

# 2018 Mineral Sector Review

The mineral sector contributes to employment generation and economic prosperity across various communities in New Brunswick. In 2018, the sector comprised 63 primary mining businesses that generated \$398 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 \$416 million in 2018. The main export destination is the United States, accounting for 86 per cent of export share. In 2018, the sector directly generated approximately 4,500 full-time equivalent jobs in primary and processing activities.

## 2018 Highlights

- New Brunswick primary mineral production remained stable at \$398 million in 2018. The value of zinc, silver and copper production increased notably, while peat production declined.
- Mined zinc increased in value by \$29 million (24 per cent) to total \$150 million in 2018, largely due to greater production volume. Particularly, production volume rose by 7,459 tonnes (23 per cent) to reach 39,570 tonnes.
- Peat production decreased notably in value by \$37 million (31 per cent) to \$82 million in 2018. This was mainly attributable to a decline in production volume, following a record high peat harvesting year in 2017. More specifically, harvested volume fell by about one-third, from 655 kilotonnes in 2017 to 437 kilotonnes in 2018.
- The value of quarried stone rose by \$2 million (three per cent) to \$63 million in 2018, as a result of a six-per-cent rise in price outweighing a two-per-cent drop in volume. The average price rose by \$0.46/tonne to \$8.44/tonne, while production volume dropped 185 kilotonnes to 7,457 kilotonnes.
- Mined lead was valued at \$39 million in 2018, about \$1.4 million (three per cent) lower than the previous year. This small decline in value resulted from a four-per-cent drop in price (from \$3,008/tonne to \$2,892/tonne) outweighing a one-per-cent increase in production volume (from 13,494 tonnes to 13,564 tonnes).

## Industry at a Glance

Number of primary mining businesses	63
Number of mineral processing businesses	155
Value of primary mineral production	\$398 million
Value of processed mineral product shipments	x
Value of exports	\$416 million
GDP (direct)	\$629 million
Employment-Primary (FTEs) <sup>1</sup>	1,005
Employment-Processing (FTEs) <sup>2</sup>	3,505

x Data are suppressed.

<sup>1,2</sup> These statistics should not be compared to previous years since a different data source was used (Statistics Canada, Table 36-10-0489-01).

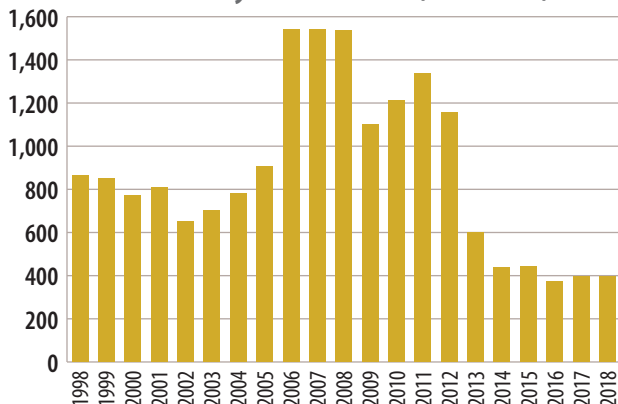
## Exports by Country

Country	Value (\$ Million)	
	2017	2018
United States	351.8	358.2
Belgium	0.0	21.3
Japan	6.8	6.7
Indonesia	0.0	4.6
China	1.0	3.8
Australia	1.1	3.3
Poland	2.1	2.5
India	0.0	2.4
Mexico	2.2	1.7
Bahamas	0.0	1.5
Bermuda	1.3	1.4
Colombia	0.7	1.1
Iceland	0.6	1.0
Other	8.9	6.8
<b>Total</b>	<b>376.5</b>	<b>416.3</b>

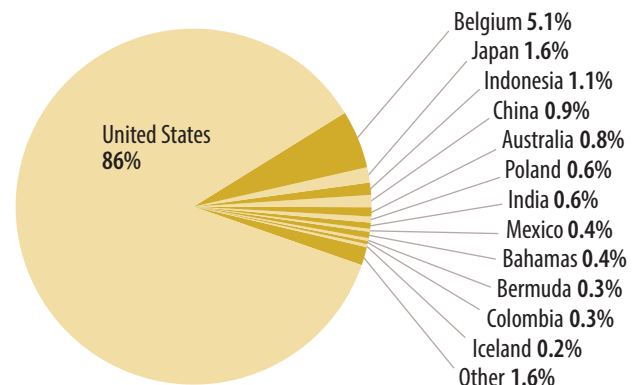
Source: Trade Data Online (February 2020).

