



2014 Minerals Yearbook

GEORGIA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

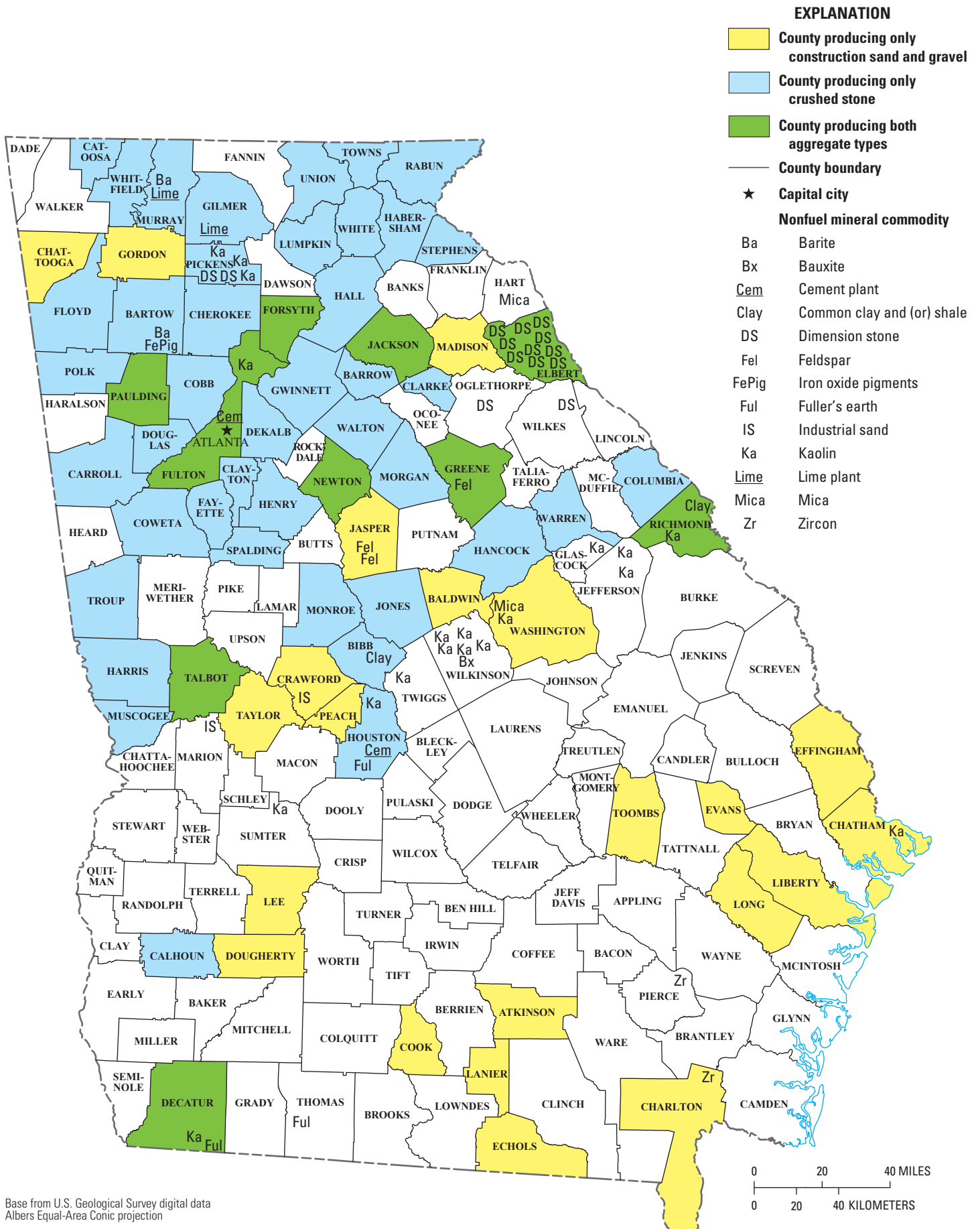


Figure 1. Map showing major nonfuel-mineral-producing areas in Georgia in 2014. Sources: Georgia Department of Natural Resources, Environmental Protection Division, and U.S. Geological Survey (2014).

