NEWS RELEASE

Nevada tops annual global mining survey rankings, China ranks last

February 26, 2026
For Immediate Release

VANCOUVER—Nevada is the most attractive jurisdiction in the world for mining investment, followed by Ontario and Saskatchewan, according to the ***Annual Survey of Mining Companies*** released today by the Fraser Institute, an independent, non-partisan Canadian policy think-tank.

"The Fraser Institute's mining survey is the most comprehensive report on not just a jurisdiction's mineral potential, but also government policies that either attract or discourage mining investors," said Elmira Aliakbari, director of the Fraser Institute's Centre for Natural Resource Studies and co-author of the report.

This year's report ranks 68 jurisdictions around the world based on their geologic attractiveness (minerals and metals) and government policies that encourage or deter exploration and investment.

Rounding out the top five jurisdictions on the overall Investment Attractiveness Index, which includes both mineral endowment and policy, are South Australia and Arizona.

The least-attractive jurisdiction on the Investment Attractiveness Index is China, followed by Burkina Faso, Egypt, Philippines, and Mali.

On policies alone, Nevada ranks first, while China ranked last.

"A sound, predictable regulatory regime coupled with competitive fiscal policies make a jurisdiction attractive to investors," Aliakbari said.

"Policymakers across the globe should understand that mineral deposits alone are not enough to attract investment."

Investment Attractiveness Index

Most attractive jurisdictions for mining investment	Least attractive jurisdictions for mining investment
1) Nevada	68) China
2) Ontario	67) Burkina Faso
3) Saskatchewan	66) Egypt
4) South Australia	65) Philippines
5) Arizona	64) Mali
6) Western Australia	63) Chubut
7) Botswana	62) Neuquen
8) Norway	61) Bolivia
9) Sweden	60) Northern Ireland
10) Saudi Arabia	59) Guinea (Conakry)

-30-

MEDIA CONTACTS:
Elmira Aliakbari, Director, Centre for Natural Resource Studies
Fraser Institute

To arrange media interviews or for more information, please contact:
Drue MacPherson, Fraser Institute
604-688-0221 ext. 721
drue.macpherson@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