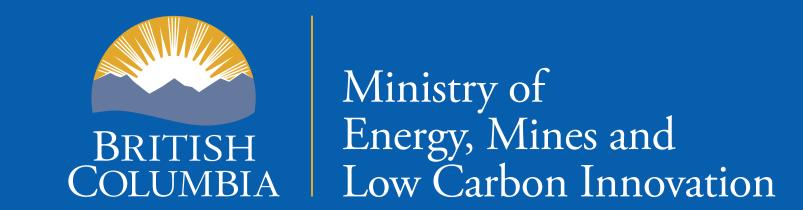
# Exploration and mining in British Columbia, 2020

Gordon Clarke<sup>1, a</sup>
Mineral Development Office, British Columbia Geological Survey,
Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation,
300-865 Hornby Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 2G3
Gordon.Clarke@gov.bc.ca



#### Overview

British Columbia is Canada's largest exporter of coal, leading producer of copper, and only producer of molybdenum. Also produced are significant amounts of gold, silver, lead, and zinc, and more than 30 industrial minerals including gypsum, magnesite, limestone, and dimension stone. Numerous quarries produce sand and gravel or crushed aggregate.

Flanked by the Pacific Ocean, British Columbia offers easy access to global markets. Mine operations benefit from tax incentives and a well-developed infrastructure, including low-cost electricity, an integrated road and rail network, and large deep-water ports. Exploration benefits from an extensive geoscience database and a web-based mineral tenure system.

Despite the Covid-19 pandemic, provincial mining production and exploration expenditures improved in 2020 relative to 2019.

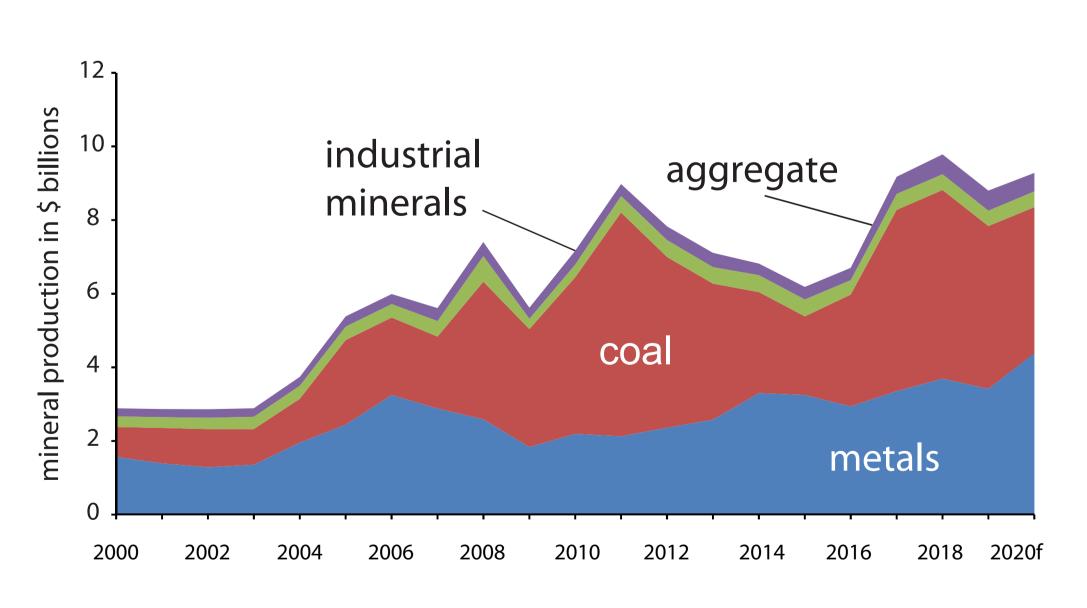


#### Regional Geologists

The Regional Geologists monitor exploration and mining activities and provide information about exploration trends, possible investment opportunities, land use processes, First Nation capacity building, and public outreach. Since 1993, the Regional Geologists reported to regional office directors. In 2020, the Regional Geologists were repatriated to the British Columbia Geological Survey as part of the Mineral Development Office.