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF GEORGIA

By Madan M. Singh

In 2014, the value of nonfuel mineral production¹ in the State of Georgia was \$1.63 billion. This was a 4.8%% increase from the State's revised nonfuel mineral production value of \$1.55 billion in 2013 (table 1). Nonfuel mineral production in the State surpassed \$2 billion in value in 2006, but it has been below that figure since then; it has been increasing gradually since 2009 (fig. 1). Georgia accounted for approximately 2.0% of the total U.S. nonfuel mineral production value in 2014, which ranked it 16th among the 50 States. On a per capita basis, the value of nonfuel mineral production in Georgia was \$161 in 2014 compared with the national average of \$252. The number of mines and mine employment both increased in 2014 from the prior year (table 2).

In 2014, the leading two minerals in the State, in descending order of production value, were kaolin and crushed stone. On the basis of production quantity, Georgia was the leading producer of kaolin (91% of U.S. sales) and iron oxide pigments out of nine and two producing States, respectively. With the combined production of attapulgite and montmorillonite, Georgia was the leading producer of fuller's earth. It was second in the production of barite out of two producing States. It was fifth in the production of dimension stone and seventh in the production of feldspar out of 34 and 7 producing States, respectively.

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

Albemarle Corp. announced an acquisition agreement with Rockwood Holdings Inc. on July 15, 2014; Rockwood Holdings would become a wholly owned subsidiary of Albemarle Corp. (Albemarle Corp., 2014). Huntsman Corp. completed the acquisition of Rockwood Pigments NA, Inc. and continued the construction of the \$172 million synthetic iron oxide pigment plant near Augusta (Huntsman Corp., 2014). Montmorillonite dominated sales to most fuller's earth markets, but attapulgite accounted for all sales of fuller's earth for adhesives, drilling mud, fertilizers, paint, and plastics. In 2014, the production quantity of construction sand and gravel in Georgia increased by 7.8% and crushed stone increased by 7.7% 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.

References Cited

- Albemarle Corp., 2014, Albemarle and Rockwood announce merger to create a premier specialty chemicals company: Baton Rouge, LA, and Princeton, NJ, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission press release, July 15, 6 p. (Accessed November 17, 2017, at https://www.sec.gov/Archives/edgar/data/1315695/000110465914051654/a14-17054_2ex99d1.htm.)
- Huntsman Corp., 2014, Huntsman completes acquisition of Rockwood's performance additives and titanium dioxide businesses: The Woodlands, TX, Huntsman Corp. press release, October 1, 1 p. (Accessed November 17, 2017, at http://www.huntsman.com/corporate/Applications/itemrenderer?p_item_id=045CF1D249AA63D1E0532B6BEBDCDB247&p_item_caid=1123.)

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	2012		2013		2014	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Barite	7	1,350 ^e	7	1,350 ^e	14	2,800 ^e
Clays:						
Common clay	687	3,770	W	W	W	W
Kaolin	5,410	844,000	5,580 ^r	852,000 ^r	5,660	853,000
Gemstones, natural ^e	NA	103	NA	103	NA	103
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	5,210 ^r	32,500 ^r	5,090 ^r	33,000 ^r	5,490	37,500
Industrial	585	16,500	596	15,800	520	18,000
Stone:						
Crushed	37,300 ^r	446,000 ^r	40,400 ^r	494,000 ^r	43,500	549,000
Dimension	142	16,800	145	17,200	152	15,500
Combined values of bauxite, cement, clays (fuller's earth), feldspar, iron oxide pigments (crude), lime, mica (crude), and values indicated by symbol W	XX	119,000	XX	137,000	XX	150,000
Total	XX	1,480,000 ^r	XX	1,550,000 ^r	XX	1,630,000

