



# 2006 Minerals Yearbook

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## PUERTO RICO

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## LEGEND

- ★ Capital
- City
- Municipality boundary

### MINERAL SYMBOLS (Major producing areas)

- Cem Cement plant
- Clay Common clay
- CS Crushed stone
- DS Dimension stone
- IS Industrial sand
- Lime Lime plant
- Salt Salt
- SG Construction sand and gravel

Source: Department of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico/U.S. Geological Survey (2006).

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE ADMINISTERED ISLANDS<sup>1</sup>

**This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources, Special Services Bureau, Division of Geology, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.**

In 2006, Puerto Rico's nonfuel raw mineral production<sup>2</sup> was valued at \$228 million, based upon annual U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data. This was a \$15 million, or 7%, increase from the \$213 million of 2005, which was up \$26 million, or by nearly 14%, from 2004 to 2005. If ranked in comparison with the 50 States, Puerto Rico would rank 41st in total nonfuel mineral production value.

Portland cement, by value, continued to be the Commonwealth's leading nonfuel mineral commodity, followed by crushed stone. In 2006, the nonfuel mineral production value of portland cement rose significantly despite a slight decrease in production; the commodity's increase in value accounted for the largest portion of Puerto Rico's increase in nonfuel mineral production value. This was followed by the increase in crushed

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<sup>1</sup>While a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was officially made between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, MOUs were not established with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Caribbean and Pacific Island Possessions, or the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Nevertheless, data on nonfuel raw mineral production were reported from several of the Administered Islands to the USGS. Only aggregated crushed stone data for the island of Guam of the Pacific Island Possessions and the same for the U.S. Virgin Islands southeast of Puerto Rico are nonproprietary; these data appear in table 1.

<sup>2</sup>The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending upon the 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 2006 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are those available as of March 2008. All USGS Mineral Industry Surveys and USGS Minerals Yearbook chapters—mineral commodity, State, and country—can be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

stone. With a 6% increase in crushed stone production, the mineral commodity's value was up by \$5 million, a more than 9% increase (table 1). No decreases took place in any of the Commonwealth's nonfuel mineral commodities production.

In 2006, Puerto Rico produced significant quantities of portland cement; the Commonwealth would rank 20th if ranked in comparison with the 37 producing States. Construction sand and gravel was produced mainly for use as aggregate in concrete and concrete products, as road base materials, and as fill, but production data are not available. The collection and compilation of production data for construction sand and gravel were discontinued by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (the Federal Government Agency then responsible for collecting domestic raw nonfuel mineral production data) because of a substantially low rate of response to surveys by the industry (Sikich and Alonso, 1993).

Of the U.S. Administered Islands, only American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands recently have reported nonfuel mineral production data, and these have been limited to crushed stone. Crushed stone production and value data for Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands (limestone and traprock) are shown in table 1. Data for the production of crushed stone for American Samoa (traprock) and the Virgin Islands (2004) have been withheld so as to not disclose company proprietary data.

## Reference Cited

Sikich, S.W., and Alonso, R.M., 1993, The mineral industries of Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, Island Possessions, and Trust Territory: U.S. Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbook 1992, v. II, p. 467-470.

TABLE 1  
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AND ISLANDS ADMINISTERED  
BY THE UNITED STATES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	2004		2005		2006	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
<b>Puerto Rico:</b>						
Cement, portland	1,580	W	1,580	W	1,550	W
Clays, common	114	585	116	596	111	614
Lime	11	2,250	11	2,250	11	2,250
Salt	45	1,500	45	1,500	45	1,500
Stone, crushed	8,660	57,600	8,300 <sup>†</sup>	55,500	8,790	60,700
Combined values of sand and gravel (industrial), stone (dimension marble), and values indicated by symbol W	XX	125,000	XX	153,000	XX	163,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>187,000</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>213,000<sup>†</sup></b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>228,000</b>
<b>Administered Islands:</b>						
American Samoa, stone, crushed, traprock	W	(3)	W	(3)	W	(3)
Guam, stone, crushed	1,410	13,000	1,410	13,000	900	9,330
Virgin Islands, stone, crushed, limestone and traprock	W	(3)	W	(3)	W	(3)
<b>Total</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>13,000</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>15,800</b>	<b>XX</b>	<b>11,300</b>

<sup>†</sup>Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. Withheld values included in "Combined values" data. XX Not applicable.

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.