

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2022

Previously, U.S. mine and plant production data for 14 selected mineral commodities were provided on a monthly (or quarterly) basis but beginning in 2022, production data for 2 additional mineral commodities, palladium and platinum, are also being provided 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-related materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum) in the third quarter of 2022 increased by 6% compared with that in the second quarter of 2022 following the typical seasonal trend (fig. 1, tables 1, 2). In the third quarter of 2022 compared with the second quarter of 2022, production of construction sand and gravel was 7% higher, production of crushed stone was 6% higher, and cement and gypsum were both slightly higher. (fig. 1, table 1).

Base Metals

Production of most base metals decreased, especially lead which decreased by 11%; the exceptions were copper which was unchanged and zinc which increased by 8% in the third quarter of 2022 compared with that in the second quarter of 2022. (fig. 2, table 1). Comparing production in the first 9 months of 2022 with that in the first 9 months of 2021, production increased for zinc (12%), secondary aluminum (3%) and copper (slightly). Production decreased for iron ore (11%) and lead (6%) in the first 9 months of 2022 compared with that in the same time period in 2021 (fig. 2, tables 1, 2).

Precious Metals

During the third quarter of 2022, silver production increased by 4%, gold production decreased slightly, platinum production decreased by 18% and palladium production decreased by 21% compared with production in the second quarter of 2022. Comparing production in the first 9 months of 2022 with that in the first 9 months of 2021, gold production was 7% lower and silver production was slightly lower (fig. 3, table 1). Palladium and platinum production were 29% and 28% lower, respectively, in the first 9 months of 2022 compared with that in the first 9 months of 2021 (tables 1,2).

Other Mineral Materials

Molybdenum production was 3% lower in the third quarter of 2022 than that in the second quarter of 2022 and was 13% lower in the first 9 months of 2022 compared with that in the first 9 months of 2021. Phosphate rock production was an estimated 8% higher in the third quarter of 2022 than that in the second quarter of 2022 but was 5% lower in the first 9 months of 2022 compared with that in the first 9 months of 2021. Soda ash production was slightly higher in the third quarter of 2022 compared with that in the second quarter of 2022 and was slightly lower in the first 9 months of 2022 compared with that in the first 9 months of 2021 (tables 1, 2).

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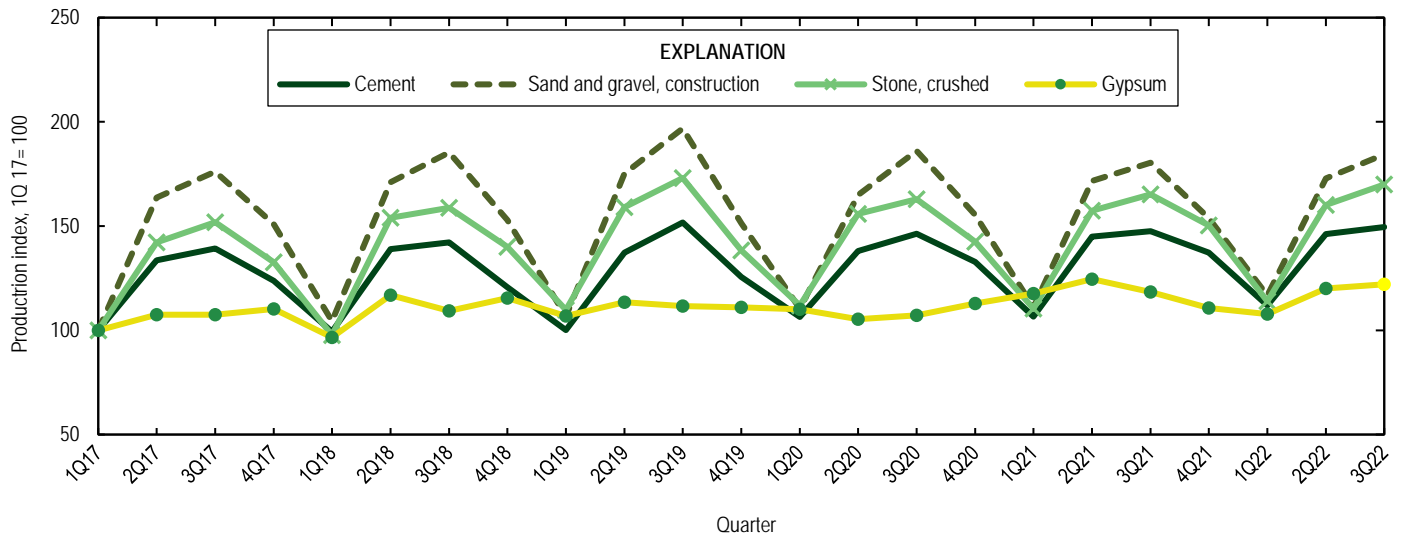


Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2022, indexed to the first quarter of 2017.

