

Subsection 4.—Production of Non-metallic Minerals (excluding Fuels)

Asbestos is by far the most important item in this group in point of value, followed in order by salt, gypsum and sulphur, which are treated separately below. The group also includes such minerals as titanium dioxide, fluorspar, barite, diatomite, magnesitic dolomite, nepheline syenite, peat moss, quartz and sodium sulphate.

Asbestos.—Despite a 2.3 p.c. decline in shipments of asbestos in 1956 as compared with 1955, the Canadian asbestos industry had the second highest production in its history, shipping 1,039,000 tons of various grades of fibre. Higher prices brought the 1956 value to \$109,700,000, a gain of 14.0 p.c. over the 1955 total. The slight decline in tonnage resulted from decreased use of asbestos in the United States and from intensified competition from Russia in the European market.

Quebec, with eight producing mines, accounted for 95.3 p.c. of the Canadian total, Ontario had one producer which recorded an output of 28,000 tons in 1956 and another mine in British Columbia contributed 22,000 tons. Exports of 964,000 tons in 1956 went mostly to the United States.

16.—Quantity and Value of Asbestos Produced 1947-56

NOTE.—Figures for 1896-1910 are given in the 1911 Year Book, p. 424; for 1911-28 in the 1939 edition, p. 354; for 1929-44 in the 1946 edition, p. 353; and for 1945 and 1946 in the 1956 edition, p. 537.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
1947.....	661,821	33,005,748	1952.....	929,339	89,254,913
1948.....	716,769	42,231,475	1953.....	911,226	86,052,895
1949.....	574,906	39,746,072	1954.....	924,116	85,409,212
1950.....	875,344	65,854,568	1955.....	1,063,802	96,191,317
1951.....	973,198	81,584,345	1956.....	1,038,975	109,665,924

Salt.—Production from the brine wells of Ontario increased 36.0 p.c. in 1956 over 1955 with increases in Manitoba and Saskatchewan. Alberta production equalled that of 1955 but dollar-value dropped from \$1,000,000 to \$900,000 in 1956. Salt produced in Nova Scotia mines dropped 17,000 tons during the year but value increased \$459,000. Total Canadian production in 1956 was 28.0 p.c. more than in 1955.

17.—Quantity of Salt Produced by Province and Total Value 1947-56

NOTE.—Figures for the years 1926-44 are given in the 1946 Year Book, p. 354, and for 1945 and 1946 in the 1956 edition, p. 538.

Year	Nova Scotia	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Canada	
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	\$
1947.....	40,107	633,766	24,974	—	29,698	728,546	4,436,930
1948.....	61,799	619,598	25,251	—	34,613	741,261	4,836,028
1949.....	86,612	607,206	18,734	8,103	28,359	749,014	5,866,725
1950.....	101,930	696,582	16,582	18,186	25,606	858,896	7,011,306
1951.....	127,252	772,585	16,778	28,192	19,718	964,525	7,905,977
1952.....	138,845	757,025	18,113	33,540	24,380	971,903	7,774,815
1953.....	127,819	749,046	18,078	35,100	24,885	954,928	6,974,501
1954.....	150,589	733,066	17,809	37,227	31,196	969,887	8,340,163
1955.....	144,862	998,789	18,954	40,748	41,408	1,244,761	10,122,299
1956.....	127,864	1,358,692	22,400	42,905	41,270	1,593,131	13,916,532