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# THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

1957

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# THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

## 1957

During 1957 the Canadian producers of talc, soapstone, pyrophyllite and steatite shipped 34,725 short tons valued at \$427,673 compared with 29,326 tons valued at \$365,226 in the preceding year. Production of pyrophyllite in Newfoundland was on a fairly regular basis during the latter half of the year. Quebec mines produced ground talc and steatite, also soapstone blocks and crayons. Talc of various particle sizes was shipped from the Madoc, Ontario area. There has been no production of talc or pyrophyllite from British Columbian properties in recent years.

The average number of persons employed in the industry was 77 to whom \$222,287 were paid as salaries. Fuel cost \$7,692 and 1,380,150 kwh. of electricity were purchased for \$27,735. Containers and process supplies cost \$107,298.

Imports of talc and soapstone in 1957 amounted to 14,949 tons valued at \$536,189. Exported were 2,353 tons worth \$29,848.

Ground talc, including soapstone and pyrophyllite, is used chiefly in the paint, roofing, paper, rubber, insecticide and ceramic industries. It is used also in foundry facings, bleaching fillers for textiles, cosmetics and pharmaceuticals, soaps and cleansers, plaster, polishes, plastics and for rice polishing. Soapstone is used extensively in the form of sawn blocks and bricks for lining the alkali recovery furnaces and kilns of kraft pulp and paper mills. Also it is used for brick and slab liners for fireboxes, stoves and ovens, and for switchboard panels, laboratory benches, etc. Considerable quantities of soapstone quarry and sawing waste are ground and used as low-grade talc in the rubber, roofing, foundry and other trades. Compact, massive talc, sawn into square pencils and slices, is an important material for steelmakers' crayons.

**TABLE 1. Principal Statistics for the Talc and Soapstone Industry, Significant Years, 1921-1957**

Year	Establishments	Employees	Salaries and wages	Cost of fuel and electricity at works	Cost of process supplies and containers at works	Gross selling value of products (f.o.b. works)	Net value of production <sup>1</sup>
	No.	No.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
1921.....	4	39	64,703	15,731	N.A.	144,565	N.A.
1929.....	5	86	74,300	21,395	"	229,198	"
1931.....	5	70	71,787	19,128	"	157,083	"
1933.....	7	103	83,060	26,424	"	190,836	"
1937.....	7	83	72,020	19,318	6,076	163,814	138,420
1939.....	6	65	60,512	15,154	7,178	170,066	147,734
1941.....	8	148	128,820	26,882	28,324	360,809	305,603
1944.....	6	113	133,883	27,642	40,523	357,249	289,084
1946.....	5	87	117,551	25,401	38,167	303,684	240,116
1949.....	3	59	105,736	21,826	42,426	320,793	256,541
1951.....	4	50	109,522	25,474	37,481	305,338	242,383
1953.....	3	54	132,934	32,707	63,315	308,497	245,182
1954.....	4	53	134,437	35,545	65,209	389,048	288,294
1955.....	4	50	129,221	38,689	63,122	392,667	290,831
1956.....	4	67	169,120	30,490	83,043	429,335	315,802
1957.....	4	77	222,287	35,427	107,298	512,724	369,999

<sup>1</sup> Gross value less cost of fuel, electricity, process supplies and containers.

**TABLE 2. Producers' Shipments<sup>1</sup> of Talc and Soapstone, by Provinces, 1955-1957**

Province	1955		1956		1957	
	Quantity	Selling value f.o.b. shipping points	Quantity	Selling value f.o.b. shipping points	Quantity	Selling value f.o.b. shipping points
	tons	\$	tons	\$	tons	\$
Quebec (soapstone) <sup>2</sup> .....	12,562	143,895	15,576	185,298	17,803	220,330
Newfoundland <sup>3</sup> .....						
Ontario .....	14,598	195,072	13,750	179,928	16,922	207,343
Canada .....	27,160	338,967	29,326	365,226	34,725	427,673

<sup>1</sup> Includes both crude and milled grades. Value of containers is excluded.

<sup>2</sup> Shipments by some firms usually include a considerable quantity of material classified as talc.

<sup>3</sup> Includes pyrophyllite.

