



**MINING MAKES
BC STRONGER**

The Mining Association of BC's (MABC) *2026 Mining and Metro Vancouver Economic Impact Study* assesses the economic impacts of BC's 18 operating mines and two smelters in the Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island region based on 2024 data. The study also examines the potential economic impact of future BC mines and mine extensions province-wide. The study can be found [here](#).

The *2026 Mining and Metro Vancouver Economic Impact Study* confirms three central economic facts.

1. Mining Powers the British Columbia Economy

The sector supports tens of thousands of jobs and generates billions of dollars in annual gross domestic product (GDP) and public revenues. The industry is foundational and one of the province's largest and growing economic engines. Relative to the scale of the industry, mining punches well above its weight.

2. Mining Creates Jobs and Boosts Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island's Local Economies

The industry's economic impacts are realized province-wide. Urban, rural, and First Nation communities benefit through the supply chain, business services, and household spending. Employment impacts are similarly widespread. Every 10 jobs at a mine site generates approximately six jobs in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island and 12 jobs elsewhere in the province. In short, every 10 jobs on a mine site results in 18 additional jobs elsewhere in BC.

3. Future Mine Development Presents Major Economic Opportunities for BC

British Columbia has 31 new mines or mine extensions at advanced stages of development. If these projects are 'green-lit,' they could generate hundreds of thousands of new jobs and billions in additional economic activity, potentially doubling the industry's size and economic impact over the next decade with substantial benefits flowing to Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island.



Economic Impact of Mining and Smelting Across BC

Mining's capital intensity, export focus, and extensive BC-based supply chain drive economic multipliers well exceeding other industries.

A defining feature of the sector is the scale of its impact relative to the number of operations. A small number of operations (just 18 operating mines and two smelters) producing critical minerals, precious metals, and steelmaking coal generate substantial economic activity directly and indirectly through the BC-based supply chain.

Mining has a small physical presence but a large economic impact. New data from MABC show that in 2024 mining **directly generated:**

- **\$19.6 billion** in economic output (revenue)
- **\$12.2 billion** in GDP
- **21,300 jobs**
- **\$3.9 billion** in government revenues

Mining operators invest heavily in machinery, equipment, and a wide range of goods and services purchased from businesses throughout BC. When supply-chain effects and worker household spending are included, **mining's total economic contribution increases to:**

- **\$27.8 billion** in output
- **\$17.1 billion** in GDP
- **56,200 jobs** and **\$5.4 billion** in labour income
- **\$5.7 billion** in government revenues

Mining's employment and income impacts are well distributed across the province. The industry created:

- **21,300 direct jobs** at mine and smelter sites (rural and remote locations with smaller physical presence)
- **12,300 jobs in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island**, and **22,500** more off-site jobs elsewhere throughout BC.

Put simply, mining's benefits extend well beyond mine sites, supporting employment and economic activity throughout BC, with significant potential for growth, generating new, long-term economic opportunities.

For every 10 jobs at a mine site approximately six more are generated in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island and another 12 in other communities around the province. In total 10 jobs at a mine come with another 18 jobs around the province.

Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island Benefit from BC Mining and Smelting

While mining largely happens in the North, the Interior and Kootenays, the economic activity generated boosts Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island's economies as well as creating jobs dispersed throughout the province. Metro Vancouver is major corporate headquarter hub where junior miners, mineral explorers, mine suppliers, and a broad range of professional service providers support the industry. Since the 1960s and the growth of large-scale mining in BC, Vancouver has become a leading centre of mining excellence, with a global presence that exceeds our relatively small population and geographic footprint.

To better understand the regional impacts of mining, MABC's *2026 Mining and Metro Vancouver Economic Impact Study* examines mining's impact in Metro Vancouver and on Vancouver Island. **The study finds that, despite having no mines, Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island account for approximately 20 per cent of the total economic benefits generated by mining in BC.**

These benefits arise through:

- Head office, corporate and professional service functions (direct impacts)
- Procurement from equipment suppliers and services including engineering, geoscience, legal, accounting, transportation, etc. (indirect impacts)
- Household spending supported by mining-related income (induced impacts)

The study uses data from Statistics Canada and other government agencies and published company materials to estimate jobs and income connected to mining headquarters. It also uses MABC's [One Province, One Economy — Benefits of British Columbia's Mining Supply Chain](#) report to determine regional spending on business inputs.

In Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island about 12,360 jobs are supported by BC's mining industry. Twenty-two per cent of all mining-related employment in the province is in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island. The study shows the economic impacts of mining in the region are substantial. In 2024, in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island mining generated:

- **\$3.5 billion** in output
- **\$2.1 billion** in GDP
- **12,363 jobs** and **\$963 million** in labour income
- **\$705 million** in government revenues

Within the region, economic benefits are largest in the City of Vancouver, with forty per cent of the region's mining-related jobs. This is followed by North Vancouver (21%), Burnaby (13%), Delta (8%) and Vancouver Island (5%).

Total Economic Impacts Realized in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island from BC Operating Mines and Smelters by Community (2024)

	Total Output (millions)	Total GDP (millions)	Total Labour Income (millions)	Total Jobs	Total Federal Revenues (millions)	Total Provincial Revenues (millions)	Total Municipal Revenues (millions)
Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island region	\$3,548	\$2,089	\$963	12,363	\$363	\$283	\$58
Vancouver	\$1,756	\$1,051	\$418	4,894	\$294	\$197	\$56
North Vancouver	\$616	\$357	\$187	2,568	\$173	\$155	\$22
Burnaby	\$397	\$230	\$121	1,656	\$66	\$44	\$12
Delta	\$230	\$133	\$70	957	\$42	\$28	\$8
Surrey	\$131	\$76	\$40	547	\$24	\$16	\$5
Langley	\$95	\$55	\$29	395	\$14	\$9	\$3
Other Metro Vancouver	\$148	\$86	\$45	615	\$10	\$7	\$2
Vancouver Island	\$175	\$101	\$53	729	\$16	\$11	\$3

METRO VANCOUVER IS A Mining Headquarters

There are 65 well-capitalized and established mining companies based in Metro Vancouver listed on the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) including Ivanhoe Mines, Lundin Gold and Teck Resources. Many are based in BC but operate globally. These companies have a combined market cap of \$386 billion and make up 37 per cent of TSX-listed mining companies. On the TSX Venture Exchange, there are 588 early-stage or junior mining and exploration companies, such as Defense Metals or Surge Copper, that are based in Metro Vancouver, with a combined market cap of \$57.2 billion. There are 304 junior miners based in Metro Vancouver listed on the Canadian Securities Exchange with a combined market cap of \$6.2 billion. In total, there are approximately 957 publicly listed mining and junior mining companies headquartered in Metro Vancouver with a combined market cap of \$449 billion.

METRO VANCOUVER Hosts a Diverse Mining Supply Chain

In Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island, BC's mining sector is serviced by a diverse supply chain and world class pool of talent. More than 1,125 mine suppliers are in Metro Vancouver and 152 on Vancouver Island. Mining supply companies in the region fall into four categories, including: consulting; technical and support services; parts, utilities, and equipment; and, and capital resources. Mining suppliers provide well-paying, family-supporting jobs and support and sustain local communities.

METRO VANCOUVER IS A Global Mining Hub and Centre of Excellence

The financing, legal, accounting, engineering, environmental and other professional services that have developed around mining and mineral exploration have made Vancouver a global mining centre. Vancouver is home to one of the largest concentrations of industry-related professionals in the world, supporting BC mining and exporting expertise and services internationally. There are more than 11,000 professional engineers living and working in Metro Vancouver, including mechanical, metallurgical, chemical, civil, and mining engineers, among other disciplines. More than 1,690 professional geoscientists live and work in BC, largely in Metro Vancouver.

“Vancouver has become a city that has one of the largest population bases of mining professionals on the planet.”

— Rick Rule, investor and former President and CEO, Sprott U.S. Holdings

Supply Chain Case Studies

Industrial Equipment Manufacturing and Structural Wear Products

Powering BC Mining and Skeena's Eskay Creek Project



About: IEM, founded in 1953, is a key supplier to mines across BC and beyond, specializing in bulk material handling systems like conveyors and feeders for moving ore across a mine site.

