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Canada's Pig Iron, Steel and Coal Production

OUTPUT of Steel Ingots and Castings Increased 42 per cent.; Pig Iron, 28 per cent.; and Coal, 8 per cent. This Year—Some Steel Ingots Made in Electric Furnaces—Largest Production on Record.

THE production of pig iron in Canada this year is estimated at 28 per cent. larger than that of 1915. There has also been a gain of 42 per cent. in the output of steel ingots and castings in the same period. These statements are made in a bulletin of the department of mines, Ottawa. The figures for the current year have been gathered by the department's division of mineral resources and statistics, in charge of Mr. John McLeish, B.A., F.S.S., who is to be highly commended for the invariable promptitude with which the Dominion's mineral production statistics are collected, tabulated and issued.

The records received from the producers show that the production of pig iron and of steel ingots and castings during the first eleven months of the year which together with estimates for December show a probable production of pig iron in Canada during the twelve months ending December 31, 1916, of 1,171,727 short tons (1,046,185 gross tons) and a probable production of steel ingots and direct steel castings of 1,454,124 short tons (1,298,325 gross tons), of which 1,423,485 short tons were steel ingots and 30,639 short tons were direct castings.

The production in 1916 during the first six months and monthly during the last six months was as follows, in gross tons:—

	Pig iron, gross tons.	Steel ingots, gross tons.	Direct castings, gross tons.	Total, gross tons.
Six months ending June ...	501,872	577,999	11,715	589,714
July	82,154	101,178	2,284	103,462
August	78,450	108,889	2,299	111,188
September ...	91,736	116,828	2,524	119,352
October	101,436	126,577	2,924	129,601
*November ..	95,237	119,468	2,745	122,213
†December ...	95,300	119,930	2,865	122,795
Six months ending December	544,313	692,970	15,641	708,611
Twelve months ending Dec..	1,046,185	1,270,969	27,356	1,298,325

*Partly estimated. †Estimated.

The production of pig iron in 1915 was 913,775 short tons and of steel ingots and castings 1,020,896 short tons, showing, as noted above, an increase in the production of pig iron in 1916 of about 28 per cent. and an increase in production of steel ingots and castings of over 42 per cent.

The 1916 production was greater than that of any previous year, the second largest production of pig iron having been 1,128,967 short tons in 1913 and of steel ingots and castings 1,168,993 short tons also in 1913.

Of the total production of steel ingots and castings in 1916, about 43,790 short tons (39,098 gross tons) were made in electric furnaces. In 1915 only 61 short tons were reported as having been made in electric furnaces.

The Dominion department of mines has received from the principal coal operators in Canada, returns of their production for ten months supplemented in most cases with estimates for November and December.

On the basis of the record available, it is estimated that the total production of coal in Canada, during the calendar year 1916 will approximate 14,365,000 short tons (equivalent to 12,825,892 gross tons). The estimate is believed to be fairly close for Nova Scotia and British Columbia. In Alberta, however, there are so many small operators that final returns may show a wider variation from the estimates now made.

By provinces, the estimate is as follows, the figures for 1915 being included for comparison:—

Estimated Coal Production in Canada, 1916 (Short Tons).

	Production of coal, 1915.	Production of coal, 1916.	Increase or decrease.
Nova Scotia	7,463,370	6,950,000	— 513,370
New Brunswick ..	127,391	135,000	+ 7,609
Saskatchewan ...	240,107	260,000	+ 19,893
Alberta	3,360,818	4,400,000	+ 1,039,182
British Columbia ..	2,065,613	2,620,000	+ 554,387
Yukon	9,724
Totals	13,267,023	14,365,000	+ 1,097,977

Increase in Coal Output.

The 1916 production exceeded that of the two previous years, the increase over 1915 being about 8 per cent. Nova Scotia is apparently the only province that has not made an increased production, the decline in this province being a little less than 8 per cent. The increase in Alberta is nearly 32 per cent. and in British Columbia nearly 27 per cent. The production in New Brunswick, Saskatchewan and British Columbia is the highest on record. No estimates are available yet as to the Yukon output.