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

Total Primary Production (\$ Million)



Exports by Country (\$416 Million)



## 2018 Highlights Continued

- The value of silver produced in New Brunswick rose considerably by \$11 million (60 per cent) to \$28 million in 2018, due to a significant rise in volume outweighing a drop in price. Particularly, production volume rose 72 per cent, from 25 tonnes to 43 tonnes, while average price dropped seven per cent, from \$703/kg to \$654/kg.
- Sand and gravel production remained relatively stable at \$11 million in 2018. This resulted from an eight-per-cent increase in price (from \$5.25/tonne to \$5.66/tonne) offsetting an eight-per-cent decrease in production volume (from 2,041 kilotonnes to 1,884 kilotonnes).
- In 2018, New Brunswick mines produced 642 tonnes of copper in concentrate valued at \$5.4 million. Prior to 2018, copper had not been produced in the province since 2013.
- New Brunswick's exported mineral products increased in value by \$40 million (11 per cent) to total \$416 million in 2018. This largely resulted from higher lead and copper sales. Particularly, lead sales increased considerably by \$49 million (31 per cent) to \$206 million in 2018, while copper exports rose by \$21 million to reach \$22 million.
- The United States continued to be the most important market for New Brunswick's exported mineral products, with sales up two per cent (\$6.4 million) to \$358 million in 2018. Exports of most top mineral products to the United States decreased in value, however, this was outweighed by the marked increase in lead sales.
- Other export markets that increased in value were Belgium, Indonesia and China, with sales up by \$21 million, \$4.6 million and \$2.8 million, respectively. Exports to Belgium grew mainly as a result of higher copper sales; while those to Indonesia and China rose principally due to higher lead sales.

## Primary Production

Product	Volume (Kilotonnes)		Value (\$ Million)	
	2017	2018	2017	2018
Zinc	32.1	39.6	120.6	149.6
Peat	655.0	437.0	119.0	82.1
Stone	7,642.0	7,457.0	60.9	62.9
Lead	13.5	13.6	40.6	39.2
Silver	0.03	0.04	17.6	28.1
Sand and gravel	2,041.0	1,884.0	10.7	10.7
Copper	0.0	0.6	0.0	5.4
Salt	135.0	28.0	4.7	1.0
Other	..	..	22.7	19.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>..</b>	<b>396.9</b>	<b>398.4</b>

.. Data are not available.

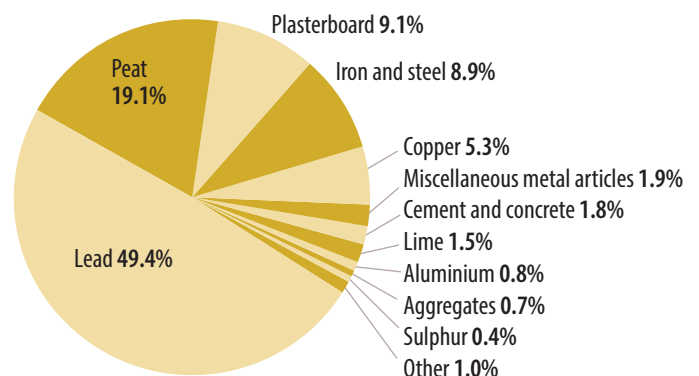
Note: Data on some of New Brunswick's primary mineral products are suppressed due to confidentiality requirements and are included in the category other. Lime, quartz (silica) and sulphur (in smelter gas) are included in this category.

## Exports by Product

Product	Value (\$ Million)	
	2017	2018
Lead	156.6	205.6
Peat	87.2	79.6
Plasterboard	44.8	38.0
Iron and steel	41.4	36.9
Copper	0.9	22.1
Miscellaneous metal articles	8.0	8.0
Cement and concrete	12.9	7.5
Lime	6.1	6.3
Aluminum	7.2	3.4
Aggregates	1.7	3.0
Sulphur	0.2	1.8
Other	9.5	4.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>376.5</b>	<b>416.3</b>

Source: Global Trade Tracker (February 2020).

## Exports by Product (\$416 Million)



## Primary Production Value (\$398 Million)

