

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE ADMINISTERED ISLANDS

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 Department of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1995, the estimated value¹ of nonfuel mineral commodities produced in Puerto Rico was \$85 million, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Data have been withheld for portland cement and industrial sand and gravel to protect company proprietary data. Consequently, a comparison of the State's total nonfuel mineral values from year to year (see table 1) would not be truly representative of changes occurring in the Commonwealth's nonfuel mineral economy. Portland cement and crushed stone by value were the island's leading nonfuel mineral commodities, accounting for the large majority of the reported total for Puerto Rico. If ranked in comparison with the 50 United States, Puerto Rico would rank 43d based on table 1 or close to 39th if portland cement and industrial sand and gravel were included in the State's total nonfuel mineral value. Compared with 1994, the mineral commodity values for crushed stone, lime, industrial sand and gravel, and common clays increased for

Puerto Rico. The value of portland cement decreased slightly. Crushed stone values for American Samoa, Guam, and the Virgin Islands (data withheld) increased.

Based on USGS estimates of the quantities of nonfuel mineral commodities produced on all of the aforementioned islands, production increased for all except portland cement and industrial sand and gravel in Puerto Rico.

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. Crushed stone and portland cement 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.

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION^{1 2} IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AND ISLANDS
ADMINISTERED BY THE UNITED STATES

Mineral	1993		1994		1995 ^p	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
PUERTO RICO						
Cement (portland) metric tons	1,310,000	\$72,600	W	W	W	W
Clays thousand metric tons	155	508	119	\$338	140	\$370
Lime do.	—	—	23	2,970	27	3,650
Sand and gravel (industrial) metric tons	^e 58,000	^e 1,400	W	W	W	W
Stone (crushed) thousand metric tons	7,850	51,100	10,500	78,400	10,900	80,800
Total	XX	126,000	XX	³ 81,700	XX	³ 84,800
ADMINISTERED ISLANDS						
American Samoa:						
Stone (crushed) thousand metric tons	83	W	84	W	90	W
Guam: Stone (crushed) do.	1,370	15,100	2,150	12,700	2,200	13,100
Total ³	XX	15,100	XX	12,700	XX	13,100

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in "Total." 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.

³Total does not include values of items withheld.



U. S. Geological Survey Minerals Information

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