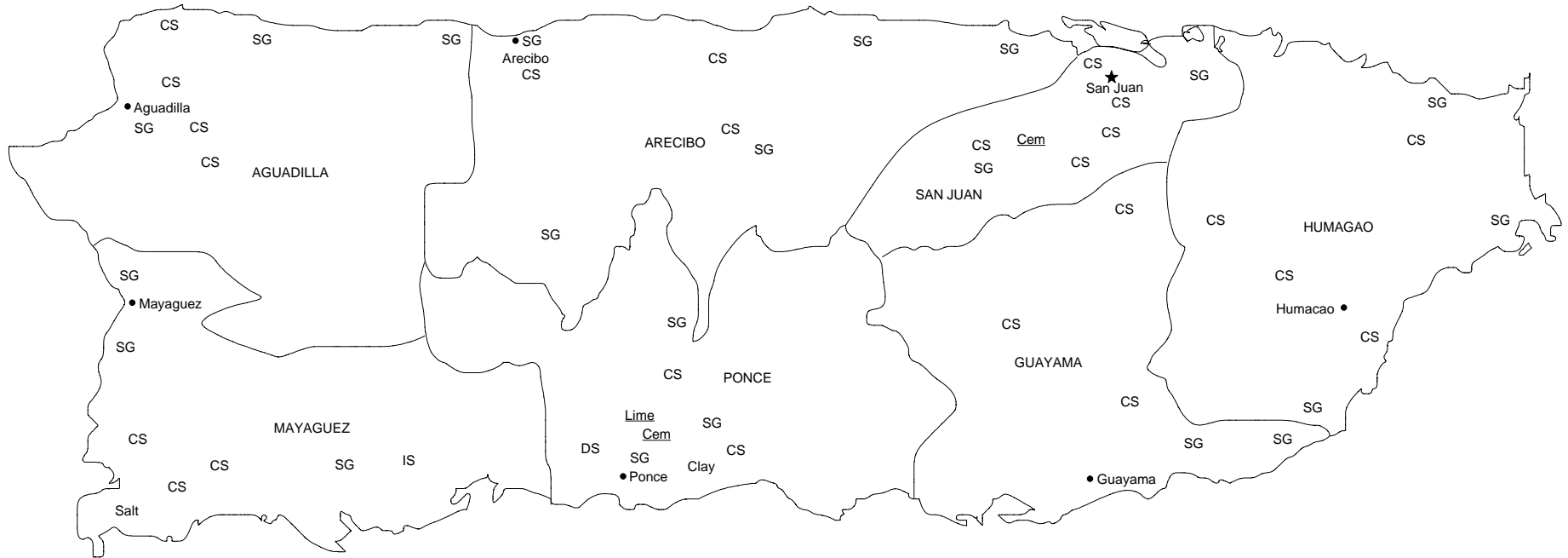


PUERTO RICO



LEGEND		MINERAL SYMBOLS		(Major producing areas)	
—	District boundary	<u>Cem</u>	Cement plant	<u>Lime</u>	Lime plant
★	Capital	Clay	Common clay	Salt	Salt
•	City	CS	Crushed stone	SG	Construction sand and gravel
		DS	Dimension stone		
		IS	Industrial sand		



Source: Department of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico/U.S. Geological Survey (1999)

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF PUERTO RICO AND THE ADMINISTERED ISLANDS

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Geology, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1999, the preliminary estimated value¹ of nonfuel mineral production for Puerto Rico² was \$165 million, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). If ranked in comparison with the 50 States, Puerto Rico would rank 42d in total nonfuel mineral production value. Portland cement, by value, was the Commonwealth's leading nonfuel mineral commodity. Crushed stone for many years has been the second-leading mineral, and

¹The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending upon 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 1999 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are preliminary estimates as of May 2000, and are expected to change. For some mineral commodities, such as, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and portland cement, estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most current information, please contact the appropriate USGS mineral commodity specialist. A telephone listing for the specialists may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>, by using MINES FaxBack at (703) 648-4999 from a fax machine with a touch-tone handset (request Document #1000 for a telephone listing of all mineral commodity specialists), or by calling USGS information at (703) 648-4000 for the specialist's name and number. All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>; facsimile copies may be obtained from MINES FaxBack.

²While a memorandum of understanding (MOU) was officially made between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, MOU's were not established with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Caribbean and Pacific Island Possessions, or the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Nevertheless, data on nonfuel mineral production were reported to the USGS for the island of Guam of the Pacific Island Possessions. These data appear in table 1.

most likely continues as such, but the USGS has no comprehensive data owing to a low response rate to its crushed stone canvasses. Therefore, no preliminary estimate has been made for 1999. Construction sand and gravel is produced in Puerto Rico, but production data are not available. The collection and compilation of production data for construction sand and gravel were discontinued in 1973 by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (the Federal Government agency then responsible for collecting domestic raw nonfuel mineral production data) because of a low rate of response to surveys by the industry (Sikich and Alonso, 1993, p. 469). The data for dimension stone, as well as for industrial sand and gravel, were withheld to protect company proprietary data.

Metals have not been mined in Puerto Rico since the Juncos iron mine closed in 1953; prospects for resuming metal mining in the near future do not appear to be likely. However, metal occurrences are common on the island and the possibility of developing a metal deposit should not be completely discounted (Sikich and Alonso, 1993).

Of the U.S. Administered Islands, Guam is the only one from which nonfuel mineral production has been reported and this has been limited to crushed stone. Owing to a low response rate, no preliminary data are available for 1999.

Reference Cited

Sikich, S.W., and Alonso, R.M., 1993, The mineral industries of Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, Island Possessions, and Trust Territory: U.S. Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbook 1992, v. II, p. 467-470.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1997		1998		1999 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Puerto Rico:						
Cement: Portland	W	(3/)	1,590	W	1,630	W
Clays: Common	W	363	W	W	W	W
Lime	32	4,580	37	4,800	35	4,530
Salt	45	1,500	45	1,500	45	1,500
Stone: Crushed	14,000	71,300	12,700	58,600	NA	NA
Combined value of other industrial minerals	XX	(3/)	XX	156,000	XX	159,000
Total	XX	77,700 4/	XX	221,000	XX	165,000
Administered Islands:						
Guam: Stone: Crushed	1,760	10,500	1,850	14,100	NA	NA

p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "Combined values" data. XX Not applicable.

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

2/ Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

4/ Total does not include value of items withheld.

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	1997		1998		1999 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Puerto Rico:						
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Combined values of other industrial minerals	XX	(4/)	XX	156,000	XX	159,000
Total	XX	77,700 5/	XX	221,000	XX	165,000
Administered Islands:						
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p/ Preliminary. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "Combined values" data. 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/ Unit of measure changed from thousand metric tons on December 7, 2004.

4/ Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

5/ Total does not include values of items withheld.