

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CONNECTICUT

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 State Geological and Natural History Survey of Connecticut, Department of Environmental Protection, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1994, for the 3d consecutive year, Connecticut was 44th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral value,<sup>1</sup> according to the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM). The estimated value for 1994 was \$97 million, a more than 7% increase compared with that of 1993. This followed a 7.5% decrease in 1993 from that of 1992. The State accounted for less than 0.5% of the U.S. total value. Crushed stone and construction sand and gravel, the State's leading mineral commodities by value, accounted for 83% of the State's total mineral value. In 1994, the increased values of crushed stone and construction sand and gravel accounted for most of the year's change. The change in value in 1993 mainly resulted from decreases in the value of crushed stone and dimension stone, the full impact of which was moderated by an increase in construction sand and gravel.

Based on USBM estimates of the quantities of minerals produced in the United States during 1994, Connecticut mines produced significant quantities of crushed stone, construction sand and gravel, and dimension stone.

According to the Connecticut Geological and Natural History Survey, brownstone quarrying was resumed in Portland, south of the capital city of Hartford, in June 1994,

representing the first such activity in the State since the 1930's. Brownstone is a dark, reddish-brown, iron oxide-cemented quartz sandstone, once extensively quarried in the Connecticut River valley for use as building stones. A new company, Portland Brownstone Quarries, was formed to begin removing the commodity from leased property. The first order was for stone to repair an old brownstone chapel on the campus of Gallaudet College in Washington, DC. The brownstone blocks removed from the quarry were being sent to Barre, VT, for shaping before shipment to the college.

In other industry developments, the Mashantucket-Pequot Tribe purchased 145.2 hectares (363 acres) at Lantern Hill, in Ledyard and North Stonington, from U.S. Silica Co., which previously had quarried the site for industrial sand. Although the Pequots reportedly did not intend to mine the site, the tribe has not yet announced what its plans are for the property. Lantern Hill is near the tribal reservation, which contains a large casino and hotel complex.

<sup>1</sup>The term value, referring always to nonfuel mineral value unless otherwise specified, means the total monetary value as represented by either mine shipments, mineral commodity sales, or marketable production as is applicable to the individual mineral commodities.

TABLE 1  
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN CONNECTICUT<sup>1</sup>

| Mineral   | 1992               |                      | 1993               |                      | 1994 <sup>p</sup>  |                      |
|---|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|
|   | Quantity           | Value<br>(thousands) | Quantity           | Value<br>(thousands) | Quantity           | Value<br>(thousands) |
| Gemstones   | NA                 | \$5                  | NA                 | \$5                  | —                  | —                    |
| Sand and gravel (construction) thousand metric tons   | 5,466              | 30,107               | <sup>e</sup> 6,400 | <sup>e</sup> 34,900  | 6,700              | \$37,200             |
| Stone, crushed <sup>2</sup> do.   | <sup>e</sup> 5,352 | <sup>e</sup> 54,500  | 4,599              | 39,525               | <sup>e</sup> 5,000 | <sup>e</sup> 43,800  |
| Combined value of clays (common), sand and gravel (industrial), and stone (crushed dolomite and miscellaneous, dimension) | XX                 | <sup>1</sup> 13,451  | XX                 | 16,246               | XX                 | 16,300               |
| Total   | XX                 | <sup>1</sup> 98,063  | XX                 | 90,676               | XX                 | <sup>3</sup> 97,300  |

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>p</sup>Preliminary. <sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

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

<sup>2</sup>Excludes certain stones; kind and value included with "Combined value" data.

<sup>3</sup>Data do not add to total shown because of independent rounding.

TABLE 2  
**CONNECTICUT: CRUSHED STONE<sup>1</sup> SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 1993, BY USE**

| Use   | Quantity<br>(thousand<br>metric tons) | Value<br>(thousands) | Unit<br>value |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| Coarse aggregate (+1 1/2 inch): Filter stone <sup>2</sup> | 19                                    | \$217                | \$11.42       |
| Coarse and fine aggregates:                               |                                       |                      |               |
| Other construction materials <sup>3</sup>                 | 78                                    | 1,059                | 13.58         |
| Unspecified: <sup>4</sup>                                 |                                       |                      |               |
| Actual  | 2,750                                 | 24,077               | 8.76          |
| Estimated   | <u>1,753</u>                          | <u>14,173</u>        | <u>8.08</u>   |
| Total <sup>5</sup>  | 4,599                                 | 39,525               | 8.59          |
| Total <sup>6,7</sup>                                      | 5,070                                 | 39,525               | 7.80          |

<sup>1</sup>Includes granite, limestone, and traprock; excludes dolomite and miscellaneous stone from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>2</sup>Includes riprap and jetty stone.

<sup>3</sup>Includes agricultural limestone, screening (undesignated), grade roadbase or subbase, terrazzo and exposed aggregate, crusher run (select material or fill), and other coarse and fine aggregates.

<sup>4</sup>Includes production reported without a breakdown by use and estimates for nonrespondents.

<sup>5</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>6</sup>One short ton is equal to 907 kilograms or 2,000 pounds. To convert metric tons to short tons, divide metric tons by 0.907185.

<sup>7</sup>Total shown in thousand short tons and thousand dollars.

TABLE 3  
**CONNECTICUT: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND**

| Kind                 | 1991 <sup>1</sup>        |                                       |                      |               | 1993 <sup>1</sup>        |                                       |                      |               |
|----------------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|
|                      | Number<br>of<br>quarries | Quantity<br>(thousand<br>metric tons) | Value<br>(thousands) | Unit<br>value | Number<br>of<br>quarries | Quantity<br>(thousand<br>metric tons) | Value<br>(thousands) | Unit<br>value |
| Limestone            | 6                        | 1,169                                 | \$10,380             | \$8.88        | 6                        | 1,154                                 | \$9,398              | \$8.14        |
| Dolomite             | —                        | —                                     | —                    | —             | —                        | —                                     | —                    | —             |
| Granite              | 3                        | 203                                   | 1,646                | 8.11          | 3                        | 129                                   | 1,485                | 11.51         |
| Traprock             | 8                        | 3,955                                 | 40,675               | 10.28         | 8                        | 3,317                                 | 28,641               | 8.63          |
| Miscellaneous stone  | —                        | —                                     | —                    | —             | —                        | —                                     | —                    | —             |
| Total <sup>2</sup>   | XX                       | 5,328                                 | 52,701               | 9.89          | XX                       | 4,599                                 | 39,525               | 8.59          |
| Total <sup>3,4</sup> | XX                       | 5,873                                 | 52,701               | 8.97          | XX                       | 5,070                                 | 39,525               | 7.80          |

<sup>1</sup>Revised. XX Not applicable.

<sup>2</sup>Excludes dolomite and miscellaneous stone from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>3</sup>Data may not add to totals shown because of independent rounding.

<sup>4</sup>One short ton is equal to 907 kilograms or 2,000 pounds. To convert metric tons to short tons, divide metric tons by 0.907185.

<sup>5</sup>Total shown in thousand short tons and thousand dollars.