



2014 Minerals Yearbook

ARKANSAS [ADVANCE RELEASE]

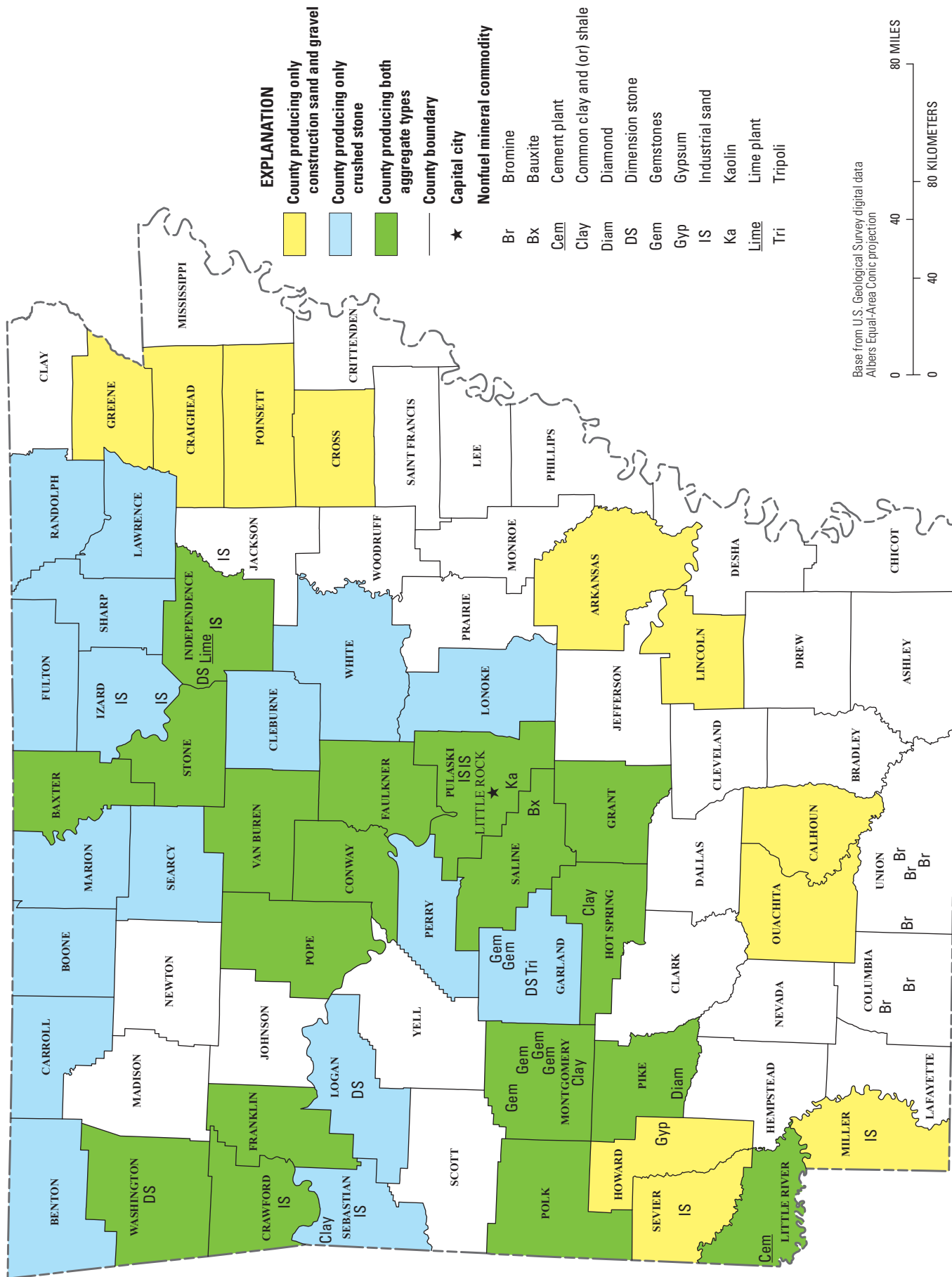


Figure 1. Map showing major nonfuel-mineral-producing areas in Arkansas in 2014. Sources: Arkansas Geological Survey and U.S. Geological Survey.

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ARKANSAS

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This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Arkansas Geological Survey for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 2014, in the State of Arkansas (fig. 1), the value of nonfuel mineral production¹ was \$915 million. This was a 30.2% increase from the State's revised nonfuel mineral production value of \$702 million in 2013 (table 1). Nonfuel mineral production in the State surpassed \$900 million in value for the first time in 2014 (fig. 2). Arkansas accounted for approximately 1.1% of the total U.S. production value in 2014, which ranked it 26th among the 50 States. On a per capita basis, the value of nonfuel mineral production was \$308 in 2014 as compared with the national average of \$252. The number of mines remained the same but the mine employment increased as compared with 2013 (table 2).