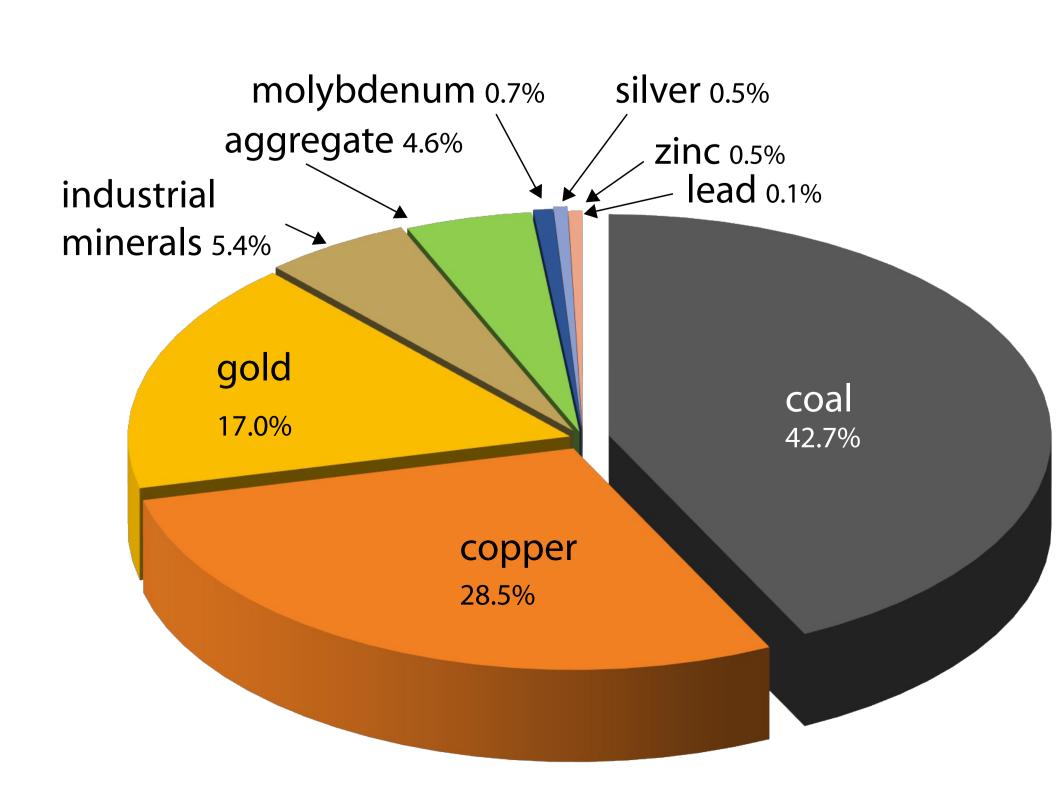


#### Mine production



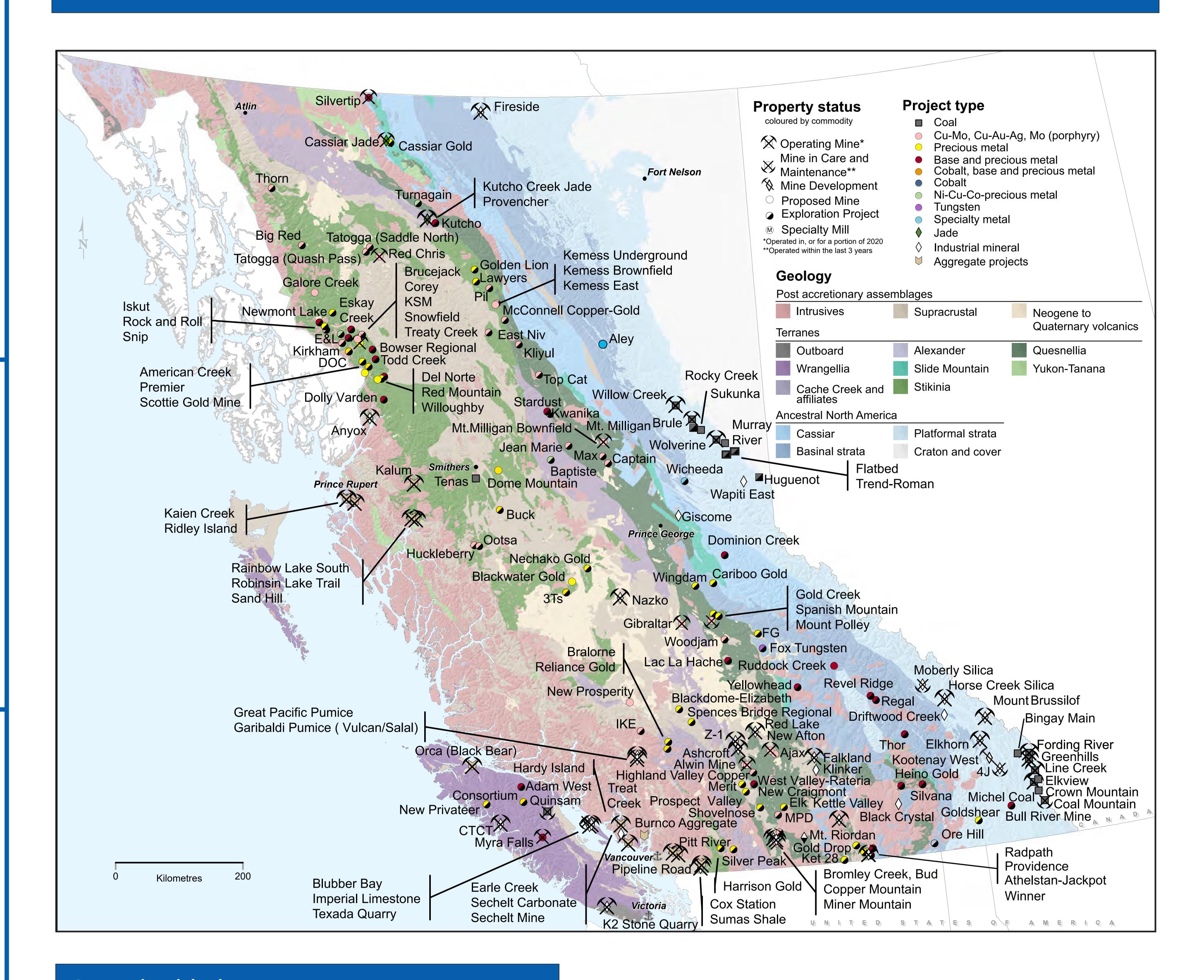
In 2020, nine metal mines operated during at least part of the year. Metallurgical coal was produced at four large open-pit operations in the southeastern part of the province and three open-pit operations in the northeastern part. About 30 industrial mineral mines and more than 1000 aggregate mines and quarries were in operation.

The forecast total value of mine production for 2020 is \$9.28 billion. This is an increase relative to 2019, mainly due to increases in gold and copper prices.



Coal accounted for 42.7%, followed by copper at 28.5% and gold at 17%.

## Mines, mine development, selected proposed mines, and selected exploration projects



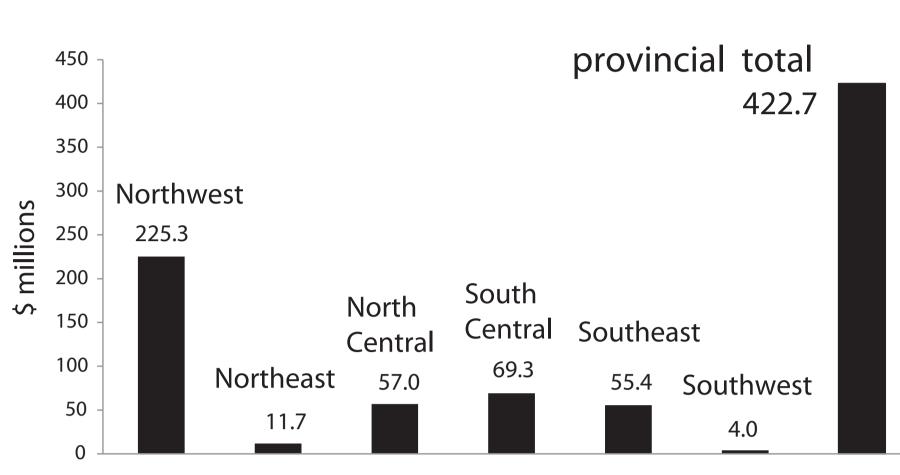
# Some highlights

- Artemis Gold Inc. acquired the Blackwater Gold project from New Gold Inc. for approximately \$210 million. The project has both provincial and federal environmental assessment approval. BW Gold Ltd. (a wholly owned subsidiary of Artemis) plans to move the project forward with construction starting in Q2, 2022.
- Serengeti Resources Inc. and Sun Metals Corp. entered into an agreement whereby Serengeti would acquire all issued shares of Sun Metals. The transaction would consolidate the contiguous coppergold exploration and development assets of the Kwanika and Stardust projects. A financing of \$10.35 million connected with the merger transaction was completed.
- Seabridge Gold Inc. purchased the Snowfield deposit (Measured and Indicated resources of 25.9 Moz Au, 75.8 Moz Ag, 2.98 Blbs Cu, 258.3 Mlbs Mo, and 22.5 Moz Re) from Pretium Resources Inc. for \$100 million US.

