

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE THIRD QUARTER 2008

U.S. mine and plant production data for selected mineral commodities are provided monthly (or quarterly) by the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System (FRS), for use in preparing its index of industrial production and the related capacity indexes and capacity utilization rates. These measures cover electric and gas utilities, manufacturing, and mining, and they are among the key economic indicators monitored by the FRS in determining monetary policy. The data in this report include current and prior months data provided to the FRS, some of which have been revised.

Significant declines in domestic production for

construction materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum) for the year to date through September compared with that of the same period of 2007 can be attributed to declines in the domestic housing market (table 1). Zinc production increased by 9% over the same period because of previously increased production capacity, leading to a surplus of concentrates at the end of the third quarter. The quarterly production increase for secondary aluminum in the third quarter 2008 compared with that of the second quarter was due to the addition of companies not previously included in this category and therefore does not represent a change in the secondary aluminum market.

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, third quarter 2008 vs. second quarter 2008	Percentage change, YTD, third quarter 2008, vs. YTD, third quarter 2007
Aluminum (secondary)	20	3
Cement	2	-6
Gypsum	—	-14
Iron ore	1	6
Phosphate rock	1	4
Sand and gravel, construction	-1	-20
Soda ash	—	1
Stone, crushed	2	-16
Zinc	3	9

YTD Year to date. — Zero.

TABLE 1
U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER^{1,2}

Mineral commodity	2007					2008			Year to date	
	First	Second	Third	Fourth	Total	First	Second	Third	2007	2008
	quarter	quarter	quarter	quarter		quarter	quarter	quarter		
Aluminum ³ thousand metric tons	243	233	231	217	924	219	232 ^r	278	708	729
Cement ⁴ million metric tons	18.0	25.6	26.3	22.3	92.3	17.1	24.0	24.5 ^e	70.0	65.6 ^e
Gypsum ⁵ do.	5.4	5.4	5.6	5.0	21.4	4.7	4.7	4.7 ^e	16.4	14.1 ^e
Iron ore ⁶ do.	11.4	13.7	13.5	13.4	52.0	12.9	13.9	14.1 ^e	38.6	40.9 ^e
Phosphate rock ⁷ do.	7.1	7.7	7.4	7.7	29.9	7.8	7.6 ^r	7.7 ^e	22.1	23.0 ^e
Sand and gravel, construction ^{8,9} do.	210 ^r	348 ^r	382 ^r	281 ^r	1,230 ^r	172 ^r	292 ^r	290 ^e	940	754 ^e
Soda ash ⁶ do.	2.7	2.8	2.8	2.8	11.1	2.8	2.8	2.8	8.3	8.4
Stone, crushed ^{8,9} do.	297 ^r	444 ^r	474 ^r	377 ^r	1,600 ^r	258 ^r	379 ^r	385 ^e	1,220	1,020 ^e
Zinc ¹⁰ thousand metric tons	181	184	208	196 ^r	769 ^r	212 ^r	205 ^r	212 ^e	574	628 ^e

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Based on data available as of November 10, 2008.

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

³Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

⁴Portland and blended cement shipments.

⁵Calcined production.

⁶Mine production.

⁷Marketable mine production.

⁸Sold or used.

⁹Excludes Alaska and Hawaii; included in 2007 year total.

¹⁰Recoverable mine production.