

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF DELAWARE

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 Delaware Geological Survey for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

Delaware remained 50th in the Nation in total nonfuel mineral value<sup>1</sup> in 1994, according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM). However, this position in rank, which the State has held for decades, is the result of the withholding of data from the State's totals in order to protect company proprietary data. In actuality, Delaware ranked higher. Compared with that of 1993, the value of construction sand and gravel decreased, while the value of magnesium compounds edged down only slightly. Only construction sand and gravel was mined in the State. No gemstone production was reported to USBM for 1994. Magnesium compounds, Delaware's leading nonfuel mineral commodity by value, were produced within the State for use in manufacturing chemical and pharmaceutical products. Delaware was one of six States that had reported

production for magnesium compounds in the United States.

According to the Delaware Geological Survey (DGS), in addition to the USBM, the agency continued its interaction in 1994 with two other U.S. Department of the Interior agencies. Working with the U.S. Geological Survey, DGS completed a Statewide topographic mapping project and in cooperation with the Minerals Management Service, funding was continued for a studies to characterize Delaware's offshore sand resources.

<sup>1</sup>The term value, throughout this document, refers to the monetary value of nonfuel minerals as represented by either mine shipments, mineral commodity sales, or marketable production as is applicable to the individual mineral commodities.

TABLE 1  
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN DELAWARE<sup>1</sup>

Mineral	1992		1993		1994 <sup>p</sup>	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
Gemstones	NA	\$1	NA	\$1	—	—
Sand and gravel (construction)      thousand metric tons	2,257	8,574	<sup>e</sup> 2,500	<sup>e</sup> 10,300	2,100	\$8,700
Total <sup>2</sup>	XX	8,575	XX	10,301	XX	8,700

<sup>a</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Partial total, excludes value of magnesium compounds which must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.