

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE SECOND QUARTER 2019

U.S. mine and plant production data for 14 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 for guidance in determining national monetary policy.

Construction Materials

The combined production of construction-related mineral commodities (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum) in the second quarter of 2019 increased by 51% compared with that in the first quarter of 2019 and the combined production of construction-related materials was 3% higher than that in the second quarter of 2018 (tables 1, 2). Production of cement was essentially unchanged, construction sand and gravel was slightly higher, crushed stone was 8% higher, and gypsum was 3% higher in the first 6 months of 2019 as compared with that in the first 6 months of 2018 (fig. 1, table 1).

Base Metals

Production of most base metals, except secondary aluminum, increased in the second quarter of 2019 compared with that in the first quarter of 2019 (fig. 2, table 1). Secondary aluminum was essentially unchanged in the second quarter of 2019 compared with that in the first quarter of 2019 and in the first 6 months of 2019 compared with that in the first 6 months of 2018. Copper production increased slightly in the second quarter of 2019 as compared with that in the first quarter of 2019 and increased slightly in the first 6 months of 2019 compared with that in the first 6 months of 2018. Zinc production was 39% higher in the second quarter of 2019 compared with that of the first quarter of 2019 but was 3% lower in the first 6 months of 2019 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2018. Lead

production increased by 24% in the second quarter of 2019 compared with that of the first quarter of 2019 and was 5% higher in the first 6 months of 2019 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2018. Iron ore production increased by 14% in the second quarter of 2019 compared with that in the first quarter of 2019 but was 3% lower than that in the first 6 months of 2019 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2018 (fig. 2, table 1).

Precious Metals

During the second quarter of 2019, gold and silver production increased by 4% and by 12%, respectively, compared with production in the first quarter of 2019. Gold production in the first 6 months of 2019 was 5% lower than production in the first 6 months of 2018. Silver production in the first 6 months of 2019 was 16% higher than production in the first 6 months of 2018 (fig. 3, table 1).

Other Mineral Materials

Molybdenum production was 10% higher in the second quarter of 2019 than that in the first quarter of 2019 and was 6% higher than that in the first 6 months of 2018. Phosphate rock production was 12% higher in the second quarter of 2019 than that in the first quarter of 2019 but was 17% lower than that in the first 6 months of 2018. Soda ash production was slightly higher in the second quarter of 2019 compared with that of the first quarter of 2019 and slightly lower in the first 6 months of 2019 compared with that of the first 6 months of 2018 (table 1).

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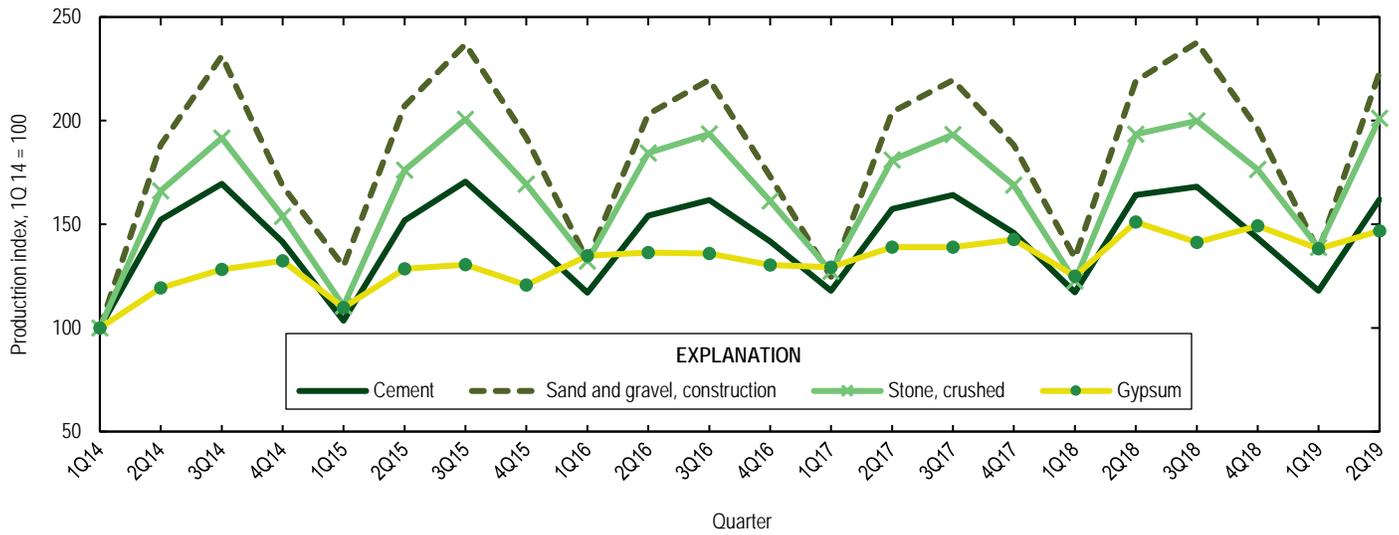


Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2014 through the second quarter of 2019, indexed to the first quarter of 2014.

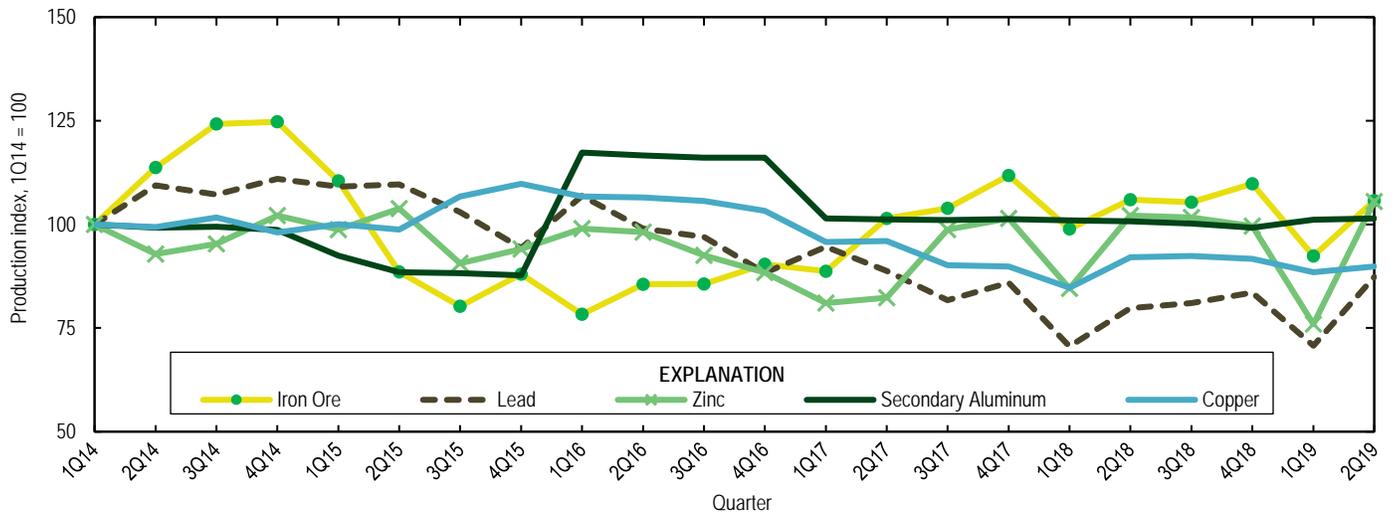


Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2014 through the second quarter of 2019, indexed to the first quarter of 2014.

