

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD 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 third quarter of 2010, domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) increased moderately compared with that of the second quarter of 2010 (table 1). The decrease in phosphate rock production was the result of a mine closure during the quarter and working down of inventories. Iron ore production increased by 13% in the third quarter of 2010 compared with that of the second quarter of 2010 owing mainly to upward trending steel production. Year-to-date production of iron ore through September increased 109% compared with that of the similar period of 2009 because of unusually low production in

2009 resulting from mine shutdowns and drawdown of inventories. Decreases in production for some mineral commodities in the first three quarters of 2010 compared with production in the same period of 2009 may be attributed to decreases in construction spending, which declined 11% for the year to date through September compared with the similar period of 2009 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). However, the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2010) reported that privately owned housing starts for the year to date through September 2010 were 9% above those for the same period of 2009.

**Reference Cited**

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, September 2010 construction at \$801.7 billion annual rate: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, November 1, 4 p. (Accessed November 10, 2010, at <http://www.census.gov/const/C30/release.pdf>)  
 U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010, New residential construction in September 2010: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, October 19, 6 p. (Accessed November 10, 2010, at <http://www.census.gov/const/newresconst.pdf>)

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, third quarter 2010 vs. second quarter 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Percentage change, YTD, third quarter 2010 vs. YTD, third quarter 2009 <sup>1</sup>
Aluminum (secondary)	1	-7
Cement	4	-3
Gypsum	-8	-9
Iron ore	13	109
Phosphate rock	-9	-5
Sand and gravel, construction	15	-2
Soda ash	2	12
Stone, crushed	3	-1
Zinc	1	2

<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			January-September	
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	Second	Third	2009	2010
		quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter		quarter	quarter	quarter		
Aluminum <sup>3</sup>	thousand metric tons	182	162	162	163	668	158	155 <sup>r</sup>	156 <sup>e</sup>	506	469 <sup>e</sup>
Cement <sup>4</sup>	million metric tons	13.2	17.8	19.1	14.4	64.4	11.3	18.3 <sup>r</sup>	19.0 <sup>e</sup>	50.0	48.7 <sup>e</sup>
Gypsum <sup>5</sup>	do.	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.0	13.4	3.2	3.3	3.0 <sup>e</sup>	10.4	9.5 <sup>e</sup>
Iron ore <sup>6</sup>	do.	7.9	3.4	5.8	9.4	26.5	9.9	12.0	13.6	17.1	35.6
Phosphate rock <sup>7</sup>	do.	6.1	6.8	7.6	6.0	26.5	6.3	6.9 <sup>r</sup>	6.3 <sup>e</sup>	20.5	19.5 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel, construction <sup>8</sup>	do.	139	212	253 <sup>r</sup>	179 <sup>r</sup>	800 <sup>9</sup>	122	217 <sup>r</sup>	250 <sup>e</sup>	604	589 <sup>e</sup>
Soda ash <sup>6</sup>	do.	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	9.3	2.5	2.6	2.6	6.8	7.6
Stone, crushed <sup>8</sup>	do.	219	311	343 <sup>r</sup>	262	1,130	194 <sup>r</sup>	331 <sup>r</sup>	340 <sup>e</sup>	873	865 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc <sup>10</sup>	thousand metric tons	179	173	181	178	710	179	181 <sup>r</sup>	184 <sup>e</sup>	532	544 <sup>e</sup>

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

<sup>1</sup>Based on data available as of November 9, 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>Total does not equal sum of year's quarterly data owing to the inclusion of annual data that are not separated by quarter.

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