

# Monthly Mineral Production Survey, June 2021

Released at 8:30 a.m. Eastern time in *The Daily*, Monday, August 23, 2021

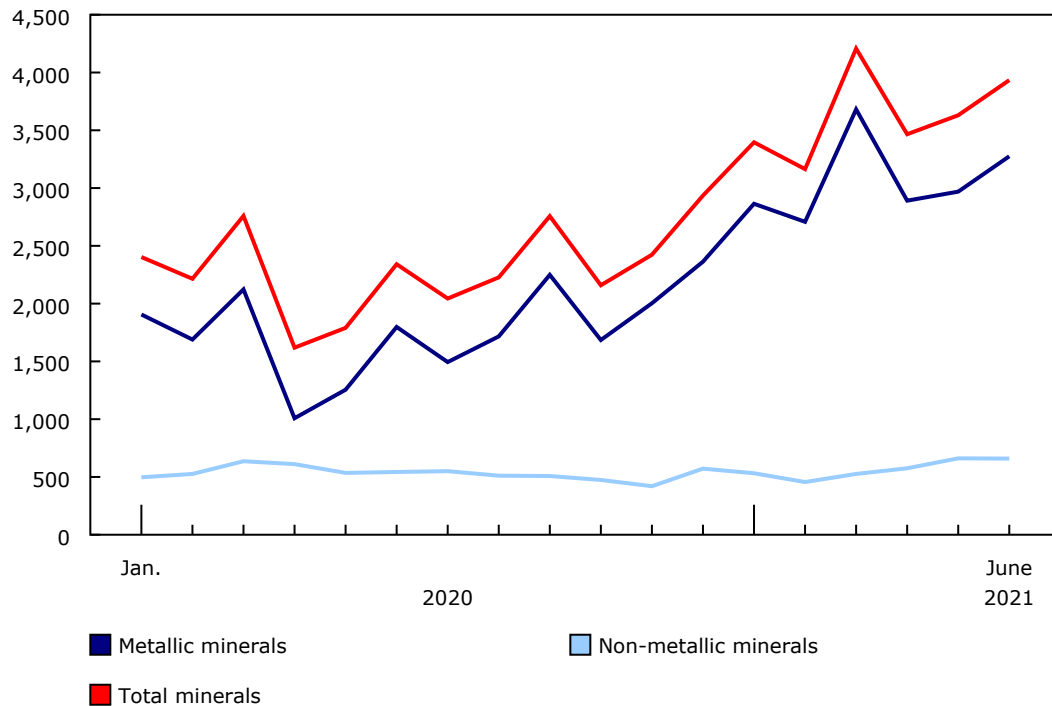
## Total value of shipments of minerals driven by increase in value of shipments of metallic minerals

The total value of shipments of minerals showed a decrease in April, followed by two consecutive monthly increases. The total value of minerals shipped declined 17.6% in April to \$3.47 billion from March, driven by a decrease in metallic minerals. In May, the total value of shipments of minerals rose 4.7% to \$3.63 billion, led by an increase in the value of shipments of both metallic and non-metallic minerals. Finally, the value of shipments of metallic minerals saw a large increase (+10.3%) in June, which more than offset a slight decrease in non-metallic minerals. This resulted in an 8.4% increase of the total value of shipments of minerals.

Overall, the total value of shipments of minerals nearly doubled in the second quarter of 2021 compared with the same period in 2020. Higher shipment values for gold, iron ore and copper were mainly responsible for the gain.

