

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LOUISIANA

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Louisiana Geological Survey for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1999, the preliminary estimated value<sup>1</sup> of nonfuel mineral production for Louisiana was \$348 million, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). This was a marginal increase from that of 1998,<sup>2</sup> following a 14% decrease from 1997 to 1998. The State rose in rank to 33d from 34th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value, of which Louisiana accounted for nearly 1% of the U.S. total.

Louisiana's leading nonfuel mineral is salt, accounting for nearly 52% of the State's nonfuel mineral value in 1999. When included as part of Louisiana's mineral production, sulfur is the State's second-leading mineral commodity. All current sulfur

<sup>1</sup>The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending upon the minerals or mineral products. Production may be measured by mine shipments, mineral commodity sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers) as is applicable to the individual mineral commodity.

All 1999 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are preliminary estimates as of May 2000 and are expected to change. For some mineral commodities, such as, construction sand and gravel and crushed stone, estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most current information, please contact the appropriate USGS mineral commodity specialist. A telephone listing for the specialists may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>, by using MINES FaxBack at (703) 648-4999 from a fax machine with a touch-tone handset (request Document #1000 for a telephone listing of all mineral commodity specialists), or by calling USGS information at (703) 648-4000 for the specialist's name and number. All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>; facsimile copies may be obtained from MINES FaxBack.

<sup>2</sup>Values, percentage calculations, and rankings for 1998 may vary from the Minerals Yearbook, Area Reports: Domestic 1998, Volume II, owing to the revision of preliminary 1998 to final 1998 data. Data for 1999 are preliminary and are expected to change; related rankings may also be subject to change.

production comes from a mine that is 28 kilometers offshore. Because of the mine's location, the State does not receive severance tax income or mineral production royalties; instead, they are collected by the Federal Government. Since 1991, the State and the Louisiana Geological Survey have not included the sulfur as part of Louisiana's nonfuel mineral production; consequently, it is not cited in table 1 under "Combined values." The USGS attributes this offshore sulfur production to Louisiana, because it is the State nearest to the sulfur mine and because Freeport-McMoRan Sulphur Inc., the company that operates the mine, is based in New Orleans.

In 1999, the value of salt increased by about \$7 million, but decreases in construction sand and gravel and crushed sandstone reduced the overall gain, resulting in a marginal increase in nonfuel mineral value for the State. All other changes in value were small. In 1998, a substantial decrease in the value of Frasch sulfur and a smaller yet significant drop in the value of crushed stone accounted for most of the decrease in nonfuel mineral value. International cutbacks and two hurricanes that caused significant technical problems at Freeport-McMoRan's offshore sulfur mine lead to a substantial drop in production and a decrease in sulfur value. These decreases were mitigated somewhat by increases in the values of construction and industrial sand and gravel, salt, and common clay (table 1).

Based upon USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 1999, Louisiana remained the leading State in the Nation in salt and Frasch sulfur production. The State also was a significant producer of common clay and industrial sand and gravel.

TABLE 1  
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN LOUISIANA 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	1997		1998		1999 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays: Common	556	9,060	620	11,100	625	10,800
Gemstones	NA	15	NA	5	NA	7
Salt	15,300	169,000	14,900	173,000	14,700	180,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	10,400	46,600	11,400	53,800	10,500	50,400
Industrial	644	11,200	623	12,100	623	12,100
Stone: Crushed	1,570 3/	16,100 3/	W	W	W	W
Combined values of gypsum (crude), lime, stone [crushed limestone and miscellaneous (1997), crushed sandstone (1998-99)], sulfur (Frasch), and values indicated by symbol W	XX	151,000 r/	XX	96,300	XX	94,800
Total	XX	403,000 r/	XX	347,000	XX	348,000

p/ Preliminary. r/ Revised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "Combined values" data.

XX Not applicable.

1/ Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

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

3/ Excludes certain stones; kind and value included with "Combined values" data.

TABLE 2  
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND 1/

Kind	1997				1998			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	3	W	W	W	--	--	--	--
Sandstone	9	1,570	\$16,100	\$10.30	1	W	W	W
Miscellaneous stone	1	W	W	W	--	--	--	--
Total or average	XX	1,570	16,100	10.30	XX	W	W	W

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable. -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except unit value; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 3  
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS  
IN 1998, BY USE

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Coarse aggregate, graded: Bituminous aggregate, coarse	W	W	W
Fine aggregate (-3/8): Stone sand, concrete	W	W	W
Total or average	W	W	W

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 4  
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1998,  
BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products	2,130	\$13,100	\$6.13
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	324	1,290	3.99
Road base and coverings 2/	252	889	3.53
Fill	563	1,540	2.74
Other miscellaneous uses 3/	25	378	15.12
Unspecified: 4/			
Actual	5,970	27,300	4.57
Estimated	2,140	9,400	4.39
Total or average	11,400	53,800	4.72

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except unit value; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes road and other stabilization (cement).

3/ Includes filtration.

4/ Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.

TABLE 5  
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1998,  
BY USE AND DISTRICT 1/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2		District 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products	W	W	W	W	686	3,380
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials 2/	W	W	308	1,060	W	W
Fill	180	565	264	814	119	164
Other miscellaneous uses 3/	--	--	W	W	W	W
Unspecified: 4/						
Actual	25	56	556	1,610	5,390	25,600
Estimated	143	710	343	1,650	1,650	7,030
Total	793	4,420	2,500	11,900	8,100	37,500

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." -- Zero.

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

2/ Includes road and other stabilization (cement).

3/ Includes filtration.

4/ Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.