

Mineral products can be divided into two groups, fuels and non-fuels. This paper discusses the occurrence and production in Canada of non-fuel minerals — metals like nickel and copper, and non-metals such as asbestos and potash.

With the world's second-largest land area, Canada ranks third among all nations in the value and diversity of its non-fuel mineral production. More than 50 commodities are produced from mining activities carried out in every part of the country, from coast to coast and from the southern border to the Arctic islands. In 1976, the total value of these commodities exceeded \$7.4 billion. The mining and mineral-processing industries employ more than 140 000 Canadians besides indirectly providing at least another 100 000 jobs.

Canada is a world leader in the volume of its production of many minerals. It is first in nickel, zinc and asbestos; second in potash, sulphur, gypsum, uranium and molybdenum (in the non-Communist world); third in silver, gold and the platinum metals; fourth in copper, aluminum and lead; and sixth in iron ore. The most important of these to Canada in their production value are nickel, copper, iron ore, zinc, aluminum, potash, gold, silver and asbestos.

More than half Canada's non-fuel mineral production is exported to over 90 countries throughout the world. Of this great volume, 66 per cent goes to the United States. Other major customers are the European Economic Community (EEC), which takes 16 per cent, and Japan, which receives nearly 10 per cent. In all, non-fuel minerals account for about 20 per cent of Canada's total exports.