

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Elizabeth Sangine, Chief, Mineral Commodities Section
National Minerals Information Center
Telephone: (703) 648-7720
Email: escottsangine@usgs.gov

Joseph M. Krisanda (Data)

Telephone: (703) 648-7946

Email:

Internet: <https://www.usgs.gov/centers/national-minerals-information-center/mineral-industry-surveys>

U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2023

U.S. mine and plant production data for 16 selected mineral commodities are provided on a monthly (or quarterly) basis 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 second quarter of 2023 increased by 43% compared with that in the first quarter of 2023 following the typical seasonal trend (fig. 1, tables 1, 2) but production in the first six months of 2023 was slightly lower than that in the first six months of 2022. Production of construction sand and gravel, crushed stone and cement in the second quarter of 2023 were 54%, 38%, and 34% higher, respectively, than that in the first quarter of 2023. Gypsum production was slightly higher in the second quarter of 2023 compared with that in the first quarter of 2023 (fig. 1, table 1).

Base Metals

Production of all base metals listed in this report increased in the second quarter of 2023 compared with that in the first quarter of 2023 (fig. 2, table 1). Comparing the first six months of 2023 with the first six months of 2022, production increased for iron ore (11%) and secondary aluminum (4%), but production decreased for copper (12%), zinc was slightly lower and lead was essentially unchanged (fig. 2, tables 1, 2).

Precious Metals

During the second quarter of 2023, gold production increased by 7% compared with production in the first quarter of 2023, silver production decreased by 3%, and palladium and platinum production were unchanged compared with production in the first quarter of 2023. In the first six months of 2023, silver production was 5% more compared with production in the first six months of 2022, and gold production was 5% less than that in the first six months of 2022 (fig. 3, table 1). Palladium and platinum production were 13% and 9% lower, respectively, in the first six months of 2023 compared with the same time period in 2022 (tables 1, 2).

Other Mineral Materials

Molybdenum production was 3% higher in the second quarter of 2023 than that in the first quarter of 2023 and was unchanged in the first six months of 2023 compared with that in the same time period in 2022. Phosphate rock production was an estimated 11% higher in the second quarter of 2023 than that in the first quarter of 2023 and was slightly higher in the first six months of 2023 compared with that in the first six months of 2022. Soda ash production was 10% higher in the second quarter of 2023 compared with that in the first quarter of 2023 but was slightly lower in the first six months of 2023 compared with the same time period in 2022 (tables 1, 2).

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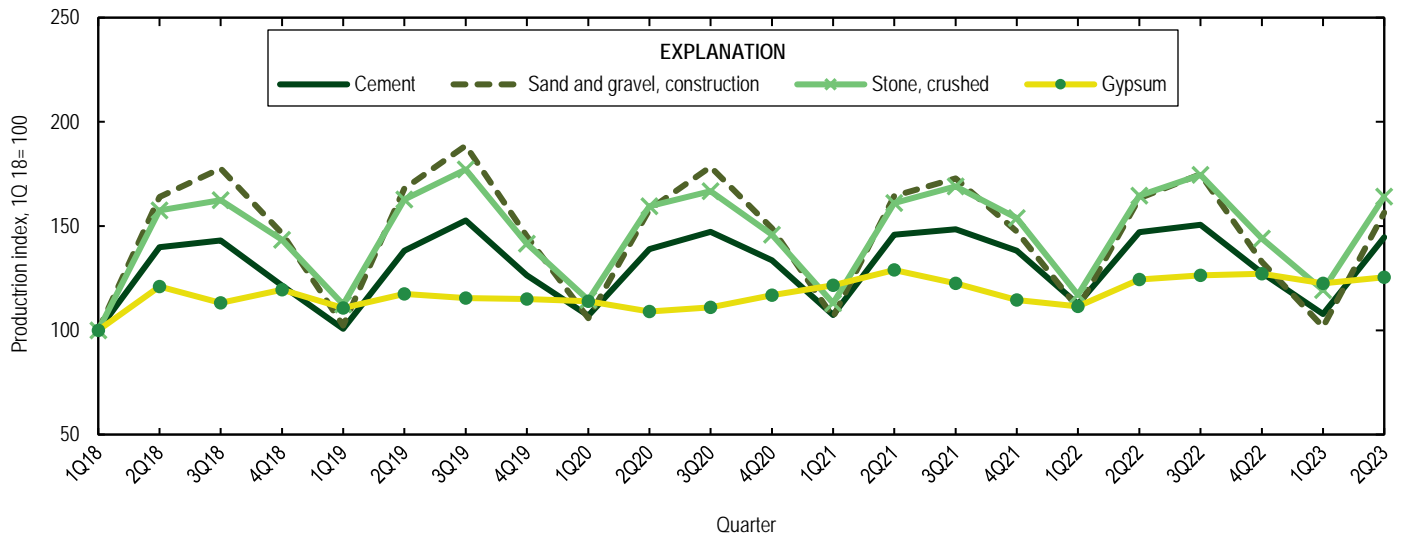


Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2018 through the second quarter of 2023, indexed to the first quarter of 2018.