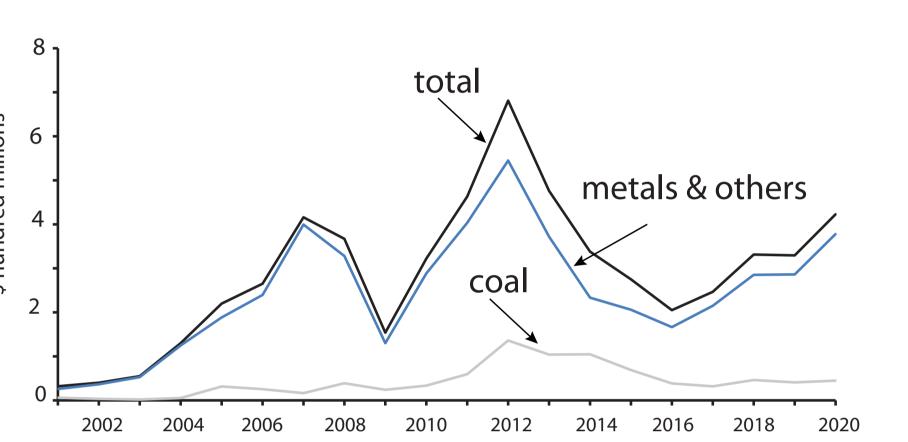
- Resource definition infill drilling at the Red Chris mine (Newcrest Mining Limited) confirmed several discrete high-grade pods in the East zone. Highlight assays included 514 m grading 1.3 g/t Au and 0.77% Cu including 166 m grading 3.0 g/t Au and 1.5% Cu (from hole RC634).
- Drilling at the Treaty Creek project (Tudor Gold Corp. 60%, Teuton Resources Corp. 20%, American Creek Resources Ltd. 20%) included near-surface intersections of 348 m grading 2.04 g/t Au and 4.13 g/t Ag within 930 m of 1.07 g/t Au and 2.80 g/t Ag (drill hole GS-20-65) and 229.5 m grading 1.34 g/t Au and 11.94 g/t Ag within 775.5 m of 0.84 g/t Au and 5.47 g/t Ag (drill hole GS-20-73).
- Drilling at the MDP project (Kodiak Copper Corp.) intersected 282 m grading 0.70% Cu and 0.49 g/t Au. Complete results for the hole included 535.1 m of 0.49% Cu and 0.29 g/t Au. Another hole had similar results at a depth of 308 to 500 m.

#### Expeditures

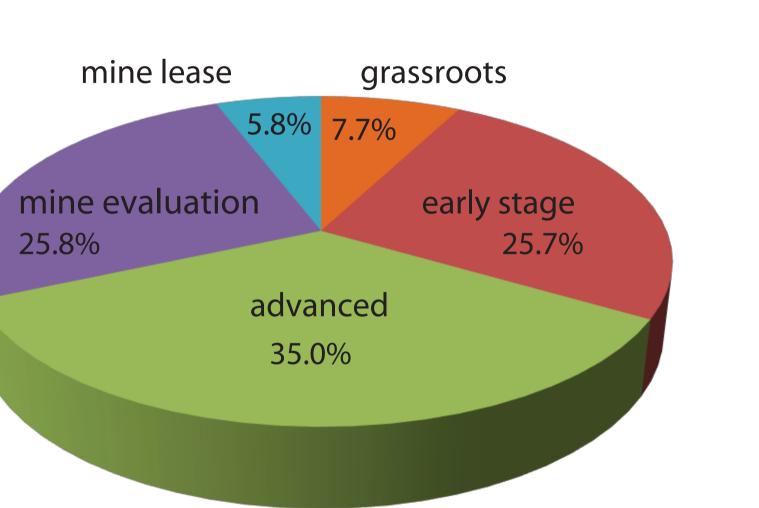
Total metal, industrial mineral and coal exploration expenditures are estimated at \$422.7 million for 2020, up \$93.2 million from the 2019 survey total of \$329.5 million.



