Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2017

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 second quarter of 2017 was 46% higher compared with that in the first quarter of 2017 due to cyclical seasonal fluctuations but was slightly lower than that in the second quarter of 2016 (fig.1, table 2).

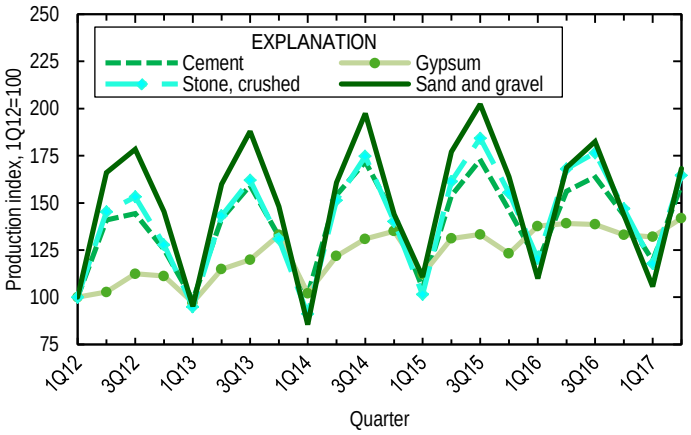

Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2017, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Base Metals

Production of secondary aluminum and copper remained essentially unchanged in the second quarter of 2017, whereas iron ore and zinc increased by 3% and 2%, respectively, compared with that in the first quarter of 2017 (fig. 2, table 1).

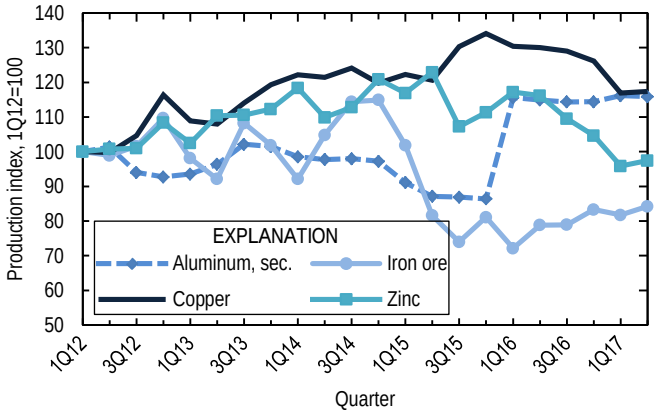

Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2017, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

Precious Metals

During the second quarter of 2017, gold production increased by 15% and silver production decreased by 7% compared with production in the first quarter of 2017 (fig. 3, table 1).

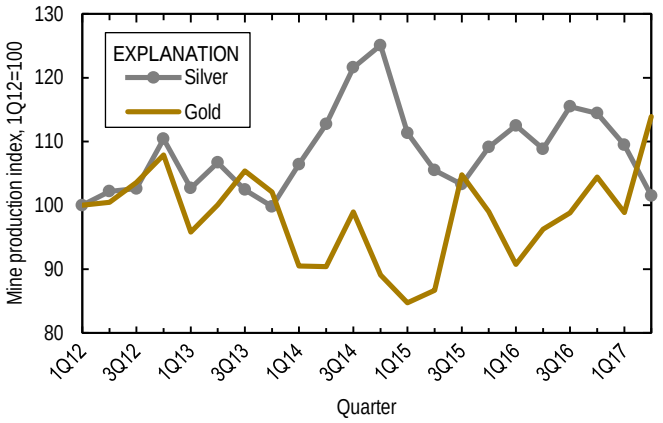

Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2012 through the second quarter of 2017, indexed to the first quarter of 2012. Source: U.S. Geological Survey.

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TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 2d quarter 2017 vs. 1st quarter 2017[1]	Percent change, YTD 2017 vs. YTD 2016[1]
Aluminum (secondary)	(2)	1
Cement	34	2
Copper	(2)	-10
Gold	15	14
Gypsum	8	-1
Iron ore	3	10
Lead	-6	-11
Molybdenum	-6	11
Phosphate rock	5	6
Sand and gravel, construction	59	-2
Silver	-7	-5
Soda ash	4	(2)
Stone, crushed	40	-2
Zinc	2	-17

[1]Based on data available as of September 5, 2017.
[2]Less than 0.5 percent.

TABLE 2

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

Mineral commodity		2016					2017		1st quarter-2d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter–4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	2016	2017
Aluminum[3]	thousand metric tons	242	241	240	240	963	244	243	484	487
Cement[4]	million metric tons	16.8 r	22.2	23.3	20.4	82.6 r	17.0	22.6	39.0	39.6
Copper[5]	thousand metric tons	362	361	358	350	1,430	324	326	722	650
Gold[5]	metric tons	51.7 r	54.8 r	56.3 r	59.5 r	222	56.3 r	64.9	106	121
Gypsum[6]	million metric tons	4.1	4.2	4.2	4.0	16.4	4.0	4.2	8.3	8.2
Iron ore[7]	do.	9.2	10.0	10.1	10.6	39.9	10.4	10.7	19.2	21.1
Lead[5]	thousand metric tons	91.8	85.1	83.3	75.9 r	336 r	81.3 r	76.2	177	158
Molybdenum[5]	do.	8.7	8.7	8.3	10.0	35.7	10.0 r	9.3	17.4	19.3
Phosphate rock[8]	million metric tons	6.2	6.7	7.7	6.8	27.3	6.6 r	7.0	12.9	13.6
Sand and gravel, construction[9]	do.	158 r	242 r	262 r	206 r	867 r	151 r	241	399	393
Silver[5]	metric tons	286	277	294	291	1,150	278 r	258	563	536
Soda ash[7]	million metric tons	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	11.8	2.9	3.0	5.8	5.8
Stone, crushed[9]	do.	267	372	391	326	1,360	261	365	640	626
Zinc[5]	thousand metric tons	204	202	191	182 r	778 r	167 r	169	406	336

[r]Revised. do. Ditto.

[1]Based on data available as of September 5, 2017.

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

[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.