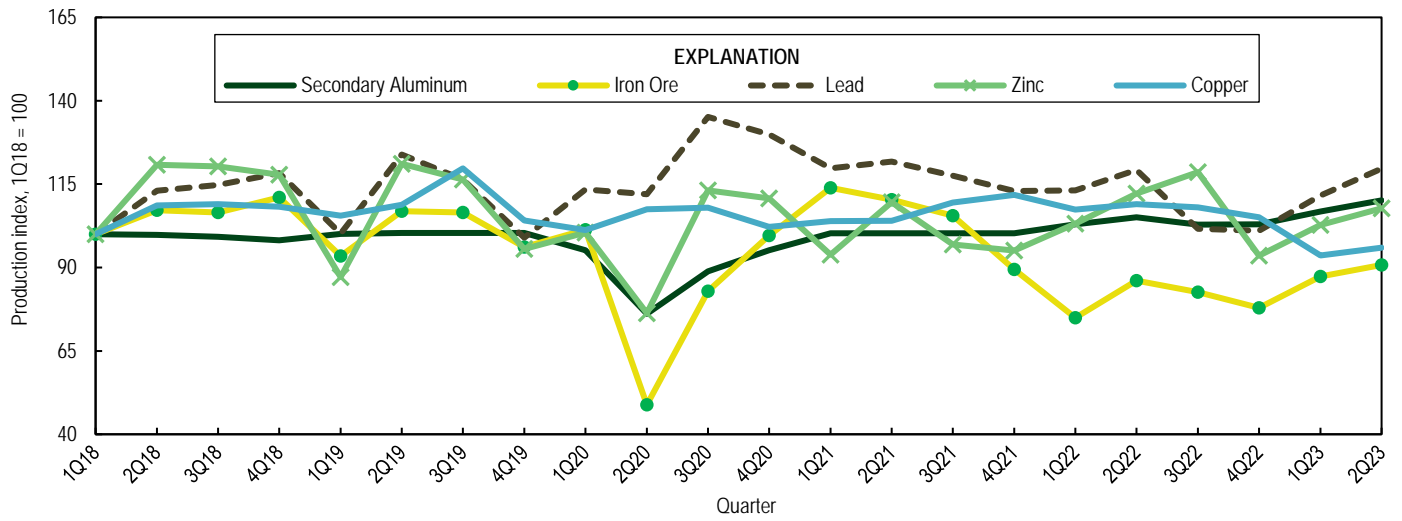


Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2018 through the second quarter of 2023, indexed to the first quarter of 2018.

