

# BC Mining Economic Impact Study

May 2025

**MABC**

**BC MINING**  
**SECURING OUR**  
**ECONOMIC FUTURE**

**The Mining Association of BC's (MABC) 2025 Economic Impact Study assesses the potential economic impact of 27 critical mineral, precious metal, and steelmaking coal mining projects under development in BC. The study builds on an independent analysis commissioned by MABC in 2024 that assessed the economic impact of 17 proposed critical mineral mines.**

## Mining Benefits all British Columians

Mining benefits all British Columians, supporting more than **35,000 jobs** and nearly **4,000 small, medium and First Nations businesses** in every region of the province.

The industry accounts for **\$18 billion in annual economic activity** and almost 30 per cent of the province's goods exports. There are currently **11 metal mines, five steelmaking coal mines** and **two smelters** operating in BC. The province has long been a key global mining jurisdiction, and home to one of the largest concentrations of mining and exploration companies and industry expertise in the world.

British Columbia's critical mineral, precious metal and steelmaking coal producers have among the lowest carbon footprints globally. We are world leading suppliers of responsibly produced materials that are essential for technologies like EV batteries, smartphones, MRI scanners, wind turbines, and jet engines. **BC has 16 of the 34 critical minerals on Canada's critical minerals list**, including aluminum, molybdenum, nickel, and zinc, and is Canada's leading producer of copper and steelmaking coal, second largest producer of silver, and only producer of molybdenum.

## Securing BC's Economic Future, Resiliency and Long-term Prosperity

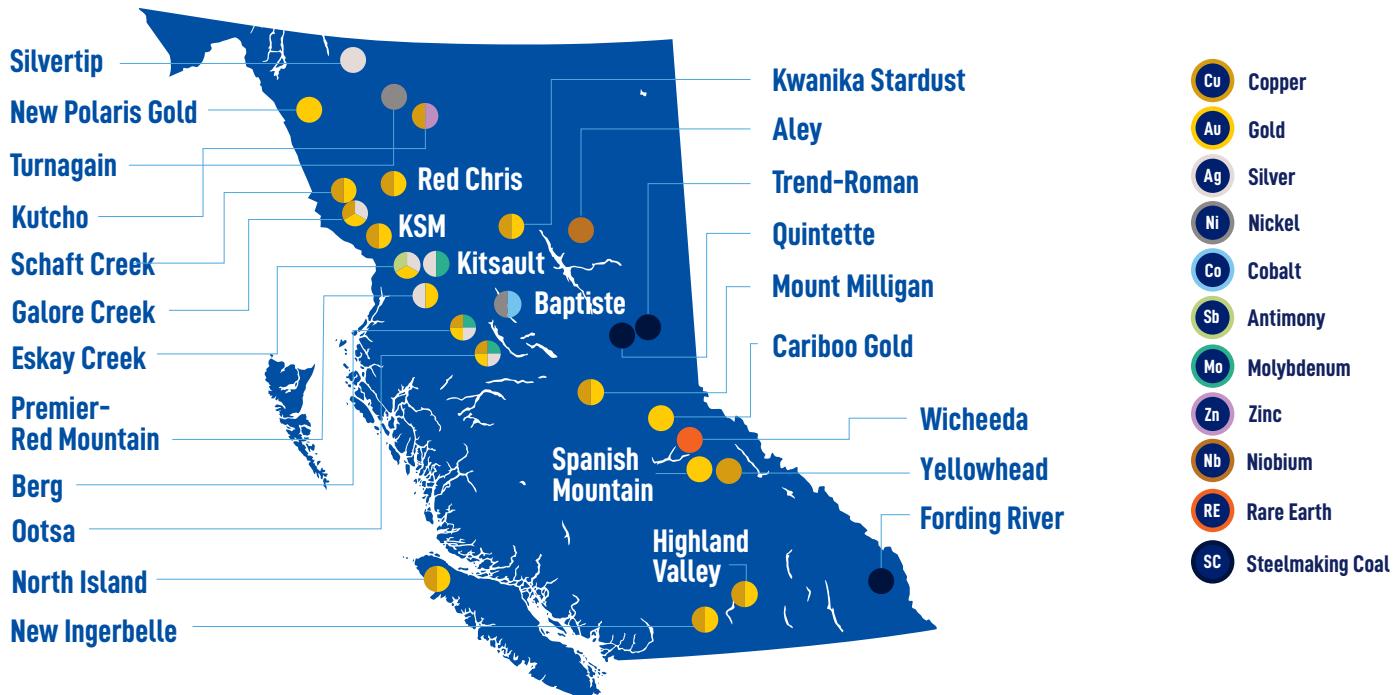
MABC's 2025 Economic Impact Study assesses the potential economic impact of 18 proposed critical mineral mines, six precious metal mines, and three steelmaking coal mines. The study demonstrates that at a time of global economic uncertainty and volatility, the successful development of these projects will deliver urgent, essential and lasting benefits – jobs for BC workers, stability for communities, and economic security and resilience for the whole province.

