

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE ADMINISTERED ISLANDS

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

In 2001, the estimated value¹ of nonfuel raw mineral production for Puerto Rico² was \$186 million, based upon preliminary U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data. If ranked in comparison with the 50 States, Puerto Rico would rank 40th in total nonfuel mineral production value. Portland cement, by value, continued to be the Commonwealth's leading nonfuel

¹The 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 2001 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are preliminary estimates as of August 2002 and are expected to change. For some mineral commodities, such as construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and portland cement, estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most current information, please contact the appropriate USGS mineral commodity specialist. Specialist contact information may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>; alternatively, specialists' names and telephone numbers may be obtained by calling USGS information at (703) 648-4000 or by calling the USGS Earth Science Information Center at 1-888-ASK-USGS (275-8747). All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

²While 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 mineral production were reported to the USGS for the island of Guam of the Pacific Island Possessions. These data appear in table 1.

mineral commodity, followed by crushed stone. Construction sand and gravel was produced in Puerto Rico, but production data are not available. The collection and compilation of production data for construction sand and gravel were discontinued in 1973 by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (the Federal Government agency then responsible for collecting domestic raw nonfuel mineral production data) because of a low rate of response to surveys by the industry (Sikich and Alonso, 1993). The data for dimension stone, as well as for industrial sand and gravel, were withheld to protect company proprietary data.

Metals have not been mined in Puerto Rico since the Juncos iron mine closed in 1953; prospects for resuming metal mining in the near future do not appear to be likely. However, metal occurrences are common on the island, and the possibility of developing a metal deposit should not be completely discounted (Sikich and Alonso, 1993).

Of the U.S. Administered Islands, only American Samoa and Guam have reported nonfuel mineral production data, and these have been limited to crushed stone. American Samoa's data have been withheld to protect company proprietary data (table 1).

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 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1999		2000		2001 p/		
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	
Puerto Rico:							
Cement, portland	metric tons 3/	W	W	1,660 e/	W	1,540 e/	W
Clays, common		159	W	141	458	144	458
Lime		27	3,770	16	2,750	15	1,000
Salt		45	1,500	45	1,500	45	1,500
Stone, crushed		13,200	56,800	10,800	51,000	10,800	51,000
Combined value of sand and gravel (industrial), stone (dimension marble), and values indicated by symbol W		XX	178,000	XX	143,000 r/	XX	138,000
Total		XX	240,000	XX	199,000 r/	XX	186,000
Administered Islands:							
American Samoa, stone, crushed		W	(4/)	--	--	--	--
Guam, stone, crushed		1,740	11,800	121	856	121	856
Virgin Islands, stone, crushed limestone, and traprock		W	(4/)	W	(4/)	W	(4/)
Total		XX	11,800	XX	856	XX	1,900

e/ Estimated. p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "Combined values" data. XX Not applicable.

-- Zero.

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/ Unit of measure changed to thousand metric tons on December 7, 2004.

4/ Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.