

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2010

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 in determining monetary policy. The data in this report include current and prior months' data provided to the FRS, some of which have been revised.

In the second quarter of 2010, increases in domestic production for construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) were large compared with those of the first quarter of 2010 (table 1), but largely seasonal. The increase in phosphate rock production partly reflected a seasonal upturn in fertilizer production. Iron ore production increased by 21% in the second quarter of 2010 compared with that of the first quarter of 2010 owing mainly to upward trending raw steel

production. Decreases in production for some mineral commodities in the second quarter of 2010 compared with production in the same period of 2009 may be attributed to decreases in construction spending, which declined 11% for the year to date through June compared with the similar period of 2009 (U.S. Census Bureau, 2010). However, the U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (2010) reported that privately owned housing starts for the year to date through June 2010 were 14% above those for the first half of 2009.

**Reference Cited**

U.S. Census Bureau, 2010, June 2010 construction at \$836.0 billion annual rate: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, August 2, 4 p. (Accessed August 12, 2010, at <http://www.census.gov/const/C30/release.pdf>.)  
 U.S. Census Bureau and the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2010, New residential construction in June 2010: Washington, DC, U.S. Department of Commerce, July 20, 6 p. (Accessed August 12, 2010, at <http://www.census.gov/const/newresconst.pdf>.)

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, second quarter 2010 vs. first quarter 2010 <sup>1</sup>	Percentage change, second quarter 2010 vs. second quarter 2009 <sup>1</sup>
Aluminum (secondary)	-2	-9
Cement	62	-4
Gypsum	3	-7
Iron ore	21	95
Phosphate rock	8	1
Sand and gravel, construction	83	-2
Soda ash	3	15
Stone, crushed	68	-1
Zinc	6	5

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Percentage change based on unrounded numbers.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER<sup>1,2</sup>

Mineral commodity		2009					2010		January-June	
		First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	Second	2009	2010
		quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter		quarter	quarter		
Aluminum <sup>3</sup>	thousand metric tons	182 <sup>r</sup>	162 <sup>r</sup>	162 <sup>r</sup>	163 <sup>r</sup>	668 <sup>r</sup>	158 <sup>r</sup>	156 <sup>e</sup>	361	329 <sup>e</sup>
Cement <sup>4</sup>	million metric tons	13.2	17.8 <sup>r</sup>	19.1 <sup>r</sup>	14.4 <sup>r</sup>	64.4 <sup>r</sup>	11.3 <sup>r</sup>	18.4 <sup>e</sup>	30.9	29.7 <sup>e</sup>
Gypsum <sup>5</sup>	do.	3.7	3.3	3.4	3.0	13.4	3.2	3.3 <sup>e</sup>	7.0	6.4 <sup>e</sup>
Iron ore <sup>6</sup>	do.	7.9	3.4	5.8	9.4	26.5	9.9	12.0	11.2	22.0
Phosphate rock <sup>7</sup>	do.	6.1	6.8	7.6	6.0	26.5	6.3 <sup>r</sup>	6.8 <sup>e</sup>	12.9	13.0 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel, construction <sup>8</sup>	do.	139 <sup>r</sup>	212 <sup>r</sup>	254 <sup>r</sup>	178 <sup>r</sup>	800 <sup>9</sup>	122 <sup>r</sup>	223 <sup>e</sup>	351	345 <sup>e</sup>
Soda ash <sup>6</sup>	do.	2.2	2.2	2.4	2.5	9.3	2.5	2.6	4.4	5.0
Stone, crushed <sup>8</sup>	do.	219 <sup>r</sup>	311 <sup>r</sup>	344 <sup>r</sup>	262 <sup>r</sup>	1,130 <sup>r</sup>	195 <sup>r</sup>	328 <sup>e</sup>	530	523 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc <sup>10</sup>	thousand metric tons	179	173	181	178	710	179 <sup>r</sup>	189 <sup>e</sup>	352	368 <sup>e</sup>

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto.

<sup>1</sup>Based on data available as of August 12, 2010.

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

<sup>3</sup>Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

<sup>4</sup>Portland and blended cement shipments.

<sup>5</sup>Calcined production.

<sup>6</sup>Mine production.

<sup>7</sup>Marketable mine production.

<sup>8</sup>Sold or used.

<sup>9</sup>Total does not equal sum of year's quarterly data owing to the inclusion of annual data that are not separated by quarter.

<sup>10</sup>Recoverable mine production.