



Department of Natural Resources and
Energy Development
Resource Development Branch

Crown Peat Industry Review 2022

Introduction

In New Brunswick, peat is considered a quarriable substance and, as such, it belongs to the landowner. Extraction of peat on Crown land is administered under the *Quarriable Substances Act*. Peat is defined as “an organic matter of geologic origin, excluding lignite or other coal, that has a minimum organic content of seventy-five per cent on a dry weight basis.”

Peatlands cover about 2% of the land surface area of the province, equivalent to an estimated total of 140,000 ha. Approximately 70% of the peatlands with commercial potential are located on Crown lands.

The Peat Industry in New Brunswick

Twenty-five companies were extracting peat in the province in 2022, of which thirteen are holders of one or more Peat Leases. The peat industry is concentrated in northeastern New Brunswick, mainly in the Acadian Peninsula and east of Miramichi in the Baie-Sainte-Anne region. Peat extracted from private lands accounted for over 15% of total production.

Data was generated from royalty reports submitted to the Government of New Brunswick for production from Peat Leases. Therefore, only peat that was extracted from or processed at an operation associated with a Peat Lease has been considered, and values presented underestimate the total for New Brunswick. Additional data was obtained from data published by Statistics Canada and is cited as such.

Questions?

For more information contact the Peat Resource Specialist:

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New Brunswick Peat Industry 2021-2022

	2021	2022
Shipments		
Ordinary (thousand bales)	8,804 ^r	5,597
Value-added (thousand bales)	4,886 ^r	4,544
Percent value-added	35.7% ^r	45%
Value		
F.O.B. (million CAD)	\$ 250.21	\$192.23
Ordinary unit price (CAD)	\$ 7.51	\$ 6.39
Royalty (thousand CAD)	\$ 1,016 ^r	\$ 712
Employment		
Full time	851	785
Seasonal	694	683
Destination		
Canada	38.5%	39.0%
United States	58.4%	59.8%
Pacific	1.4%	0.6%
Other	1.7%	0.5%

^r indicates revised data.

Legend

Bale	The bale is the standard unit of measurement for peat. It is defined as a volume of 0.170 m ³ where the peat is at approximately fifty percent moisture and is compressed by a factor of two to one.
Employment	Number of full time (>6 months of the year) and seasonal (<6 months of the year) positions for operations on Peat Leases.
F.O.B. value	The value of goods measured free on board (F.O.B.) includes all production and other costs incurred up until the moment that goods are placed on board a carrier for export. It excludes international insurance and transport costs.
Royalties	A royalty of \$0.10 per bale is payable for the peat extracted from Crown lands; the royalty for peat used to manufacture value-added products is \$0.06 per bale.
Shipments	The total volume of peat shipped during the year. Excluding transfers or purchase between peat companies within New Brunswick.
Ordinary unit price	The ordinary price of peat calculated from the average peat production value of the two most recent years for which information is available in New Brunswick as published by Statistics Canada using the formula defined in 25(3) of the <i>General Regulation 93-92</i> under the <i>Quarriable Substances Act</i> . It is calculated at the time royalties are due.
Value-added peat	Peat used in a product made in the Province, where that product is sold, on an equal volume basis, for a plant F.O.B. price at least twice that of the ordinary peat price.

Percent of Canadian Industry (2017-2022p)

Province	2017	2018	2019r	2020r	2021	2022p
New Brunswick						
Shipments	44.9%	33.5%	31.4%	31.4%	28.4%	29.2%
Value	36.0%	26.1%	28.1%	26.3%	23.2%	25.1%
Nova Scotia						
Shipments	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.1%	0.2%	0.1%
Value	0.2%	0.1%	X	X	X	0.1%
Quebec						
Shipments	22.1%	27.1%	30.3%	21.5%	21.8%	19.0%
Value	22.2%	25.3%	26.0%	28.0%	33.1%	X
Manitoba						
Shipments	14.4%	17.5%	17.2%	26.3%	X	20.6%
Value	21.1%	23.9%	X	X	X	X
Saskatchewan						
Shipments	1.8%	2.5%	2.2%	2.1%	X	X
Value	4.7%	6.4%	5.4%	X	X	X
Alberta						
Shipments	14.4%	17.5%	17.3%	17.2%	19.7%	X
Value	14.4%	17.1%	17.6%	X	X	X
British Columbia						
Shipments	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Value	0.1%	0.1%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%

Data for 2022 is preliminary as indicated by the "p" and data for 2019 and 2020 is revised as indicated by the "r". An "X" indicates that the data is confidential. Provinces where all data was 0 or where all data was confidential were excluded and there was no peat production from the territories. Raw data for production of this table was retrieved from Table 16-10-0022-01 Production, shipments and value of shipments of metallic and non-metallic minerals, annual and Preliminary estimate of the mineral production in Canada by year both published by Statistics Canada.