TABLE 3. Shipments of Talc and Soapstone by Canadian Producers, 1948-1957

Year	Tons	Value	Year	Tons	Value
		\$			\$
1948.....	28,780	309,823	1953 .....	27,408	285,755
1949.....	26,922	320,793	1954 .....	28,143	335,353
1950.....	32,604	364,995	1955 .....	27,160	338,967
1951.....	24,846	283,624	1956 .....	29,326	365,226
1952.....	25,032	280,612	1957 .....	34,725	427,673

TABLE 4. Imports and Exports of Talc, 1955-1957

	1955		1956		1957	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	\$		\$		\$	
<b>Imports:</b>						
Talc, or soapstone.....	11,382	378,027	16,268	496,001	14,949	536,189
<b>Exports:</b>						
Talc.....	4,428	64,974	2,613	34,408	2,353	29,848

TABLE 5. Available Statistics on the Consumption of Ground Talc and Soapstone, 1953-1956

	1953	1954	1955	1956
	tons			
<b>By uses:</b>				
Paints.....	7,838	7,240	7,872	7,436
Roofing.....	8,050	7,772	9,414	9,091
Pulp and paper.....	1,510	814	687	900
Rubber.....	1,620	1,330	1,392	1,742
Toilet preparations.....	424	455	540	716
Electrical apparatus.....	490	598	311	791
Clay products.....	2,164	2,345	3,302	4,157
Soaps and cleaning preparations.....	81	106	64	117
Textiles and linoleum.....	1	<sup>2</sup>	975	<sup>2</sup>
Insecticides and miscellaneous chemicals.....	8,557	9,704	5,503	3,785
Polishes and dressings.....	11	13	8	7
Miscellaneous non-metallic mineral products.....	82	146	83	75
Iron foundries.....	—	...	...	...
Tanneries.....	5	2	6	3
Asbestos products.....	1	1	9	...
Coal tar distillation.....	694	2,195	783	2,385
Medicinal preparations.....	321	352	408	246
Gypsum products.....	...	...	...	28
<b>Total accounted for.....</b>	<b>31,849</b>	<b>33,073</b>	<b>31,357</b>	<b>31,479</b>
<b>By provinces:</b>				
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland.....	178	186	158	126
New Brunswick.....	459	503	527	356
Quebec.....	9,554	10,473	11,962	10,452
Ontario.....	17,436	17,897	14,745	15,977
Manitoba.....	2,564	1,529	1,438	1,463
Saskatchewan.....	—	700	536	522
Alberta.....	852	686	732	1,078
British Columbia.....	806	1,049	1,259	1,505
<b>Total.....</b>	<b>31,849</b>	<b>33,073</b>	<b>31,357</b>	<b>31,479</b>

<sup>1</sup>Included in toilet preparations, 1952<sup>2</sup>Not reported separately.

TABLE 6. Employees and Their Earnings in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1953-1957

Year	Number of employees					Number of man-hours worked (all employees)	Earnings			
	Office and administrative		Workmen		Total		Office and adminis- trative	Workmen	Total	
	Male	Female	Male	Female						
1953 .....	5	1	48	-	54	138,913	23,221	109,713	132,934	
1954 .....	7	1	45	-	53	138,690	30,881	103,556	134,437	
1955 .....	7	1	42	-	50	126,986	32,075	98,146	129,221	
1956 .....	10	1	56	-	67	157,323	41,061	128,059	169,120	
1957 .....	9	1	67	-	77	189,728	45,453	176,834	222,287	

TABLE 7. Average Number of Workmen, by Months, 1956 and 1957

Month	1956				1957				
	Surface	Under-ground	Mill	Total	Surface	Under-ground	Mill	Total	
January .....	5	11	19	35	5	12	35	52	
February .....	6	11	20	37	5	15	26	46	
March .....	6	12	19	37	5	16	29	50	
April .....	7	13	25	45	6	16	33	55	
May .....	8	13	30	51	17	16	32	65	
June .....	11	15	32	58	22	16	37	75	
July .....	24	16	31	71	21	17	37	75	
August .....	31	15	35	81	19	19	44	82	
September .....	17	15	31	63	18	17	53	88	
October .....	22	14	34	70	19	15	44	78	
November .....	23	13	34	70	19	15	41	75	
December .....	5	12	34	51	16	12	39	67	
Average .....	14	13	29	56	14	16	37	67	
Man-hours worked .....				132,998				163,354	

TABLE 8. Fuel and Electricity Used in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1957

Kind		Quantity	Cost at plant
		\$	
Bituminous coal (a) From Canadian mines .....	short ton	—	—
(b) Imported .....	"	—	—
Sub-bituminous coal (from Alberta mines only) .....	"	—	—
Anthracite coal .....	"	—	—
Lignite coal .....	"	—	—
Coke (for fuel only) .....	"	—	—
Gasoline, (includes gasoline used in cars and trucks) .....	Imp. gal.	9,547	3,831
Kerosene or coal oil .....	"	—	—
Fuel oil .....	17,431	3,461	400
Wood (cords of 128 cubic feet of piled wood) .....	cord	100	
Gas (a) Liquefied petroleum gases (propane, etc.) .....	Imp. gal.	—	—
(b) Other manufactured gas .....	M cu. ft.	—	—
(c) Natural gas .....	"	—	—
Other fuel .....	—	—	—
Electricity purchased for power and lighting .....	kwh.	1,380,150	27,735
Electricity purchased for other purposes .....	"	—	—
Total (cost only) .....		...	35,427
Electricity generated (a) For own use .....	kwh.	—	—
(b) For sale .....	"	—	—