^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 GEORGIA

Mining activity	2012	2013	2014
State rank ¹	15	15	16
Employment, number: ²			
Nonfuel mineral mines	1,298	1,220	1,327
Mills and plants	2,991	3,140	3,234
Number of nonfuel mineral mines ²	187	181	187
Number of mills and plants ²	110	108	107
Average annual wage, all mining ³	dollars per year	56,347	58,991
Average annual wage, all industries ³	do.	47,003	47,515
Per capita value ¹	dollars per person	149	155
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 GEORGIA

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

Commodity	Company	County
Barite	Cimbar Performance Minerals	Murray
Do.	New Riverside Ochre Co. Inc.	Bartow
Bauxite	BASF Corp.	Wilkinson
Cement	Argos USA Corp. (Atlanta plant)	Fulton
Do.	CEMEX Inc. (Clinchfield plant)	Houston
Clays:		
Common clay	Boral Bricks Inc.	Richmond
Do.	Cherokee Brick and Tile Co.	Bibb
Fuller's earth, attapulgite	Active Minerals Inc.	Decatur
Fuller's earth, montmorillonite	CEMEX Inc. (Clinchfield)	Houston
Do.	Oil Dry Corp. of America	Fulton
Kaolin ¹	Active Minerals Inc.	Twiggs and Wilkinson
Do.	Carbo Ceramics Inc.	Do.
Do.	C.E. Minerals Inc.	Sumter
Do.	BASF Corp.	Decatur, Washington, Wilkinson
Do.	J.M.Huber Corp.	Houston, Jefferson, Pickens, Twiggs
Do.	Imerys S.A.	Chatham, Fulton, Jefferson
Do.	do.	Pickens
Do.	Thiele Kaolin Co.	Glascocock and Washington
Do.	Unimin Corp.	Richmond and Wilkinson
Feldspar	The Feldspar Corporation	Jasper
Do.	Imerys	Greene and Jasper
Gemstones ²	Various	Various
Iron oxide pigments	New Riverside Ochre Co. Inc.	Bartow
Lime	Carneuse Lime & Stone	Gilmer and Murray
Mica	BASF Corp.	Hart
Do.	Georgia Industrial Minerals, Inc.	Washington
Do.	Zemex Industrial Minerals (Imerys)	Cherokee
Sand and gravel, industrial	Atlanta Sand and Supply Co.	Crawford
Do.	Unimin Corp.	Marion
Stone, dimension	Adams Granite Quarry	Elbert
Do.	B & B Granite Quarries Inc.	Oglethorpe
Do.	Eagle Granite Co.	Elbert
Do.	Blue Ridge Marble and Granite Co.	Pickens
Do.	Boyd Granite Co.	Elbert
Do.	Dixie Granite Co., Inc.	Do.
Do.	Gold Eagle Quarries Inc.	Do.
Do.	Harmony Blue Granite Co. Inc.	Do.
Do.	Harpers Quarry Inc.	Do.
Do.	Keystone Granite Co.	Do.
Do.	Polycor Georgia Marble	Pickens
Do.	Quarries Inc.	Oglethorpe and Wilkes
Do.	Star Granite Co.	Elbert
Zircon	Southern Ionics Minerals, LLC	Charlton and Pierce

Do., do. Ditto

¹Most kaolin mining companies have mutiple mines and pits in counties, hence the numbers are not given.

²Most natural gemstone producers in the United States are small businesses that are widely dispersed and operate independently.

