

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LOUISIANA

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

In 2000, the estimated value¹ of nonfuel mineral production for Louisiana was \$404 million, based upon preliminary U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data. This was a 17% decrease from that of 1999² and followed a 19.3% increase from 1998 to 1999. The State remained as 32d in rank among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value, of which Louisiana accounted for 1% of the U.S. total.

Louisiana's leading nonfuel mineral is salt, accounting for nearly 36% of the State's nonfuel mineral value in 2000. When included as part of Louisiana's mineral production, sulfur is the State's second leading mineral commodity. All current sulfur production comes from a mine that is 28 kilometers offshore. Because of the mine's location, the State does not receive severance tax income or mineral production royalties; instead,

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 2000 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are preliminary estimates as of July 2001 and are expected to change. For some mineral commodities, such as 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. A telephone listing of the specialists may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>, by using MINES FaxBack at (703) 648-4999 from a fax machine with a touch-tone handset (request Document #1000 for a telephone listing of all mineral commodity specialists), or by calling USGS information at (703) 648-4000 for the specialist's name and number. All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>; facsimile copies may be obtained from MINES FaxBack.

²Values, percentage calculations, and rankings for 1999 may vary from the Minerals Yearbook, Area Reports: Domestic 1999, Volume II, owing to the revision of preliminary 1999 to final 1999 data. Data for 2000 are preliminary and are expected to change; related rankings may also change.

they are collected by the Federal Government. Consequently, since 1991, the State and the Louisiana Geological Survey have not considered the sulfur production that is cited in table 1 under "Combined values" as being part of Louisiana's nonfuel mineral production. The USGS attributes this offshore sulfur production to Louisiana because it is the State nearest to the sulfur mine and because Freeport-McMoRan Sulphur Inc., the company that operated the mine, was based in New Orleans. The sulfur mine closed in August 2000.

In 2000, decreases in the production and values of salt and sulfur, down \$69 million and more than \$9 million, respectively, accounted for most of Louisiana's drop in nonfuel mineral production value. Construction sand and gravel also was down, by about \$4 million. All other nonfuel minerals showed relatively small increases or no changes in value from those of 1999. In 1999, substantial increases in the values of construction sand and gravel, salt, crushed stone, and Frasch sulfur accounted for most of the increase in value (value comparison listings in descending order of value.) While common clay and gemstones values were up slightly, there were small dropoffs in those of industrial sand and gravel, lime, and gypsum (table 1).

Based upon USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 2000, Louisiana remained the leading State in the Nation in salt and the only State to have production of Frasch sulfur. Additionally, the State was a significant producer of common clay and industrial sand and gravel. (Louisiana also is a major producer of oil and gas.) Crushed stone production significantly increased in Louisiana starting in 1999, as the result of the opening of new quarries. There was one producing quarry in the State in 1998, a sandstone operation. In 1999, a total of 12 quarries produced crushed stone in Louisiana, 8 sandstone and 4 limestone.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	1998		1999		2000 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays, common	620	11,100	626	11,700	626	11,700
Gemstones	NA	5	NA	7	NA	7
Salt	14,900	173,000	16,500	193,000	13,400	124,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	11,400	53,800	16,500	81,700	15,400	78,000
Industrial	623	12,100	636	10,400	636	10,400
Combined values of gypsum (crude), lime, stone [crushed limestone and sandstone (1999-2000), crushed sandstone (1998)], sulfur (Frasch)	XX	96,300	XX	118,000	XX	119,000
Total	XX	347,000	XX	414,000	XX	343,000

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 no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 2
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS
IN 1999, BY USE 1/ 2/ 3/ 4/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Construction:			
Coarse aggregate (+1 ½ inch), other coarse aggregate	W	W	\$16.54
Coarse aggregate, graded:			
Bituminous aggregate, coarse	W	W	16.53
Other graded coarse aggregate	W	W	12.10
Fine aggregate (-3/8 inch):			
Screening, undesignated	W	W	14.33
Other fine aggregate	W	W	5.88
Coarse and fine aggregates, other	W	W	11.31
Unspecified: 5/			
Reported	W	W	12.68
Estimated	300	\$1,500	4.97
Total or average	W	W	11.48

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except unit value; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes limestone and sandstone.

3/ To avoid disclosing company proprietary data, no district tables were produced for 1999.

4/ Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.

5/ Most of the production included in this table was shipped into Louisiana from other States.

TABLE 3
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1999,
BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand)	5,040	\$25,100	\$4.98
Concrete products (blocks, bricks, pipe, decorative, etc.)	5	19	3.80
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	638	2,520	3.95
Road base and coverings	1,210	10,700	8.86
Road stabilization (cement)	4	17	4.25
Fill	1,350	2,710	2.01
Other miscellaneous uses 2/	268	3,310	12.34
Unspecified: 3/			
Reported	3,810	17,600	4.62
Estimated	4,200	20,000	4.76
Total or average	16,500	81,700	4.96

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except unit value; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes railroad ballast.

3/ Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.

TABLE 4
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1999,
BY USE AND DISTRICT 1/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products	737	5,200	1,070	5,910
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials 2/	W	W	1,120	7,760
Fill	155	411	1,170	2,250
Other miscellaneous uses 3/	29	225	113	895
Unspecified: 4/				
Reported	14	24	488	2,710
Estimated	400	2,100	280	1,600
Total	1,340	7,940	4,250	21,100
	District 3		Unspecified districts	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products	3,230	14,000	--	--
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials 2/	W	W	--	--
Fill	17	48	--	--
Other miscellaneous uses 3/	860	7,680	--	--
Unspecified: 4/				
Reported	3,180	14,700	133	219
Estimated	3,500	16,000	--	--
Total	10,800	52,400	133	219

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other miscellaneous uses." -- Zero.

1/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

2/ Includes road and other stabilization (cement).

3/ Includes railroad ballast.

4/ Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.