

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.

In 1995, Mississippi remained 42d among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value,¹ according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The estimated value for 1995 was \$125 million, about a 7% decrease from that of 1994. A substantial portion of the State's nonfuel mineral data for 1993 was withheld to protect company proprietary information. Consequently, the true percent of increase or decrease in 1994 (represented in table 1), as is described in Mineral Industry Surveys for most other States, is not possible for Mississippi. In 1995, the State accounted for somewhat less than one-half percent of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production value.

Construction sand and gravel was the State's leading nonfuel mineral, accounting for 38% of the State's nonfuel mineral production value. The State's clays included ball clays, bentonite, common clays, and fuller's earth. Fuller's earth was the State's second leading nonfuel mineral commodity, followed by portland cement. Compared with those of 1994, the values of crushed stone and bentonite increased, while those of construction sand and gravel, portland cement, fuller's earth, and common clays decreased.

Based on USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 1995, Mississippi climbed in rank from third to second in fuller's earth, fourth to third in bentonite, and dropped from third to fourth in ball clay production. Additionally, the State's mine pits 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,² the mining industry had a fairly good 1995, while the State had one of the stronger economies in the Nation. Several major road construction projects continued to push the number of permits issued to record levels. Casinos continued to play a major part in the number of permits granted because of 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, were also on the increase.

Discussions continued with Phillips Coal Co. regarding its impending application for a lignite mine in Choctaw County. The company's plans include construction of a mine-mouth, coal-fired generating plant producing 300 megawatts of electricity. The permit will eventually cover about 6,500 hectares (16,000 acres). The company hoped to begin plant construction by the end of the decade.

New mining laws took effect in Mississippi during 1995. The Office of Pollution Control promulgated new water quality regulations on mining in rivers and streams ("in the wet") and mining on sandbars above the high-water line ("in the dry"). These new rules were approved after much input from the State's mining industry.

Personnel from the Office of Geology's Surface Mining and Reclamation Division were certified in November 1995 by the U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration to offer refresher course training beginning in early 1996 to miners in qualified mining operations. Previously this training had been conducted by the State Department of Education.

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN MISSISSIPPI^{1 2}

Mineral	1993		1994		1995 ^p	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
Clays thousand metric tons	1,100	³ \$34,300	³ 1,190	³ \$40,500	³ 1,160	³ \$41,000
Gemstones	NA	1	NA	1	NA	1
Sand and gravel (construction) thousand metric tons	⁴ 14,500	⁵ 57,300	12,400	53,200	10,800	47,500
Stone (crushed) do.	2,100	8,120	1,900	7,490	2,200	9,000
Combined value of other industrial minerals	XX	(⁴)	XX	33,900	XX	27,600
Total	XX	⁵ 99,800	XX	135,000	XX	125,000

^aEstimated. ^pPreliminary. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

²Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Excludes certain clays; kind and value included with "Combined value" data.

⁴Value excluded to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

⁵Partial total, excludes values that must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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 1995 USGS mineral production data are estimates, as of Dec. 1995. For some commodities, especially construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and portland

cement, estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most recent 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.

²The remaining narrative portion of this report was based on information provided by Mississippi's Office of Geology.

TABLE 2
MISSISSIPPI: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND¹

Kind	1993				1994			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	5	2,100	\$8,120	\$3.87	4	1,870	\$7,290	\$3.90
Calcareous marl	—	—	—	—	3	26	203	7.81
Total	XX	2,100	8,120	3.87	XX	1,900	7,490	3.94

XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 3
MISSISSIPPI: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1994, BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY¹

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand)	5,100	\$23,400	\$4.58
Plaster and gunite sands	50	197	3.94
Concrete products (blocks, brick, pipe, decorative, etc.)	127	707	5.57
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	2,650	12,600	4.74
Road base and coverings ²	1,260	4,790	3.80
Fill	1,150	2,430	2.12
Unspecified: ³			
Actual	827	3,970	4.80
Estimated	1,220	5,150	4.21
Total or average	12,400	53,200	4.29

¹Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes road and other stabilization (cement).

³Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 4
MISSISSIPPI: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1994, BY USE AND DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2		District 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products ²	2,820	12,900	1,430	6,470	1,030	4,840
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials ³	2,130	9,960	2,280	8,050	649	1,770
Unspecified: ⁴						
Actual	—	—	797	3,830	31	138
Estimated	110	458	844	3,810	270	885
Total	5,060	23,400	5,350	22,200	1,980	7,640

¹Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes plaster and gunite sands.

³Includes fill and road and other stabilization (cement).

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



U. S. Geological Survey Minerals Information

CD-ROM: DICTIONARY OF MINING, MINERAL, AND RELATED TERMS

The U.S. Bureau of Mines updated and revised edition (1996) of the classic 1968 U.S. Bureau of Mines Dictionary of Mining, Mineral, and Related Terms is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, stock number 024-004-02436-4, for \$15.00 domestic and \$18.75 foreign. The Dictionary is available on CD-ROM only with no current plans to publish paper copies.

CD-ROM: MINERALS AND MATERIALS INFORMATION

The U.S. Geological Survey's Minerals and Materials Information, July 1996, CD-ROM is now available from the Superintendent of Documents, stock number 024-004-02437-2 for \$14.00 domestic and \$17.50 foreign. This quarterly CD-ROM features the 1994 and 1995 Minerals Yearbook chapters, the U.S. Bureau of Mines Statistical Compendium (20 years of data on 34 minerals and commodities), the Bureau's 1992-94 Publications List, the Mineral Commodity Summaries 1996, and other commodity statistics.

For information on future CD-ROM products in this series, contact Rodger Wedgeworth or Roger Loebenstein at 703-648-4756 and 703-648-4752, respectively. Other Minerals Information electronic dissemination options:

- Mines Fax-Back. To order materials, call 703-648-4999 from touch-tone handset on Fax machine.
- Mines-Data Bulletin Board: Log on via modem through 703-648-7799, or call Robin Johnson at 703-648-7943.
- Internet: For World Wide Web, access via Mosaic, Netscape, or other PC-based Web browsing software. The URL (Universal Resource Locator) is <http://minerals.er.usgs.gov/minerals/>. For help, contact Joseph Gambogi at 703-648-7718.

- - Do not reduce or modify this form in any way - -

Superintendent of Documents **Publications** Order Form

Order Processing Code:

*

YES, please send me the following:

_____ copies of _____

Stock# _____ at \$ _____ each (\$ _____ (foreign))

The total cost of my order is \$ _____. Prices include regular domestic postage and handling and are subject to change.

(Company or Personal Name) (Please type or print)

(Additional address/attention line)

(Street address)

(City, State, ZIP Code)

(Daytime phone including area code)

(Purchase Order No.)

**Charge your order.
It's Easy!**



P3

**To fax your orders (202) 512-2250
To phone your orders (202) 512-1800**

Please Choose Method of Payment:

Check Payable to the Superintendent of Documents

GPO Deposit Account -

VISA or MasterCard Account

(Credit card expiration date)

**Thank you for
your order!**

(Authorizing Signature)

Mail To: Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954