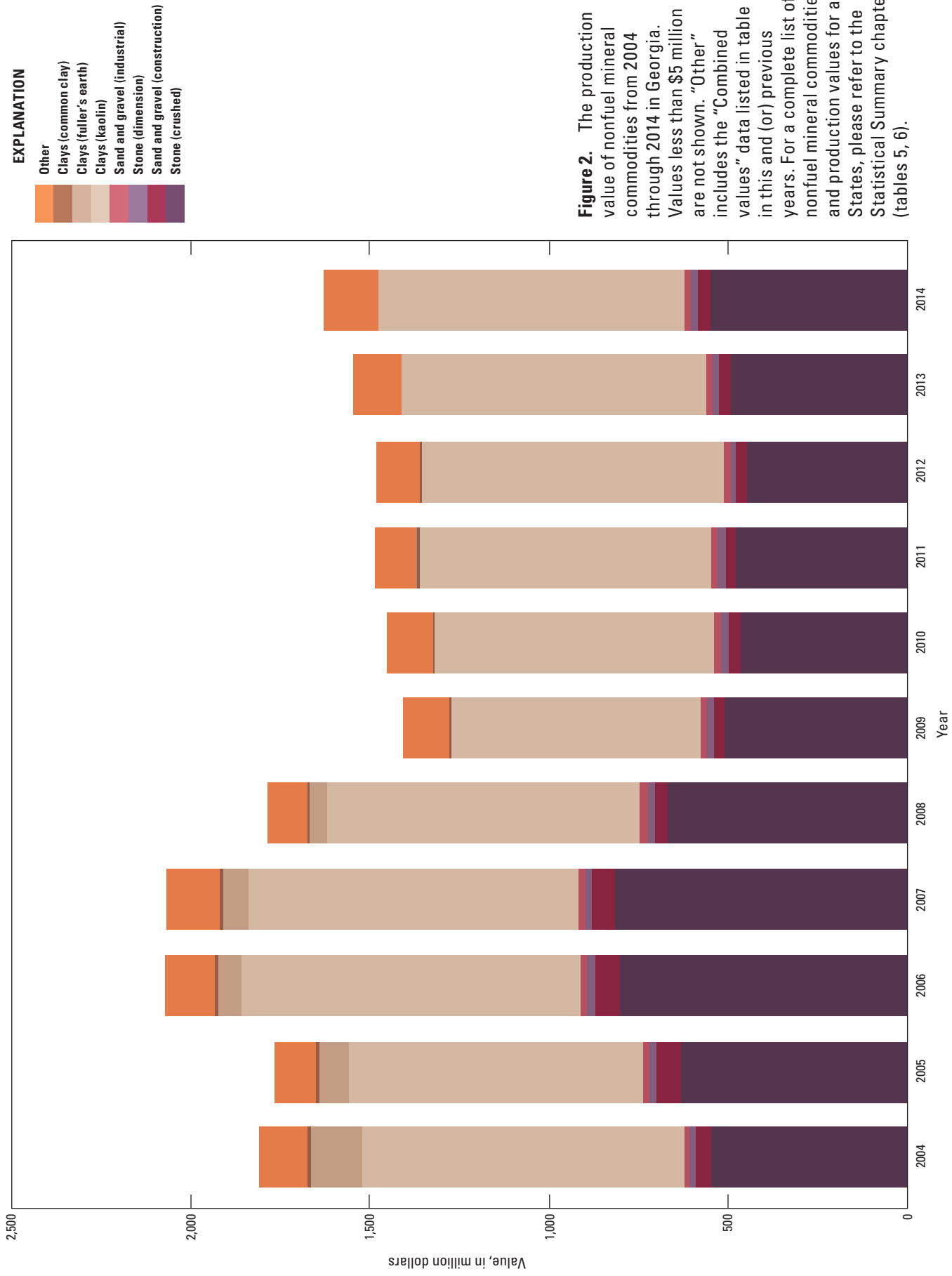


Figure 2. The production value of nonfuel mineral commodities from 2004 through 2014 in Georgia. Values less than \$5 million are not shown. "Other" includes the "Combined values" data listed in table 1 in this and (or) previous years. For a complete list of nonfuel mineral commodities and production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