

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 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 second quarter of 2022 increased by 43% compared with that in the first quarter of 2022 following the typical seasonal trend (fig. 1, tables 1, 2). The combined production of construction-related materials in the first 6 months of 2022 was slightly higher than that in the same time period in 2021. In the second quarter of 2022 compared with the second quarter of 2021, production of cement was 3% higher, construction sand and gravel production and crushed stone production was slightly higher, but gypsum production was 5% lower (fig. 1).

Base Metals

Production of iron ore, lead, and zinc increased in the second quarter of 2022 compared with that in the first quarter of 2022, and production of copper and secondary aluminum were slightly higher (fig. 2, table 1). Comparing production in the first 6 months of 2022 with that in the first 6 months of 2021, the production increased by 4% each for copper, secondary aluminum, and zinc. Production decreased for iron ore (13%) and lead (3%) in the first 6 months of 2022 compared with that in the same time period in 2021 (fig. 2).

Precious Metals

During the second quarter of 2022, silver production decreased slightly, gold production increased slightly, and palladium and platinum production were unchanged compared with production in the first quarter of 2022. Comparing production in the first 6 months of 2022 with that in the first six months of 2021, gold production was 9% lower and silver production was slightly lower (fig. 3, table 1). Palladium and platinum production were 18% lower, each, in the first 6 months of 2022 compared with that in the first 6 months of 2021 (table 1).

Other Mineral Materials

Molybdenum production was 24% higher in the second quarter of 2022 than that in the first quarter of 2022 and was 9% lower in the first 6 months of 2022 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2021. Phosphate rock production was 16% higher in the second quarter of 2022 than that in the first quarter of 2022 but was 9% lower in the first 6 months of 2022 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2021. Soda ash production was 4% lower in the second quarter of 2022 compared with that of the first quarter of 2022 and was slightly lower in the first 6 months of 2022 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2021 (table 1).

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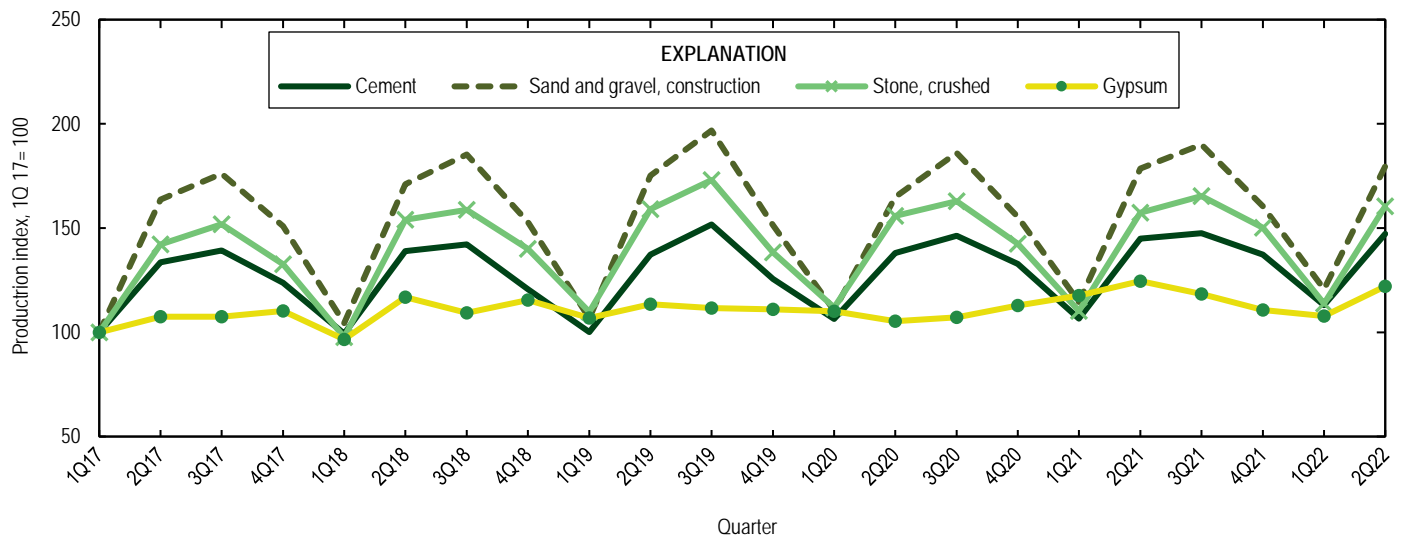


Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2017 through the second quarter of 2022, indexed to the first quarter of 2017.