In 2014, the leading five minerals in the State, in alphabetical order, were bromine compounds, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, industrial sand and gravel, and portland cement. Gemstones mined in Arkansas include diamond and quartz. The Crater of Diamonds State Park permits persons to dig for diamonds and keep them. In 2014, 585 diamonds were produced weighing 121.02 carats; 17 of these were greater than 1 carat (Crater of Diamonds State Park, 2016).

¹The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending upon the 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 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are those available as of June 2017. All USGS Mineral Industry Surveys and USGS Minerals Yearbook chapters—mineral commodity, State, and country—can be retrieved over the internet at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

Events, Trends, and Issues

Arkansas had the first diamond mine in the United States and has led the Nation in the recovery of diamonds for over 50 years. It is the only place open to public where visitors can find (and keep) a diamond. The two largest diamonds discovered in the United States came from Arkansas (Crater of Diamonds State Park, 2016).

In 2014, Arkansas led the country in the production of bromine, diamond, quartz crystal, and special silica stone. In 2014, the production quantity of construction sand and gravel increased slightly and crushed stone increased by 4.5% from the previous year (table 1).

Aggregates by State and End Use

A companion dataset, "Aggregates by State and End Use," replaces the discrete aggregate tables that were included in the individual State chapters prior to 2014 and is available on the State Minerals Statistics and Information web page at <https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/state/>. This dataset is updated annually.

Reference Cited

Crater of Diamonds State Park, 2016, Diamond statistics: Crater of Diamonds State Park, 2 p. (Accessed September 21, 2017, at <http://www.craterofdiamondsstatepark.com/media/diamond-statistics.aspx>.)

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN ARKANSAS^{1,2,3}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	2012		2013		2014	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays, common	384	1,400	W	W	W	W
Gemstones, natural ^e	NA	388	NA	413	NA	429
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	7,980	68,200	8,010 ^r	68,200 ^r	8,020	69,500
Industrial	2,800	211,000	2,130	133,000	3,180	248,000
Silica stone, special	156	39	146 ^e	36 ^e	146 ^e	36 ^e
Stone:						
Crushed	24,100	188,000	25,100 ^r	197,000	26,300	214,000
Dimension	10	1,160	10	1,320	10	1,290
Combined values of bauxite, bromine, cement, clay (kaolin), gypsum (crude), lime, tripoli, and values indicated by symbol W	XX	336,000 ^r	XX	302,000 ^r	XX	382,000
Total	XX	807,000 ^r	XX	702,000 ^r	XX	915,000

^eEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Combined values" data. XX Not applicable.

¹Includes data available through June 2017.

²Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

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

TABLE 2
MINING ACTIVITY IN ARKANSAS

Mining activity	2012	2013	2014
State rank ¹	27	30	26
Employment, number: ²			
Nonfuel mineral mines	1,488	1,470	1,488
Mills and plants	887	942	1,011
Number of nonfuel mineral mines ²	177	168	161
Number of mills and plants ²	32	33	33
Average annual wage, all mining ³	dollars per year	48,635	50,354
Average annual wage, all industries ³	do.	37,873	38,623
Per capita value ¹	dollars per person	273	237
National per capita value ¹	do.	241	236

do. Ditto.

¹Based on unadjusted State total value.

²Source: U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.

³Source: National Mining Association.

TABLE 3
STRUCTURE OF THE NONFUEL MINERAL INDUSTRY IN ARKANSAS

(Nonfuel-mineral-producing companies, not including aggregate producers)

Commodity	Company	County
Bauxite	ALCOA (McGeorge Contracting Co.)	Saline
Bromine	Albemarle Corp.	Columbia
Do.	Chemtura Corp.	Union
Cement	Ash Grove Cement Co. (Foreman plant)	Little River
Clays:		
Common clay and shale	Acme Brick Co.	Sebastian
Do.	Berkshire Hathaway, Inc. (Justin Industries Inc.)	Hot Spring
Do.	CertainTeed Corp.	Montgomery
Kaolin	Rhone-Poulenc Basic Chemicals	Pulaski
Gemstones: ¹		
Diamond	Crater of Diamonds State Park	Pike
Quartz	Coleman's Crystal Mines	Garland
Do.	Ron Coleman Mining	Do.
Gypsum	CertainTeed Corp.	Howard
Lime	U.S. Lime and Minerals, Inc. (Arkansas Lime Co.)	Independence
Sand and gravel, industrial	Amelia Minerals LLC (Billy Duffield Quarry)	Sevier
Do.	Arkhola Sand and Gravel Co. (APAC Arkansas Inc.)	Crawford
Do.	B & B Materials LLC	Pulaski
Do.	Bluebird Sand LLC	Izard
Do.	Galloway Sand and Gravel Inc.	Independence
Do.	Ozark Premium Sand LLC ² (quarry)	Jackson
Do.	Samsand LLC	Miller
Do.	Desoto Sand LLC (Southwestern Energy Prod. Co.)	Pulaski
Silica, tripoli	Malvern Minerals Co.	Garland
Stone, dimension	Dan's Whetstone Co. Inc.	Do.
Do.	Flagstone Heights Inc.	Washington
Do.	Oran McBride Stone Co. Inc.	Independence
Do.	Rainbow Stone Co.	Logan

Do. Ditto.

