

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 1997, Louisiana ranked 35th in the Nation in total nonfuel mineral production value,¹ according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The State was 33d in 1996. The estimated value for 1997 was \$379 million, about a 3.6% decrease from that of 1996. This followed a 9.4% decrease from 1995 to 1996 (based on final 1996 data). The State accounted for about 1% of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production value.

Louisiana's leading nonfuel mineral is salt, accounting for about 45% of the State's nonfuel mineral value in 1997. 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 27 kilometers off the Louisiana coast. Because of the mine's location, the State does not receive severance tax income or mineral production royalties; instead, they are collected by the Federal Government. Consequently, since 1991 the State and the Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS) do not consider the sulfur production cited in table 1 under "Combined value" as being part of Louisiana's nonfuel mineral production. The USGS attributes this offshore sulfur production

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 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 and specific commodity reports 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/>.

to Louisiana because it is the State nearest to the sulfur mine and Freeport Sulphur Co., the company that operates the mine, is based in New Orleans.

In 1997, decreases in the values of crushed stone, salt, and construction sand and gravel accounted for most of the States's drop in nonfuel mineral value. Compared with 1996, mineral commodity values that increased in 1997 were those of Frasch sulfur, gemstones, common clays, miscellaneous crushed stone, and lime. Mineral commodity values that decreased were those of industrial sand and gravel and crude gypsum. In 1996, a more than 20% drop in sulfur production value accounted for most of the State's decreased nonfuel mineral value. Based on USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 1996, Louisiana remained the leading State in the Nation in salt and sulfur production.

The following narrative information was provided by the LGS.² Cargill Inc., based in Minneapolis, MN, agreed in August 1996 to acquire most of Akzo Nobel NV of the Netherlands' North American salt business. After getting federal antitrust clearance in April 1997 for its \$190 million acquisition, Cargill acquired Akzo Nobel's salt mine at Avery Island in Iberia Parish. The Avery Island Mine is one among Akzo properties across the United States that Cargill acquired. Cargill already owns an evaporated salt plant in Breaux Bridge.

By means of House bill 2353, the Louisiana Legislature transferred the LGS, a nonregulatory component of the State Department of Natural Resources, to Louisiana State University effective July 1, 1997.

²Syed M. Haque, Physical Scientist at the LGS, authored the text of Louisiana minerals industry information submitted by the LGS.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1995		1996		1997 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays, common	384	548	382	548	481	887
Gemstones	NA	175	NA	136	NA	667
Salt	14,700	177,000	15,500	175,000	15,600	171,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	11,300	50,200	11,500	53,200	10,700	50,700
Industrial	572	10,500	706	12,100	566	10,900
Stone, crushed 3/	2,540	26,700	2,290	23,900	1,600	17,000
Combined value of gypsum (crude), lime, stone [crushed miscellaneous (1996-97), crushed shell and miscellaneous (1995)], and sulfur (Frasch)	XX	169,000	XX	128,000	XX	128,000
Total	XX	434,000	XX	393,000	XX	379,000

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 stones; kind and value included with "Combined value" data.

TABLE 2
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND 1/

Kind	1995 2/				1996 3/			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Sandstone	16	2,540	\$26,700	\$10.50	13	2,290	\$23,900	\$10.44

XX Not applicable.

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits, except unit KLH value.

2/ Excludes miscellaneous stone and shell from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

3/ Excludes miscellaneous stone from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 3
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS
IN 1996, BY USE 1/ 2/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Construction aggregate: 3/	239	\$1,780	\$7.46
Unspecified: 4/			
Actual	1,950	21,600	11.05
Estimated	98	518	5.29
Total	2,290	23,900	10.44

1/ Includes sandstone; excludes miscellaneous stone from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

3/ Includes bituminous aggregate (coarse) and stone sand (bituminous mix or seal).

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

TABLE 4
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1996,
BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand) 2/	4,030	\$20,500	\$5.08
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	447	2,150	4.81
Road base and coverings 3/	830	4,150	5.00
Fill	914	1,920	2.10
Filtration	16	168	10.50
Unspecified: 4/			
Actual	3,570	16,900	4.75
Estimated	1,730	7,450	4.31
Total or average	11,500	53,200	4.62

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

2/ Includes plaster and gunite sands.

3/ Includes road and other stabilization (cement).

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