**Chart 1**  
**Total value of shipments of minerals**

millions of dollars



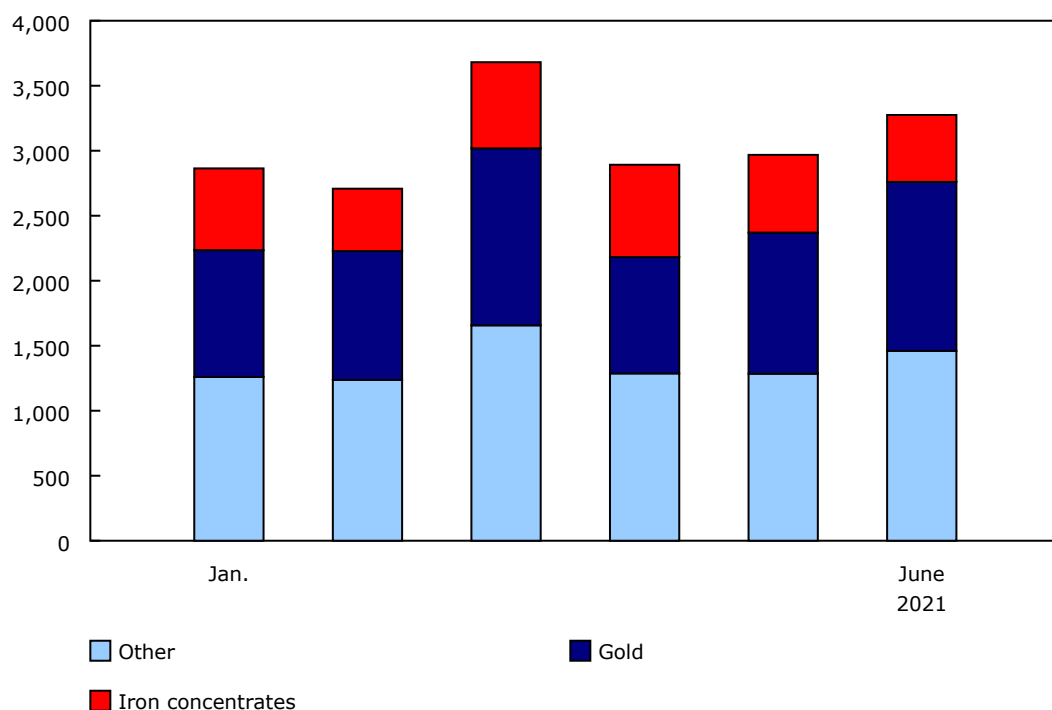
Source(s): Table 16-10-0021-01.

## Shipment values of metallic minerals reach highest levels since beginning of 2020

The value of metallic minerals shipped decreased 21.5% to \$2.89 billion in April. While iron concentrates showed an increase in the value of shipments (+7.0%) in April, decreases in the majority of commodities, including gold (-34.3%), silver (-28.6%) and copper (-20.1%), led to the overall decline observed in the value of metallic mineral shipments in the month. The increases registered in the shipment values of metallic minerals in May and June were attributable to multiple commodities, with gold being the largest driver in both months (+21.3% in May, +19.8% in June). The overall value of metallic mineral shipment levels in the second quarter of 2021 was more than double than in the same quarter in the previous year.

**Chart 2**  
Value of shipments of metallic minerals

millions of dollars



Source(s): Tables [16-10-0019-01](#) and [16-10-0021-01](#).

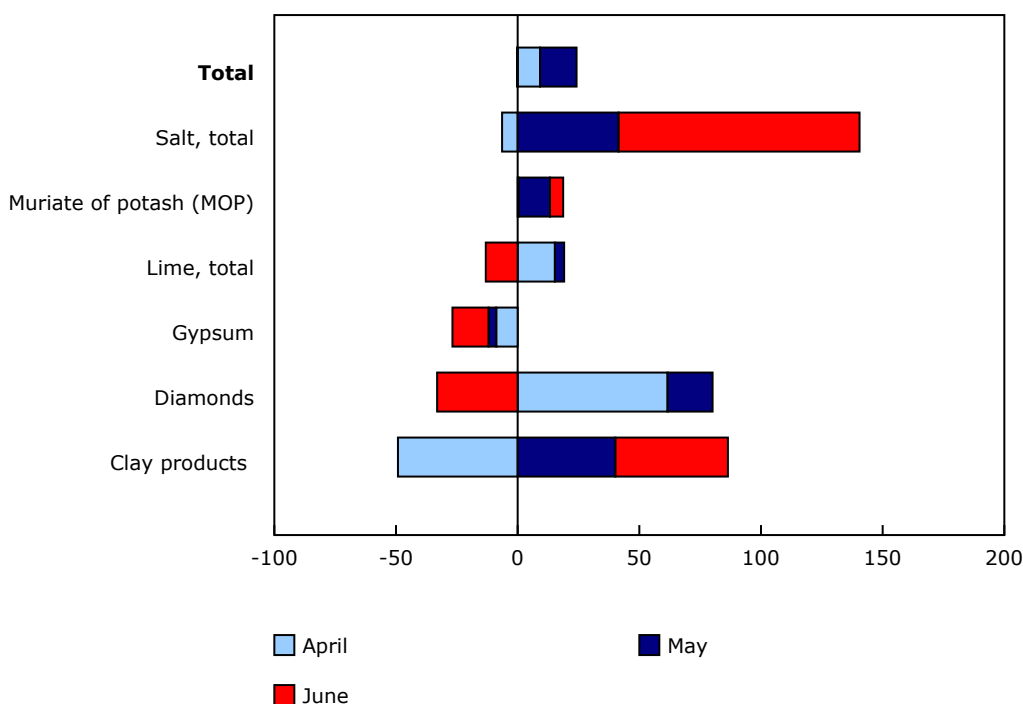
## Production of iron concentrate drives decline in overall metallic mineral production

