

Among traditional open pit mines we can not forget to mention the two open pits of the Chuquicamata complex, which produces 43% of Chilean copper and 8% of world copper.

It is expected that open pit mining for copper production will increase its share from 61% to 66% of total operations; gold will increase from 63% to 69%; coal, from 41% to 59%. In the case of iron, where open pits are the only mass exploitation method, the situation will be maintained even though new operations like Los Colorados are initiated.

TABLE VIII
SHARE OF THE EXPLOITATION METHODS IN TOTAL MINING PRODUCTION TOWARDS THE YEAR 2000

	Copper Mt	Iron Mt	Gold t	Coal Mt
Open pit	1,550	10,000	24	2,200
Underground	800	0	11	1,500
TOTAL	2,350	10,00	35	3,700
% Open pit	66%	100%	69%	59%
% Underground	34%	0%	31%	41%

In addition to La Escondida, La Coipa and Choquelimpie, other deposits like Lince, Las Luces, Los Pelambres and Zaldívar (in copper), San Cristóbal, Refugio and La Pepa (in gold), are entering production and others like Los Bronces are being expanded. Other projects like La Candelaria, Quebrada Blanca, and Andacollo have been approved, and Rosario, Cerro Colorado, Zar-Iván and several others are under study. Most of them, as can be seen in Table X, are open pit exploitations.

The Main Open Pits.

In copper mining, 61% of total production comes from open pit mines. The main ones are the following:

TABLE IX
MAIN OPEN PITS

Chuquicamata (Codelco)	570,000 tons annually
Mina Sur de Chuqui (Codelco)	70,000
Quebrada M (Codelco/Salvador)	25,000
Sur Sur (Codelco/Andina)	65,000
Los Bronces (Disputada)	40,000
Mantos Blancos (Angloamerican)	36,000
La Escondida (RTZ, BHP)	330,000
Lo Aguirre (S.M. Pudahuel)	14,000
La Cascada (S.M. Pudahuel)	15,000
Carolina de Michilla (Luksic)	5,000
Santos (Phelps Dodge)	10,000
Lince (Outokumpu)	20,000
Los Bronces (Exxon)	90,000
TOTAL	1,290,000