Of the 27 projects assessed, 21 are new mining projects and 6 are extensions to existing mines. All are considered advanced development projects. Some are in the feasibility and design phase, others are preparing to enter the regulatory process or are in the early stages of a regulatory review, while others are nearing the end of their reviews. Data for the study, conducted by Mansfield Consulting, were collected from interviews, technical reports, economic assessments, and feasibility studies published by the proponents and available on the SEDAR website.



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# Construction of 27 BC Mining Projects: \$90 billion in Economic Activity



The development and construction of these mines represents a potential near-term investment of over \$41 billion that could generate approximately \$90 billion in economic activity for British Columbians.

The long-term economic activity associated with their operations over several decades could reach \$984 billion.

## 18 proposed new critical minerals mines



## 6 precious metal mines



## 3 steelmaking coal mines



# Evaluating the Economic Impact of Future BC Mining Projects

## Development and Construction

While the proposed projects still require regulatory approvals, the analysis finds the combined, estimated near-term economic impacts occurring during the development and construction of the 27 projects includes:

- Investment of over \$41 billion
- Economic output of \$90 billion
- GDP of \$43 billion
- 340,683 person-years of total employment delivering nearly \$27 billion in total labour income
- Tax revenues of more than \$12 billion

Each mine project would take approximately three years to construct, representing an average investment of \$1.7 billion, creating over 13,100 person-years of employment and over \$1 billion in labour income, while generating over \$471 million in total tax revenue.

## CRITICAL MINERAL MINES: 18

- Investment of \$37 billion
- Economic output of \$81 billion
- GDP of \$39 billion
- 306,303 person-years of total employment, generating labour income of \$24 billion
- Tax revenues of \$11 billion

## PRECIOUS METAL MINES: 6

- Investment of nearly \$3 billion
- Economic output of more than \$6 billion
- GDP of \$3 billion
- 24,323 person-years of total employment generating labour income of \$1.9 billion
- Tax revenues of \$873 million

## STEELMAKING COAL MINES: 3

- Investment of more than \$1.2 billion
- Economic output of more than \$2.7 billion
- GDP of \$1.3 billion
- 10,057 person-years of total employment generating labour income of \$785 million
- Tax revenues of \$362 million

## Ongoing Operations

The combined estimated long-term economic benefits created by the 27 mines' ongoing operations over several decades include:

- Economic output of \$984 billion
- GDP of \$506 billion
- 2,673,792 person-years of total employment, with labour income of \$214 billion
- Tax revenues of \$222 billion

According to the study, each of the 27 mines reviewed would generate an average GDP of \$19.4 billion during their respective mine life, which averages 20 years. Each mine would on average support 102,838 person-years of employment and \$8.5 billion in labour income, while generating \$7.3 billion in total tax revenue for all levels of government.

Over 80 per cent of the economic benefits from the proposed mining projects would accrue to British Columbia, with nearly 20 per cent benefiting other parts of Canada.

