

The Canadian mineral industry showed moderate growth in 1983 with an increase of output valued at \$2.2 billion.

The total value of mineral output of the four sections of the industry — metallics, non-metallics, structural materials and fuels — reached almost \$36 billion, compared to \$33.8 billion the previous year. Metallics, which showed a 20 per cent decrease in 1982, reached \$7.2 billion in 1983, an increase of 5.3 per cent. Output for non-metallics and structural materials totalled \$3.6 billion, down slightly from the previous year's figure. Fuels, by far the largest of the four sections, reached \$25 billion, an increase of 8 per cent over the 1982 level.

The ten leading minerals in 1983 were: petroleum, natural gas, natural gas byproducts, copper, coal, gold, iron ore, zinc, nickel and cement. All except natural gas, iron ore and cement increased the value of output in comparison to that of the previous year.

Canada is ranked third among world producers of minerals and first among exporters. The country's material stability is based in part on minerals, which are an important asset to the economy and contribute greatly toward Canada's standing internationally. Minerals and their derivatives are directly involved in the production of concrete and steel bridges, automobiles, construction materials, coins, telephones, metal containers and thousands of other durable or disposable items.

A main reason for Canada's leadership in world markets has been brought about by the efforts of the mineral industry work force — the research and exploration teams, those who work underground or in refining, as well as those who are involved in activities related to the industry, such as financing, transportation, marketing and technology. In fact, the mineral extraction and processing industries employ some 140 000 Canadians and provide related employment for another 600 000.

As the leading mineral exporter, Canada sells about 80 per cent of its production in both raw and processed forms to some 100 markets. Nearly all exports are processed into concentrates, many of which are smelted and refined.