During the second quarter, iron concentrate production fell by 382.1 million kilograms, with a 6.4% decline in April and a 19.0% drop in May. An increase of 21.8% (or +829.7 million kilograms) in iron concentrate production in June was not enough to offset the decline registered during the two previous months. Copper production also saw a decrease of 12.1 million kilograms over the same period, with a decrease of 23.7% in the month of June. After posting a strong gain (+20.2%) in April, nickel production saw large drops in both May (-20.2%) and June (-20.5%) for an overall decline of 3.0 million kilograms. The production of zinc dropped significantly in June (-25.5%), following large growth (+33.8%) the previous month, for an overall decline of 773 683 kilograms over the period.

## Value of non-metallic mineral shipments rebounds

The value of shipments of non-metallic minerals saw two consecutive increases in April (+9.2%) and May (+15.0%), followed by a slight decrease in June (-0.2%), for an overall increase of \$133 million during the second quarter. The shipment values of clay products decreased by nearly half in April, while increases in diamonds (+61.6%) and, to a lesser extent, lime products (+15.3%) countered the decrease. In May, the increase in non-metallic shipment values continued, mainly as a result of a second consecutive monthly increase (+18.5%) in the value of diamonds shipped, as well as strong growth of 12.9% in muriate of potash (MOP) shipment values. The value of shipments of muriate of potash (+5.4%) and salt (+99.0%) showed the largest gains in absolute change during the month of June, which partly offset decrease in diamonds (-33.1%), lime products (-13.1%) and gypsum (-14.8%).

**Chart 3**  
**Month-to-month change in the shipment value of non-metallic minerals, as a percentage**



Source(s): Tables [16-10-0020-01](#) and [16-10-0021-01](#).

## Production of salt increases, while potash production declines

The production of non-metallic minerals increased in April (+7.4%) and stabilized in May (+0.3%), but was followed by a decrease in June (-10.4%). During the second quarter, salt production increased by 504 772 metric tonnes, particularly as a result of a strong surge in April (+60.7%). Potash showed the largest decline in production of non-metallic minerals (-444 584 metric tonnes) over the period, leading to an overall decline of 114 011 metric tonnes in the production of non-metallic minerals compared with the previous quarter.

### Note to readers

The Monthly Mineral Production Survey estimates the production, shipments and inventories of Canada's leading minerals. This survey covers several metallic minerals (including copper, gold, iron ore, lead, nickel, silver and zinc) and non-metallic minerals (including diamonds, gypsum, potash and salt).

The Monthly Survey of Smelters and Metal Refineries covers smelters and metal refineries for a variety of base metals, including copper, lead, nickel and zinc.

The Monthly Mineral Production Survey is conducted as part of the Integrated Business Statistics Program and the Minerals and Metals Production Statistics Program modernization initiative.

Data from the Monthly Mineral Production Survey and the Monthly Survey of Smelters and Metal Refineries are released every month and a detailed review is released every three months, in the month ending the quarter.

Data are not seasonally adjusted.

Data for the two previous months are subject to revision based on late responses. Data for April and May 2021 have been revised with this release.

Data prior to 2020 can be found on the [Production of Canada's Leading Minerals](#) page of the Natural Resources Canada website.

Unless otherwise stated, metallic mineral production and shipments refer to recoverable content from concentrates, whereas metallic mineral inventories refer to concentrates. The value and quantity of iron ore shipments include iron agglomerates and concentrates, while iron ore production only refers to iron concentrates.

Non-metallic mineral shipment and production quantity exclude diamonds, given that it is measured in carats.

The value of shipments facilitates comparison between mineral commodities since the units of measure of quantities produced or shipped vary dramatically from one mineral to another (iron in millions of tonnes versus diamonds in carats).

**Available tables:** [16-10-0019-01](#) to [16-10-0021-01](#) .

**Definitions, data sources and methods:** survey numbers [5238](#) and [5247](#) .

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact us (toll-free 1-800-263-1136; 514-283-8300; [STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.infostats-infostats.STATCAN@canada.ca)) or Media Relations (613-951-4636; [STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca](mailto:STATCAN.mediahotline-ligneinfomedias.STATCAN@canada.ca)).