

Mineral Industry Surveys

For information, contact:

Joyce A. Ober, Acting Chief, Mineral Commodities Section
 National Minerals Information Center
 U.S. Geological Survey
 989 National Center
 Reston, VA 20192
 Telephone: (703) 648-7717
 E-mail: jobber@usgs.gov

Joseph M. Krisanda (Data)
 Telephone: (703) 648-7946
 Fax: (703) 648-7975
 E-mail: jkrisand@usgs.gov

Internet: <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>

U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2012

U.S. mine and plant production data for selected mineral commodities are provided monthly (or quarterly) by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 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. The data in this report include current and prior months' data provided to the FRS, some of which have been revised.

Increases in domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) were substantial compared with production of the first quarter of 2012 (table 1) primarily owing to seasonal variations. The increase in construction materials production compared with production in the second quarter of 2011 could be the continuing effects of the unusually warm winter weather in the eastern half of the United

States, but may also reflect some increases in construction after several years of decline. Total construction spending during the first half of 2012 was 9.0% more than that in the corresponding period of 2011 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012). The U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2012) reported that privately owned housing starts in the first half of 2012 were 26.5% higher than those in the first half of 2011.

References Cited

U.S. Census Bureau, 2012, June 2012 construction at \$842.1 billion annual rate: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, August 1, 4 p. (Accessed August 13, 2012, at <http://www.census.gov/construction/c30/pdf/release.pdf>.)
 U.S. Census Bureau and U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2012, New residential construction in June 2012: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, July 18, 6 p. (Accessed August 13, 2012, at <http://www.census.gov/construction/nrc/pdf/newresconst.pdf>.)

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, second quarter 2012	Percentage change, YTD, second quarter 2012
	vs. first quarter 2012 ¹	vs. YTD, second quarter 2011 ¹
Aluminum (secondary)	12	7
Cement	42	16
Gypsum	3	1
Iron ore	-1	-3
Phosphate rock	18	2
Sand and gravel, construction	63	5
Soda ash	-3	3
Stone, crushed	47	5
Zinc	3	-4

¹Percentage change based on unrounded data.

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

Mineral commodity		2011					1st quarter- 4th quarter	2012		1st quarter- 2d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter		2d quarter	2011	2012	
Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	199	219	236	220 ^r	873 ^r	211	237 ^e	417	448 ^e	
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	11.8	17.8	20.1	16.9	66.5	14.2	20.1 ^e	29.6	34.3 ^e	
Gypsum ⁵	do.	3.1	2.9	3.0	2.9	11.9	3.0	3.1 ^e	6.0	6.1 ^e	
Iron ore ⁶	do.	12.4	13.7	13.9	13.7	53.6	12.7	12.6 ^e	26.1	25.3 ^e	
Phosphate rock ⁷	do.	7.0	6.8	7.4	6.9	28.1	6.5 ^r	7.6 ^e	13.8	14.1 ^e	
Sand and gravel, construction ⁸	do.	123 ^r	218 ^r	263 ^r	198 ^r	802 ^r	136 ^r	221 ^e	341	357 ^e	
Soda ash ⁶	do.	2.6	2.6	2.7	2.8	10.7	2.7	2.6	5.2	5.4	
Stone, crushed ⁸	do.	198 ^r	313 ^r	351 ^r	282 ^r	1,140	216 ^r	319 ^e	510	535 ^e	
Zinc ⁹	thousand metric tons	186	184	194	180 ^r	743 ^r	174 ^r	179 ^e	369	353 ^e	

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of August 9, 2012.

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.

⁵Calcined production.

⁶Mine production.

⁷Marketable mine production.

⁸Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey.

⁹Recoverable mine production.