Mining is a growing force in Alaska’s economy, providing jobs for thousands of Alaskans and millions of dollars of personal income throughout Alaska. Alaska’s mining industry includes exploration, mine development, and mineral production. Alaska’s mines produce coal, gold, lead, silver, zinc, as well as construction materials, such as sand, gravel, and rock.

In 2019, Alaska’s mining industry provided:
- **4,600** direct mining jobs in Alaska.
- **9,400** total direct and indirect jobs attributed to Alaska mining industry.
- **$740 million** in total direct and indirect payroll.
- Some of Alaska’s highest paying jobs with an estimated average annual wage of $112,800, over twice the state average ($55,140) for all sectors of the economy.
- **$37 million** in local government revenue.
- **$112 million** in state government revenue through mining licenses, rents, royalties, fees, and taxes, and other government-related payments.
- **$242 million** in payments to Alaska Native corporations.
- Mostly year-round jobs for residents of more than 60 communities throughout Alaska, half of which are found in rural Alaska where few other jobs are available.

### Key Industry Measures

**Exploration**
- **$162 million** spent on exploration (2019).
- **$3.8 billion** spent on exploration since 1981.

**Development**
- **$225 million** spent on mine construction and other capital investment (2019).

**Production**
- Export value of **$1.7 billion**, or 36% of Alaska’s total exports (2018).
- 192 active placer mines produced approximately 60,690 ounces of gold with a gross production value of **$77 million** (2018).
- Approximately 120 active rock quarries, and sand and gravel operations throughout Alaska with at least **$10.5 million in production value on state lands** (2018).
MINING EXPLORATION TIMELINE

Livengood Gold
- placer mining began in 1914, lode exploration in 2003
- 11.4 million ounces of gold measured and indicated resource
- completed new prefeasibility study in 2017 as result of project optimization work
- 330 potential production jobs

Advanced Exploration Projects
- Graphite Creek: Prefeasibility study initiated in 2019 with expected completion in 2020
- $363 million in projected capital costs
- 370 potential production jobs

Palmer Copper, zinc, silver, gold, and barite
- defining a multi-deposit Volcanogenic Massive Sulphide district
- preliminary economic assessment completed for underground mining. moving toward feasibility study
- more than $350 million invested since 2006

Upper Kobuk Mineral Projects
- Arctic and Bornite: Copper, zinc, gold, and silver
- $144 million spent on exploration since 2011
- prefeasibility study completed of open pit operation (Arctic)
- environmental baseline data collection ongoing (Arctic)
- updated resource statement completed in 2018 (Bornite)
- draft environmental impact statement in process for the ambler district industrial access project

Projects in Permitting
- Donlin Gold: discovered in 1994, continued exploration since 1995
- permitting process began in 2012; final environmental impact statement and joint USACE and BLM record of decision in 2018
- up to 90% calista shareholder hire at its camp operation
- up to 1,000 expected production jobs, depending on the production timeline
- approximately 450 employees in 2019

Pebble Copper, gold, molybdenum, and silver
- discovered in 1987 on state of Alaska land
- ongoing exploration, engineering, and environmental studies since 2002
- over $150 million spent on environmental baseline studies
- world-class discovery of copper, gold, molybdenum, and silver
- in federal NEPA permitting and review process
- approximately 650 potential production jobs

Greens Creek Silver, zinc, gold, and lead
- discovered in 1994, producing since 2006
- eighth largest gold producer in the U.S.
- acquired by Northern Star Resources Limited in 2018
- approximately 450 employees in 2019

Northern Star Pogo Gold
- discovered in 1994, producing since 2006
- eighth largest gold producer in the U.S.
- acquired by Northern Star Resources Limited in 2018
- approximately 450 employees in 2019

Red Dog Zinc, lead, and silver
- largest lead concentrate and zinc concentrate producer in the U.S.
- discovered in 1968, producing since 1989
- mine life expected until 2032
- second-largest silver producer in the U.S. in 2016
- only taxpayer in the northwest Arctic Borough
- approximately 650 employees (including 150 full-time contractors) in 2019

Usibelli Coal Coal
- in continuous production since 1943
- fuels 32% of interior Alaska’s electrical generation
- approximately 100 employees in 2019
An estimated total of $37 million to local governments, including:

- $14.9 million in payment in lieu of taxes by Red Dog to the Northwest Arctic Borough, plus $8.0 million paid to the Village Improvement Fund.
- $11 million in property taxes paid by Fort Knox to the Fairbanks North Star Borough.
- $1.8 million in property taxes paid by Greens Creek to the City and Borough of Juneau.
- $1.3 million in property taxes paid by Kensington to the City and Borough of Juneau.
- Tax payments to other local governments, including Denali Borough, City of Nome and others
- Mining industry employees also pay local property and sales taxes.

An estimated $112 million to state government in royalties, rents, fees, taxes, and other government-related revenues, including:

- $57.1 million in mining license tax, rents, and royalties.
- $6.9 million in corporate income tax collections, representing 6% of the State's non-petroleum industry corporate tax receipts.
- $7.2 million in state material sales, large mine permit coordination program receipts, miscellaneous fees, and other taxes.
- $17.4 million to the Alaska Railroad Corporation for moving coal, sand, and gravel.
- $22.8 million to Alaska Industrial Development and Export Authority for the use of state-owned facilities (DeLong Mountain Regional Transportation System and Skagway Ore Terminal).
- $880,290 to the Alaska Mental Health Trust for mining claim and lease rent and royalty payments, and construction material sales.

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