



# 2008 Minerals Yearbook

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## LOUISIANA

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LOUISIANA

In 2008, Louisiana's nonfuel raw mineral production<sup>1</sup> was valued at \$618 million, based upon annual U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data. This was a \$56 million, or 10%, increase from the State's total nonfuel mineral value for 2007, which was up \$94 million, or 20%, from that of 2006. Louisiana ranked 34th among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value, and accounted for slightly less than 1% of the U.S. total. Yet, per capita, the State ranked 28th in the Nation in its mineral industry's nonfuel mineral production; with a population of about 4.5 million, the value of production was about \$139 per capita.

In 2008, salt, accounting for about 37% of the State's total nonfuel mineral value, was the leading nonfuel raw mineral, surpassing construction sand and gravel, which had led the State since 2006. Construction sand and gravel was the second leading mineral commodity, accounting for 36% of the State's

total mineral value, which was followed by crushed stone<sup>2</sup> (data withheld—company proprietary data). Industrial sand and gravel and common clays accounted for about 4% and more than 2%, respectively, of the State's nonfuel mineral production value, followed by crude gypsum, lime, and natural gemstones. Raw steel was also produced in the State, however, from materials obtained from other domestic and foreign sources.

In 2008, increases in the production values of crushed stone, industrial sand and gravel, and salt led the State's increase in nonfuel mineral production value for the year. A 5% increase in the production of salt led to a \$51 million, or 28%, increase in the commodity's value, while a 18% increase in industrial sand and gravel production resulted in a \$2 million, or 9% increase, in its value. The largest decreases in production value took place in the mineral commodity construction sand and gravel, down by about \$11 million, or 5%. Smaller, yet significant, decreases also took place in common clays, crude gypsum, and lime.

Louisiana continued to be the leading salt-producing State, accounting for 30.7% of the national total. The State also remained 11th in the production of crude gypsum and 16th in the production of construction sand and gravel. Louisiana rose in rank to 13th from 15th in the production of common clay and to 14th from 17th in the production of industrial sand and gravel.

<sup>2</sup>Crushed stone quantity and value data were mostly from that of imported materials sold through sales yards, not from materials mined within the State (except for a relatively small portion of crushed shell mined instate). State and district tables for crushed stone were discontinued in 2005 in order to not disclose company proprietary data.

<sup>1</sup>The 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 2008 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are those available as of June 2010. All USGS Mineral Industry Surveys and USGS Minerals Yearbook chapters—mineral commodity, State, and country—can be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

TABLE 1  
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN LOUISIANA<sup>1,2</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	2006		2007		2008	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays, common	563	23,700	552	13,800	509	12,900
Gemstones, natural	NA	7	NA	7	NA	7
Salt	12,300	143,000	13,900	180,000	14,600	231,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	23,300	188,000	25,700 <sup>r</sup>	235,000 <sup>r</sup>	22,200	224,000
Industrial	663	16,100	635	21,200	748	23,100
Combined values of gypsum (crude), lime, stone (crushed limestone and sandstone)	XX	97,300 <sup>r</sup>	XX	112,000 <sup>r</sup>	XX	128,000
Total	XX	468,000 <sup>r</sup>	XX	562,000 <sup>r</sup>	XX	618,000

<sup>r</sup>Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.

<sup>1</sup>Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).

<sup>2</sup>Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 2  
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 2008,  
BY USE AND DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products <sup>2</sup>	7,490	\$73,000	\$9.75
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	157	1,580	10.08
Road base and coverings	1,100	25,100	22.87
Fill	1,210	3,290	2.72
Other miscellaneous uses <sup>3</sup>	77	1,560	20.31
Unspecified: <sup>4</sup>			
Reported	1,870	16,100	8.64
Estimated	10,000	103,000	10.03
Total or average	22,200	224,000	10.09

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except unit value; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Includes plaster and gunite sands.

<sup>3</sup>Includes railroad ballast.

<sup>4</sup>Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.

TABLE 3  
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 2008, BY USE AND DISTRICT<sup>1</sup>

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	Districts 1 and 2 <sup>2</sup>		District 3		Unspecified districts	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products <sup>3</sup>	1,730	17,800	5,760	55,200	--	--
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials	915	21,300	340	5,430	--	--
Fill	W	W	W	W	--	--
Other miscellaneous uses <sup>4</sup>	965	3,490	322	1,360	--	--
Unspecified: <sup>5</sup>						
Reported	1,340	11,400	1	5	529	4,710
Estimated	4,900	50,000	5,300	54,000	--	--
Total	9,890	104,000	11,800	115,000	529	4,710

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included in "Other miscellaneous uses." -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Specified districts are combined to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

<sup>3</sup>Includes plaster and gunite sands.

<sup>4</sup>Includes railroad ballast.

<sup>5</sup>Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.