

Mineral exploration

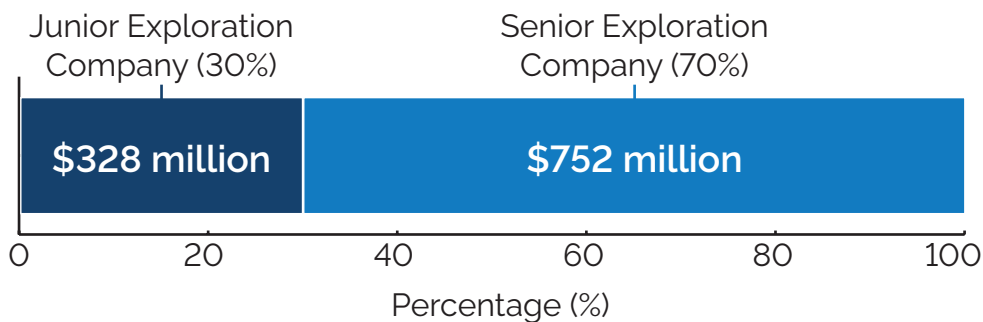
Ontario 2026

Highlights

Ontario is a world-class mining jurisdiction and is among the top 10 jurisdictions in the world for mineral exploration spending. Ontario is one of the leading producers of gold, copper, nickel and platinum group elements.

In 2025, gold was the most sought-after mineral in Ontario, with exploration spending of \$807 million totaling 75% of the province's total exploration spending.

Exploration spending in 2025



Value of exploration spending in 2025:

\$1,080 million

Exploration spending by mineral

Mineral	Exploration spending (\$ million)	Percentage (%)
Gold	807	75
Base metals*	230	21
Other critical minerals (platinum group elements (PGE), lithium (Li), cobalt (Co), etc.)**	42	4
Other non-critical minerals (silver (Ag), iron (Fe), diamond, etc.)***	2	>1
Total	1,080	100

* Base metals include: copper (Cu), nickel (Ni) and zinc (Zn).

** Other critical minerals include the remaining minerals on the Ontario critical minerals list.

*** Other non-critical minerals excludes gold and all other minerals on the Ontario critical minerals list.

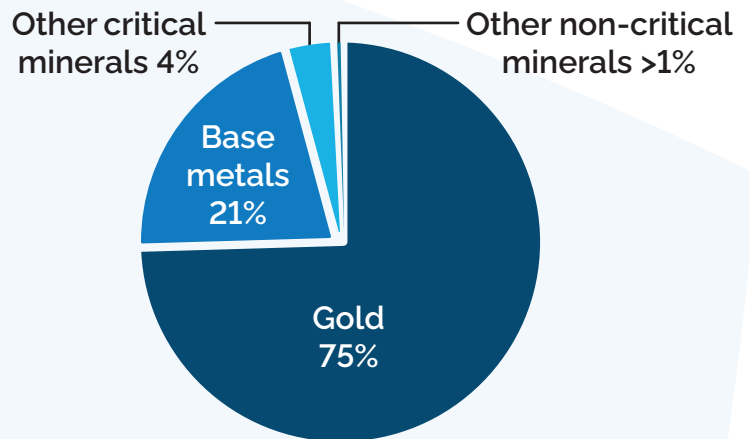
Note: Data was aggregated to preserve confidentiality, numbers may not add up due to rounding.

Source: Natural Resources Canada

Exploration spending by mineral, including critical minerals

Ontario is well-positioned to be a global supplier of critical minerals with our vast supply of minerals, processing capabilities and world-class mining supply and services sector.

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Mining lands activity



Did you know?

You can acquire and register mining claims, obtain or renew a prospector's licence and maintain your mining lands online 24/7 through the Mining Lands Administration System (MLAS).

More than
379,000

Number of active mining claims in Ontario as of December 31, 2025.

World's largest mining capital market: TSX & TSX-V

Toronto, Ontario is the mining finance capital of the world.

The Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) and Toronto Venture Exchange (TSX-V) list more mining companies than any other exchange with over 1,000 listed in 2025. The Toronto Stock Exchange and Toronto Venture Exchange are first among exchanges worldwide in equity capital raised and are home to about 40% of the public mining companies in the world.

All monetary values are in Canadian dollars.
This information is accurate to May 25, 2026

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For more information about Ontario's mineral resources:



Ontario.ca/MineralSector
mineralsinfo@ontario.ca
+1 888 415-9845