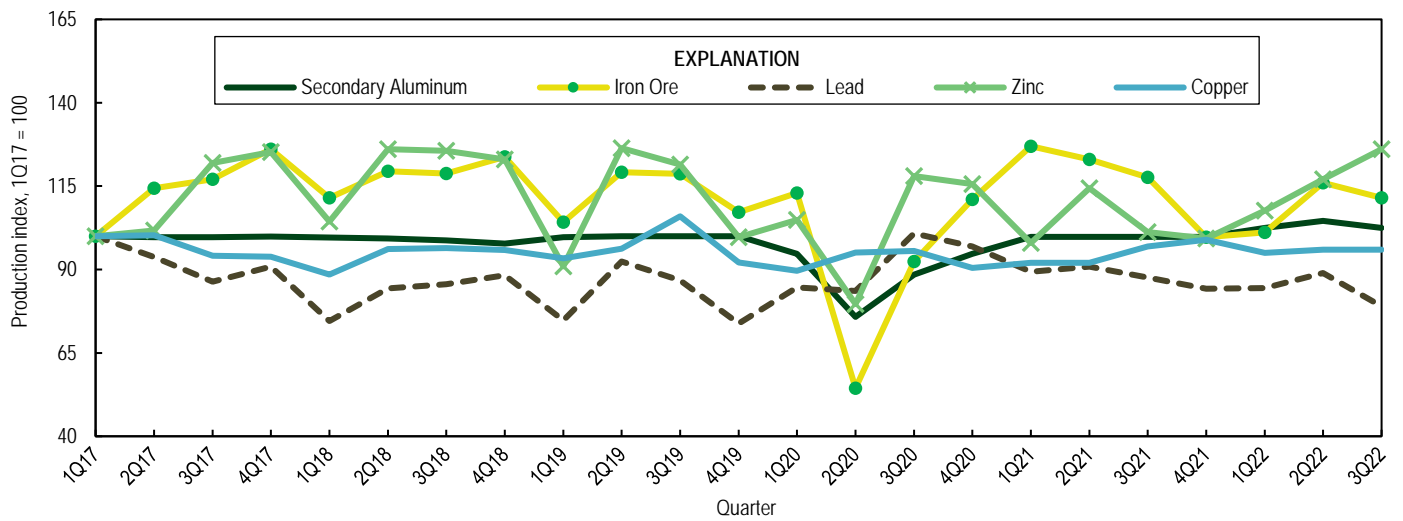


Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2022, indexed to the first quarter of 2017.

