

In Quebec zinc production decreased 6.4% to 163,244 tons. Mining companies associated with Noranda Mines, Limited produced most of the zinc in Quebec. Mattagami Lake Mines Limited, the largest producer, mined 91,000 tons in 1972. Lake Dufault Division of Falconbridge Copper Limited increased zinc production to 19,109 tons after the first full year of production at the Millenbach Mine. Manitou-Barvue Mines Limited, which suspended operations at its Val d'Or mine in 1971, resumed production at a reduced rate in 1972. Orchan Mines Limited started production from a small deposit near Garon Lake. A relatively small amount of lead was produced.

In Ontario zinc production increased 8.0% to 394,891 tons. Ecstall Mining Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Texas Gulf Inc., operates Canada's largest zinc mine at Timmins. Production from the underground mine commenced in December and will increase until 1977 when open-pit mining operations are terminated. Geco Mines Limited recorded a substantial drop in production because of a two-month strike. Mattabi Mines Limited began production from its Sturgeon Lake property, which will produce 90,000 tons a year of zinc and some lead. Jameland Mines Limited and Kam-Kotia Mines Limited closed their mines in the Timmins area because of depletion of ore reserves. A relatively small amount of lead was produced, principally from Ecstall and Geco.

In Manitoba zinc production increased 82.5% to 45,607 tons. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited continued full production from nine mines in the Flin Flon and Snow Lake districts of Manitoba and Saskatchewan. The company closed the Flexar mine due to ore exhaustion and opened mines at White Lake and Ghost Lake. Development of the Centennial mine, a copper-zinc orebody, began in mid-July 1973. Sherritt Gordon Mines, Limited reduced production at its Fox Lake mine because of difficulties in mining the first underground pillar. The Ruttan copper-zinc mine of Sherritt Gordon started production in 1973. A small amount of lead was also produced.

In British Columbia zinc production decreased 12.2% to 134,174 tons and lead production decreased 21.2% to 97,575 tons. Cominco Ltd.'s Sullivan mine at Kimberley, the leading producer of lead and zinc in BC, produced ore at close to 1971 levels despite a three-week strike. The Bradina mine of Bradina Joint Venture commenced operations in 1972 and produced a copper and a lead-zinc concentrate. Western Mines Limited increased lead and zinc production as the Myra Falls mine began producing in 1972.

In the Yukon lead production increased 2.6% to 111,461 tons and zinc production increased slightly to 118,613 tons. Anvil Mining Corp. Limited, Canada's largest lead producer, improved metal recoveries and concentrate grades that were responsible for the larger output of lead and zinc in 1972 and commenced an expansion of its mill to be completed early in 1974. United Keno Hill Mines Limited decreased production because of depletion of ore reserves at two mines. Placer Development Limited discovered a significant zone of lead-zinc mineralization and extensive exploration and drilling of the deposit took place in 1973.

In the Northwest Territories lead production increased slightly and zinc production decreased 24.3%. Pine Point Mines Limited, the sole producer of lead and zinc, recorded lower production primarily because of the lower grade ore treated. Pine Point purchased two claims from Coralta Resources Limited containing known lead-zinc orebodies which will be mined over the next three years. Drilling continued on Little Cornwallis Island on one of Canada's richest lead-zinc orebodies held by Arvik Mines Ltd. of which Cominco Ltd. owns 75% of the stock and Bankeno Mines Limited 25%.

There were four zinc refineries in operation at the end of 1972. Canadian Electrolytic Zinc Limited in Quebec refined mostly concentrates from mines associated with Noranda Mines, Limited. Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting Co., Limited produced a record amount of refined zinc in 1972. Ecstall's zinc plant commenced production in the second quarter of 1972. Cominco's refinery operated at near capacity except for a strike period of one month. Cominco is currently expanding its capacity by 10,000 tons of refined zinc a year. Brunswick is converting its lead-zinc smelter to a lead smelter; it stopped producing zinc in January 1972.

The lead refinery of Cominco Ltd. at Trail, BC, with a capacity of 210,000 tons annually, and that of Brunswick Mining and Smelting Corporation Limited at Belledune, NB, with an annual capacity of 30,000 tons, were Canada's only producers of primary lead metal. The Belledune plant is being converted from an Imperial Smelting Process lead-zinc blast furnace to a conventional lead blast furnace processing lead concentrates only, with a capacity of 70,000 tons of refined lead annually.