

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2014

U.S. mine and plant production data for selected mineral commodities are provided monthly (or quarterly) by the U.S. Geological Survey 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' production data provided to the FRS, some of which have been revised.

Domestic production of construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum combined) in the third quarter of 2014 increased approximately 16% compared with that in the second quarter of 2014 (table 1). Production for these mineral commodities in the third quarter of

2014 was about 9 % greater than during the third quarter of 2013.

During the third quarter of 2014, aluminum production remained unchanged and copper, gold, silver, and zinc production increased by 2%, 9%, 6%, and 3%, respectively, compared with production in the second quarter of 2014. Lead and molybdenum production decreased by 2% and 7%, respectively, in the third quarter of 2014 as compared with that in the second quarter of 2014.

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TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, 3d quarter 2014 vs. 2d quarter 2014 ¹	Percentage change, YTD 2014 vs. YTD 2013 ¹
Aluminum (secondary)	(2)	1
Cement	16	9
Copper	2	11
Gold	9	-7
Gypsum	7	7
Iron ore	9	10
Lead	-2	9
Molybdenum	-7	6
Phosphate rock	-2	-15
Sand and gravel, construction	18	8
Silver	6	10
Soda ash	6	1
Stone, crushed	15	8
Zinc	3	5

¹Percent change based on unrounded data.

²Less than ½ unit.

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

Mineral commodity		2013					1st quarter- 4th quarter	2014			1st quarter- 3d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter		2d quarter	3d quarter	2013	2014	
		Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	196	202	214		213	825	207	205	206
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	14.0	20.1	22.6	18.8	75.5	14.5	21.9	25.4 ^e	56.7	61.8 ^e	
Copper ⁵	thousand metric tons	302	299	316	331	1,250	340 ^r	334 ^r	340	918	1,010	
Gold ⁵	metric tons	54.6	57.0	60.0	58.1	230	51.7 ^r	51.3 ^r	56.0	172	159	
Gypsum ⁶	million metric tons	2.9	3.4	3.6	4.0	13.9	3.1	3.6 ^r	3.9	9.9	10.6	
Iron ore ⁷	do.	12.5	11.7	13.8	13.0	51.0	13.8	13.4	14.6	38.0	41.7	
Lead ⁵	thousand metric tons	78.2	85.0	85.4	82.2	331	85.9 ^r	94.1	92.0	249	272	
Molybdenum ⁵	do.	15.9	15.3	15.1	14.4	60.8	14.8 ^r	17.8 ^r	16.6 ^e	46.4	49.3 ^e	
Phosphate rock ⁸	million metric tons	7.9	8.4	7.8	7.1	31.3 ^r	6.6	7.0 ^r	6.8	24.1	20.4	
Sand and gravel, construction ⁹	do.	136	229	269 ^r	212	847 ¹⁰	148	246	290	635	683	
Silver ⁵	metric tons	261	271	260	254	1,050	277 ^r	287 ^r	305	793	869	
Soda ash ⁷	million metric tons	2.8	2.8	2.9	2.9	11.5	2.9	2.8	3.0	8.5	8.7	
Stone, crushed ⁹	do.	210 ^r	317 ^r	359 ^r	290 ^r	1,180 ^{r,10}	219 ^r	343 ^r	393	887	955	
Zinc ⁵	thousand metric tons	178 ^r	192 ^r	192 ^r	195	758 ^r	206	191	196	563	593	

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of November 20, 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.

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

⁵Recoverable mine production.

⁶Calcined production.

⁷Mine production.

⁸Marketable mine production.

⁹Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey.

¹⁰Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding and differences between projected totals by States and divisions.