Canadian Mineral Exploration

**Mineral exploration by province and territory**

In 2020, Ontario was the leading jurisdiction in spending followed by Quebec, then British Columbia. These three provinces accounted for almost 3/4 of total expenditures. Quebec is anticipated to become the leading jurisdiction in 2021 on higher spending for precious metals (mostly gold).

**Mineral exploration by province and territory**

Spending by mineral

Precious metals (mainly gold) are the most sought-after commodities in Canada, accounting for 70% of the spending in 2021.

**Key indicators**

- 2021 Spending intentions: $2.9B
- Precious metals (mainly gold) are the most sought-after commodities in Canada, accounting for 70% of the spending in 2021.

**Spending trends**

Junior and senior companies

- **Junior companies**: play an important role in the discovery and development of mineral projects.
  - 2020 (vs 2019)
    - 29% of the projects
    - 51% of the expenditures

- **Senior companies**: play an important role in developing and operating mines:
  - 71% of the expenditures
  - 49% of the companies

**Spending by mineral**

Precious metals are the most sought-after commodities, accounting for 70% of the spending in 2021.

**Source:** Natural Resources Canada’s Survey of Mineral Exploration, Deposit Appraisal, and Mine Complex Development Expenditures. Quebec data are compiled by l’Institut de la statistique du Québec.

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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