

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2013

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 may have been revised.

Domestic production levels for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) as well as gypsum in the fourth quarter of 2013 decreased substantially from those of the third quarter of 2013 (table 1), reflecting seasonal fluctuations that are influenced by weather conditions. Production levels for construction materials in the fourth quarter of 2013, however, were all higher than those in the fourth quarter of 2012. The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (2014) reported privately owned housing unit starts increased by about 14% in the fourth quarter of 2013 compared with the same period of 2012, and increased a seasonally adjusted 14% compared with the third quarter of 2013. The U.S. Census Bureau (2014) also reported that the value of construction in 2013 was nearly 5% above that of 2012. Production of many of the selected mineral commodities in 2013 was not substantially different compared with that of 2012.

References Cited

- U.S. Census Bureau, 2014, December 2013 construction at \$930.5 billion annual rate: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, February 3, 5 p. (Accessed March 19, 2014, via <http://www.census.gov/construction/c30/pdf/pr201312.pdf>.)
- U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2014, New residential construction: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, (Accessed March 19, 2014, via <http://www.census.gov/construction/bps/>.)

TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES

| Mineral commodity | Percentage change, 4th quarter 2013 vs. 3d quarter 2013 ¹ | Percentage change, 2013 total vs. 2012 total ¹ |
|-------------------------------|---|--|
| Aluminum (secondary) | -5 | -3 |
| Cement | -17 | 4 |
| Copper | -1 | 5 |
| Gold | 3 | -2 |
| Gypsum | -28 | -2 |
| Iron ore | -6 | -2 |
| Lead | -4 | -2 |
| Molybdenum | -5 | (2) |
| Phosphate rock | -10 | 4 |
| Sand and gravel, construction | -16 | 6 |
| Silver | -4 | -1 |
| Soda ash | 2 | 3 |
| Stone, crushed | -21 | 2 |
| Zinc | 9 | 7 |

¹Percentage change based on unrounded data.

²Less than ½ unit.

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

| Mineral commodity | | 2012 | | | | 2013 | | | | 1st quarter- 4th quarter | |
|---|----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| | | 1st quarter | 2d quarter | 3d quarter | 4th quarter | 1st quarter | 2d quarter | 3d quarter | 4th quarter | 2012 | 2013 |
| Aluminum ³ | thousand metric tons | 210 | 213 | 197 | 195 | 196 | 202 | 214 ^r | 203 ^e | 838 ^{r,4} | 816 ^e |
| Cement ⁵ | million metric tons | 14.2 | 20.0 | 20.5 | 17.8 | 14.0 | 20.1 | 22.7 | 18.9 ^e | 72.5 ^r | 75.7 ^e |
| Copper ⁶ | thousand metric tons | 277 | 277 | 290 | 323 | 302 ^r | 299 | 316 ^r | 312 | 1,170 | 1,230 |
| Gold ⁶ | metric tons | 57.0 | 57.2 | 59.0 | 61.5 | 54.6 | 56.4 | 59.2 ^r | 60.8 | 235 | 231 |
| Gypsum ⁷ | million metric tons | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.3 | 2.9 | 3.4 | 3.6 | 2.6 | 12.8 | 12.5 |
| Iron ore ⁸ | do. | 12.7 | 12.6 | 12.9 | 14.0 | 12.5 | 11.7 | 13.8 | 13.0 ^e | 52.2 | 51.0 ^e |
| Lead ⁶ | thousand metric tons | 83.6 | 83.0 | 84.7 | 84.6 | 78.2 ^r | 85.0 ^r | 85.4 ^r | 82.0 | 336 | 331 |
| Molybdenum ⁶ | do. | 15.0 | 14.4 ^r | 14.6 ^r | 16.4 ^r | 15.9 ^r | 15.2 | 15.1 | 14.3 ^e | 60.4 ^r | 60.6 ^e |
| Phosphate rock ⁹ | million metric tons | 6.5 | 7.9 | 8.3 | 7.4 | 7.9 | 8.4 | 7.9 ^r | 7.1 ^e | 30.1 | 31.3 ^e |
| Sand and gravel, construction ¹⁰ | do. | 143 ^r | 238 ^r | 256 ^r | 208 ^r | 143 ^r | 236 ^r | 279 ^r | 235 ^e | 845 ^r | 892 ^e |
| Silver ⁶ | metric tons | 254 | 260 | 261 | 281 | 261 | 271 | 261 ^r | 251 | 1,060 | 1,040 |
| Soda ash ⁸ | million metric tons | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 11.1 | 11.4 |
| Stone, crushed ¹⁰ | do. | 222 ^r | 322 ^r | 340 ^r | 283 ^r | 215 ^r | 323 ^r | 367 ^r | 291 ^e | 1,170 ^r | 1,200 ^e |
| Zinc ⁶ | thousand metric tons | 174 | 175 | 176 | 189 | 174 | 191 | 190 ^r | 206 | 713 | 762 |

⁶Estimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of February 11, 2014.

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.

⁴Total may not equal sum of year's quarterly data owing to adjustments to annual data that are not broken out by quarter.

⁵Data are shipments of domestically produced portland and blended cement, including cement made from imported clinker, as a proxy for actual domestic cement production.

⁶Recoverable mine production.

⁷Calcined production.

⁸Mine production.

⁹Marketable mine production.

¹⁰Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey.