

The mineral sector contributes to employment generation and economic prosperity across various communities in New Brunswick. In 2020, the sector comprised 72 primary mineral businesses that generated \$181.7 million in revenues. New Brunswick is the largest exporter of mineral products in the Maritimes, with sales totaling \$358.8 million in 2020. The top export destination is the United States, accounting for 64 per cent of export share. In 2020, the sector directly generated approximately 4,260 full-year equivalent jobs in primary and processing activities.

2020 HIGHLIGHTS

- New Brunswick’s primary mineral production was valued at \$181.7 million in 2020, down 60 per cent (\$269.1 million) from the previous year. This largely resulted from a decline in metal shipments, from \$258.3 million in 2019 to \$0 in 2020. Particularly, Caribou mine operations were temporarily suspended due to a sharp drop in metal prices, largely as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic generating market uncertainty and shutdowns in the manufacturing sector.
- Peat shipments rose by two per cent (\$1.8 million) to reach \$100.9 million in 2020. This resulted from a rise in the volume shipped, by 13 per cent (60.0 kilotonnes) to 506.9 kilotonnes in 2020, more than offsetting a drop in price, by 10 per cent (\$22.76/tonne) to \$199.11/tonne.
- Compared to 2019, the value of sand and gravel quarried in New Brunswick increased by \$8.7 million (52 per cent) to total \$25.3 million in 2020. This was due to a 34-per-cent rise in volume, from 2,465 kilotonnes shipped in 2019 to 3,312 kilotonnes in 2020, coupled with a 13-per-cent price increase, from \$6.75/tonne to \$7.65/tonne.
- Salt shipments totaled \$14.4 million in 2020, about 62 per cent (\$5.5 million) higher than in 2019, due to a significant rise in volume offsetting a drop in price. Particularly, the volume shipped rose by 122.3 kilotonnes (76 per cent) to 282.9 kilotonnes, while the average price fell by \$4.54/tonne (eight per cent) to \$50.96/tonne. Note, in May 2019, the Province entered into an agreement to purchase its supply of road salt from the Nutrien mine; 2020 marked the first full year under this contract.
- In 2020, the total export value of New Brunswick’s mineral products fell by \$63.8 million (15 per cent) to \$358.8 million. This largely resulted from a decline in the sale of lead, by \$98.1 million (51 per cent) to \$92.6 million. On the other hand, exports of peat, cement and concrete, and iron and steel rose by \$21.5 million (21 per cent), \$10.5 million (198 per cent), and \$6.3 million (13 per cent), respectively.
- The leading export destination for New Brunswick’s mineral products continued to be the United States, with \$231.2 million in sales in 2020, down 38 per cent (\$140.4 million) from 2019. The greatest declines were seen in sales of lead and precious metals; however, increases were noted in other key products such as peat, cement and concrete, and iron and steel.
- Important destination markets that increased in value in 2020 were Italy and China, with sales up by \$55.6 million and \$31.5 million, respectively. These increases were driven by higher exports of lead and precious metals to Italy and greater lead sales to China. On the other hand, exports to Belgium decreased by \$12.5 million (72 per cent) from 2019. This resulted from lower lead and copper sales.

INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE	
Number of primary mineral businesses	72
Number of mineral processing businesses	152
Value of primary mineral production	\$181.7 million
Value of processed mineral product shipments	x
Value of exports	\$358.8 million
GDP (direct)	\$464.6 million
Employment-Primary ¹	1,460
Employment-Processing ²	2,800

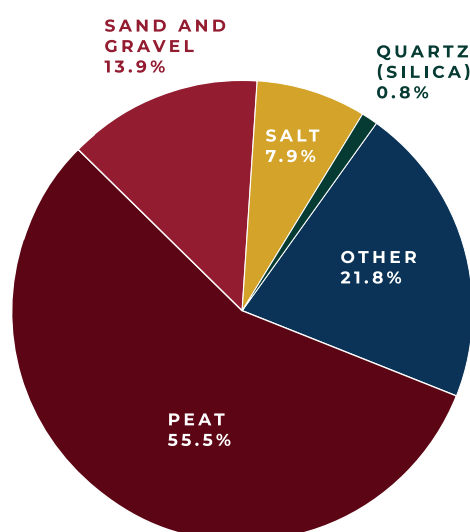
x Data are suppressed.
^{1,2} Full-year equivalent jobs.

Primary Production

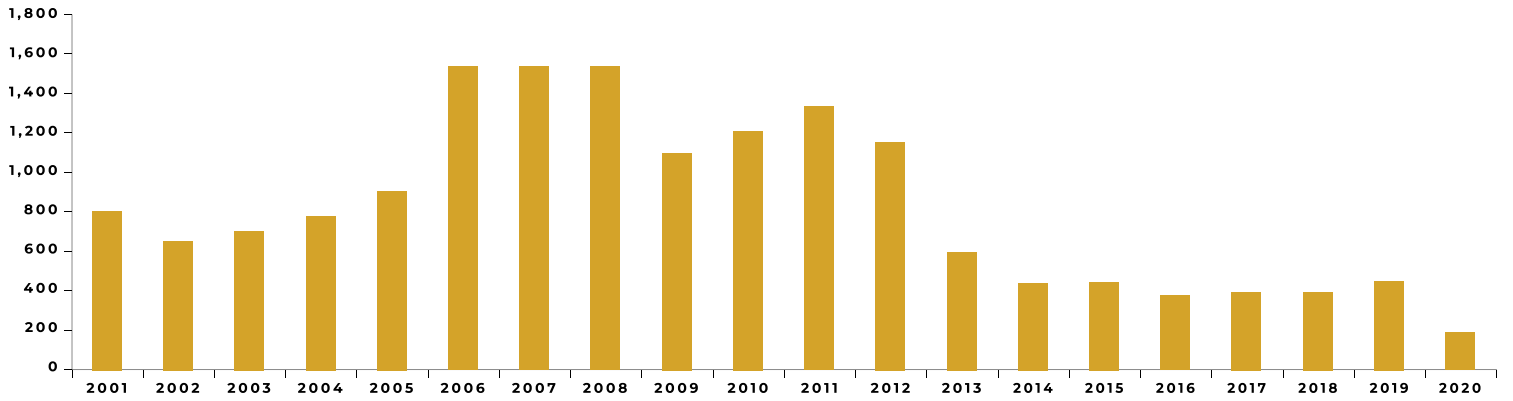
PRODUCT	VOLUME (KILOTONNES)		VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2019	2020	2019	2020
Peat	446.9	506.9	99.2	100.9
Sand and gravel	2,465.5	3,311.8	16.6	25.3
Salt	160.6	282.9	8.9	14.4
Quartz (Silica)	x	166.4	x	1.5
Metals	..	..	258.3	0.0
Other	..	..	x	39.5
Total	..	..	450.9	181.7

Source: Annual statistics of mineral production, Natural Resources Canada (July 2022).
 .. Data are not available.
 x Data are suppressed due to confidentiality requirements.
 2019 statistics have been revised by Natural Resources Canada.
 For 2020, the category “other” includes suppressed data for lime and stone.
 Production volumes and values represent shipments from New Brunswick plants, mines, quarries, and pits.

Primary Production Value (\$181.7 Million)



Total Primary Production (\$ Million)



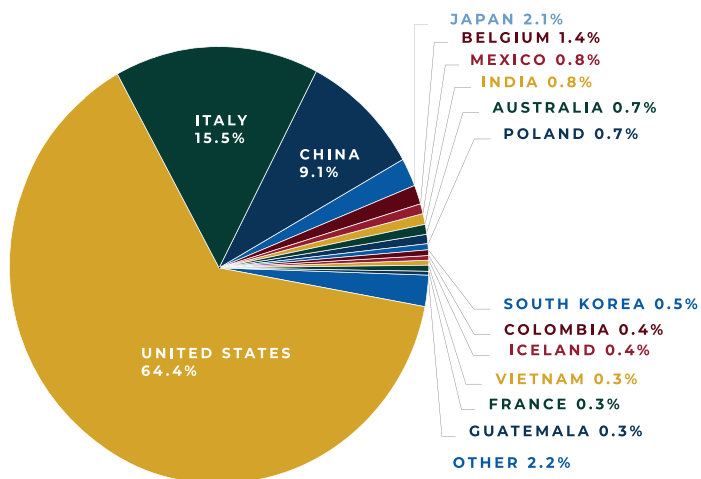
EXPORTS BY COUNTRY		
COUNTRY	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2019	2020
United States	371.6	231.2
Italy	0.0	55.7
China	1.3	32.8
Japan	8.0	7.6
Belgium	17.3	4.9
Mexico	2.0	2.9
India	1.1	2.8
Australia	3.9	2.4
Poland	1.6	2.4
South Korea	2.1	1.7
Colombia	1.1	1.6
Iceland	0.0	1.3
Vietnam	0.5	1.2
France	0.9	1.2
Guatemala	1.0	1.2
Other	10.1	8.0
Total	422.6	358.8

EXPORTS BY PRODUCT		
PRODUCT	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2019	2020
Peat	100.3	121.8
Lead	190.7	92.6
Iron and steel	48.8	55.2
Plasterboard	33.9	31.5
Cement and concrete	5.3	15.8
Miscellaneous metal articles	16.0	14.9
Precious metals	9.3	12.4
Lime	5.6	5.0
Aluminum	2.8	4.0
Aggregates	3.7	3.0
Glass and glassware	0.4	2.2
Other	5.7	0.3
Total	422.6	358.8

Source: Global Trade Tracker (July 2022).

Source: Trade Data Online (July 2022).
Due to rounding, numbers in the tables in this report may not add up precisely to the totals provided.

Exports by Country (\$358.8 Million)



Exports by Product (\$358.8 Million)

