

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2011

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 for guidance in determining national 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 second quarter of 2011, domestic production for selected construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) increased significantly compared with those of the first quarter of 2011 (table 1), primarily owing to seasonal variations. Production of iron ore in the second quarter of 2011 increased by 11% compared with that of the first quarter 2011 and by 14% compared with production in the second quarter of 2010. Shipments of steel increased 5.8% for the year-to-date through June compared with those of the same period in 2010 (American Iron and Steel Institute, 2011) and were likely largely responsible for the increase in iron ore

production. Production of soda ash, used mainly in glass, chemicals, and soap and detergents, did not change significantly compared with production in both the first quarter 2011 and the second quarter 2010. Increases in production for some mineral commodities in the second quarter of 2011 compared with that in the first quarter of 2011 may be partially attributed to increases in total construction spending, which rose, on a seasonally adjusted basis, by about 0.5% during the same period. However, construction spending during the first 6 months of 2011 was 5.4% less than that of the same period of 2010 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2011). The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2011) reported that revised privately owned housing starts for the second quarter of 2011, on a seasonally adjusted basis, were 1.8% less than those of the first quarter of 2011 and for the first 6 months were 5.7% less than those of the same period of 2010. Secondary aluminum production rose significantly for the first half-year compared with that of the same period of 2010 because of increased availability of secondary material compared with primary material.

| Mineral commodity | Percentage change, second quarter 2011 vs. first quarter 2011 ¹ | Percentage change, YTD, second quarter 2011 vs. YTD, second quarter 2010 ¹ |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| | Aluminum (secondary) | 10 |
| Cement | 52 | -- |
| Gypsum* | -4 | 2 |
| Iron ore | 11 | 19 |
| Phosphate rock | -3 | 3 |
| Sand and gravel, construction | 80 | -2 |
| Soda ash | -- | 1 |
| Stone, crushed | 50 | -6 |
| Zinc | -2 | 3 |

-- Zero.

¹Percentage change based on unrounded data.

*Correction posted on September 7, 2011.

References Cited

American Iron and Steel Institute, 2011, June steel shipments up 3.5 percent for May, up 5.8 percent year to date, Washington, DC, American Iron and Steel Institute, news release, August 17, 1 p. (Accessed August 19, 2011, at http://www.steel.org/sitecoe/content/Global/Document_Types/News/2011/June_Steel_Shipments_UpFrom_June.aspx.)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, June 2011 construction at \$772.3 billion annual rate: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, August 1, 4 p. (Accessed August 18, 2011, at <http://www.census.gov/const/C30/release.pdf>.)

U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2011, New residential construction in July 2011: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, August 16, 6 p. (Accessed August 18, 2011, at <http://www.census.gov/const/newresconst.pdf>.)

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

| Mineral commodity | | 2010 | | | | | 2011 | | January-June | |
|--|----------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------|-------------------|
| | | First | Second | Third | Fourth | Total | First | Second | 2010 | 2011 |
| | | quarter | quarter | quarter | quarter | | quarter | quarter | | |
| Aluminum ³ | thousand metric tons | 158 ^r | 156 ^r | 161 ^r | 161 ^r | 636 ^r | 201 ^r | 221 | 314 | 422 |
| Cement ⁴ | million metric tons | 11.3 | 18.3 | 19.1 | 15.7 | 64.4 | 11.8 ^r | 17.9 ^e | 29.6 | 29.7 ^e |
| Gypsum ⁵ | do. | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.0 | 2.7 | 12.2 | 3.3 ^{r,*} | 3.2 [*] | 6.4 | 6.6 [*] |
| Iron ore ⁶ | do. | 9.9 | 12.0 | 13.6 | 13.9 | 49.5 | 12.4 | 13.7 | 22.0 | 26.1 |
| Phosphate rock ⁷ | do. | 6.3 | 6.9 | 6.3 | 6.2 | 25.7 | 6.9 | 6.7 | 13.2 | 13.6 |
| Sand and gravel, construction ⁸ | do. | 131 ^r | 233 ^r | 264 ^r | 197 ^r | 825 ^r | 127 ^r | 229 ^e | 364 | 356 ^e |
| Soda ash ⁶ | do. | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.7 ^r | 2.8 ^r | 10.6 ^r | 2.6 | 2.6 | 5.1 | 5.2 |
| Stone, crushed ⁸ | do. | 201 ^r | 345 ^r | 366 ^r | 286 ^r | 1,200 ^r | 205 ^r | 307 ^e | 546 | 512 ^e |
| Zinc ⁹ | thousand metric tons | 179 | 181 | 186 | 177 | 723 | 187 ^r | 183 ^e | 360 | 369 ^e |

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of August 17, 2011.

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, less primary aluminum consumed, primary silicon consumed, and other alloying ingredients consumed.

⁴Data are shipments of domestically produced portland and blended cement, including cement made from imported clinker, as a proxy for actual domestic cement production.

⁵Calcined production.

⁶Mine production.

⁷Marketable mine production.

⁸Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey.

⁹Recoverable mine production.

^{*}Correction posted on September 7, 2011.