

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD 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 construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum) in the third quarter of 2016 was 6% higher compared with that in the second quarter of 2016 (fig.1, table 1).

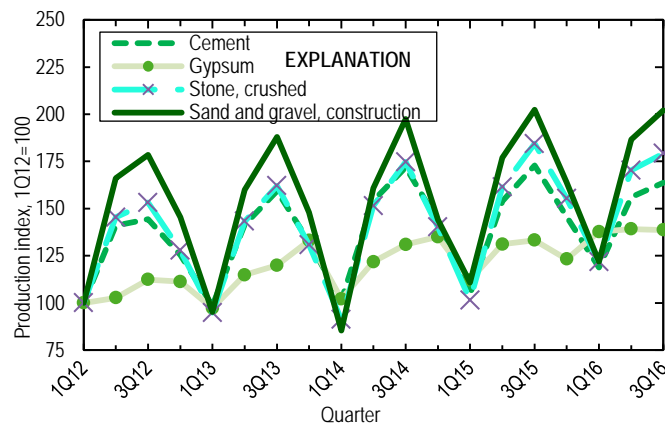


Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2012 through the third quarter of 2016, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Base Metals

Production of secondary aluminum, copper, and iron ore in the third quarter of 2016 were essentially unchanged from those in the second quarter of 2016. Production of lead decreased slightly, and production of zinc decreased by 5% during the same comparative periods (fig. 2, table 1).

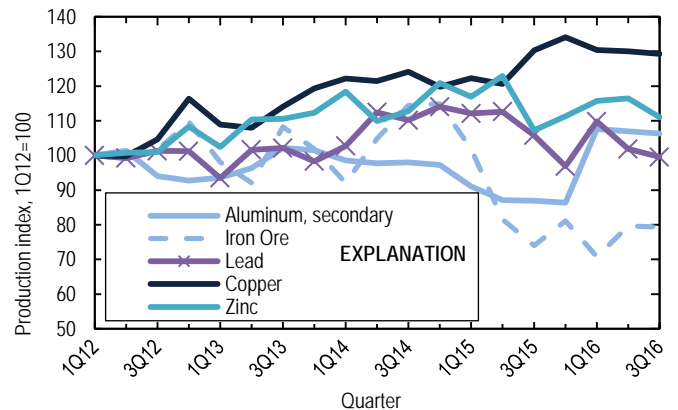


Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2012 through the third quarter of 2016, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Precious Metals

During the third quarter of 2016, silver and gold production increased slightly compared with production in the second quarter of 2016 (table 1). Gold production has fluctuated but generally trended downward from the fourth quarter of 2012. Silver production has fluctuated significantly but has generally trended upward since the first quarter of 2012 (fig. 3).

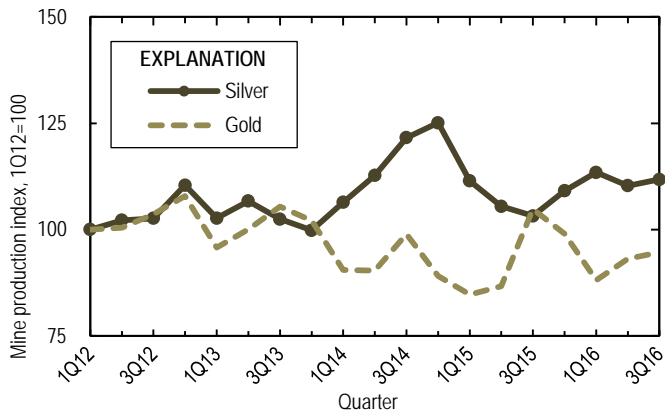


Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2012 through the third quarter of 2016, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

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TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 3d quarter 2016 vs. 2d quarter 2016 ¹	Percent change, YTD 2016 vs. YTD 2015 ¹
Aluminum (secondary)	-1	21
Cement	5	2
Copper	-1	4
Gold	2	(2)
Gypsum	(2)	10
Iron ore	(2)	-11
Lead	-2	-6
Molybdenum	-4	-35
Phosphate rock	10	-3
Sand and gravel, construction	8	4
Silver	1	5
Soda ash	3	1
Stone, crushed	5	6
Zinc	-5	-1

¹Based on data available as of December 6, 2016.

²Less than 0.5 percent.

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

Mineral commodity		2015				2016			1st quarter- 3d quarter		
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter- 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	2015	2016
Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	191	183	182	181	737	226	224	223	556	673
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	14.9	21.8	24.5	20.8 ^r	81.9 ^r	16.9	22.2 ^r	23.2	61.1	62.3
Copper ⁵	thousand metric tons	339 ^r	335 ^r	361 ^r	372 ^r	1,410 ^r	362 ^r	361 ^r	359	1,040	1,080
Gold ⁵	metric tons	48.3	49.4	59.7 ^r	56.4 ^r	214 ^r	50.2 ^r	53.1 ^r	53.9	157	157
Gypsum ⁶	million metric tons	3.4	3.9	4.0	3.7	15.0	4.1	4.2	4.2	11.3	12.4
Iron ore ⁷	do.	13.0	10.4	9.4	10.3	43.1	9.0	10.1 ^r	10.1	32.8	29.3
Lead ⁵	thousand metric tons	93.9	94.2	88.8	81.0	358	91.8	85.2 ^r	83.2	277	260
Molybdenum ⁵	do.	13.8	13.6 ^r	12.6	10.5	50.6 ^r	8.8	8.8	8.5	40.1	26.1
Phosphate rock ⁸	million metric tons	6.2	7.6	7.0	7.0	27.4 ^r	6.2	6.7 ^r	7.4	20.8	20.2
Sand and gravel, construction ⁹	do.	159 ^r	254	290 ^r	235 ^r	937	175 ^r	267 ^r	290	703	732
Silver ⁵	metric tons	283	268	262	277 ^r	1,090	288	280	284	814	853
Soda ash ⁷	million metric tons	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	11.6	2.9	2.9	3.0	8.7	8.8
Stone, crushed ⁹	do.	225 ^r	357	408	344 ^r	1,330 ^r	271	377	397	990	1,050
Zinc ⁵	thousand metric tons	203	214	187	194	797	201	203	193	604	597

^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of December 6, 2016.

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. First to fourth quarter total may not add to quarterly data due to annual adjustments that are not broken out by quarter.

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