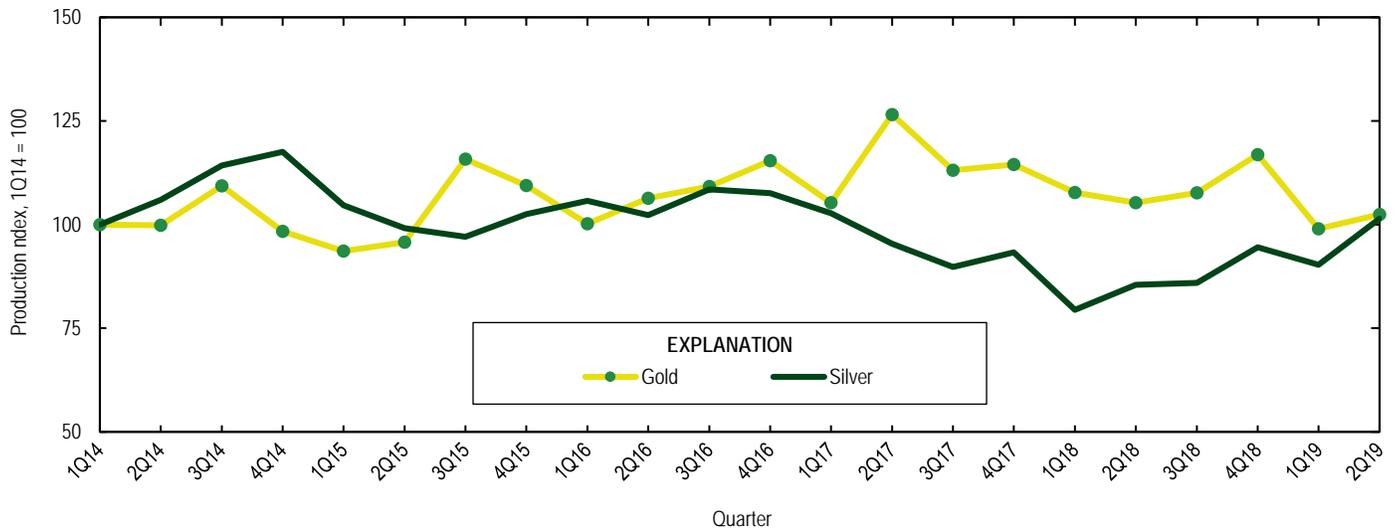


Figure 3. U.S. mine production of gold and silver from the first quarter of 2014 through the second quarter of 2019, indexed to the first quarter of 2014.

TABLE 1
PRODUCTION TRENDS FOR SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

Mineral commodity	Percent change, 2d quarter 2019 vs. 1st quarter 2019	Percent change, YTD 2019 vs. YTD 2018
Aluminum (secondary)	(2)	(2)
Cement	37	(2)
Copper	2	1
Gold	4	-5
Gypsum	6	3
Iron ore	14	-3
Lead	24	5
Molybdenum	10	6
Phosphate rock	12	-17
Sand and gravel, construction	63	2
Silver	12	16
Soda ash	2	-1
Stone, crushed	45	8
Zinc	39	-3

¹Based on data available through September 2019.

²Less than 0.5 percent.

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

Commodity		2018					2019		1st quarter- 2d quarter	
		1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter- 4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	2018	2019
		Aluminum ³	thousand metric tons	209	208	207	205	829	209	210
Cement ⁴	million metric tons	16.8	23.6	24.2	20.6	85.2 ^r	17.0	23.3	40.5	40.3
Copper ⁵	thousand metric tons	287	312	313	311	1,220	300 ^r	304	599	604
Gold ⁵	metric tons	55.5 ^r	54.3 ^r	55.5 ^r	60.3 ^r	226 ^r	51.0 ^r	52.8	110	104
Gypsum ⁵	million metric tons	3.8	4.6	4.3	4.6	17.3	4.2	4.5	8.4	8.7
Iron ore ⁷	do.	11.6	12.4	12.4	12.9	49.3	10.8	12.4	24.0	23.3
Lead ⁵	thousand metric tons	60.6	68.6	69.6	71.8	271	60.7	75.0	129	136
Molybdenum ⁵	do.	10.7	10.1	10.0	11.2	41.9	10.5	11.5	20.8	22.0
Phosphate rock ⁸	million metric tons	6.5	7.1	6.6	5.5	25.7	5.3	6.0	13.6	11.4
Sand and gravel, construction ⁹	do.	164 ^r	268 ^r	291 ^r	240 ^r	963	168	273	432	441
Silver ⁵	metric tons	215 ^r	231 ^r	232 ^r	256 ^r	934 ^r	244 ^r	274	446	519
Soda ash ⁷	million metric tons	3.0	2.9	3.0	3.1	11.9	2.9	2.9	5.8	5.8
Stone, crushed ⁹	do.	248 ^r	391 ^r	404	357	1,400	281	406	639	687
Zinc ⁵	thousand metric tons	174	210 ^r	209 ^r	205 ^r	799 ^r	156 ^r	217	384	374

¹Revised. do. Ditto.

²Based on data available through September 2019.

³Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

⁴Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States, less primary aluminum consumed, primary silicon consumed, and other alloying ingredients consumed.

⁵Shipments of domestically produced portland and blended cement, including cement made from imported clinker, as a proxy for actual domestic cement production.

⁶Recoverable mine production.

⁷Calcined production.

⁸Mine production.

⁹Marketable mine production. First to fourth quarter total may not add to quarterly data owing to annual adjustments that are not broken out by quarter.

⁹Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey. Includes all 50 States.