## The Supply Chain Impacts of Future BC Mining Projects

A large BC-based supply chain involving thousands of small, medium, and Indigenous-affiliated businesses provides goods and services to BC's operating mines and smelters. In 2022, BC's mining industry spent \$3.7 billion purchasing goods and services from close to 4,000 BC-based businesses located in 200 municipalities, towns and First Nations communities.

MABC's 2025 Economic Impact Study estimates the impacts construction and operation of 27 new mining projects would have on BC's extensive mining supply chain.

The estimated impact from the construction of 27 new mines and mine extensions on BC's mining supply chain during the three-year construction period would include:

- \$20 billion in spending on goods and services from mining suppliers located across the province.
- \$9 billion in spending on goods and services from mining suppliers located in the municipalities and urban centres of Southwest BC & Vancouver Island.
- \$797 million in spending on goods and services in Northeast BC; \$1.4 billion in Northwest BC; \$1.5 billion in the Central Interior; and \$7 billion in the Southern Interior.

The estimated impact from the ongoing operation of 27 new mines and mine extensions on BC's mining supply chain would include:

- \$9.9 billion in annual spending on goods and services from mining suppliers located across the province.
- \$4.5 billion in annual spending on goods and services from mining suppliers located in the municipalities and urban centres of Southwest BC & Vancouver Island.



- \$404 million in annual spending on goods and services in Northeast BC; \$723 million in Northwest BC; \$770 million in the Central Interior, and \$3.6 billion in the Southern Interior.

## The Supply Chain Impacts on First Nations-affiliated Businesses

BC's mining sector advances economic reconciliation with First Nations through employment, partnerships, benefits agreements, revenue sharing, and actively procuring goods and services from First Nations-affiliated businesses.

In 2022, 150 First Nations-affiliated businesses — associated with 20 First Nations or First Nations development corporations — sold \$520 million in goods and services to BC's mines and smelters, accounting for over 14 per cent of the BC supply chain spend.

- The ongoing operation of 27 new mines or mine extensions could enable \$1.4 billion in annual spending on goods and services from First Nations-affiliated businesses throughout BC.

## Putting British Columbians to Work

British Columbia, like much of the world, is facing unprecedented economic uncertainty and volatility. The whipsawing effect of U.S. tariffs on Canada's auto sector and steel, aluminum and lumber exports poses an extraordinary threat to our economy. Meanwhile, the global trading system that has underpinned international commerce since the Second World War is in disarray. Trade wars are a new reality.

This all comes at a time when our provincial economy is already slowing; consumers and businesses are dealing with rising costs, and we face a provincial deficit of more than \$11 billion with mounting debt.

These developments threaten the essentials BC's economy provides for citizens —well-paying jobs, stable communities, and vital public services like healthcare, education, and housing.

To secure our future, Canada and B.C. must take bold steps to assert our economic sovereignty and ensure long-term prosperity.

By developing BC's critical minerals, precious metals, and steelmaking coal resources, the province's mining sector can provide billions of dollars in economic development and thousands of well-paying jobs.



## Permit to Prosperity: Taking Urgent Action

The responsible development of BC's critical minerals, precious metals and steelmaking coal can help secure BC's economic future, creating resiliency and long-term prosperity. It's time to get it done. Key to this is:

### 1. Accelerating Permitting

Taking immediate action to grow BC's economy by accelerating the permitting and approval of mines. Reducing permitting timelines dramatically to a few years—while maintaining world-class environmental protection — can be a competitive advantage for BC that will support small, medium, and First Nations businesses and communities, workers, and families throughout the province.

### 2. Supporting First Nations Capacity

Providing funding to ensure First Nations have the governance, administrative, and technical capacity to participate in reviews of major mining projects. This will foster strong partnerships, advance economic reconciliation, and enable more timely permitting. The mining sector also offers a tangible opportunity to accelerate economic reconciliation through First Nations partnerships.

### 3. Investing in Electrical Infrastructure

Expanding BC's electrical grid and improving road and rail access to support the development of new mines and the expansion of existing ones. critical mineral projects throughout the province are vital. These investments are essential for advancing decarbonization, strengthening communities, and ensuring long-term economic stability and stability.