¹Most natural gemstone producers in the United States are small businesses that are widely dispersed and operate independently.

²Ozark Premium Sand LLC signed an agreement to sell this plant and the Sandtown project to American Sand Corp. in October 2014. The transaction was completed in 2016. The company name later changed to Select Sands America Corp.

EXPLANATION

- Other
- Clays (common clay)
- Sand and gravel (industrial)
- Sand and gravel (construction)
- Stone (crushed)

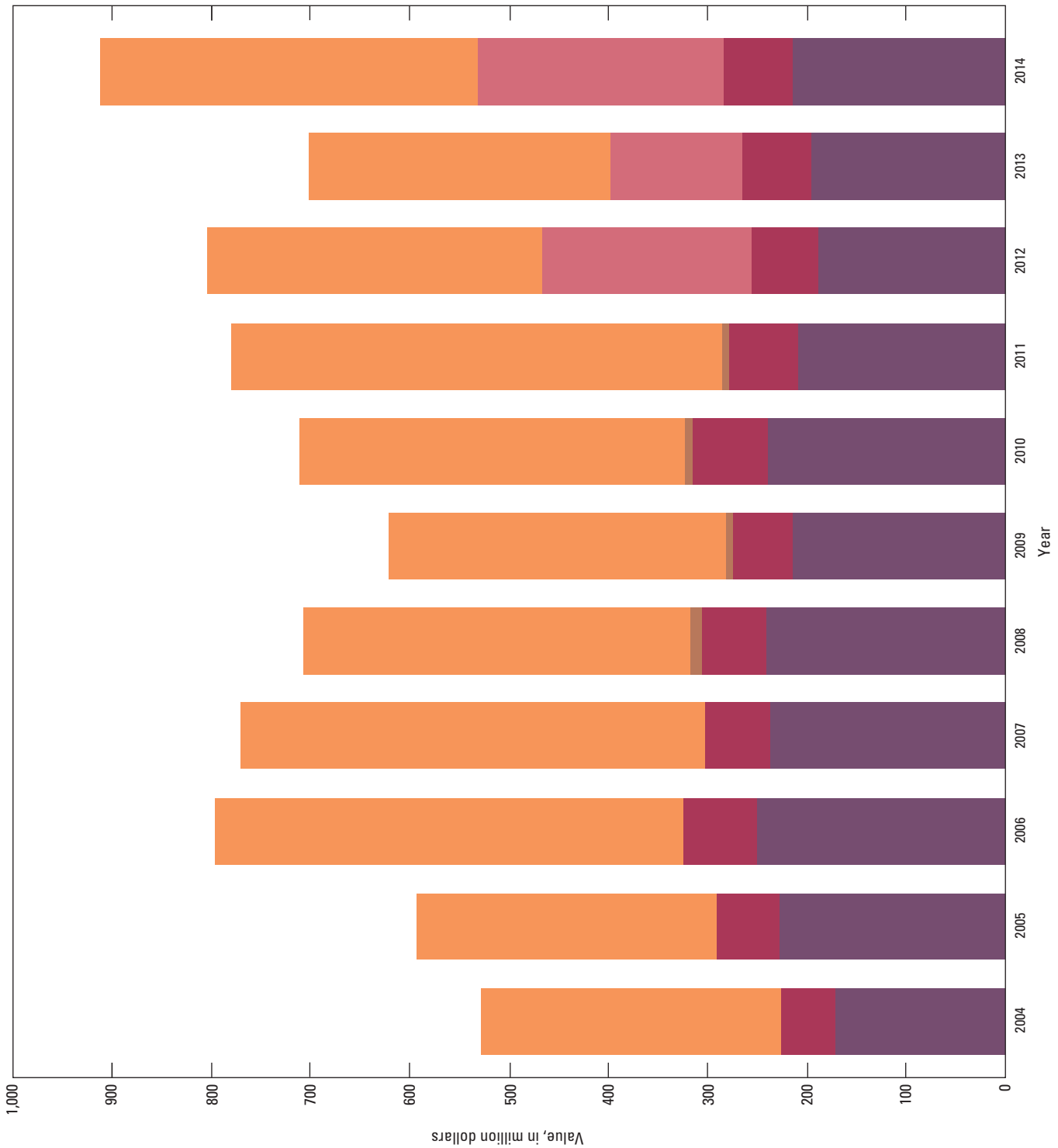


Figure 2. The production value of nonfuel mineral commodities from 2004 through 2014 in Arkansas. Values less than \$5 million are not shown. "Other" includes the "Combined values" data listed in table 1. For a complete list of nonfuel mineral commodities and production values for all States, please refer to the Statistical Summary chapter (tables 5, 6).