

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2010

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.

In the first quarter of 2010, decreases in domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) were large compared with those of the fourth quarter of 2009 (table 1), but largely seasonal. The increase in phosphate rock production partly reflected a seasonal upturn in fertilizer production. Iron ore production increased by

6% in the first quarter of 2010 compared with that of the fourth quarter of 2009 owing mainly to an upturn in raw steel production for the fourth consecutive quarter. Decreases in production for some mineral commodities in the first quarter of 2010 compared with production in the same period of 2009 may be attributed to decreases in construction spending. However, the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2010) reported that privately owned housing starts in the first quarter of 2010 were 17.3% above those for the first quarter of 2009.

**Reference Cited**

U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010, New residential construction in March 2010: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, 6 p. (Accessed May 12, 2010, at <http://www.census.gov/const/newresconst.pdf>.)

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, first quarter 2010 vs fourth quarter 2009 <sup>1</sup>	Percentage change, first quarter 2010 vs first quarter 2009 <sup>1</sup>
Aluminum (secondary)	-7	-16
Cement	-20	-13
Gypsum	7	-14
Iron ore	6	26
Phosphate rock	8	5
Sand and gravel, construction	-35	-16
Soda ash	-1	12
Stone, crushed	-33	-20
Zinc	1	1

-- 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	2009					2010		
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	January-March	
	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter			2009	2010
Aluminum <sup>3</sup> thousand metric tons	191	170	170	171	703	160 <sup>e</sup>	191	160 <sup>e</sup>
Cement <sup>4</sup> million metric tons	13.2 <sup>r</sup>	17.7	19.0	14.3 <sup>r</sup>	64.3 <sup>r</sup>	11.5 <sup>e</sup>	13.2 <sup>r</sup>	11.5 <sup>e</sup>
Gypsum <sup>5</sup> do.	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.0 <sup>r</sup>	13.4 <sup>r</sup>	3.2 <sup>e</sup>	3.7	3.2 <sup>e</sup>
Iron ore <sup>6</sup> do.	7.9	3.4	5.8	9.4	26.5	9.9 <sup>e</sup>	7.9	9.9 <sup>e</sup>
Phosphate rock <sup>7</sup> do.	6.1 <sup>r</sup>	6.8	7.6	6.0	26.5	6.5 <sup>e</sup>	6.1 <sup>r</sup>	6.5 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel, construction <sup>8,9</sup> do.	137	210	251 <sup>r</sup>	177 <sup>r</sup>	800 <sup>r,10</sup>	115 <sup>e</sup>	137	115 <sup>e</sup>
Soda ash <sup>6</sup> do.	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	9.3	2.5	2.2	2.5
Stone, crushed <sup>8,9</sup> do.	213	303 <sup>r</sup>	334 <sup>r</sup>	255 <sup>r</sup>	1,110 <sup>r,10</sup>	170 <sup>e</sup>	213	170 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc <sup>11</sup> thousand metric tons	179	173	181 <sup>r</sup>	178 <sup>r</sup>	710 <sup>r</sup>	180 <sup>e</sup>	179	180 <sup>e</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>Based on data available as of May 11, 2010.

<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 total.

<sup>10</sup>Total does not equal sum of year's quarterly data owing to the inclusion of annual data that are not separated by quarter.

<sup>11</sup>Recoverable mine production.