

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2009

U.S. mine and plant production data for selected mineral commodities are provided monthly (or quarterly) by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System (FRS), for use in preparing its index of industrial production and the related capacity indexes and capacity utilization rates. These measures cover manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities, and they are among the key economic indicators monitored by the FRS in determining monetary policy. The data in this report include current and prior months' data provided to the FRS, some of which have been revised.

Mineral commodity production generally rose in the second quarter of 2009 compared with that of the first quarter of 2009. Increases in domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) were large compared with those of the first quarter of 2009 but were somewhat less than normal seasonal increases (table 1). Iron ore production decreased 57% in the second quarter of 2009 compared with that of the first quarter of 2009 owing mainly to

a decline in steel production, as the automobile, commercial building, and major appliance industries reduced steel consumption, and a need to draw down excessive iron ore and raw steel inventories which had built up in the previous quarter. There were across-the-board decreases in selected mineral production in the first half of 2009 compared with production in the first half of 2008 owing to general recessionary conditions in the U.S. economy. The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2009) reported that privately owned housing starts for the year to date through June 2009 were 48% below those for the similar period of 2008.

Reference Cited

U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009, New residential construction in June 2009: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, July 17, 6 p.

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, second quarter 2009 vs first quarter 2009 ¹	Percentage change, YTD, second quarter 2009 vs YTD, second quarter 2008
Aluminum (secondary)	2	-18
Cement	35	-26
Gypsum	-11	-30
Iron ore	-57	-76
Phosphate rock	10	-12
Sand and gravel, construction	67	-21
Soda ash	--	-21
Stone, crushed	50	-20
Zinc	4	-4

--Zero.

¹Percentage change based on unrounded numbers.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER^{1,2}

Mineral commodity	2008					2009		January-June	
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	Second	2008	2009
	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter		quarter	quarter		
Aluminum ³	294	281	278	262	1,110	227 ^r	231	575	458
Cement ⁴	17.1	24.0	24.4	18.9	84.4	13.1 ^r	17.7 ^e	41.1	30.8 ^e
Gypsum ⁵	4.8 ^r	4.7	4.7	3.7	17.9	3.7	3.3 ^e	9.5	7.0 ^e
Iron ore ⁶	12.9	13.9	14.1	12.0	53.0	7.9	3.4	26.8	11.2
Phosphate rock ⁷	7.8	7.6	7.9	6.7	30.0	6.1 ^r	6.7 ^e	15.4	12.8 ^e
Sand and gravel, construction ^{8,9}	196 ^r	291 ^r	302 ^r	222 ^r	1,010 ^r	138 ^r	230 ^e	487	368 ^e
Soda ash ⁶	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	11.3	2.2	2.2	5.6	4.4
Stone, crushed ^{8,9}	274 ^r	383 ^r	392 ^r	301 ^r	1,350 ^r	205 ^r	308 ^e	657	513 ^e
Zinc ¹⁰	196	193	189	170	748	179 ^r	186 ^e	389	365 ^e

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of August 11, 2009.

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

⁴Portland and blended cement shipments.

⁵Calcined production.

⁶Mine production.

⁷Marketable mine production.

⁸Sold or used.

⁹Excludes Alaska and Hawaii; included in 2008 total.

¹⁰Recoverable mine production.