

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 by salt, potash, sulphur and gypsum. Four of these items are discussed separately below; potash, a recently developed product, is covered on p. 553. Next in importance is peat moss which, although included as a non-metallic mineral, consists of the dead fibrous moss produced from peat bogs; its growing use as a soil conditioner, as poultry and stable litter and as packaging material resulted in shipments valued at nearly \$3,900,000 in 1963, double the shipments of 1958. Quantities and values of other non-metallic minerals produced are shown in Table 5, p. 573, and a review of recent developments in the industrial mineral field is given at pp. 552-554.

Asbestos.—In 1963, Canadian asbestos mines shipped a record 1,272,024 tons valued at \$134,880,000, representing an increase of 4.6 p.c. in quantity and 3.5 p.c. in value over 1962. Quebec, with 10 producing firms, accounted for over 91 p.c. of the total tonnage; Ontario's one mine produced 34,000 tons and British Columbia's one mine produced 63,000 tons.

18.—Quantity and Value of Asbestos Produced, 1954-63

NOTE.—Figures from 1896 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1911 edition.

Year	Quantity	Value	Year	Quantity	Value
	tons	\$		tons	\$
1954.....	924,116	86,409,212	1959.....	1,050,429	107,433,344
1955.....	1,063,802	96,191,317	1960.....	1,118,456	121,400,015
1956.....	1,014,249	99,859,969	1961.....	1,173,695	128,955,900
1957.....	1,046,086	104,489,431	1962.....	1,215,814	130,281,966
1958.....	925,331	92,276,748	1963 ^p	1,272,024	134,880,206

Salt.—The output of salt reached a high point in both quantity and value in 1963, with Ontario and Nova Scotia contributing most of the increase over 1962. Ontario produced over 86 p.c. of the total tonnage. Rock salt is mined in Nova Scotia and Ontario only; brine wells are operated in Nova Scotia, Ontario, Manitoba, Saskatchewan and Alberta.

19.—Quantity of Salt Produced, by Province, and Total Value, 1954-63

NOTE.—Figures from 1926 are given in the corresponding table of previous Year Books beginning with the 1946 edition.

Year	Nova Scotia	Ontario	Manitoba	Saskatchewan	Alberta	Canada	
	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	tons	\$
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.....	132,539	1,347,729	21,068	42,814	46,654	1,590,804	12,144,476
1957.....	122,763	1,538,805	19,372	43,684	46,935	1,771,559	13,989,703
1958.....	125,872	2,126,483	20,560	46,511	55,766	2,375,192	14,989,542
1959.....	120,225	3,036,230	23,547	48,776	61,198	3,289,976	18,034,522
1960.....	163,901	3,007,599	21,925	49,064	72,431	3,314,920	19,255,658
1961.....	225,875	2,861,705	23,103	51,964	83,880	3,246,527	19,552,006
1962.....	312,519	3,155,589	25,010	54,931	90,729	3,638,778	21,927,135
1963 ^p	339,500	3,224,468	23,500	52,917	93,600	3,733,985	22,501,851