Mineral exploration plays a key role in ensuring the long-term viability of Canada’s mining industry and sustaining the supply of minerals and metals we use in our daily lives.


Intentions for 2022 point to a 3% increase of mineral exploration spending to $3.7 billion.

Canada is anticipated to become the leading jurisdiction in 2022 on higher spending for precious metals (mostly gold) accounting for 61% of the spending in 2022.

Precious metals (mainly gold) are the most sought-after commodities in Canada, accounting for 61% of the spending in 2022.

In 2021, Quebec was the leading jurisdiction in spending followed by Ontario, then British Columbia. These three provinces accounted for more than 3/4 of total expenditures.

Ontario is anticipated to become the leading jurisdiction in 2022 on higher spending for precious metals (mostly gold)

Precious metals includes rare earth elements, lithium, and cobalt, which are commodities used in many advanced technologies.

Exploration expenditures are defined as the search for, discovery, and first delimitation of a mineral deposit or the re-evaluation of known deposit up to preliminary economic assessment.

Deposit appraisal expenditures include activities to bring a delimited deposit to the stage of pre-feasibility or final feasibility studies in support of a production decision.

Totals may be different because of rounding.

For more information on the Canadian mining industry, visit the Minerals and Metals Facts website at nrcan.gc.ca/minerals-metals-facts.

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