

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF RHODE ISLAND

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the University of Rhode Island Department of Geology, Office of the State Geologist, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1997, for the third consecutive year, Rhode Island ranked 49th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value,¹ according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The

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 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/>.

estimated value for 1997, \$22.6 million, was virtually the same as that of 1996. This followed a 25% decrease in value from 1995 to 1996 (based on final 1996 data). The State accounted for about one-tenth of 1% of the total U.S. nonfuel mineral production value. In 1997, only small decreases occurred in the State's nonfuel mineral production and related values (*table 1*). From 1995 to 1996, the decrease in the value of construction sand and gravel, Rhode Island's leading nonfuel mineral commodity, accounted for the State's drop in value. Industrial sand and gravel was produced in the State, but the data have been withheld from table 1 to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN RHODE ISLAND 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1995		1996		1997 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gemstones	NA	1	NA	1	NA	1
Sand and gravel, construction	2,790	21,500	1,990	13,300	1,910	13,100
Stone, crushed	1,250	9,140	1,440	9,680	1,400	9,500
Total 3/	XX	30,700	XX	23,000	XX	22,600

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/ Partial total, excludes values which must be concealed to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

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

Kind	1995				1996			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	2	W	W	\$9.75	1	W	W	\$11.87
Granite	5 r/	887 r/	\$6,040 r/	6.81 r/	5	948	\$6,680	7.05
Traprock	2	W	W	8.41	2	W	W	6.04
Total	XX	1,250	9,140	7.30	XX	1,440	9,680	6.74

r/ Revised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." XX Not applicable.

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

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

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Construction aggregates 4/	395	\$3,490	\$8.83
Unspecified: 5/			
Actual	363	2,190	6.04
Estimated	679	4,000	5.89
Total	1,440	9,680	6.74

1/ District tables were not produced for 1996 to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

2/ Includes granite, limestone, and traprock.

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

4/ Includes agricultural limestone, bituminous aggregate (coarse), concrete aggregate (coarse), crusher run or fill or waste, filter stone, other coarse aggregate, other fine aggregate, other graded coarse aggregate, other specified uses not listed, riprap and jetty stone, stone sand (concrete), and stone sand (bituminous mix or seal).

5/ Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and with estimates for non-respondents.

TABLE 4
RHODE ISLAND: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1996,
BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY 1/ 2/

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand)	147	\$1,160	\$7.88
Plaster and gunite sands	W	W	10.00
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	157	1,090	6.95
Road base and coverings	93	728	7.83
Fill	59	357	6.05
Snow and ice control	42	432	10.29
Railroad ballast	W	W	17.00
Unspecified: 3/	1,480	9,450	6.37
Total or average	1,990	13,300	6.68

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."

1/ To avoid disclosing company proprietary data, no district tables were produced in 1996.

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

3/ Includes estimates for nonrespondents.