

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 1996, the estimated value¹ of nonfuel mineral commodities produced in Puerto Rico was \$109 million, according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). Data have been withheld for portland cement, industrial sand and gravel, dimension stone, and common clays (in descending order of value) to protect company proprietary data. Consequently, a comparison of Puerto Rico'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.

If ranked in comparison with the 50 States, Puerto Rico would rank 37th if the four withheld commodities were included in the Commonwealth's total nonfuel mineral value. If based on table 1, it would rank approximately 44th. In 1996, the value of portland cement increased by more than 7% above that of 1995. Nonfuel minerals whose values decreased by small amounts in 1996 included lime and industrial sand and gravel. Crushed stone, common clay, and dimension stone

values were estimated to remain virtually the same in 1996 as in 1995. While crushed stone values for American Samoa and Guam remained virtually the same (data withheld for both) from 1995 to 1996, those for the Virgin Islands increased slightly.

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 1996 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are estimates as of February 1997. The crushed stone estimate is 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>

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	1994		1995		1996 p/	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Puerto Rico:						
Cement (portland)	W	W	--	--	1,520	W
Clays	119	338	W	W	W	W
Lime	23	2,970	23	2,970	16	2,090
Stone (crushed)	10,500	78,400	15,300	107,000	15,300	107,000
Total 3/	XX	81,700	XX	110,000	XX	109,000
Administered Islands:						
American Samoa: Stone (crushed)	84	W	W	W	W	W
Guam: Stone (crushed)	2,150	12,700	2,060	17,400	2,100	17,400
Total 3/	XX	12,700	XX	17,400	XX	17,400

p/ Preliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; not included in "Total." 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/ Total does not include values of items withheld.