

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2008

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. This index is a principal economic indicator for the U.S. economy, measuring the output of manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities. The data in this report include current and prior months data

provided to the FRS, some of which has been revised.

Production of gypsum declined 6%* in the first quarter of 2008 compared with that of the fourth quarter 2007 and declined 13%* compared with that of the first quarter of 2007, according to the USGS. Significant declines in domestic production for construction materials (cement, gypsum, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) can be attributed to the declines in the domestic housing market (table 1).

Mineral Commodity	Percentage change, first quarter 2008 vs. fourth quarter 2007	Percentage change, YTD, first quarter 2008, vs. YTD, first quarter 2007
Aluminum (secondary)	11	-1
Cement	-23	-4
Gypsum*	-6	-13
Iron ore	-3	13
Phosphate rock	-1	7
Sand and gravel, construction	-29	-5
Soda ash	0	4
Stone, crushed	-18	6
Zinc	9	15

YTD Year to date.

*Correction posted June 16, 2008.

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

Mineral Commodity		2007				Total	2008	Total ²	
		First	Second	Third	Fourth		First	2008	2007
		quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter		quarter		
Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	243.0	233.0	231.0	217.0	924.0	240.0 ^e	240.0 ^e	243.0
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	18.0	25.6	26.3	22.2	92.2	17.2 ^e	17.2 ^e	18.0
Gypsum ^{5*}	do.	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.0	21.4	4.7	4.7	5.4
Iron ore ⁶	do.	11.4	13.7	13.5	13.3	51.9	12.9	12.9	11.4
Phosphate rock ⁷	do.	7.1	7.7	7.4	7.7	29.9	7.6 ^e	7.6 ^e	7.1
Sand and gravel, construction ⁸	do.	194.0	316.0	338.0	260.0	1,110.0	184.0 ^e	184.0 ^e	194.0
Soda ash ⁶	do.	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	11.1	2.8	2.8	2.7
Stone, crushed ⁸	do.	263.0	403.0	433.0	341.0	1,440.0	280.0 ^e	280.0 ^e	263.0
Zinc ⁹	thousand metric tons	181.0	180.0	197.0	190.0 ^e	747.0 ^e	207.0 ^e	207.0 ^e	181.0

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. do. Ditto.

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

²2008: cumulative, year to date; 2007: cumulative through the comparable period.

³Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

⁴Portland and blended cement shipments.

⁵Calcined production.

⁶Mine production.

⁷Marketable mine production.

⁸Sold or used.

⁹Recoverable mine production.

*Correction posted June 16, 2008.