

The mineral sector contributes to employment generation and economic prosperity across various communities in New Brunswick. In 2017, the sector comprised 67 primary mining businesses that generated \$397 million in revenues. Zinc, peat, stone and lead are the main mineral commodities. New Brunswick is the largest exporter of mineral products in the Maritimes, with sales estimated at \$377 million in 2017. The main export destination is the United States, accounting for 93 per cent of export share. In 2017, the sector generated approximately 4,500 full-time equivalent jobs in primary and processing activities.

2017 Highlights

- New Brunswick’s primary mineral production increased by \$22 million (six per cent) to \$397 million in 2017. This mainly resulted from higher zinc and lead sales.
- The value of zinc mined in the province rose notably by \$23 million (23 per cent) to reach \$121 million in 2017. This was due to a 36-per-cent rise in average price, from \$2,764/tonne to \$3,756/tonne, outweighing a nine-per-cent drop in volume, from 35 kilotonnes to 32 kilotonnes.
- The value of lead mined increased by \$11 million (36 per cent) to \$41 million in 2017, as a result of greater production volume and higher average price. Particularly, production volume rose by 12 per cent (1,474 tonnes) to 13,494 tonnes, while price increased by 21 per cent (\$530/tonne) to \$3,008/tonne.
- Zinc and lead prices were mainly influenced by high demand coupled with limited supply as a result of declining LME stocks combined with a dearth of new sources to replace significant shutdowns over the past few years.

Industry at a Glance

Number of primary mining businesses	67
Number of mineral processing businesses	159
Value of primary mineral production	\$397 million
Value of processed mineral product shipments	x
Value of exports	\$377 million
GDP (direct)	\$598 million
Employment-Primary (FTEs)*	1,200
Employment-Processing (FTEs)	3,300

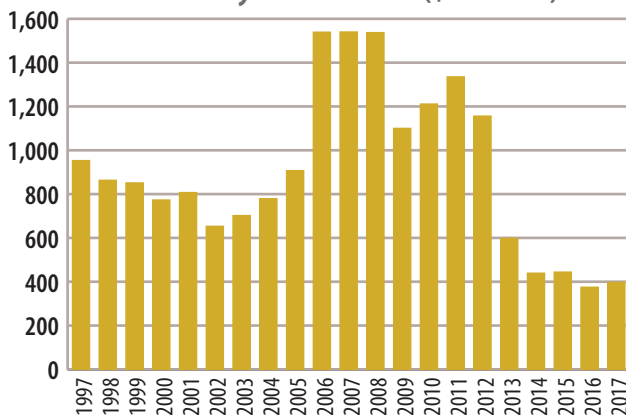
x Data are suppressed.
* Estimate

Exports by Country

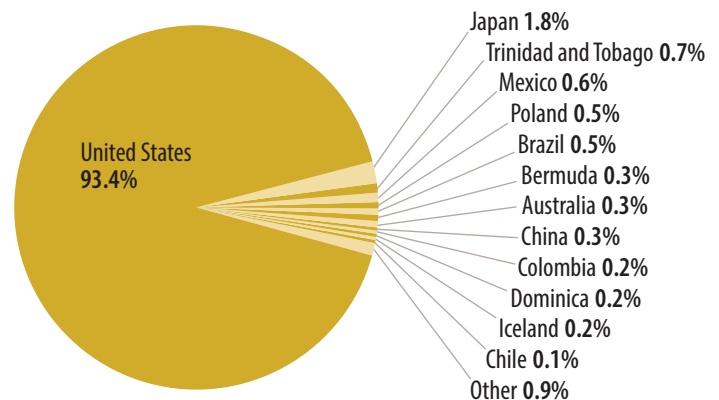
Country	Value (\$ Million)	
	2016	2017
United States	354.4	351.9
Japan	7.2	6.8
Trinidad and Tobago	1.4	2.5
Mexico	1.8	2.2
Poland	2.6	2.1
Brazil	1.9	1.8
Bermuda	0.7	1.3
Australia	1.3	1.1
China	0.7	1.0
Colombia	0.6	0.7
Dominica	0.0	0.6
Iceland	0.2	0.6
Chile	0.4	0.5
Other	16.7	3.5
Total	390.0	376.6

Source: Trade Data Online (January 2019).

