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CATALOGUE No.

26-218

ANNUAL

SEP 18 1959



THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

1958



Published by Authority of

The Honourable Gordon Churchill, Minister of Trade and Commerce

DOMINION BUREAU OF STATISTICS

Industry and Merchandising Division

September, 1959
6314-527

Prices 25 cents

The Queen's Printer and Controller of Stationery, Ottawa, 1959

PUBLICATIONS ON MINERAL STATISTICS

Dominion Bureau of Statistics
Ottawa, Canada

Catalogue number	Name of publication	Price
Annual		
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THE TALC AND SOAPSTONE INDUSTRY

1958

The producers of talc, soapstone, pyrophyllite and steatite shipped 35,405 tons valued at \$429,136 in 1958; comparable figures for 1957 were 34,725 short tons valued at \$427,673.

In Newfoundland pyrophyllite was mined Manuels, about 12 miles southwest of St. John's. 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 76 to whom \$213,576 were paid as salaries. Fuel cost \$7,575 and 1,367,107 kwh. of electricity were purchased for \$28,458. Containers and process supplies cost \$105,097.

Imports of talc and soapstone in 1958 amounted to 16,593 tons valued at \$584,666. Exported were 1,931 tons worth \$24,713.

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, 1921-1958

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 ¹
number							
1921	4	39	64,703	15,731	..	144,565	..
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
1958	4	76	213,576	36,033	105,097	519,781	378,651

¹ Gross value less cost of fuel, electricity, process supplies and containers.

.. Not available.

TABLE 2. Producers' Shipments¹ of Talc and Soapstone, by Provinces, 1956-1958

Province	1956		1957		1958	
	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) ²	15,576	185,298	17,803	220,330	19,226	194,074
Newfoundland ³	13,750	179,928	16,922	207,343	16,179	235,062
Ontario						
Canada	29,326	365,226	34,725	427,673	35,405	429,136

¹ Includes both crude and milled grades. Value of containers is excluded.

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

³ Includes pyrophyllite.

TABLE 3. Shipments of Talc and Soapstone by Canadian Producers, 1949-1958

Year	Tons	Value	Year	Tons	Value
		\$			\$
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
1953.....	27,408	285,755	1958	35,405	429,136

TABLE 4. Imports and Exports of Talc, 1956-1958

	1956		1957		1958	
	Tons	Value	Tons	Value	Tons	Value
	\$		\$		\$	
Imports:						
Talc, or soapstone	16,268	496,001	14,949	536,189	16,593	584,666
Exports:						
Talc	2,613	34,408	2,353	29,848	1,931	24,713

TABLE 5. Available Statistics on the Consumption of Ground Talc and Soapstone, 1954-1957

	1954	1955	1956	1957
	tons			
By uses:				
Paints	7,240	7,872	7,436	6,914
Roofing	7,772	9,414	9,091	9,564
Pulp and paper	814	687	900	2,440
Rubber	1,330	1,392	1,742	2,047
Toilet preparations	455	540	716	1,607
Electrical apparatus	598	311	791	104
Clay products	2,345	3,302	4,157	5,247
Soaps and cleaning preparations	106	64	117	109
Textiles and linoleum	1	975	1	-
Insecticides and miscellaneous chemicals	9,704	5,503	3,785	...
Polishes and dressings	13	8	7	44
Miscellaneous non-metallic mineral products	146	83	75	...
Iron foundries
Tanneries	2	6	3	...
Asbestos products	1	9
Coal tar distillation	2,195	783	2,385	...
Medicinal preparations	352	408	246	393
Gypsum products	28	...
Total accounted for	33,073	31,357	31,479	28,469
By provinces:				
Nova Scotia and Newfoundland	186	158	126	140
New Brunswick	503	527	356	343
Quebec	10,473	11,962	10,452	10,892
Ontario	17,897	14,745	15,977	13,604
Manitoba	1,529	1,438	1,463	1,337
Saskatchewan	700	536	522	...
Alberta	686	732	1,078	1,167
British Columbia	1,049	1,259	1,505	986
Total	33,073	31,357	31,479	28,469

¹ Not reported separately.

... Not applicable.