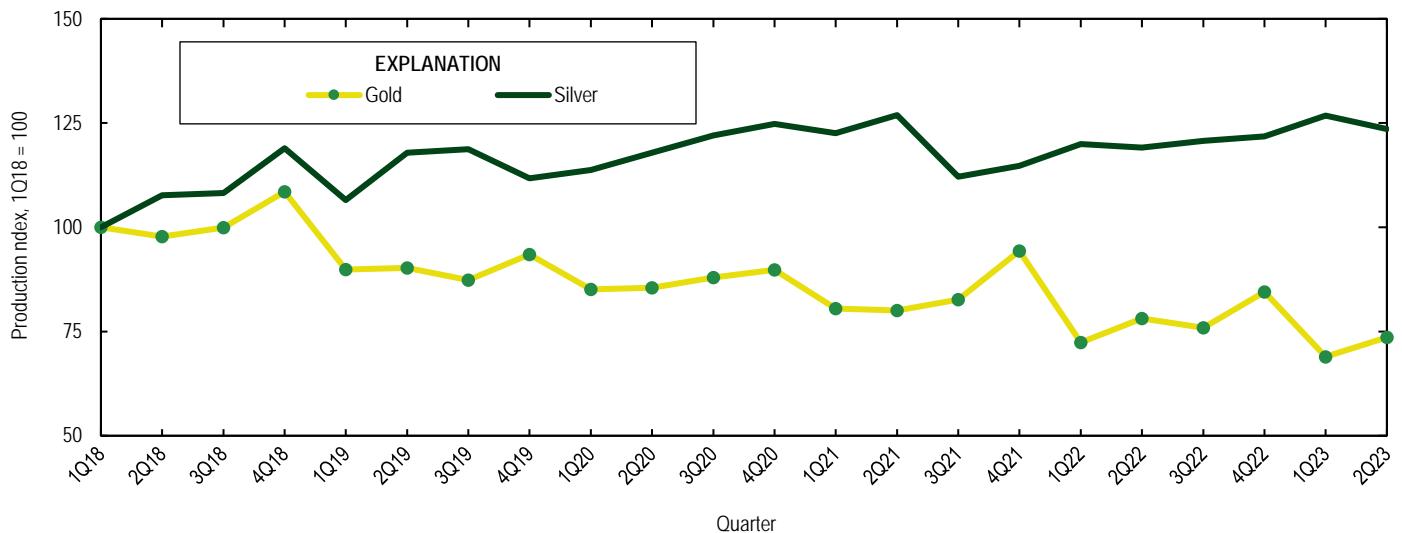


Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2018 through the second quarter of 2023, indexed to the first quarter of 2018.

TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 2d quarter 2023	Percent change, YTD 2023
	vs. 1st quarter 2023	vs. YTD 2022
Aluminum (secondary)	3	4
Cement ^c	34	-3
Copper	3	-12
Gold	7	-5
Gypsum	2	5
Iron ore	4	11
Lead	7	(2)
Molybdenum	3	(2)
Palladium	--	-13
Phosphate rock ^c	11	1
Platinum	--	-9
Sand and gravel, construction	54	-6
Silver	-3	5
Soda ash	10	-2
Stone, crushed	38	1
Zinc	5	-2

^cEstimated. --Zero.

¹Based on data available through September 5, 2023.

²Less than 0.5 units.

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

Commodity		2022						2023		1st quarter– 2d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	2022	2023	
Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	215	219	215	215	864	223	230	434	453	
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	18.9 ^r	24.7 ^r	25.4	21.5	90.5 ^r	18.2 ^r	24.4	43.6	42.5	
Copper ⁵	thousand metric tons	308	313	310	302	1,230	269 ^r	275	621	544	
Gold ⁵	metric tons	40.2	43.4	42.2	46.9 ^r	173	38.3 ^r	40.9	83.6	79.1	
Gypsum ⁶	million metric tons	4.3	4.7	4.8	4.9	18.7	4.7	4.8	9.0	9.5	
Iron ore ⁷	do.	8.7	10.0	9.6	9.0	37.3	10.1	10.5	18.7	20.7	
Lead ⁵	thousand metric tons	68.6	72.3	61.6	61.3 ^r	264	67.7 ^r	72.6	141	140	
Molybdenum ⁵	do.	8.8	7.7	7.9	10.2	34.6	8.1	8.4	16.5	16.5	
Palladium ⁵	metric tons	2.9	2.6	2.0	2.5	10.1	2.4	2.4	5.5	4.8	
Phosphate rock, marketable ⁸	million metric tons	4.6	5.3	5.5	4.2	19.6	4.7 ^{r,e}	5.2 ^e	9.8	9.9 ^e	
Platinum ⁵	metric tons	0.9	0.8	0.6	0.7	3.0	0.7	0.7	1.6	1.5	
Sand and gravel, construction ⁹	million metric tons	176 ^r	260 ^r	279	212	927	162 ^r	249	437	411	
Silver ⁵	metric tons	258	256	259	262 ^r	1,030	272 ^r	265	514	538	
Soda ash ⁷	million metric tons	2.8	2.7	2.7	3.0	11.3	2.6	2.8	5.5	5.4	
Stone, crushed ⁹	do.	294 ^r	414 ^r	439 ^r	362	1,510	300	413	708	712	
Zinc ⁵	thousand metric tons	180	195	206	163	744	179 ^r	188	375	366	

¹Estimated. ²Revised. do. Ditto.

³Based on data available through September 5, 2023.

⁴Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

⁵Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States, less primary aluminum consumed, primary silicon consumed, and other alloying ingredients consumed.

⁶Shipments of domestically produced portland and blended cement, including cement made from imported clinker, as a proxy for actual domestic cement production.

⁷Recoverable mine production.

⁸Calcined production.

⁹Mine production.

⁸Marketable mine production. First to fourth quarter total may not add to quarterly data owing to annual adjustments that are not broken out by quarter.

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