



NEWS RELEASE

Value of Mineral Production Rises in NWT and Nunavut

Yellowknife, NT (March 19, 2012) – Natural Resources Canada has released its ***Preliminary Estimate of the Mineral Production of Canada, by Province, 2011.***

In the NWT, the value of diamond production from its 3 diamond mines increased by approximately \$40 million over 2010, and tungsten increased significantly after Cantung mine re-opened after the recession. In Nunavut, gold and silver production from its only mine, Meadowbank, increased by nearly \$100 million in part because 2010 marked the opening of the mine and was a partial year of production.

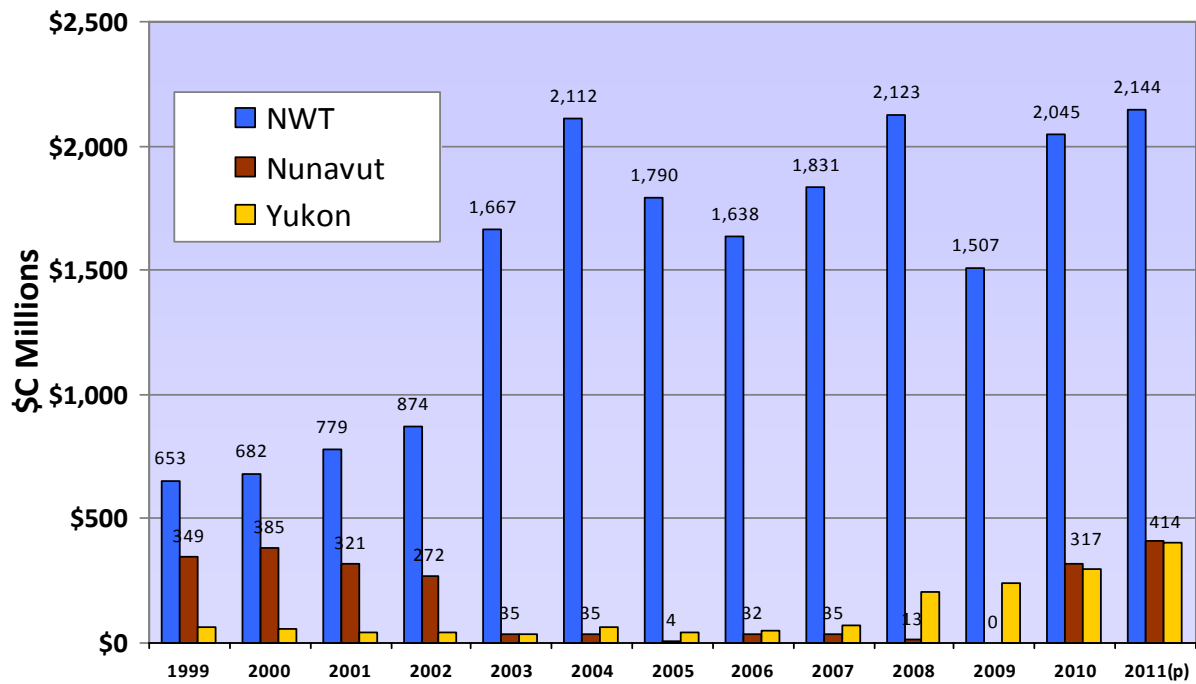
“The NWT mines have turned their production value into significant employment, business and tax benefits for the territory and for Canada. Similarly, Nunavut is benefiting from its new gold mine, and additional proposed mining projects have the potential to contribute as significantly to Nunavut as do the mines in the NWT,” says Pam Strand, President of the NWT & Nunavut Chamber of Mines.

Following are the 2011 preliminary estimates and 2010 revised estimates for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut:

	2011(p)	2010	2009	2008
Northwest Territories				
Diamonds	\$ 2,069.630m	\$ 2,029.468m	\$ 1,447.940m	\$ 2,056.656m
Tungsten	\$ 62.478m	\$ 7.370m	\$ 48.378m	\$ 61.862m
Copper	\$ 2.018m	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	\$ 0m
Sand & Gravel	\$ 2.174m	\$ 1.620m	\$ 5.545m	\$ 1.700m
Stone	\$ 7.750m	\$ 6.340m	\$ 4.706m	\$ 3.252m
Total NWT	\$ 2,144.051m	\$ 2,044.797m	\$ 1,506.569m	\$ 2,123.469m
Nunavut				
Gold	\$ 411.937m	\$ 316.183m	\$ 0m	\$ 0m
Silver	\$ 2.053m	\$ 0.957m	\$ 0m	\$ 0m
Diamonds	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	\$ 0m	\$ 12.654m
Total Nunavut	\$ 413.989m	\$ 317.140m	\$ 0m	\$ 12.654m

For more information on the NWT and Nunavut mining industries, please visit the website at www.miningnorth.com or contact Tom Hoefer, Executive Director at Tel: 867-873-5281 or email: executivedirector@miningnorth.com.

NWT, Nunavut and Yukon Mining Production



Natural Resources Canada – March 2012

Source of these production statistics is Natural Resources Canada at:
<http://mmsd.mms.nrcan.gc.ca/stat-stat/prod-prod/ann-ann-eng.aspx>