**TABLE 9. World Production of Talc, Pyrophyllite and Soapstone, by Countries<sup>1</sup>, 1952-1956**  
 (Extracted from the annual review issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines)

Country <sup>1</sup>	1952	1953	1954	1955	1956
short tons <sup>2</sup>					
<b>North America:</b>					
Canada (shipments) .....	25,032	27,408	28,143	27,160	29,030
United States .....	600,908	631,518	618,994	725,708	739,039
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>625,940</b>	<b>658,926</b>	<b>647,137</b>	<b>752,868</b>	<b>768,069</b>
<b>South America:</b>					
Argentina .....	14,330	16,500 <sup>3</sup>	16,500 <sup>3</sup>	25,353	27,558
Brazil .....	21,464	23,466	21,967	27,190	27,600 <sup>3</sup>
Chile .....	—	—	—	—	—
Paraguay .....	—	99	132	100 <sup>3</sup>	100 <sup>3</sup>
Peru .....	137	—	—	3,708	579
Uruguay .....	748	982	1,167	1,249	1,100 <sup>3</sup>
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>36,679</b>	<b>41,000<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>39,800<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>57,600<sup>3</sup></b>	<b>56,900<sup>3</sup></b>
<b>Europe:</b>					
Austria .....	56,022	56,477	68,310	77,794	72,819
Finland .....	6,614	4,065	8,133	5,265	8,146
France .....	120,864	120,693	130,844	148,040	145,064
Germany, West .....	30,412	32,991	36,170	55,571	56,476
Greece .....	1,323	—	1,275	2,315	2,200 <sup>3</sup>
Italy .....	89,886	91,049	94,440	110,099	102,369
Norway .....	70,629	67,848	78,801	76,059	66,000 <sup>3</sup>
Portugal .....	7	18	6	11	10 <sup>3</sup>
Rumania .....	4	4	4		
Spain .....	20,296	20,720	22,896	25,188	30,405
Sweden .....	9,686	9,806	14,689	13,695	14,492
United Kingdom .....	2,897	4,413	4,447	5,641	5,500 <sup>3</sup>
Yugoslavia .....	—	—	—	2,922	—
<b>Total<sup>3,1</sup></b> .....	<b>430,000</b>	<b>430,000</b>	<b>485,000</b>	<b>545,000</b>	<b>530,000</b>
<b>Asia:</b>					
Afghanistan .....	882	800	1,200	700 <sup>3</sup>	899
India .....	23,264	32,632	47,405	47,476 <sup>3</sup>	35,529
Japan .....	350,960	362,193	246,197	251,479	300,000 <sup>3</sup>
Korea, Republic of .....	14,985	26,983	20,965	12,092	15,719
Tiawan (Formosa) .....	1,205	1,944	7,791	5,807	6,758
<b>Total<sup>3,1</sup></b> .....	<b>435,000</b>	<b>480,000</b>	<b>390,000</b>	<b>395,000</b>	<b>450,000</b>
<b>Africa:</b>					
Egypt .....	5,071	2,509	2,822	8,878	7,706
Kenya .....	259	173	111	—	—
Union of South Africa .....	9,562	7,974	7,974	1,581	1,968
<b>Total</b> .....	<b>14,892</b>	<b>10,656</b>	<b>10,907</b>	<b>8,459</b>	<b>9,674</b>
<b>Australia</b> .....	<b>8,518</b>	<b>11,127</b>	<b>14,699</b>	<b>14,075</b>	<b>14,955</b>
<b>World total (estimate)<sup>4</sup></b> .....	<b>1,550,000</b>	<b>1,630,000</b>	<b>1,590,000</b>	<b>1,770,000</b>	<b>1,830,000</b>

<sup>1</sup> In addition to countries listed, talc or pyrophyllite is reported in China and U.S.S.R., but data on production are not available; estimates have been included in total.

<sup>2</sup> This table incorporates a number of revisions of data published in previous talc chapters.

<sup>3</sup> Estimate.

<sup>4</sup> Data not available; estimate included in total.

## Directory of Firms in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1957

Name of firm	Head office address	Location of plant or mine
<b>Newfoundland:</b>		
Newfoundland Minerals .....	Box 348, St. John's .....	Long Pond, Conception Bay
<b>Quebec:</b>		
Baker Talc Limited .....	215 St. James St. W., Montreal .....	Highwater
Broughton Soapstone & Quarry Co. Ltd. ....	Broughton Station .....	Broughton
Douville Steatite Co. <sup>1</sup> .....	Box 70, Thetford Mines .....	Wolfestown
<b>Ontario:</b>		
Canada Talc Industries Ltd. ....	Madoc .....	Huntingdon Twp.
<b>British Columbia:</b>		
Mountain Minerals Ltd. <sup>1</sup> .....	Box 273, Lethbridge, Alberta .....	Armstrong, Semlin

<sup>1</sup> Non-producing during current year.

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