



# NEWS RELEASE

## Nevada top-ranked jurisdiction worldwide; Western Australia climbs to second in global mining survey

February 28, 2019  
For Immediate Release

**CALGARY, Alberta**—Nevada is the most attractive jurisdiction in the world for mining investment, followed by Western Australia (2<sup>nd</sup>) and the Canadian province of Saskatchewan (3<sup>rd</sup>), according to the *Annual Survey of Mining Companies* released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian policy think-tank.

“The mining survey—now in its 21<sup>st</sup> year—is the most comprehensive report card on government policy decisions that either attract or scare away investors from around the world,” said Kenneth Green, resident scholar and chair of the Fraser Institute’s energy and environmental studies and co-author of the report.

This year’s survey of mining executives ranks 83 jurisdictions around the world based on their geologic attractiveness for minerals and metals and the extent that government policies encourage or deter exploration and investment.

Overall, investment attractiveness improved in most regions around the world.

This year, four Canadian provinces and four U.S. states made the top 10—Nevada (1), Saskatchewan (3), Quebec (4), Alaska (5), Utah (7), Arizona (8), Yukon (9) and the Northwest Territories (10).

The Australian jurisdictions of Victoria and Western Australia received higher scores on policy attractiveness this year, with respondents expressing decreased concern about political instability and regulatory uncertainty.

In South America, Chile continues its climb in the ranking, placing 6<sup>th</sup> this year in overall investment attractiveness compared to 8<sup>th</sup> last year. Meanwhile, neighbouring Peru also continued to improve, ranking 14<sup>th</sup> overall this year, from 19<sup>th</sup> last year and 28<sup>th</sup> the year before.

As a whole, Canada is once again the most attractive region for mining investment in the world followed by Australia, the United States, Europe, Oceania, Latin America, Africa, and lastly, Argentina.

“The evidence is clear—mineral deposits alone are not enough to attract precious commodity investment dollars,” said Ashley Stedman, a senior policy analyst at the Fraser Institute and study co-author.

“A sound regulatory regime coupled with competitive fiscal policies is key to making a jurisdiction attractive in the eyes of mining investors.”

Most attractive jurisdictions for mining investment	Least attractive jurisdictions for mining investment
1) Nevada	74) Bolivia
2) Western Australia	75) La Rioja
3) Saskatchewan	76) Dominican Republic
4) Quebec	77) Ethiopia
5) Alaska	78) China
6) Chile	79) Panama
7) Utah	80) Guatemala
8) Arizona	81) Nicaragua
9) Yukon	82) Neuquen
10) Northwest Territories	83) Venezuela

**MEDIA CONTACT:**

Kenneth Green, Resident Scholar and Chair, Energy and Environmental Studies  
Fraser Institute

Ashley Stedman, Senior Policy Analyst  
Fraser Institute

*To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:*

Bryn Weese, Senior Media Relations Specialist, Fraser Institute

Tel: (604) 688-0221 Ext. 589

E-mail: [bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org](mailto:bryn.weese@fraserinstitute.org)

[Follow the Fraser Institute on Twitter](#) | [Become a fan on Facebook](#)

The Fraser Institute is an independent Canadian public policy research and educational organization with offices in Vancouver, Calgary, Toronto, and Montreal and ties to a global network of think-tanks in 87 countries. Its mission is to improve the quality of life for Canadians, their families and future generations by studying, measuring and broadly communicating the effects of government policies, entrepreneurship and choice on their well-being. To protect the Institute's independence, it does not accept grants from governments or contracts for research. Visit [www.fraserinstitute.org](http://www.fraserinstitute.org)