

# Mineral Industry Surveys

**For information, contact:**

Scott F. Sibley, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section  
 Minerals Information Team  
 U.S. Geological Survey  
 989 National Center  
 Reston, VA 20192  
 Telephone: 703-648-4976  
 E-mail: ssibley@usgs.gov

Joseph M. Krisanda (Data)  
 Telephone: (703) 648-7946  
 Fax: (703) 648-7975  
 E-mail: jkrisand@usgs.gov

**Internet:** <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

## U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD 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 third quarter of 2009 compared with that of the second quarter of 2009. Increases in domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) were not as large as those of the second quarter of 2009 (table 1) but were still significant. Iron ore production increased

by 71% in the third quarter of 2009 compared with that of the second quarter of 2009 owing mainly to a depletion of inventories in the previous quarter and an upturn in raw steel production. There were across-the-board decreases in selected mineral production in the first three quarters of 2009 compared with production in the same period 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 September 2009 were 42.7% 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 September 2009: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, October 20, 6 p.

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, third quarter 2009 vs second quarter 2009 <sup>1</sup>	Percentage change, YTD, third quarter 2009 vs YTD, third quarter 2008
Aluminum (secondary)	--	-3
Cement	8	-24
Gypsum	3	-27
Iron ore	71	-58
Phosphate rock	12	-12
Sand and gravel, construction	11	-28
Soda ash	9	-19
Stone, crushed	12	-23
Zinc	4	-3

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Percentage change based on unrounded numbers.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER<sup>1,2</sup>

Mineral commodity	2008					2009			January-September	
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	Second	Third	2008	2009
	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter		quarter	quarter	quarter		
Aluminum <sup>3</sup> thousand metric tons	244 <sup>r</sup>	242 <sup>r</sup>	228 <sup>r</sup>	202 <sup>r</sup>	916 <sup>r</sup>	227	231	231	714	690
Cement <sup>4</sup> million metric tons	17.1	24.0	24.5 <sup>r</sup>	18.9	84.5 <sup>r</sup>	13.1	17.7	19.1 <sup>e</sup>	65.6	49.9 <sup>e</sup>
Gypsum <sup>5</sup> do.	4.8	4.7	4.7	3.7	17.9	3.7	3.3	3.4 <sup>e</sup>	14.2	10.4 <sup>e</sup>
Iron ore <sup>6</sup> do.	12.9	13.9	14.1	12.0	53.0	7.9	3.4	5.8	40.9	17.1
Phosphate rock <sup>7</sup> do.	7.8	7.6	7.9	6.7	30.0	6.1	6.8 <sup>r</sup>	7.6 <sup>e</sup>	23.2	20.5 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel, construction <sup>8,9</sup> do.	192 <sup>r</sup>	296 <sup>r</sup>	306 <sup>r</sup>	222	1,010	137 <sup>r</sup>	207 <sup>r</sup>	229 <sup>e</sup>	794	573 <sup>e</sup>
Soda ash <sup>6</sup> do.	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	11.3	2.2	2.2	2.4	8.4	6.8
Stone, crushed <sup>8,9</sup> do.	269 <sup>r</sup>	388 <sup>r</sup>	393 <sup>r</sup>	301	1,350	201 <sup>r</sup>	285 <sup>r</sup>	319 <sup>e</sup>	1,050	805 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc <sup>10</sup> thousand metric tons	196	193	189	170	748	179	186	194	578	559

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto.

<sup>1</sup>Based on data available as of November 12, 2009.

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

<sup>3</sup>Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

<sup>4</sup>Portland and blended cement shipments.

<sup>5</sup>Calcined production.

<sup>6</sup>Mine production.

<sup>7</sup>Marketable mine production.

<sup>8</sup>Sold or used.

<sup>9</sup>Excludes Alaska and Hawaii; included in 2008 total.

<sup>10</sup>Recoverable mine production.