TABLE 6. Employees and their Earnings in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1954 - 1958

Year	Employees				Total	Man-hours worked (all employees)	Earnings				
	Office and administrative		Workmen				Office and administrative	Workmen	Total		
	Male	Female	Male	Female							
	number										
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		
1958	9	2	65	-	76	160,622	50,667	162,909	213,576		

TABLE 7. Average Number of Workmen, by Months, 1957 and 1958

Month	1957				1958			
	Surface	Under-ground	Mill	Total	Surface	Under-ground	Mill	Total
January	5	12	35	52	16	12	36	64
February	5	15	26	46	5	14	27	46
March	5	16	29	50	5	12	25	42
April	6	16	33	55	10	13	28	51
May	17	16	32	65	17	15	38	70
June	22	16	37	75	18	16	40	74
July	21	17	37	75	21	15	43	79
August	19	19	44	82	20	14	42	76
September	18	17	53	88	17	13	43	73
October	19	15	44	78	19	14	41	74
November	19	15	41	75	16	13	39	68
December	16	12	39	67	13	11	34	58
Average	14	16	37	67	14	14	37	65
Man-hours worked				163,354				132,206

TABLE 8. Fuel and Electricity Used in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1958

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.	11,132 4,473
Kerosene or coal oil	"	
Fuel oil	"	12,836 2,702
Wood (cords of 128 cubic feet of piled wood)	cord	400
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.	1,367,107 28,458
Electricity purchased for other purposes	"	
Total (cost only)		36,033
Electricity generated (a) For own use	kwh.	
(b) For sale	"	

... Not applicable.

TABLE 9. Power Equipment used in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1958

Type of equipment	Driving generators	Not driving generators
horsepower		
A. Prime movers:		
Steam engines	—	—
Steam turbines	—	—
Diesel engines	—	1,320
Gasoline, gas and oil engines, other than diesel engines	—	—
Hydraulic turbines or water wheels	—	—
Total	—	1,320
B. Electric motors (one-quarter horsepower and over)	—	1,666

TABLE 10. World Production of Talc, Pyrophyllite and Soapstone, by Countries,¹ 1953-1957

(Extracted from the annual review issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines)

Country ²	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
short tons ²					
North America:					
Canada (shipments)	27,408	28,143	27,160	29,326	33,053
United States	631,518	618,994	725,708	739,039	684,453
Total	658,926	647,137	752,868	768,365	717,506
South America:					
Argentina	16,500 ³	16,500 ³	25,353	25,478	27,600 ³
Brazil	23,466	21,967	27,190	30,684	30,069
Chile	—	—	—	—	—
Paraguay	99	132	100 ³	100 ³	100 ³
Peru	—	131	3,708	4,031	3,300
Uruguay	982	1,167	1,249	1,580	1,566
Total	41,000 ³	39,900 ³	57,600 ³	61,873 ³	62,600 ³
Europe:					
Austria	56,477	68,310	77,905	72,819	80,915
Finland	4,065	8,197	5,265	8,146	9,259
France	120,693	132,154	132,683	145,064	156,528
Germany, West	32,991	36,170	38,889	38,600 ³	33,000 ³
Greece	—	1,275	2,315	2,200 ³	2,200 ³
Italy	91,049	94,440	110,292	105,005	102,065
Norway	67,848	80,771	88,598	127,000 ³	66,000 ³
Portugal	18	6	11	95	90 ³
Spain	20,720	22,896	25,168	30,405	32,064
Sweden	9,806	14,689	13,695	14,492	12,804
United Kingdom	4,413	4,447	5,641	4,270	4,400 ³
Yugoslavia	—	—	2,922	—	—
Total ^{3,1}	430,000	485,000	525,000	570,000	525,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 10. World Production of Talc, Pyrophyllite and Soapstone, by Countries,¹
1953-1957 — Concluded
(Extracted from the annual review issued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines)

Country ²	1953	1954	1955	1956	1957
short tons ³					
Asia:					
Afghanistan	800	1,200	700 ³	899	770 ³
India	32,632	47,405	47,476 ³	52,478	44,268
Japan	362,193	246,197	251,479	345,846	370,000 ³
Korea, Republic of	26,983	20,965	12,092	15,719	12,434
Tiawan (Formosa)	2,001	7,791	5,807	6,758	5,938
Total¹	480,000	390,000	395,000	510,000	545,000
Africa:					
Egypt	2,509	2,822	6,878	7,706	6,600 ³
Kenya	173	111	—	—	—
Union of South Africa	7,974	7,974	1,581	1,968	2,315
Total	10,656	10,907	8,459	9,674	8,915³
Australia	11,127	14,699	14,075	14,979	15,998
World total (estimate)^{1,2}	1,630,000	1,590,000	1,750,000	1,935,000	1,875,000

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

² This table incorporates a number of revisions of data published in previous talc chapters.

³ Estimate.

Directory of Firms in the Talc and Soapstone Industry, 1958

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

¹ Non-producing during current year.

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