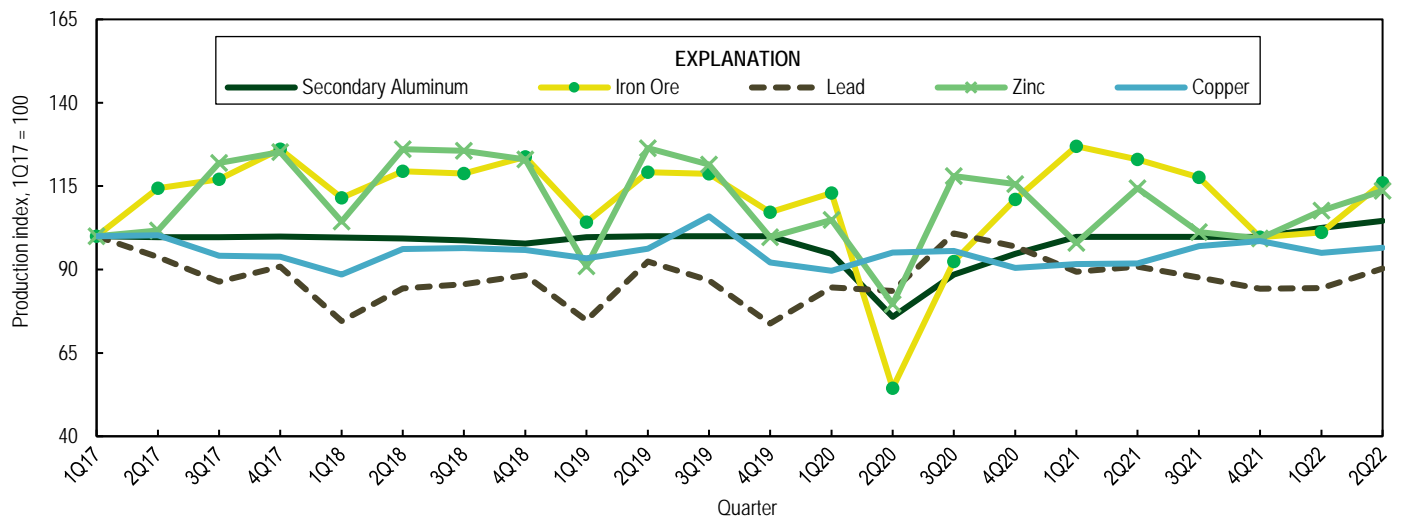


Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2017 through the second quarter of 2022, indexed to the first quarter of 2017.

