

COMPETITIVENESS PROFILE OF CANADA'S MINERALS AND METALS SECTOR

Scope of Sector

Canada's mineral and primary metals sector in 1984 employed 1.5 per cent of the workforce, accounted for about 3 per cent of our GDP, about 4 per cent of new capital investment, and about 48 per cent of rail freight loadings. It produces some 50 commodities. Mining takes place in every province and territory, except Prince Edward Island where extraction is confined to sand and gravel operations. Some 175 Canadian communities are dependent upon mining, smelting and refining; they range in size from Sudbury with a population of 100,000 to Flin Flon with 10,000 inhabitants, and Canada's most northerly townsite of Polaris with 280 fly-in, fly-out temporary residents. Some industries in the sector are almost totally domestically oriented, whereas others are export oriented with as much as 95 per cent of output being sold abroad. As a whole, about one half of output is exported. Although generally regarded as a world mineral exporter, Canada is deficient in several commodities and relies on imports. The principal statistics for the sector are as follows (the sector includes uranium but excludes coal, petroleum and natural gas):

<u>MINERALS & METALS SECTOR*</u>	<u>1980</u>	<u>1981</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>1983</u>	<u>1984(E)</u>
Establishments	706	684	656	614	634
Employment	193,720	191,772	171,061	160,300	165,350
Shipments (\$000,000's)	23,600	23,522	19,662	20,804	24,724
Exports (\$000,000's)	11,685	11,923	9,561	10,068	11,795
Domestic shipments (\$000,000's)	11,915	11,599	10,101	10,736	12,929
Imports (\$000,000's)	4,255	3,587	2,677	3,218	3,501
Canadian Market (\$000,000's)	16,170	15,186	12,778	13,954	16,430
Exports - % of shipments	49.5%	50.7%	48.6%	48.4%	47.7%
Imports - % of Domestic Market	16.3%	23.6%	21.0%	23.1%	21.3%
<u>REGIONAL DISTRIBUTION - 1984</u>	<u>ATLANTIC</u>	<u>QUEBEC</u>	<u>ONTARIO</u>	<u>WEST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Establishment - % of total	8.7	38.1	29.7	23.5	100%
Employment - % of total	6.4	25.4	47.4	20.8	100%
Shipments - % of total	7.8	23.6	41.7	27.0	100%
<u>FOREIGN TRADE</u>	<u>USA</u>	<u>EEC</u>	<u>JAPAN</u>	<u>OTHERS</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Imports - % of total 1981	77.4	2.5	1.3	18.8	100%
1982	71.6	4.6	2.0	21.8	100%
1983	72.3	4.3	2.0	21.4	100%
1984(E)	71.7	5.6	2.1	20.6	100%
Exports - % of total 1981	52.8	19.6	8.7	18.9	100%
1982	49.2	19.6	9.5	21.7	100%
1983	53.4	17.5	9.5	19.6	100%
1984(E)	56.7	15.1	9.6	18.6	100%

* Includes Metal Mines (SIC 051,052,057,058,059), Nonmetal Mines (SIC 071, 072,073,079), Structural Materials (SIC 083,087), Nonferrous Smelting and Refining (SIC 295), and Primary Iron and Steel Mills (SIC 291).