Canadian Mineral Exploration

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. Mineral exploration and deposit appraisal expenditures were $2.1 billion in 2019, declining 16% compared to 2018.

Intentions for 2020 point to a 2% increase of mineral exploration spending to $2.1 billion.

Spending by mineral

Precious metals (mainly gold) are the most sought-after commodities in Canada, accounting for about 60% of the spending.

Precious metals

Base metals

Uranium

Other metals

Diamonds

Non-metals

Coal

Iron ore

In 2019, Ontario was the leading jurisdiction in spending followed by Quebec, then British Columbia. These three provinces accounted for almost 2/3 of total expenditures.

2018 Canada total $2.5B

2019(p) Canada total $2.1B

2020(si) Canada total $2.1B

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

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