THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF OREGON

In 1995, for the fifth year in a row and the seventh in the last 9 years, Oregon was 38th 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 more than $261 million, almost an 8% increase compared with that of 1994. This followed a 7.4% increase from 1993 to 1994 (based on final data). The State accounted for a little less than 1% of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production production value.

Industrial minerals accounted for nearly all of Oregon's nonfuel mineral production value, less than 1% resulting from the State's metal mine production. Crushed stone, by value, was Oregon's leading nonfuel mineral commodity, accounting for more than 40% of the State's total nonfuel mineral production value. Oregon's construction materials—crushed stone, construction sand and gravel, and portland cement, in descending order of value—represented more than 85% of the total value. Minimal quantities of copper and zinc and byproduct gold and silver were produced as a result of the continuing cleanup at Formosa Resources Corp.'s Silver Butte Mine, which ceased operation in 1993. Compared with 1994, the following nonfuel mineral values increased in 1995: crushed stone, portland cement, gemstones, pumice and pumicite, nickel ore, copper, zinc, and emery. Decreases occurred in construction sand and gravel, lime, diatomite, and gold.

Based on USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 1995, Oregon was the only State with mine production of nickel ore and emery. It remained the Nation's leading pumice-producing State and third of three diatomite-producing States; Oregon was third of five States that produced zeolites. Cominco American Inc's. Nickel Mountain Mine, recently the sole domestic producer of primary nickel, resumed production in 1995, owing to an increase in nickel prices. According to the company, the mine was shut down in the latter half of 1993 because of market disruptions and low nickel prices caused, in part, by a surge in nickel exports from Russia. Production of other metals, especially primary aluminum and raw steel, resulted from the processing of materials acquired from other domestic and foreign sources. Oregon remained 13th in the Nation in the production of primary aluminum.

[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 1995 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are estimated as of Dec. 1995. Estimates for some commodities, especially construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and portland cement, are periodically updated. 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 IN OREGON[1 2]

Mineral		1993		1994		1995[p]	
		Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
Clays	thousand metric tons	221	$1,410	240	$1,560	240	$1,560
Copper[3]	metric tons	703	1,420	106	260	100	300
Gemstones		NA	2,140	NA	2,160	NA	4,270
Nickel ore[4]	metric tons	2,460	W	—	—	1,650	W
Pumice and pumicite	do.	W	W	220,000	2,760	W	W
Sand and gravel (construction)	thousand metric tons	[e]15,800	[e]74,800	18,400	83,600	17,500	81,400
Silver[3]	metric tons	—	—	([5])	10	([5])	10
Stone (crushed)	thousand metric tons	18,900	84,700	18,900	90,100	21,500	105,000
Talc and pyrophyllite	metric tons	64	67	W	W	W	W
Zinc[3]	do.	—	—	118	128	118	138
Combine value of cement (portland), diatomite, emery, gold (1994-95), lime, and values indicated by symbol W		XX	61,600	XX	62,100	XX	68,200
Total		XX	226,000	XX	243,000	XX	261,000

[e]Estimated. [p]Preliminary. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "Combined value" data.
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]Recoverable content of ores, etc.
[4]Production of ferronickel on a contained Ni basis has been as follows: 1993—4,878 metric tons valued at $28.0 million; 1994 the Nickel Mountain Mine was idle; and in 1995—an estimated 8,200 metric tons valued at $68.0 million.
[5]Less than 1/2 unit.

TABLE 2

OREGON: CRUSHED STONE[1] SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 1994, BY USE[2]

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Coarse aggregate (+1 1/2 inch):			
Macadam	15	$84	$5.60
Riprap and jetty stone	200	647	3.24
Filter stone	128	694	5.42
Other coarse aggregate	315	1,160	3.68
Coarse aggregate, graded:			
Concrete aggregate, coarse	132	626	4.74
Bituminous aggregate, coarse	475	2,380	5.01
Bituminous surface-treatment aggregate	229	1,550	6.75
Railroad ballast	88	452	5.14
Other graded coarse aggregate	185	1,030	5.55
Fine aggregate (-3/8 inch):			
Stone sand, concrete	W	W	7.16
Stone sand, bituminous mix or seal	208	1,590	7.63
Screening, undesignated	63	184	2.92
Coarse and fine aggregates:			
Graded road base or subbase	7,180	34,600	4.82
Unpaved road surfacing	1,130	5,100	4.53
Terrazzo and exposed aggregate	2	53	26.50
Crusher run or fill or waste	465	2,170	4.66
Other coarse and fine aggregates	W	W	2.63
Other construction materials	363	1,300	3.59
Agricultural: Other agricultural uses	1	6	6.00
Chemical and metallurgical: Cement manufacture	(3)	(3)	2.20
Other miscellaneous uses: Sugar refining	(3)	(3)	10.30
Unspecified:[4]			
Actual	(3)	(3)	5.02
Estimated	3,030	13,700	4.52
Total	18,900	90,100	4.76

