

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF DELAWARE

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Delaware Geological Survey for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

Delaware remained 50th in the Nation in total nonfuel mineral production value¹ in 1997, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS); only construction sand and gravel and gemstones were mined. Delaware ranked fifth of the six States that produce magnesium compounds. Magnesium compounds were extracted from seawater close to the mouth of the Delaware Bay, near Lewes, Sussex County, for use in the manufacture of chemical and pharmaceutical products. Additionally, titanium-based pigments, raw steel, and gypsum-based wallboard were produced in the State but were processed from materials acquired from other domestic and foreign sources.

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 1997 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are estimates as of January 1998. Construction sand and gravel estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most current information, please contact the USGS sand and gravel 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>. All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved by way of MINES FaxBack or over the Internet at <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/>.

The Delaware Geological Survey² (DGS) reported the expected completion of the digital portion of the State's topographic map project, a joint venture with the USGS. Delaware was the first State to have completely revised, modern topographic maps. The 1:24,000 quadrangle topographic maps (paper copies) became available in 1993. The hypsography layer became available in digital form in 1994 and is available on CD-ROM from the DGS. The remaining six digital layers were under development through 1997 and were on schedule to be made available from the DGS during the summer of 1998. The U.S. Department of the Interior's Minerals Management Service continued to provide support for studies characterizing offshore sand resources in both State and Federal waters for possible use in beach replenishment.

² John H. Talley, Associate Director of the DGS, authored the text of State minerals information provided by the Delaware Geological Survey.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1995		1996		1997 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gemstones	NA	1	NA	1	NA	1
Sand and gravel, construction	2,680	8,740	2,370	6,820	2,200	6,490
Total 3/	XX	8,750	XX	6,820	XX	6,490

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

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

3/ Partial total, excludes values which must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 2
DELAWARE: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1996,
BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Fill	1,180	\$3,890	\$3.30
Unspecified: 2/			
Actual	63	159	2.52
Estimated	1,120	2,770	2.46
Total or average	2,370	6,820	2.88

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits.

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