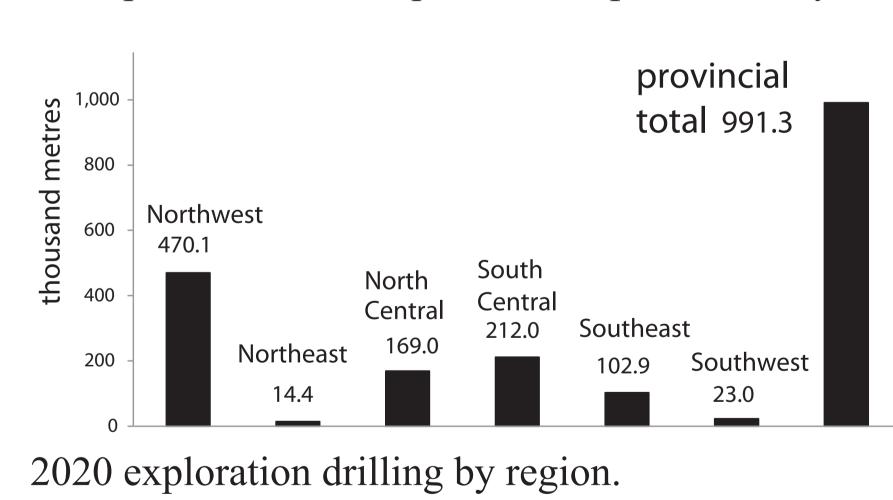
2020 exploration expenditures by region.



Province-wide exploration expenditures per year, by type.



2020 province-wide exploration expenditures by category.



