

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.

Mississippi remained 43d among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral value¹ in 1994, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM). The estimated value for 1994 was \$112 million, nearly an 8% increase compared with that of 1993. An accurate and fair comparison of 1992 and 1993 by the degree (percent) of change, as has been described in the Mineral Industry Surveys for most of the other States, is not possible for Mississippi because some data were withheld to protect company proprietary information. The same sets of data were withheld in 1994 as in 1993, allowing a comparison of similar data. Although the withheld data did not affect the State's overall ranking in 1994, it had an affect when first withheld in 1993, dropping the State two places from its 1992 ranking of 41st in the Nation. In 1994, the State accounted for less than 0.5% of the total U.S. nonfuel mineral value. Construction sand and gravel, by value the State's leading nonfuel mineral commodity, had the most significant impact on Mississippi's changing mineral value. The value of the commodity increased by a significant 30% in 1993 compared with that of 1992, followed by an estimated 15% rise from 1993 to 1994. In 1994, construction sand and gravel accounted for almost 59% of the total reportable mineral value. Clays, when grouped together as one, were the State's second leading mineral commodity, followed by portland cement. Compared with those of 1993, the values of construction sand and gravel and fuller's earth clays increased. Decreases occurred in the values of portland cement and crushed stone.

Based on USBM estimates comparing quantities of

minerals produced in the United States during 1994, Mississippi remained second in the production of bentonite clays, fourth in fuller's earth, and fourth of four States producing ball clay. While not ranking among the top 10 States, the State's mines produced significant quantities of construction sand and gravel and common clays. Metals produced in Mississippi, mostly that of raw steel, were processed from materials received from other domestic and foreign sources.

According to the Mississippi Office of Geology, Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), the Mississippi mining industry experienced significant growth in 1994, as the State had one of the stronger economies in the Nation. Several major road construction projects helped increase permit numbers to record-high levels, while casinos also played a large part in permits issued with increased demand for construction and road-building material needed on the Gulf Coast and in certain counties along the Mississippi River. Bond release applications and, thus, the amount of reclaimed land, also were on the rise. In industry news, Phillips Coal Co. continued to show an interest in lignite mining; plans called for building a lignite-fired generating plant at a mine site in Choctaw County, possibly by the end of the decade. While the Mississippi Legislature took no actions directly affecting mining enterprises in 1994, mining activities along rivers and streams continued to be a contentious issue. Several meetings were held during the year involving the DEQ and mining industry officials over promulgation of new rules governing mining in waterways; the issuance of new rules

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN MISSISSIPPI¹

Mineral	1992		1993		1994 ^p	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
Clays thousand metric tons	² 1,120	² \$38,090	1,100	\$38,228	1,100	\$39,400
Gemstones	NA	1	NA	1	—	—
Sand and gravel (construction) thousand metric tons	10,403	44,124	^e 14,500	^e 57,300	16,000	65,600
Stone (crushed) do.	^e 2,268	^e 10,400	2,102	8,122	^e 1,700	^e 6,600
Combined value of other industrial minerals	XX	^e 28,780	XX	(³)	XX	(³)
Total	XX	¹ 121,395	XX	⁴ 103,651	XX	^{4 5} 112,600

^aEstimated. ^bPreliminary. ^cRevised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Excludes certain clays; kind and value included with "Combined value" data.

³Value excluded to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁴Partial total, excludes values which must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁵Data do not to total shown because of independent rounding.

was anticipated during 1995.

mine shipments, mineral commodity sales, or marketable production as is applicable to the individual mineral commodities.

¹The term value means the total monetary value as represented by either

TABLE 2
MISSISSIPPI: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND

Kind	1991				1993			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	5	1,481	\$6,603	\$4.46	5	2,102	\$8,122	\$3.86
Total	XX	1,481	6,603	4.46	XX	2,102	8,122	3.86
Total ^{2,3}	XX	1,633	6,603	4.04	XX	2,317	8,122	3.51

XX Not applicable.

¹To avoid disclosing company proprietary data; "Use and District tables were not produced for 1993."

²One short ton is equal to 907 kilograms or 2,000 pounds. To convert metric tons to short tons, divide metric tons by 0.907185.

³Total shown in thousand short tons and thousand dollars.