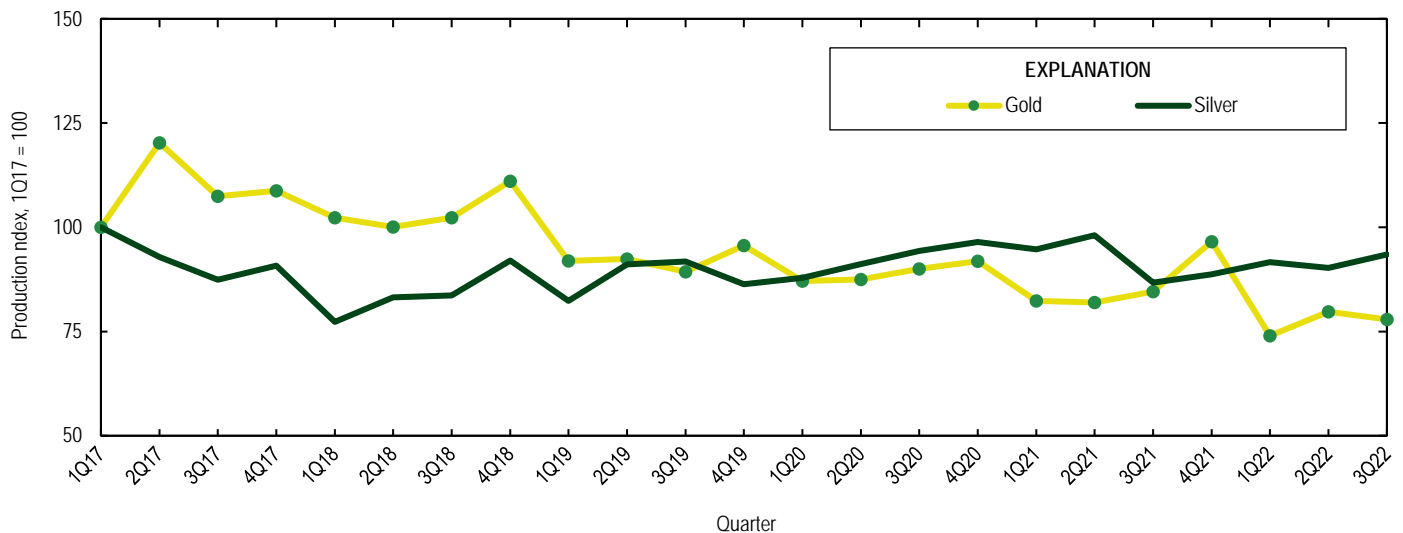


Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2017 through the third quarter of 2022, indexed to the first quarter of 2017.

TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 3d quarter 2022 vs. 2d quarter 2022	Percent change, YTD 2022 vs. YTD 2021
Aluminum (secondary)	-2	3
Cement ^c	2	2
Copper	--	2
Gold	-2	-7
Gypsum	2	-3
Iron ore	-4	-11
Lead	-11	-6
Molybdenum	-3	-13
Palladium	-21	-29
Phosphate rock ^c	8	-5
Platinum	-18	-28
Sand and gravel, construction	7	2
Silver	4	-2
Soda ash	2	-2
Stone, crushed	6	3
Zinc	8	12

^cEstimated. -- Zero.

¹Based on data available through December 6, 2022.

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

Commodity		2021					2022			1st quarter– 3d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	2021	2022
		209	209	209	209	837	215	219	215	628	649
Aluminum ^{e,3}	thousand metric tons										
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	18.1	24.6 ^e	25.0 ^e	23.3 ^e	90.9 ^e	19.0 ^{e,e}	24.8 ^{e,e}	25.4 ^e	67.7 ^e	69.1 ^e
Copper ⁵	thousand metric tons	298 ^f	298	314 ^f	321 ^f	1,230	308	311 ^f	311	911	931
Gold ⁵	metric tons	44.7	44.5 ^f	45.9 ^f	52.4 ^f	187	40.1 ^f	43.3 ^f	42.3	135	126
Gypsum ⁶	million metric tons	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.4	18.6	4.3	4.7 ^f	4.8	14.2	13.8
Iron ore ⁷	do.	13.2	12.8	12.3	10.4	48.7	10.5	12.1	11.6	38.3	34.2
Lead ⁵	thousand metric tons	72.6	73.8	71.2	68.5	286	68.6	72.3 ^f	64.2	218	205
Molybdenum ⁵	do.	13.1	9.4	9.6	9.2	41.1	9.1	9.6 ^f	9.3	32.0	28.0
Palladium ⁵	metric tons	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.1	13.7	2.9	2.6 ^f	2.0	10.7	7.6
Phosphate rock, marketable	million metric tons	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.1	21.8	4.6 ^e	5.4 ^e	5.8 ^e	16.7	15.8 ^e
Platinum ⁵	metric tons	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	4.0	0.9	0.8 ^f	0.6	3.1	2.3
Sand and gravel, construction ⁸	million metric tons	169 ^f	262 ^f	275 ^f	235 ^f	981	178 ^f	264 ^f	282	707	724
Silver ⁵	metric tons	263 ^f	273 ^f	241 ^f	247 ^f	1,020 ^f	255 ^f	251 ^f	260	777	765
Soda ash ⁷	million metric tons	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	11.3	2.8	2.7	2.7	8.4	8.2
Stone, crushed ⁸	do.	284 ^f	405	425	387 ^f	1,500	293	412 ^f	437	1,110	1,140
Zinc ⁵	thousand metric tons	163	191	169	166	688	180	195 ^f	210	523	585

^eEstimated. ^fRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available through December 6, 2022.

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.

⁴Shipments 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.

⁸Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey. Includes all 50 States.