

# Mineral Industry Surveys

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## U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE FIRST QUARTER 2009

U.S. mine and plant production data for selected mineral commodities are provided monthly (or quarterly) by the U.S. Geological Survey 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 manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities, 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.

Mineral commodity production generally fell in the first quarter of 2009 compared with that of the fourth quarter of 2008 reflecting the overall decline in the U.S. economy, as well as some normal seasonal declines. Significant declines in domestic production for construction materials (cement, gypsum, construction sand and gravel, and crushed stone) for the first

quarter of 2009 compared with those of the first quarter of 2008 largely can be attributed to declines in the domestic housing market (table 1). According to the U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development (2009), housing starts in the first quarter of 2009 were 49% less than the level in the first quarter of 2008. Iron ore production decreased by 34% in the first quarter of 2009 compared with that of the fourth quarter of 2008 owing mainly to a decline in steel production, as the automobile and major appliance industries reduced steel consumption.

**Reference Cited**

U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2009, New residential construction in December 2008: Washington, DC, U.S. Census Bureau and the Department of Housing and Urban Development, April 16, 6 p.

Mineral commodity	Percentage change, first quarter 2009 vs. fourth quarter 2008 <sup>1</sup>	Percentage change, YTD, first quarter 2009, vs. YTD, first quarter 2008 <sup>1</sup>
Aluminum (secondary)	2	-9
Cement	-30	-22
Gypsum	--	-21
Iron ore	-34	-39
Phosphate rock	-6	-19
Sand and gravel, construction	-34	-16
Soda ash	-24	-21
Stone, crushed	-31	-18
Zinc	8	-6

-- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Percentage change based on unrounded data.

TABLE 1  
U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES, BY QUARTER<sup>1,2</sup>

Mineral commodity	2008					2009		
	First quarter	Second quarter	Third quarter	Fourth quarter	Total	First quarter	January-March	
							2008	2009
Aluminum <sup>3</sup>	294 <sup>r</sup>	281 <sup>r</sup>	278	262 <sup>r</sup>	1,110 <sup>r</sup>	267	294 <sup>r</sup>	267
Cement <sup>4</sup>	17.1	24.0	24.4	18.9 <sup>r</sup>	84.4 <sup>r</sup>	13.3 <sup>e</sup>	17.1	13.3 <sup>e</sup>
Gypsum <sup>5</sup>	4.7	4.7	4.7	3.7 <sup>r</sup>	17.9 <sup>r</sup>	3.7 <sup>e</sup>	4.7	3.7 <sup>e</sup>
Iron ore <sup>6</sup>	12.9	13.9	14.1	12.0 <sup>r</sup>	53.0	7.9	12.9	7.9
Phosphate rock <sup>7</sup>	7.8	7.6	7.9	6.7 <sup>r</sup>	30.0	6.3 <sup>e</sup>	7.8	6.3 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel, construction <sup>8,9</sup>	174 <sup>r</sup>	307 <sup>r</sup>	331 <sup>r</sup>	223 <sup>r</sup>	1,040	147 <sup>e</sup>	174 <sup>r</sup>	147 <sup>e</sup>
Soda ash <sup>6</sup>	2.8	2.8	2.8	2.9	11.3	2.2	2.8	2.2
Stone, crushed <sup>8,9</sup>	255 <sup>r</sup>	379 <sup>r</sup>	393 <sup>r</sup>	300 <sup>r</sup>	1,340	208 <sup>e</sup>	255 <sup>r</sup>	208 <sup>e</sup>
Zinc <sup>10</sup>	196 <sup>r</sup>	193 <sup>r</sup>	189 <sup>r</sup>	170 <sup>r</sup>	748 <sup>r</sup>	183	196 <sup>r</sup>	183

<sup>e</sup>Estimated. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto.

<sup>1</sup>Based on data available as of May 12, 2009.

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

<sup>3</sup>Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States.

<sup>4</sup>Portland and blended cement shipments.

<sup>5</sup>Calcined production.

<sup>6</sup>Mine production.

<sup>7</sup>Marketable mine production.

<sup>8</sup>Sold or used.

<sup>9</sup>Excludes Alaska and Hawaii; included in 2008 total.

<sup>10</sup>Recoverable mine production.