

year, the Metals Week dealer price for molybdenum was US\$3.05/lb., but by year end the price had declined to US\$2.80/lb. In spite of somewhat negative market conditions, Canada's output of molybdenum in 1987 increased from 11 250 t in 1986 to 11 580 t and the value increased from \$90 million to \$93 million over the same period.

While asbestos production had been pressured by health concerns and shrinking demand over the past few years, the decline in production appeared to bottom out in 1987. Production levels were relatively unchanged from the previous year. In the agricultural minerals market, there was a rebound in potash consumption in Canada and in all of its export markets. Structural materials had a good year overall, riding on the residential construction boom.

## 10.2 Provincial and territorial summary

Excluding coal, oil, natural gas and gas byproducts, the value of Canadian mineral production in 1987 increased 17.5% over 1986. Metals increased 24.2%, structural materials increased 12.7%, but non-metals dropped 1.7%. Newfoundland registered a decrease in the value of mineral production, the result of lower values for iron ore, its major commodity. Exploration expenditures across Canada showed a marked increase, largely the result of renewed interest in gold, an improved geologic database resulting from projects carried out under the federal-provincial mineral development agreements, and tax incentives such as flow-through share funding.

**Newfoundland.** The value of mineral production totalled \$767 million in 1987, a 6.1% decrease from 1986. Iron ore accounted for 89% of this value. Exploration expenditures reached record levels of an estimated \$25 million, establishing renewed enthusiasm within the mining industry.

**Prince Edward Island.** Value of mineral (sand and gravel) production increased 9.3% to \$1.9 million.

**Nova Scotia.** The increase in the value of mineral production over 1986, not including coal and a small amount of crude petroleum, was 16% for an estimated \$219 million. Exploration expenditures reached a record level of more than \$50 million, reflecting the surge in gold interest.

**New Brunswick.** The value of mineral production, excluding fuels, increased by 41% to \$668 million; with \$295 million for zinc and \$84 million for lead. Potash was the major contributor in the industrial minerals sector.

**Quebec.** Value of mineral production reached a record level of \$2.5 billion, an increase of 15.4%

over 1986. The increased value was mainly attributable to higher gold prices. Exploration expenditures totalled nearly \$500 million, an increase of more than 90% over 1986.

**Ontario.** The value of output, excluding natural gas and crude petroleum, was \$5.6 billion, more than 17% greater than 1986. Gold, nickel, copper and uranium accounted for over 55% of the value. Ontario continues to be the top gold-producing province.

**Manitoba.** The value of mineral production, excluding crude petroleum, increased by 36.1% to \$909 million, of which \$386 million was for nickel, \$173 million for copper, and \$84 million for zinc. With several new gold mines in production, the value of gold increased by 70% over 1986 for a value of \$71.4 million.

**Saskatchewan.** The value of production, excluding coal, natural gas, natural gas byproducts and crude petroleum, increased 22.3% from 1986 to \$1.3 billion. Uranium accounted for \$612 million.

**Alberta.** Alberta produces only minimal amounts of metallics, non-metallics and structural materials which recorded a 15% decrease in value in 1987.

**British Columbia.** The 1987 value of production, excluding coal, natural gas, natural gas byproducts and crude petroleum, increased 20.9% over 1986, boosted by increases in copper (33.6%) and gold (49.5%). Record levels of exploration were recorded, with over \$130 million estimated for metals alone.

**Yukon.** The 1987 value of production was \$447 million, an increase of 154% over 1986. The lead-zinc-silver Faro mine approached its rated production capacity and gold values reached \$97 million, a 67% increase.

**Northwest Territories.** Value of production, excluding natural gas, natural gas byproducts and crude petroleum, increased 21.2% to \$810 million, largely the result of lead and zinc values which totalled \$560 million.

## 10.3 Commodity summary

As noted in the introductory section of this chapter, mineral fuels (oil, natural gas, coal and uranium) are reviewed in Chapter 11, Energy. Metals, non-metals and structural materials are presented in the following sections of this chapter.

### 10.3.1 Metals

**Copper.** In 1987, 767 300 t of copper were produced in Canada, valued at \$1.8 billion.