic minerals accounted for 79% of this value and structural materials for 19%. Of the total amount were the following: \$815 million for nickel, \$765 million for gold, \$590 million for copper, \$476 million for uranium and \$375 million for zinc. The most active sector of the industry was gold exploration, development and production. New sources, particularly the three Hemlo mines, resulted in Ontario being the foremost gold-producing province.

Manitoba. Mineral production decreased by 12% from 1985 to \$758 million because of crude petroleum. Of this amount nickel accounted for \$259 million; copper, \$141 million, crude petroleum, \$94 million, and zinc, \$71 million.

Saskatchewan. The value of production decreased by 32% from 1985 to \$2.6 billion, because of the low level, \$1.3 billion, for crude petroleum. Production of uranium was valued at \$447 million and coal, \$100 million.

Alberta. The value of production decreased by 35% to \$17.5 billion, with \$8.0 billion for crude petroleum, \$6.1 billion for natural gas, and \$1.8 billion for natural gas byproducts; all considerably below 1985 levels. Output of sulphur was \$874 million, and coal, \$438 million, both slightly lower than in 1985.

British Columbia. The value of mineral production was \$3.4 billion, down 4.9% from 1985 because of lower levels of energy commodities. Of this amount were the following: \$974 million for coal, \$667 million for copper, \$431 million for natural gas, \$257 million for crude petroleum and \$170 million for zinc.

Yukon. The 1986 value of mineral production was \$184 million. Production from the Faro Mine resumed during the year and, as a result, production value was up 205%.

Northwest Territories. Production was \$790 million, down 8.7% from 1985 because of the low level, \$111 million for crude petroleum. Output of zinc was \$350 million and gold, \$219 million, both slightly higher than the previous year.