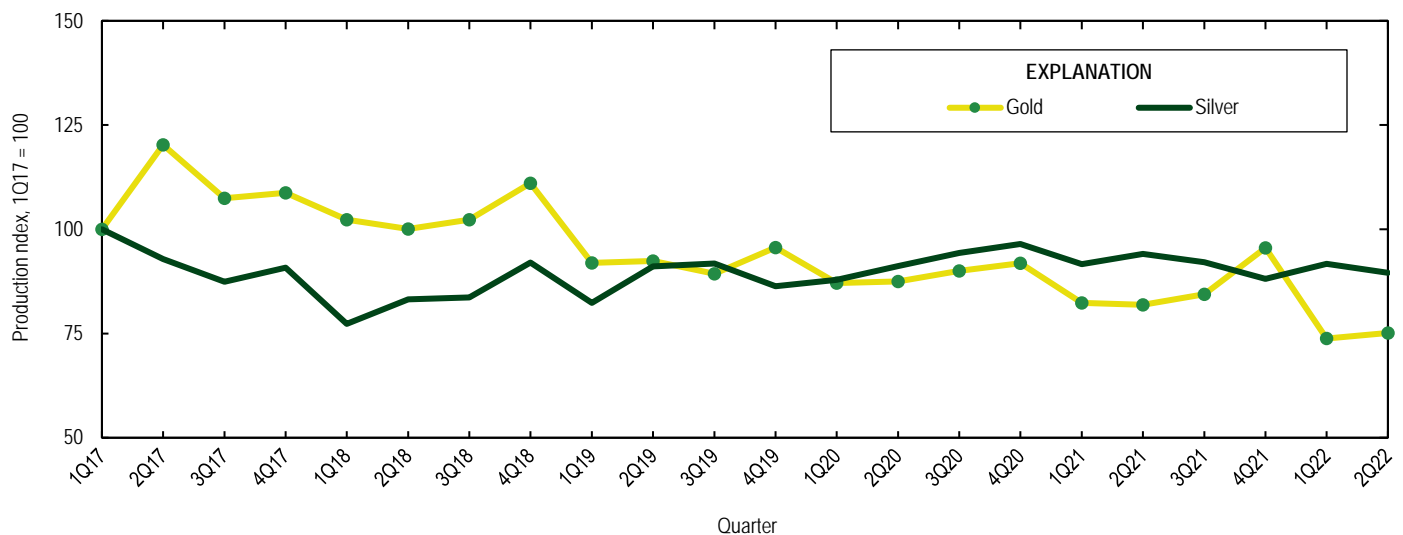


Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2017 through the second quarter of 2022, indexed to the first quarter of 2017.

TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 2d quarter 2022 vs. 1st quarter 2022	Percent change, YTD 2022 vs. YTD 2021
Aluminum (secondary)	2	4
Cement ^e	30	3
Copper	2	4
Gold	2	-9
Gypsum	13	-5
Iron ore	15	-13
Lead	7	-3
Molybdenum	24	-9
Palladium	--	-18
Phosphate rock	16	-9
Platinum	--	-18
Sand and gravel, construction	49	2
Silver	-2	-2
Soda ash	-4	-1
Stone, crushed	41	2
Zinc	5	4

^eEstimated. -- Zero.

¹Based on data available through September 12, 2022.

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

Commodity		2021					2022		1st quarter– 2d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter– 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	2021	2022
Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	209	209	209	209	837	215	219	418	434
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	18.1	24.6 ^e	25.0 ^e	23.3 ^e	90.9 ^e	19.2 ^{e,e}	25.0 ^e	42.6 ^e	44.1 ^e
Copper ⁵	thousand metric tons	297	298	315	319	1,230	308 ^f	313	595	621
Gold ⁵	metric tons	44.7	44.4	45.8	51.8	187	40.0 ^f	40.8	89.1	80.8
Gypsum ⁶	million metric tons	4.6	4.9	4.7	4.4	18.6	4.3	4.8	9.6	9.1
Iron ore ⁷	do.	13.2	12.8	12.3	10.4	48.7	10.5	12.1	26.0	22.6
Lead ⁵	thousand metric tons	72.6	73.8	71.2	68.5 ^f	286 ^f	68.6 ^f	73.4	146	142
Molybdenum ⁵	do.	13.1	9.4	9.6	9.2	41.1	9.1 ^f	11.3	22.4	20.5
Palladium ⁵	metric tons	3.7	3.5	3.5	3.1	13.7	2.9	2.9	7.2	5.9
Phosphate rock, marketable	million metric tons	5.3	5.6	5.8	5.1	21.8	4.6	5.4	11.0	10.0
Platinum ⁵	metric tons	1.1	1.0	1.0	0.9	4.0	0.9	0.9	2.1	1.7
Sand and gravel, construction ⁸	million metric tons	175 ^f	273	290 ^f	245	981	184 ^f	274	448	459
Silver ⁵	metric tons	255	261	254	244	1,010	255	249	516	504
Soda ash ⁷	million metric tons	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.9	11.3	2.8	2.7 ^e	5.6	5.5 ^e
Stone, crushed ⁸	do.	283 ^f	405	425	386	1,500	293 ^f	413	688	705
Zinc ⁵	thousand metric tons	163	191	169	166	688	180	189	354	369

^eEstimated. ^fRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available through September 12, 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.