

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF MISSISSIPPI

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Office of Geology, Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1996, Mississippi remained 42d among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value,¹ according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The estimated value for 1996 was \$140 million, nearly a 7% increase from that of 1995. This followed a 3.4% decrease from 1994 to 1995 (based on final 1995 data). The State accounted for a little less than 0.5% of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production value in 1996.

Construction sand and gravel was the State's leading nonfuel mineral, accounting for 45% of the State's nonfuel mineral production value in 1996. The State's clays included ball clays, bentonite, common clays, and fuller's earth. Fuller's earth was the State's second leading mineral commodity with nearly 20% of the value, followed by portland cement. A 19% increase in the value of construction sand and gravel more than doubled the dollar decrease that occurred in common clays and accounted for most of the net increase for the State. Compared with 1995, other values that increased were those of crushed stone, portland cement, and fuller's earth, while no other mineral commodities decreased.

Based on USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 1996, Mississippi remained third in fuller's earth and bentonite and fourth in ball clay production. Additionally, significant quantities of construction sand and gravel and common clays were produced in the State. Metals produced in Mississippi, mostly that of raw steel, were processed from materials received from other domestic and foreign sources.

The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality's (DEQ)² Office of Geology (OG) reported that several major road construction projects helped keep active permit numbers up in 1996. Casinos continued to play a big part in these permit numbers because of increased demand for construction and road-building material needed on the Gulf Coast and in certain counties along the Mississippi River where the casinos were located. Bond release applications and, thus, the amount of reclaimed land, were also on the increase.

Talks with Phillips Coal Co. continued in regard to its impending application for a lignite mine in Choctaw County. The proposed mine was planned to be similar to

Phillips' other operations in Louisiana where lignite is strip mined and continuous reclamation is done. The company's plans include construction of a coal-fired, mine-mouth generating plant producing 400 megawatts of electricity. The permit application, which will probably be submitted in about mid-1997, will eventually apply to nearly 6,500 hectares. Baseline studies were started in 1996. The State of Mississippi continued working with DEQ's Office of Surface Mining on updating the Surface Coal Mining Rules and Regulations. The Surface Coal Mining Law also was undergoing updating by the legal division of the DEQ. This law revision should be ready to go before the State Legislature during its new term in 1997.

The OG is continuing the Mine Safety and Health Administration (MSHA) training for miners. This training is for operations that process mined material, such as rock crushing and gravel washing facilities, and is vitally important to the mining industry in Mississippi. The OG expects fatalities in the State to remain at low levels in large part because of this training. The OG began preparations for the Southeastern Regional Conference of MSHA Trainers that it was to host in March 1997 on the Gulf Coast in Biloxie.

¹The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending on 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 1996 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are estimates as of February 1997. 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. Call MINES FaxBack at (703) 648-4999 from a fax machine with a touch-tone handset, and request Document # 1000 for a telephone listing of all mineral commodity specialists, or call USGS information at (703) 648-4000 for the specialist's name and number. This telephone listing may also be retrieved over the Internet at <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>

²Kenneth McCarley, Director, Division of Surface Mining and Reclamation, authored the text of minerals information provided by the Mississippi DEQ's Office of Geology. He may be contacted at the Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality, Office of Geology, P.O. Box 20307, Jackson, MS 39289-1307, Telephone: (601) 961-5515, Fax: (601) 961-5521.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1994		1995		1996 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays	1,190 3/	40,500 3/	1,230	44,000	1,140	40,300
Gemstones	NA	1	NA	1	NA	1
Sand and gravel (construction)	12,400	53,200	11,800	53,000	13,300	63,200
Stone (crushed)	1,900	7,500	1,990 4/	8,010 4/	2,200 4/	9,400 4/
Combined value of other industrial minerals	XX	33,900	XX	25,500	XX	26,600
Total	XX	135,000	XX	131,000	XX	140,000

p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

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

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

TABLE 2
MISSISSIPPI: 1/ CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 1995, BY KIND 2/

Kind	1994				1995			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	4	1,870	\$7,290	\$3.90	4	1,990	\$8,010	\$4.03
Calcareous marl	3	26	203	7.81	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Total	XX	1,900	7,500	3.95 r/	XX	1,990	8,010	4.03

r/ Revised. XX Not applicable.

1/ To avoid disclosing company proprietary data; district and use tables were not produced for 1995.

2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Excludes calcareous marl from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 3
MISSISSIPPI: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1995,
BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand)	3,900	\$18,600	\$4.77
Plaster and gunite sands	80	364	4.55
Concrete products (blocks, bricks, pipe, decorative, etc.)	198	1,020	5.13
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	1,700	9,030	5.32
Road base and coverings 2/	937	4,090	4.37
Fill	384	1,000	2.60
Snow and ice control	1	4	4.00
Other	76	175	2.30
Unspecified: 3/			
Actual	2,400	10,100	4.22
Estimated	2,080	8,570	4.12
Total or average	11,800	53,000	4.51

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes road and other stabilization (cement).

3/ Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 4
MISSISSIPPI: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1995, 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 2/	2,210	10,700	1,430	6,620	538 3/	2,670 3/
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials 4/	1,330	6,230	1,080	5,020	614 3/	2,870 3/
Snow and ice control	1	4	--	--	--	--
Other miscellaneous uses	72	152	--	--	4	23
Unspecified: 5/						
Actual	1,140	4,710	971	4,540	293	882
Estimated	155	777	1,390	6,090	534	1,710
Total	4,890	22,600	4,870	22,300	1,980 3/	8,150 3/

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes plaster and gunite sands.

3/ Includes unspecified within all districts.

4/ Includes fill, road, and other stabilization (cement).

5/ Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.