

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD 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 third quarter of 2011, domestic production for selected construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) increased significantly compared with those of the second quarter of 2011 (table 1), as work continued on previously planned construction projects, partly funded through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. However, total construction spending during the first 9 months of 2011 was

3.5% 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 year to date through September 2011 were 1.5% fewer than those of the same period of 2010.

Production of phosphate rock, used mainly in fertilizer, increased by 8% compared with production in the second quarter 2011 and increased by 9% for the year to date compared with that of the same period in 2010 because demand was strong during the agricultural growing season. Iron ore production increased by 12% for the year through September compared with that of the same period of 2010, reflecting increased steel production during a similar, slightly longer, period (American Iron and Steel Institute, 2011). Secondary aluminum production rose significantly for the first three quarters compared with that of the same period of 2010 because of increased availability of secondary material compared to primary material.

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, third quarter 2011	Percentage change, YTD, third quarter 2011
	vs. second quarter 2011 <sup>1</sup>	vs. YTD, third quarter 2010 <sup>1</sup>
Aluminum (secondary)	-	35
Cement	11	2
Gypsum	2	-5
Iron ore	1	12
Phosphate rock	8	9
Sand and gravel, construction	7	-6
Soda ash	5	2
Stone, crushed	14	-2
Zinc	5	3

- Zero.

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

## References Cited

American Iron and Steel Institute, 2011, This week's raw steel production: Washington, DC, American Iron and Steel Institute news release, November 14, 2 p. (Accessed November 15, 2011, at <http://www.steel.org/en/About%20AISI/statistics.aspx>.)

U.S. Census Bureau, 2011, September 2011 construction at \$787.2 billion annual rate: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, November 1, 4 p. (Accessed November 15, 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 September 2011: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, October 19, 6 p. (Accessed November 15, 2011, at <http://www.census.gov/const/newresconst.pdf>.)

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

Mineral commodity		2010				Total	2011			January-September	
		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter		First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	2010	2011
Aluminum <sup>3</sup>	thousand metric tons	158	156	161	161	636	201	221	221 <sup>e</sup>	475	643 <sup>e</sup>
Cement <sup>4</sup>	million metric tons	11.3	18.3	19.0 <sup>r</sup>	15.7	64.3 <sup>r</sup>	11.8	17.9	19.9 <sup>e</sup>	48.6	49.6 <sup>e</sup>
Gypsum <sup>5</sup>	do.	3.2	3.3	3.0	2.7	12.2	3.1 <sup>r</sup>	2.9 <sup>r</sup>	3.0 <sup>e</sup>	9.5	9.0 <sup>e</sup>
Iron ore <sup>6</sup>	do.	9.9	12.0	13.6	13.9	49.5	12.4	13.7	13.9	35.6	40.0
Phosphate rock <sup>7</sup>	do.	6.3	6.9	6.3	6.2	25.7	7.0 <sup>r</sup>	6.8 <sup>r</sup>	7.4	19.5	21.2
Sand and gravel, construction <sup>8</sup>	do.	131	234 <sup>r</sup>	264	197	825	126 <sup>r</sup>	224 <sup>r</sup>	240 <sup>e</sup>	629	590 <sup>e</sup>
Soda ash <sup>6</sup>	do.	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.8	10.6	2.6	2.6	2.7	7.8	7.9
Stone, crushed <sup>8</sup>	do.	194 <sup>r</sup>	333 <sup>r</sup>	353 <sup>r</sup>	276 <sup>r</sup>	1,160 <sup>r</sup>	196 <sup>r</sup>	311 <sup>r</sup>	354 <sup>e</sup>	880	861 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc <sup>9</sup>	thousand metric tons	179	181	186	177	723	186 <sup>r</sup>	184 <sup>r</sup>	193	546	562

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

<sup>1</sup>Based on data available as of November 15, 2011.

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

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

<sup>5</sup>Calcined production.

<sup>6</sup>Mine production.

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

<sup>8</sup>Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey.

<sup>9</sup>Recoverable mine production.