Location: Headquartered in Surrey, BC

Employees: 55

Mine supplied: Building conveyors for Skeena Gold + Silver Eskay Creek Project in Tahltan Territory, southwest of Iskut.

Economic Contribution: IEM generates ~ \$20-30M in revenue and spends ~ \$12M with local Metro Vancouver businesses.



MABC

**MINING MAKES
BC STRONGER**

Family-owned Supplier of Wear and Impact Steel to BC's Mining Industry



About: Structural Wear Products (SWP) is a family-owned and operated wear plate and parts distributor. While SWP was founded 12 years ago, the Kirby family has been actively supplying BC's mining industry since 1982.

Location: Operates a ~75,000 sq ft shop in Pitt Meadows, BC.

Employees: 34

Mine supplied: Providing Hubday's Copper Mountain mine (and others) with quench and tempered wear plate used for haul truck boxes, shovels, and dozer blade liners, as well as fixed plant.

Economic Contribution: Working with ~35 local suppliers and service providers, representing ~\$4 million in annual spend. Company revenue is ~\$18 million annually.



MABC

**MINING MAKES
BC STRONGER**

Future Economic Impact of BC Mines Across the Province

Mining offers British Columbians a major opportunity for future long-term growth, especially with the economy facing increasing challenges, limited growth, and decreasing investor confidence. The province's economy is slowing, with weak private sector investment and job creation. The forest sector—once BC's most prominent industry—is declining. Mining can 'meet the moment' by providing one of the biggest employment and economic opportunities British Columbians will see in a lifetime. Today, the industry is poised for transformative growth. British Columbia has the potential to unlock billions in near-term economic activity by supplying the critical minerals and vital materials that Canada and its allies need.

The *2026 Mining and Metro Vancouver Economic Impact Study* identifies 31 proposed mines or mine extension projects—including critical mineral, precious metal, and steelmaking coal mines—in advanced stages of development or considered likely to proceed. On average, each project involves approximately three years of construction followed by nearly two decades of operation.

- Over an average 3.1-year construction period, a typical BC mine development, with an average investment of \$1.5 billion, would generate \$2.6 billion in economic output, \$1.3 billion in GDP, and \$413 million in government revenue. Construction would generate \$779 million in paycheques for workers.
- Over its average lifetime of 19.3 years, a single mine's operations would deliver \$27.6 billion in economic output, \$16.2 billion in GDP, and \$5.7 billion in government revenue. Workers would receive \$6 billion in pay cheques.

When examined on a collective basis, the 31 projects are expected to generate:

Construction

- Economic output of \$79 billion
- GDP of \$40.6 billion
- 286,195 jobs with \$24 billion in labour income
- Government revenue of \$12 billion

Ongoing Operations

- Economic output of \$858 billion
- GDP of \$503 billion

- 2,022,763 jobs with \$187.8 billion in labour income
- Government revenue of \$176.9 billion

Combined (Construction and Operations)

- Total economic output of \$938 billion
- Total GDP of \$543.2 billion
- Total labour income of \$212,026 million
- 2,308,957 total jobs with labour income of \$212 billion
- Total government revenue of \$189.7 billion

The construction and operations of these mines generate massive cumulative impacts extending over three to four decades and perhaps longer.

Under a **modest scenario** in which construction begins on four new mines each year between 2027 and 2030 and continues at that pace afterwards, 12 mines would be under construction and four new mines would be operating in 2030. In 2030 alone this activity would generate:

- An additional \$5 billion in GDP for the BC economy
- 25,400 more jobs for British Columbians
- An additional \$1.7 billion in government revenues, including \$768 million for the provincial government

Proposed Mines / Mine Extension Projects



Baseline Scenario: 12 Mines Under Construction And 4 New Operating By 2030

Number of New Mines	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Started	0	4	4	4	4	4	4	4	2	1
Under Construction	0	4	8	12	12	12	12	12	10	7
Completed	0	0	0	0	4	8	12	16	20	24

