THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CONNECTICUT

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 State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1996, for the fifth consecutive year, Connecticut was 44th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value,[1] according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The estimated value for 1996 was $103 million, an 11% increase from that of 1995. This followed a nearly 13% increase from 1994 to 1995 (based on final 1995 data). The State accounted for somewhat less than 0.5% of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production value. Crushed stone and construction sand and gravel, the leading mineral commodities accounted for nearly all of the State's total nonfuel mineral production value. Dimension stone, common clays, and gemstones were also produced in the State. Compared with 1995, the value of construction sand and gravel and crushed stone increased. The value of common clays decreased slightly.

The remaining narrative information was provided by the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey.[2] Under PA 96-145 persons removing sand, gravel, or other materials lying below the mean high watermark from State lands for beneficial or commercial use under permit will be charged a fee of $2 per cubic yard of material removed.

Controversy continued in Connecticut between those wanting to quarry sand and gravel or stone and residents near any proposed quarry. Except where the State's environmental laws are concerned, mining is regulated by the local town, making it much easier for local residents to protest nearby mining. In many towns, a mining permit must be renewed every 2 years. This involves getting approval from both the Inland Wetlands and Planning and Zoning Commissions and sometimes the Conservation Commission. Residents have an opportunity to speak for or against the renewals at each meeting.

Difficulties arose for a number of permit renewals. Fairfield Resources Inc. encountered opposition to the renewal of its stone quarry permit in the town of Brookfield. Residents have complained for years about drilling and blasting noise. In New Milford, the permit for a sand and gravel quarry owned by Squash Hollow Associates was renewed, but with several restrictions, including one requiring restoration of half of the worked area before any more quarrying could occur.

Proposed new quarries received even more opposition. A proposal to remove 300,000 or more cubic meters of clay where a pond now exists met with widespread neighborhood opposition in Hamden. The town Conservation Commission eventually rejected the plan, although the proposal could be resubmitted.

A proposed sand and gravel quarry on a farm in Canterbury was approved by the Planning and Zoning Commission despite opposition from residents. Area residents followed the approval with an appeal that will be heard by the State Supreme Court.

An expanded sand and gravel operation in Griswold was being opposed by residents who complain of dust, truck traffic, and noise. The site had been a small sand and gravel quarry for a number of years, but the owner recently leased it to the Mashantucket Pequot Tribe. The Mashantuckets expanded the operation from 0.6 to 11 hectares and started crushing stone. The residents claim the original permit did not allow the crushing or the expansion. The Tribe has attempted to prevent dust and agreed to stop crushing stone. They also plan to cease removing sand and gravel and have already laid off 89 workers.

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[1]The 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 1996 USGS mineral production data in this publication are estimates, as of March 1997.

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 No. 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 .

[2]Nancy McHone, Environmental Analyst, authored the text submitted by the Connecticut Geological Survey.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1994		1995		1996 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gemstones	NA	5	NA	5	NA	5
Sand and gravel (construction)	5,420	28,000	6,410	37,500	7,190	43,100
Stone (crushed)	5,710	43,900 3/	6,070 3/	45,500 3/	6,000 3/	50,400 3/
Combined value of other industrial minerals	XX	9,810	XX	9,470	XX	9,420
Total	XX	81,800	XX	92,500	XX	103,000

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
CONNECTICUT: CRUSHED STONE 1/ SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS
IN 1995, BY USE 2/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Coarse and fine aggregates: Graded road base or subbase 3/	121	$734	$6.07
Agricultural 4/	(5/)	(5/)	16.00
Unspecified: 6/			
Actual	(5/)	(5/)	7.51
Estimated	4170	31700	7.60
Total	6070	45500	7.50

1/ Includes granite, limestone, and traprock; excludes dolomite and quartzite from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
2/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
3/ Includes bituminous aggregate (coarse), concrete aggregate (coarse), crusher run or fill or waste, other coarse aggregate, other coarse and fine aggregates, other graded coarse aggregate, riprap and jetty stone, screening (undesignated), and unpaved road surfacing.
4/ Includes agricultural limestone and poultry grit and mineral food.
5/ Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."
6/ Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 3
CONNECTICUT: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND 1/

Kind	1994				1995			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	5	1440	W	W	6	W	W	W
Dolomite	1	408	(2/)	(2/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Granite	3	119	$1,350	$11.30	6	172	1,530	$8.88
Traprock	8	3750	30100	8.04	9	4500	W	W
Quartzite	--	--	--	--	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)	(3/)
Total	XX	5,710	43,900 r/	7.68 r/	XX	6,070	45,500	7.50

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." XX Not applicable.
1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
2/ Excludes dolomite value from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
3/ Excludes dolomite and quartzite from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 4
CONNECTICUT: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED
IN 1995, BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate and concrete products 2/	750	$4,200	$5.59
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	310	1,090	3.50
Road base and coverings 3/	526	2,430	4.61
Fill	578	2,340	4.06
Snow and ice control	204	1,010	4.97
Unspecified: 4/			
Actual	722	2,310	3.20
Estimated	3,320	24,100	7.26
Total or average	6,410	37,500	5.85

1/ Data are rounded to three significant digits; 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.