# 2019 Mineral Sector Review

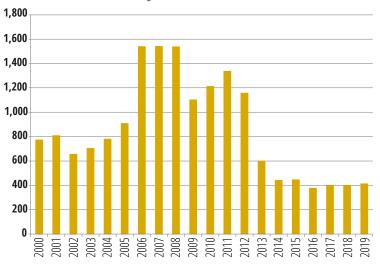


The mineral sector contributes to employment generation and economic prosperity across various communities in New Brunswick. In 2019, the sector comprised 66 primary mineral businesses that generated \$411 million in revenues. Zinc, peat, stone, and lead are the leading mineral commodities produced in the province. New Brunswick is the largest exporter of mineral products in the Maritimes, with sales totaling \$423 million in 2019. The top export destination is the United States, accounting for 88 per cent of export share. In 2019, the sector directly generated approximately 4,625 full-year equivalent jobs in primary and processing activities.

## 2019 Highlights

- The value of New Brunswick's primary mineral production rose by \$13 million (three per cent) to reach \$411 million in 2019, with notable increases seen in the value of peat, salt, and sand and gravel production. On the other hand, the value of stone, silver, and zinc production dropped.
- Mined zinc was valued at \$146 million in 2019, down two per cent (\$3.7 million) compared to the previous year. This resulted from a 10-per-cent price reduction, from \$3,781/tonne in 2018 to \$3,390/tonne in 2019, outweighing a nine-per-cent rise in volume, from 39.6 kilotonnes to 43.1 kilotonnes.
- The value of peat shipments increased by \$16 million (19 per cent) to total \$98 million in 2019, due to higher prices coupled with a small rise in volume. The average price rose by 17 per cent to reach \$220/tonne, partly due to an increase in value-added production which commands a higher price, while the volume shipped was up by two per cent to 445 kilotonnes. Particularly, unfavourable weather conditions resulted in lower production volumes than anticipated, however, a healthy carryover amount from the year prior helped boost shipments.
- Quarried stone was valued at \$43 million in 2019, about \$20 million (32 per cent) lower than in 2018. This was due to lower production volume and prices. Specifically, production volume fell by 2,146 kilotonnes (29 per cent) to 5,311 kilotonnes, while the average price dropped by \$0.34/tonne (four per cent) to \$8.10/tonne.

# **Total Primary Production (\$ Million)**



#### **Industry at a Glance**

Number of primary mineral businesses	66
Number of mineral processing businesses	163
Value of primary mineral production	\$411 million
Value of processed mineral product shipments	x
Value of exports	\$423 million
GDP (direct)	\$549 million
Employment-Primary <sup>1</sup>	1,465
Employment-Processing <sup>2</sup>	3,160

x Data are suppressed.

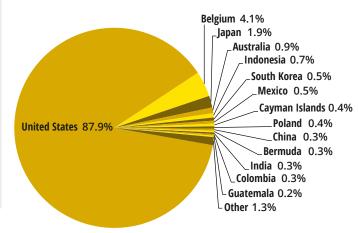
#### **Exports by Country**

Country	Valu	Value (\$ Million)		
	2018	2019		
United States	358.0	371.6		
Belgium	21.3	17.3		
Japan	6.7	8.0		
Australia	3.3	3.9		
Indonesia	4.6	2.9		
South Korea	0.5	2.1		
Mexico	1.7	2.0		
Cayman Islands	0.0	1.8		
Poland	2.5	1.6		
China	3.8	1.3		
Bermuda	1.4	1.2		
India	2.4	1.1		
Colombia	1.1	1.1		
Guatemala	0.3	1.0		
Other	8.6	5.5		
Total	416.2	422.6		

Source: Trade Data Online (August 2021).

Due to rounding, numbers in the tables in this report may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

# **Exports by Country (\$423 Million)**



<sup>1,2</sup> Full-year equivalent jobs.