Impacts	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	2031	2032	2033	2034	2035
Total Additional GDP, Millions	\$0	\$1,689	\$1,689	\$1,689	\$5,050	\$8,411	\$11,772	\$15,132	\$17,649	\$20,587
Total Additional Jobs	-	11,912	11,912	11,912	25,436	38,959	52,482	66,006	73,573	84,118
Additional Government Revenues	\$0	\$533	\$533	\$533	\$1,716	\$2,898	\$4,081	\$5,264	\$6,180	\$7,230
Federal Revenue	\$0	\$306	\$306	\$306	\$885	\$1,465	\$2,044	\$2,624	\$3,050	\$3,553
Provincial Revenue	\$0	\$204	\$204	\$204	\$768	\$1,333	\$1,898	\$2,462	\$2,925	\$3,438
Municipal Revenue	\$0	\$23	\$23	\$23	\$62	\$101	\$139	\$178	\$205	\$238

If the pace of new mine development continued at four per year through 2033 (before slowing to two then one in 2033 and 2034 respectively), mining-related GDP could double by 2034 while the number of jobs generated would more than double (rising 2.3-fold because of construction activity and supply chain effects). Government revenues would be \$6.2 billion higher, with \$2.9 billion going to the province.

While this scenario may be ambitious, examining the flow of future annual impacts that new mines would bring highlights the opportunity cost of lengthy permitting and authorization processes. Enhancing efficiency of regulatory agencies and boosting First Nations capacity could accelerate permitting and deliver billions of dollars of economic activity, thousands of additional jobs, and substantially increased public revenues.



Future Economic Impact of BC Mines in Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island

Substantial economic impacts from construction and operation of new mines across BC will extend to Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island.

In the region, the cumulative economic impacts of the 31 proposed mining projects during their construction and operating years (22.4-years) would generate:

- **Total economic output of \$159 billion**
- **Total GDP of \$91 billion**
- **More than 22 per cent of the jobs created would be in the region, providing \$42 billion in pay cheques**
- **Total government revenue of \$30.5 billion, with \$1.8 billion flowing to municipalities**

The construction and ongoing operation of one mine outside of Metro Vancouver and Vancouver Island would deliver the following economic benefits within the region:

- **Total economic output of \$4.6 billion**
- **Total GDP of \$2.2 billion**
- **\$1.2 billion in pay cheques**
- **Total government revenue of \$888 million**

Under the development scenario above where BC builds four new mines per year through 2027 to 2030, the region could see an additional \$600 million in GDP and 5,600 new jobs by 2030.

Mining Makes BC Stronger

Mining represents one of BC's most significant opportunities for economic growth and long-term prosperity. Realizing this opportunity will depend on accelerating mine permitting and authorizations to enable timely final investment decisions leading to mine construction and operations.

Government has an opportunity and a responsibility to set the conditions for success including:

1. Accelerating permitting

Lengthy and complex permitting processes remain the primary barrier to new mine development, by delaying investment, job creation, and government revenues. Progress is being made, but there's much more work to do to build on recent momentum and drive systemic change and durable improvements in the major mine permitting process so it becomes a competitive advantage for BC.

2. Restoring certainty and supporting First Nations capacity

Regulatory and land access uncertainty—particularly following recent court decisions—has increased investment risk. Strengthening certainty and ensuring adequate funding for First Nations capacity building will be critical to advancing projects and supporting First Nation partnerships.

3. Investing in skills and workforce development

Expanding the mining sector will require thousands of additional skilled and professional workers, including tradespeople, equipment operators, engineers, and geoscientists. The Mining Industry Human Resources Council estimates 5,000 to 12,000 additional workers will be needed over the next decade — a number that far exceeds historical growth in BC mining's workforce.

Conclusion

Mining is a province-wide industry and a central pillar of British Columbia's economy. Its benefits are broadly distributed, supporting jobs, incomes, public revenues and a high quality of life across the province.

Unlocking more of the province's mineral resources is a significant opportunity to secure a better economic future and make BC stronger. New projects are essential to achieve higher levels of prosperity.

Read MABC's 2026 Mining and Metro Vancouver Economic Impact Study [here](#).