Total Primary Production (\$ Million)



Exports by Country (\$377 Million)



2017 Highlights Continued

- Peat production was valued at \$119 million in 2017, down \$2.3 million (two per cent) compared to the previous year. This slight decline in production value resulted from a drop in price (by 11 per cent) outweighing an increase in harvested volume (by 10 per cent).
- The value of stone quarried in New Brunswick increased by five per cent (\$3.1 million) to total \$61 million in 2017. Particularly, volume rose by 618 kilotonnes (nine per cent) to 7,642 kilotonnes, while price dropped slightly by \$0.26/tonne (three per cent) to \$7.97/tonne.
- In 2017, silver production amounted to \$18 million, down \$3.5 million (16 per cent) from 2016. This resulted from a 14-per-cent decrease in production volume (from 29 tonnes to 25 tonnes) coupled with a three-per-cent drop in price.
- Sand and gravel production decreased in value by \$2.3 million (18 per cent) to \$11 million in 2017. This was due to lower production volume (by 16 per cent) and price (by two per cent).
- New Brunswick mineral product exports decreased slightly in value by \$13 million (three per cent) to \$377 million in 2017.
- Mineral exports to the United States remained relatively stable at \$352 million in 2017. Other key trading partners included Japan, Trinidad and Tobago and Mexico valued at \$6.8 million, \$2.5 million and \$2.2 million, respectively.
- The main mineral products that experienced increases in export revenues were lead, by \$4.7 million (three per cent), cement and concrete, by \$2.5 million (24 per cent), and iron and steel, by \$1.3 million (three per cent).

Primary Production

Product	Volume (Tonnes)		Value (\$ Million)	
	2016	2017	2016	2017
Zinc	35,389	32,111	97.8	120.6
Peat	596,000	655,000	121.3	119.0
Stone	7,024,000	7,642,000	57.8	60.9
Lead	12,020	13,494	29.8	40.6
Silver	29	25	21.0	17.6
Sand and gravel	2,442,000	2,041,000	13.0	10.7
Gold	0	0.05	0.0	2.8
Other	34.0	24.6
Total	374.8	396.9

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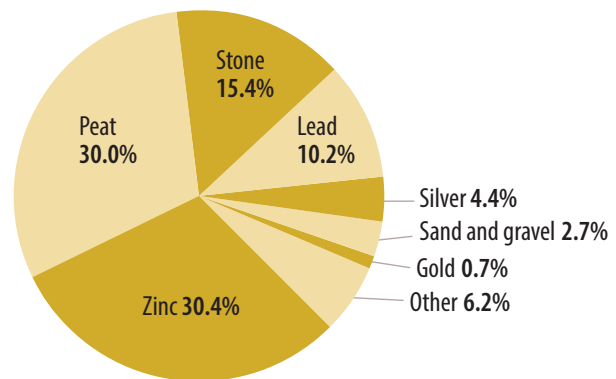
Note: Data on some of New Brunswick's primary mineral products are suppressed due to confidentiality requirements and are included in the category other. Lime, quartz (silica), sulphur (in smelter gas) and salt are included in this category.

Exports by Product

Product	Value (\$ Million)	
	2016	2017
Lead	151.8	156.6
Peat	92.6	87.2
Plasterboard	44.5	44.9
Iron and steel	40.1	41.4
Cement and concrete	10.4	12.9
Miscellaneous metal articles	8.4	8.1
Aluminum	6.1	7.2
Lime	5.7	6.1
Glass and glassware	1.2	2.3
Aggregates	1.2	1.7
Other	27.9	8.3
Total	390.0	376.6

Source: Global Trade Tracker (January 2019).

Primary Production Value (\$397 Million)



Exports by Product (\$377 Million)

