

The mineral sector contributes to employment generation and economic prosperity across various communities in New Brunswick. In 2021, the sector comprised 55 primary mineral businesses that generated \$280.8 million in revenues. New Brunswick is the largest exporter of mineral products in the Maritimes, with sales totaling \$291.5 million in 2021. The top export destination is the United States, accounting for 77 per cent of export share. In 2021, the sector directly generated approximately 4,240 full-year equivalent jobs in primary and processing activities.

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

- In 2021, the value of New Brunswick’s primary mineral production totaled \$280.8 million, about \$81.4 million (41 per cent) higher than in 2020.
- Revenue from aggregates and lime increased by 19 per cent (\$15.3 million) to reach \$97.6 million in 2021.
- Metal shipments rose significantly, from \$0 in 2020 to \$97.3 million in 2021. In 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic generated market uncertainty and shutdowns in the manufacturing sector, which led to a sharp drop in metal prices and the temporary suspension of Caribou mine operations. In January 2021, mining operations resumed.
- Peat production was valued at \$70.3 million in 2021, down \$32.5 million (32 per cent) from 2020. This was due to a 23-per-cent price decrease, from \$202.45/ tonne in 2020 to \$156.73/tonne in 2021, coupled with a 12-per-cent decline in volume shipped, from 507.6 kilotonnes to 448.4 kilotonnes. Extraction volumes were lower than expected due to a late start and variable weather patterns.
- Salt shipments increased by \$1.3 million (nine per cent) to \$15.7 million in 2021. This resulted from a rise in the average price, by \$5.72/tonne (11 per cent) to \$56.68/ tonne in 2021, outweighing a drop in volume shipped, by 5.6 kilotonnes (two per cent) to 277.2 kilotonnes.
- Exports of New Brunswick’s mineral products were valued at \$291.5 million in 2021, down \$67.3 million (19 per cent) from the previous year, as impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic continued to be felt by the mining industry. The greatest declines were noted in sales of lead, by \$52.8 million (57 per cent), iron and steel, by \$13.5 million (24 per cent), precious metals, by \$11.9 million (97 per cent), and cement and concrete, by \$11.3 million (71 per cent). On the other hand, exports of peat rose by \$26.8 million (22 per cent), as existing stockpiles were sufficient to meet the high demand.
- The United States continued to be the top destination market for New Brunswick’s mineral products, with exports totaling \$223.1 million in 2021. Compared to 2020, sales to the United States were down four per cent (\$8.1 million). Exports of iron and steel, cement and concrete, lead, and plasterboard decreased most in value; while increases were noted in other products, such as peat, aluminum, and miscellaneous metal articles.
- Other important markets for New Brunswick’s mineral products included China, Italy, and Japan, valued at \$24.2 million, \$15.7 million, and \$8.9 million, respectively. Exports to China decreased by \$8.6 million (26 per cent), largely due to lower sales of lead, while exports to Italy fell by \$39.9 million (72 per cent), principally due to declines in lead and precious metal sales. On the other hand, exports to Japan increased by \$1.3 million (18 per cent), as a result of greater peat sales.

INDUSTRY AT A GLANCE	
Number of primary mineral businesses	55
Number of mineral processing businesses	164
Value of primary mineral production	\$280.8 million
Value of processed mineral product shipments	x
Value of exports	\$291.5 million
GDP (direct)	\$530.3 million
Employment-Primary ¹	1,015
Employment-Processing ²	3,225

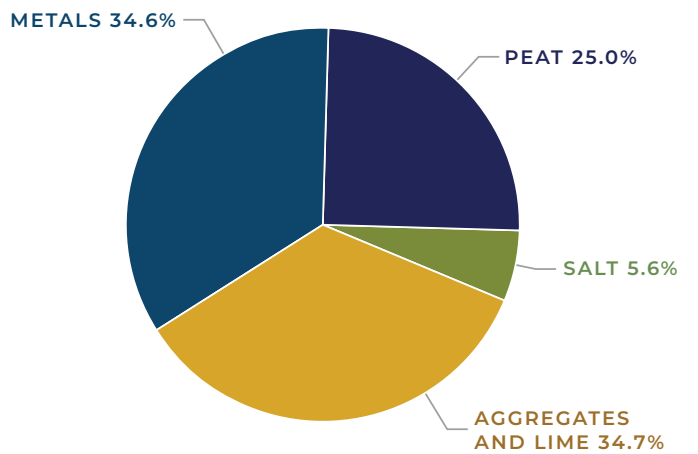
x Data are suppressed.
^{1,2} Full-year equivalent jobs.