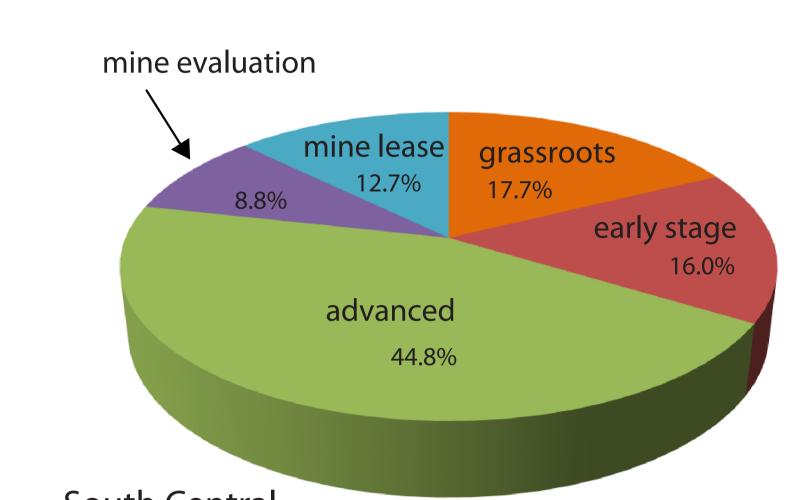
mine lease 0.6%

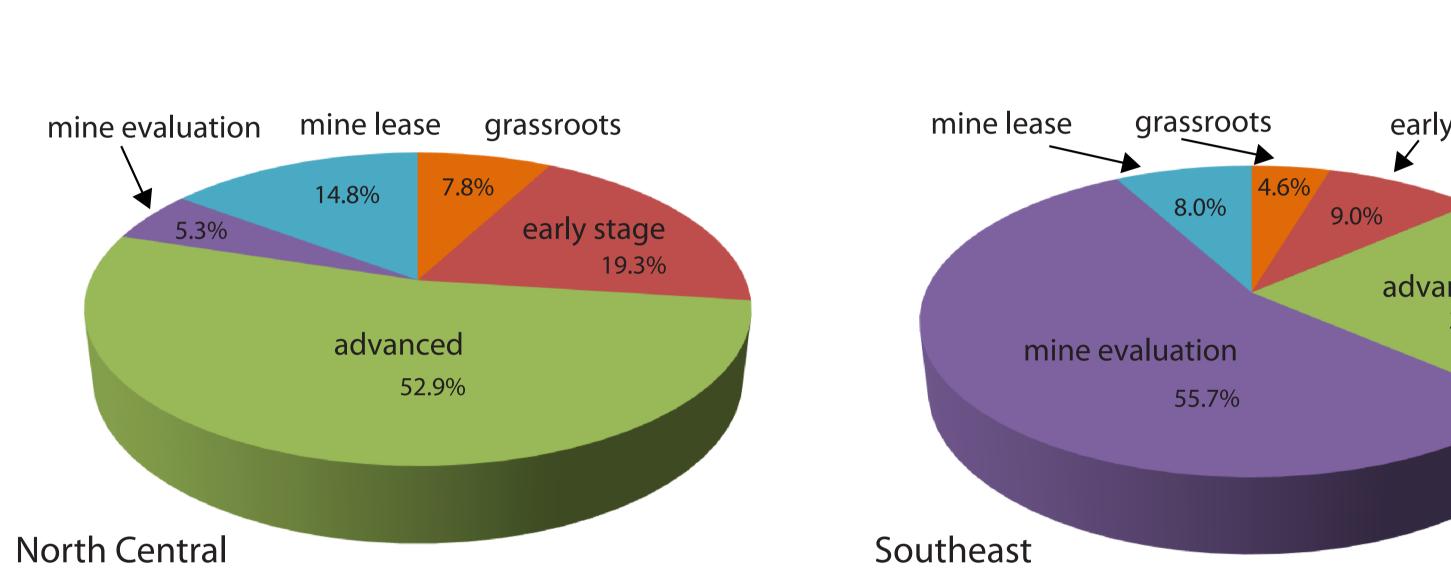
4.8%

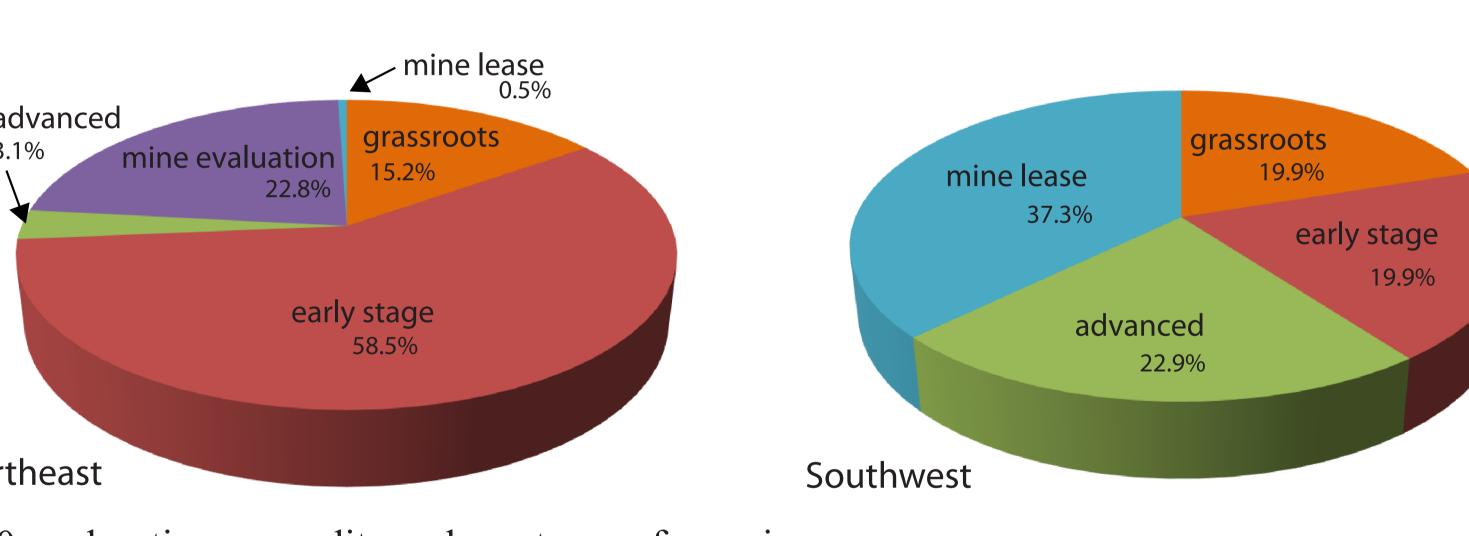
mine evaluation 29.4%

advanced 32.3%

Northwest







2020 exploration expenditures by category for regions.

## Further information

British Columbia Geological Survey, 2021. British Columbia coal industry overview 2020. British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2021-02, 13 p.

Clarke, G., 2021. Exploration and mining in the North Central and Northeast regions, British Columbia. In: Provincial Overview of Exploration and Mining in British Columbia, 2020. British Columbia Ministry of Energy, Mines and Low Carbon Innovation, British Columbia Geological Survey Information Circular 2021-01, in press.

EY LLP, 2020. British Columbia Mineral and Coal Exploration Survey 2019 Report.

#### Recommended citation

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