Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2016

U.S. mine and plant production data for 14 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.

Construction Materials

The combined production of most construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) in the second quarter of 2016 increased by 45% compared with that in the first quarter of 2016, whereas production of gypsum increased only slightly (fig.1, table 1). Production of these construction materials continued an overall 4-year upward trend, and second quarter 2016 production was 5% higher than second quarter 2015 production.

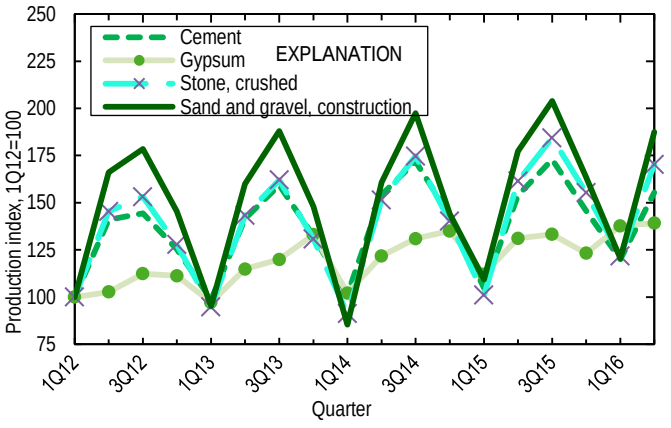

Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2016, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Base Metals

Domestic production of both secondary aluminum and zinc in the second quarter of 2016 was unchanged from that in the first quarter of 2016. Production of copper decreased slightly, production of lead decreased by 7%, and production of iron ore increased by 13% over the same comparative period (fig. 2, table 1).

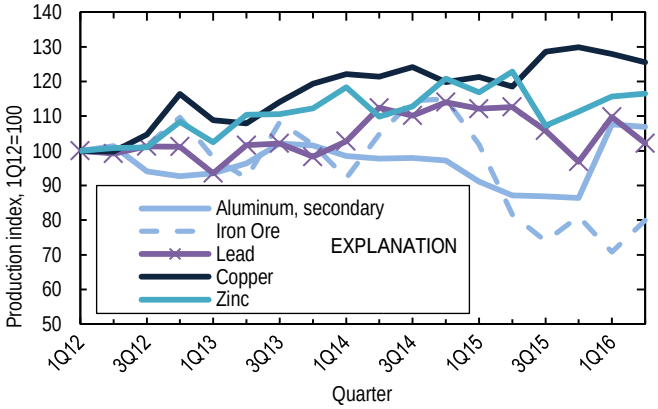

Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2016, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Precious Metals

During the second quarter of 2016, silver production decreased and gold production increased compared with production in the first quarter of 2016 (table 1). Gold production has fluctuated but generally has trended downward since 2012. Silver production has fluctuated significantly but has generally trended upward during this time period (fig. 3).

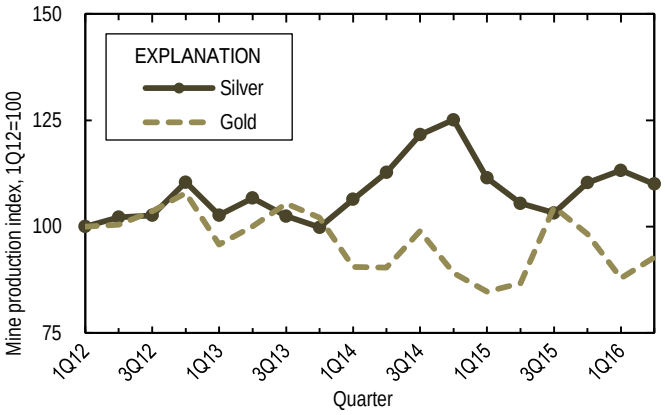

Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2016, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

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TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 2d quarter 2016 vs. 1st quarter 2016[1]	Percent change, YTD 2016 vs. YTD 2015[1]
Aluminum (secondary)	-1	20
Cement	31	6
Copper	-2	6
Gold	6	5
Gypsum	1	14
Iron ore	13	-18
Lead	-7	-6
Molybdenum	(2)	-35
Phosphate rock	4	-8
Sand and gravel, construction	54	8
Silver	-3	3
Soda ash	2	(2)
Stone, crushed	39	11
Zinc	1	-3

[1]Based on data available as of August 23, 2016.
[2]Less than 0.5 percent.

TABLE 2

U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER[1, 2]

Mineral commodity		2015					2016		1st quarter-2d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter–4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	2015	2016
Aluminum[3]	thousand metric tons	191	183	182	181	737	226	224	374	450
Cement[4]	million metric tons	14.9	21.8	24.5	20.7	81.8	16.9 r	22.1	36.6	38.9
Copper[5]	thousand metric tons	336	329	357	360	1,380	355	348	665	703
Gold[5]	metric tons	48.3 r	49.4	59.5 r	56.0 r	213 r	50.0 r	52.8	97.7	103
Gypsum[6]	million metric tons	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.7	15.0	4.1	4.2	7.3	8.3
Iron ore[7]	do.	13.0	10.4	9.4	10.3	43.1	9.0	10.2	23.4	19.2
Lead[5]	thousand metric tons	93.9 r	94.2	88.8 r	81.0 r	358	91.8 r	85.4	188	177
Molybdenum[5]	do.	13.8	13.5	12.6	10.5	50.4	8.8 r	8.8	27.3	17.7
Phosphate rock[8]	million metric tons	6.2	7.6	7.0	7.0	27.8	6.2 r	6.5	13.8	12.7
Sand and gravel, construction[9]	do.	156 r	254	291 r	236 r	937	174 r	269	410	443
Silver[5]	metric tons	283	268	262	280 r	1,090	288 r	280	551	567
Soda ash[7]	million metric tons	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	11.6	2.9	2.9	5.8	5.8
Stone, crushed[9]	do.	224	357 r	408 r	345 r	1,340	271 r	377	582	648
Zinc[5]	thousand metric tons	203	214	187	194 r	797 r	201 r	203	417	404

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[1]Based on data available as of August 23, 2016.

[2]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

[3]Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States, less primary aluminum consumed, primary silicon consumed, and other alloying ingredients consumed.

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

[5]Recoverable mine production.

[6]Calcined production.

[7]Mine production.

[8]Marketable mine production.

[9]Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey. Quarterly data my not add to totals shown because of independent rounding and differences between projected totals by States and by division.