PRIMARY PRODUCTION

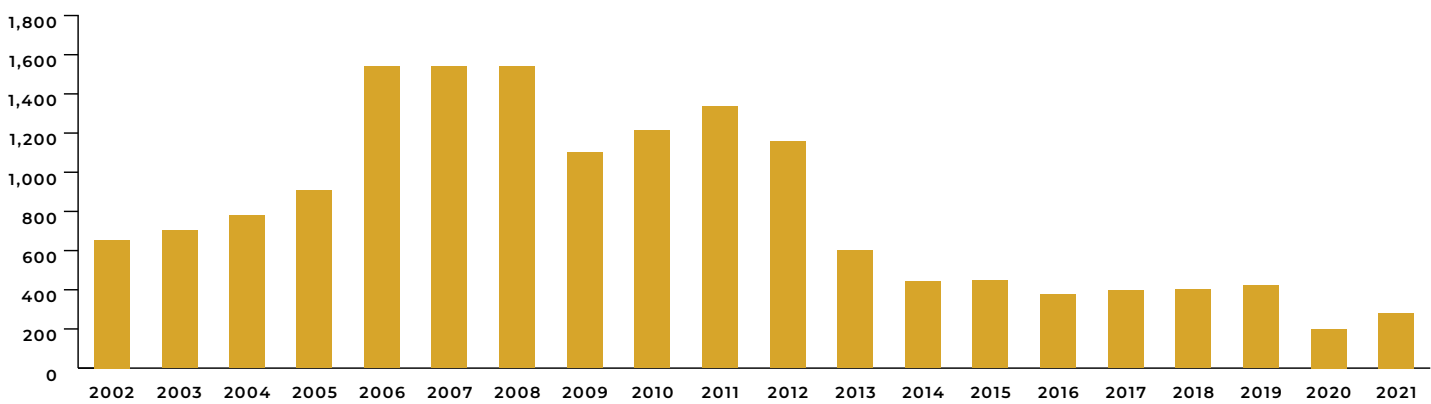
PRODUCT	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2020	2021
Aggregates and lime	82.3	97.6
Metals	0.0	97.3
Peat	102.8	70.3
Salt	14.4	15.7
Total	199.5	280.8

Source: Annual statistics of mineral production, Natural Resources Canada (June 2023).
2020 statistics have been revised by Natural Resources Canada.
Production values represent shipments from New Brunswick plants, mines, quarries, and pits.

PRIMARY PRODUCTION VALUE (\$280.8 MILLION)



TOTAL PRIMARY PRODUCTION (\$ MILLION)



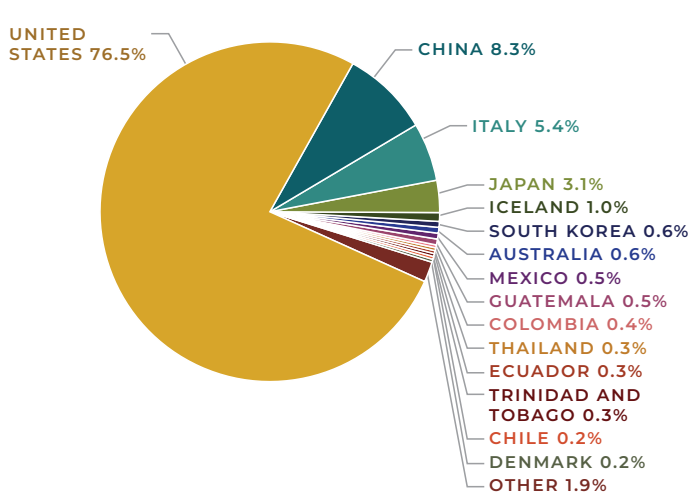
EXPORTS BY COUNTRY

COUNTRY	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2020	2021
United States	231.2	223.1
China	32.8	24.2
Italy	55.7	15.7
Japan	7.6	8.9
Iceland	1.3	2.8
South Korea	1.7	1.7
Australia	2.4	1.6
Mexico	2.9	1.4
Guatemala	1.2	1.3
Colombia	1.6	1.2
Thailand	0.0	1.0
Ecuador	1.1	0.9
Trinidad and Tobago	1.0	0.8
Chile	0.7	0.6
Denmark	0.3	0.6
Other	17.5	5.4
Total	358.8	291.5

Source: Trade Data Online (April 2023).

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

EXPORTS BY COUNTRY (\$291.5 MILLION)



EXPORTS BY PRODUCT

PRODUCT	VALUE (\$ MILLION)	
	2020	2021
Peat	121.8	148.6
Iron and steel	55.2	41.7
Lead	92.6	39.8
Plasterboard	31.5	25.3
Miscellaneous metal articles	14.9	14.9
Lime	5.0	5.4
Cement and concrete	15.8	4.6
Aluminum	4.0	3.9
Aggregates	3.0	2.6
Glass and glassware	2.2	2.4
Cobalt	0.0	1.0
Precious metals	12.4	0.4
Other	0.3	0.8
Total	358.8	291.5

Source: Global Trade Tracker (April 2023).

All metal exports shown do not necessarily come from primary New Brunswick sources, most would be recycled or value-added products, in some cases using imported inputs.

EXPORTS BY PRODUCT (\$291.5 MILLION)