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other construction materials."
[1]Includes granite, limestone, miscellaneous stone, sandstone and quartzite, shell, slate, traprock and volcanic cinder and scoria.
[2]Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[3]Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."
[4]Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 3

OREGON: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND[1]

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	r1	W	W	r$2.20	1	W	W	$4.02
Granite	28	91	$482	5.30	27	54	$235	4.35
Traprock	r290	r16,600	r75,400	r4.54	295	15,200	71,500	4.72
Sandstone and quartzite	51	96	548	5.71	51	66	462	7.00
Slate	1	W	W	5.73	1	W	W	6.00
Volcanic cinder and scoria	51	116	682	5.88	51	104	W	W
Shell	1	39	138	3.54	1	32	103	3.22
Miscellaneous stone	r11	r1,220	r5,550	r4.53	37	2,570	13,300	5.19
Total	XX	18,900	84,700	4.48	XX	18,900	90,100	4.76

rRevised. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total." XX Not applicable.
[1]Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not not add to totals shown.

TABLE 4

OREGON: CRUSHED STONE[1] SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 1994, BY USE AND DISTRICT[2]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2		District 4	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Construction aggregates:						
Coarse aggregate (+1 1/2 inch)[3]	514	1,950	123	547	21	91
Coarse aggregate, graded[4]	W	W	W	W	544	3,280
Fine aggregate (-3/8 inch)[5]	W	W	W	W	33	229
Coarse and fine aggregate[6]	7,100	34,700	1,200	4,980	730	2,970
Other construction materials	729	4,380	110	539	—	—
Agricultural[7]	—	—	1	6	—	—
Chemical and metallurgical[8]	—	—	—	—	([9])	([9])
Other miscellaneous uses[10]	—	—	—	—	([9])	([9])
Unspecified:[11]						
Actual	([9])	([9])	([9])	([9])	[12]([9])	[12]([9])
Estimated	([9])	([9])	([9])	([9])	599	2,640
Total	12,900	62,900	2,110	8,700	[12]3,890	[12]18,600

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other construction materials."
[1]Production reported in District 3 was included with "District 4" to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.
[2]Data are round to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[3]Includes filter stone, macadam, riprap and jetty stone, and other coarse aggregate.
[4]Includes concrete aggregate (coarse), bituminous aggregate (coarse), bituminous surface-treatment aggregate, railroad ballast, and other graded coarse aggregate.
[5]Includes stone sand (concrete), stone sand (bituminous mix or seal), screening (undesignated).
[6]Includes graded road base or subbase, terrazzo and exposed aggregate, unpaved road surfacing, crusher run (select material or fill), and other coarse and fine aggregates.
[7]Includes other agricultural uses.
[8]Includes cement manufacture.
[9]Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."
[10]Includes sugar refining.
[11]Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.
[12]Includes unspecified within all districts.

TABLE 5

OREGON: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1994, BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY[1]

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand)	5,030	$20,300	$4.03
Plaster and gunite sands	30	112	3.73
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	1,850	9,420	5.10
Road base and coverings	6,830	33,000	4.83
Fill	855	2,600	3.04
Snow and ice control	72	411	5.71
Other[2]	678	3,080	4.55
Unspecified:[3]			
Actual	236	1,070	4.53
Estimated	2,820	13,700	4.84
Total or average	18,400	83,600	4.54

[1]Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes filtration and railroad ballast.
[3]Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 6

OREGON: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1994, BY USE AND DISTRICT[1]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2		District 3		District 4	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregates[2]	3,770	14,800	1,020	3,840	([3])	([3])	([3])	([3])
Asphaltic-bituminous mixtures	1,140	5,930	639	2,720	([3])	([3])	([3])	([3])
Road base and coverings	5,630	27,900	753	3,190	29	168	425	1,710
Fill	458	1,190	290	1,080	82	263	24	63
Snow and ice control	72	411	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other miscellaneous uses[4]	624	2,920	37	61	17	100	—	—
Unspecified:[5]								
Actual	—	—	—	—	—	—	[6]236	[6]1,070
Estimated	2,560	11,800	—	—	—	—	258	1,810
Total	14,300	65,000	2,730	10,900	191	822	[6]1,230	[6]6,920

[1]Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.
[2]Includes plaster and gunite sands.
[3]Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Total."
[4]Includes filtration and railroad ballast.
[5]Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.
[6]Includes unspecified within all districts.

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