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In the Edmonton region, there is a phosphate fertilizer plant and a nickel refinery. The Vancouver area has several mineral processing plants and three bulk shipping terminals that cater to the export and import of minerals.

### **Export Orientation**

The degree of export dependency varies from commodity to commodity, some approaching 95 per cent of domestic output. The proportions of Canada's major minerals and metals earmarked for export are shown in Table 3.1. It should be noted that in addition to the actual tonnage of coal exported, most of which goes to offshore markets, some coal is in effect exported to the United States in the form of electricity generated at coal-burning power plants.

Export markets are also crucial to many of the lower volume minerals and metals produced in Canada. More than three quarters of Canada's output of the following are exported: magnesium, platinum, calcium, strontium, cesium, columbium (niobium), molybdenum, tantalum, tin, tungsten, selenium, tellurium, yttrium, graphite, fluorspar, nepheline syenite and pyrophyllite. Between one half and three quarters of the following are exported: cadmium, cobalt, gypsum, mica and sodium sulphate. For the minerals and metals industry as a whole, more than three quarters of Canada's output is exported (volume basis).

The United States is by far the most important export market, accounting for almost 60 per cent of Canada's mineral and metal exports. Japan is a distant second. The European Community, which traditionally was the second largest export market, dropped to third place in 1985 with only eight per cent of Canada's mineral and metal exports. Canadian minerals and metals are exported to some 90 countries.

Despite Canada's export orientation for minerals and metals, the industry also buys substantial raw materials from abroad (see Table 3.5). The United States accounted for 71 per cent of Canada's mineral and metal imports in 1986. Metallurgical grade and thermal coal for the Ontario market and phosphate rock for making fertilizers are two of the larger volume commodities acquired from the United States. Gold is also imported for refining in Canada. The extent of bilateral trade in minerals and metals reflects the high degree of industry integration and complementarity in North America.