## 2019 Highlights continued

- The value of mined silver fell by \$5.3 million (19 per cent) to \$23 million in 2019. This resulted from a 23-per-cent decline in the volume shipped, from 43 tonnes in 2018 to 33 tonnes in 2019, more than offsetting a six-per-cent rise in average price, from \$654/kg to \$691/kg.
- Sand and gravel production rose in value by 56 per cent (\$6 million), amounting to \$17 million in 2019, due to a combination of higher production volume and prices. Particularly, production volume rose by 581 kilotonnes (31 per cent) to 2,465 kilotonnes and average price increased by \$1.09/tonne (19 per cent) to reach \$6.75/tonne in 2019.
- In 2019, the value of New Brunswick's salt shipments surged to \$8.9 million, up 820 per cent (\$7.9 million) from the previous year. Salt production at the Nutrien mine ceased in April 2017, once contractual obligations had been satisfied. However, in 2019 production resumed as the Province entered into an agreement to purchase its supply of road salt from the mine. The volume shipped rose by 473 per cent to 161 kilotonnes, while the average price increased by three-fifths to \$55.50/tonne.
- The total value of New Brunswick's exported mineral products rose slightly by two per cent (\$6.4 million) to reach \$423 million in 2019. Sales of peat, iron and steel, and precious metals rose the most notably, by \$21 million (26 per cent), \$12 million (33 per cent), and \$8.4 million (922 per cent), respectively. On the other hand, exports of copper and lead dropped, by \$18 million (82 per cent) and \$15 million (seven per cent), respectively.
- New Brunswick's top trading partner for mineral products continued to be the United States, with exports valued at \$372 million in 2019. Compared to the previous year, sales were up by \$14 million (four per cent), mainly due to higher sales of peat, iron and steel, and precious metals.
- Other important destination markets that increased in value in 2019 were the Cayman Islands and South Korea.
  Sales to the Cayman Islands totaled \$1.8 million, up from \$0 the year prior, due to greater exports of aggregates, while exports to South Korea rose by \$1.6 million (336 per cent) to \$2.1 million, due to higher peat sales.

#### **Primary production**

Product	Volume (Kilotonnes)		Value (\$	Million)
	2018	2019	2018	2019
Zinc	39.6	43.1	149.6	146.0
Peat	437.0	445.2	82.1	97.8
Stone	7,457.0	5,310.7	62.9	43.0
Lead	13.6	14.8	39.2	39.3
Silver	0.04	0.03	28.1	22.9
Lime	Х	72.8	Х	21.3
Sand and gravel	1,884.0	2,464.7	10.7	16.6
Salt	28.0	160.6	1.0	8.9
Copper	0.6	0.9	5.4	7.5
Sulphur in smelter gas	Х	32.5	х	5.6
Other			••	2.5
Total			398.4	411.4

Source: Annual statistics of mineral production, Natural Resources Canada (July 2021).

Production volumes and values represent shipments from New Brunswick plants, mines, quarries, and pits.

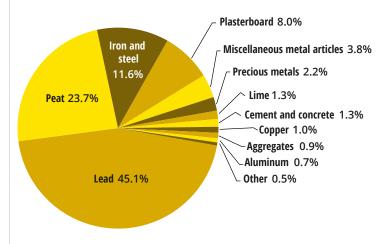
## **Exports by Product**

Product	Value	Value (\$ Million)		
	2018	2019		
Lead	205.6	190.7		
Peat	79.6	100.3		
Iron and steel	36.7	48.8		
Plasterboard	37.9	33.9		
Miscellaneous metal articles	11.2	16.0		
Precious metals	0.9	9.3		
Lime	6.3	5.6		
Cement and concrete	7.5	5.3		
Copper	22.1	4.0		
Aggregates	3.0	3.7		
Aluminum	3.4	2.8		
Other	1.9	2.1		
Total	416.2	422.6		

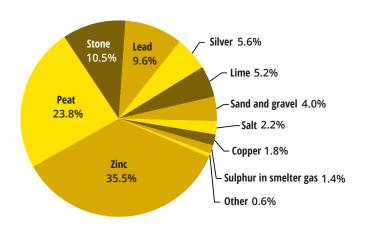
Source: Global Trade Tracker (August 2021).

The product group "miscellaneous metal articles" has been re-categorized. As such, export values corresponding to this product group in this report should not be compared to those in previously published reports.

## **Exports by Product (\$423 Million)**



#### **Primary Production Value (\$411 Million)**



<sup>..</sup> Data are not available.

x Data are suppressed due to confidentiality requirements.