

FEBRUARY 26, 2007

Canadian M&A Activity Hits Record in 2006

[CBC News](#)

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“Private equity pools continue to grow and it seems no company is too large to be acquired,” he said.

Most of last year's M&A activity came in so-called “mega-deals” — those worth at least \$1 billion. Crosbie & Co. said 51 mega-deals last year totalled \$172 billion.

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All told, the Canadian M&A field saw a record 1,968 deals in 2006. That's up 13 per cent from the 2005 total.

The metals and minerals sector was responsible for the two biggest deals of 2006 — Brazil's \$19.8-billion acquisition of Inco and Swiss-based Xstrata's \$19.2-billion deal to take over Falconbridge.

But it was the oil and gas sector that was the busiest for mergers and acquisitions last year, with 384 deals worth \$56.9 billion. That was 32 per cent higher than 2005's dollar total.

More than three-quarters (79 per cent) of the dollar value of last year's M&A deals had a cross-border component, the bank said, including nine of the 10 biggest deals.