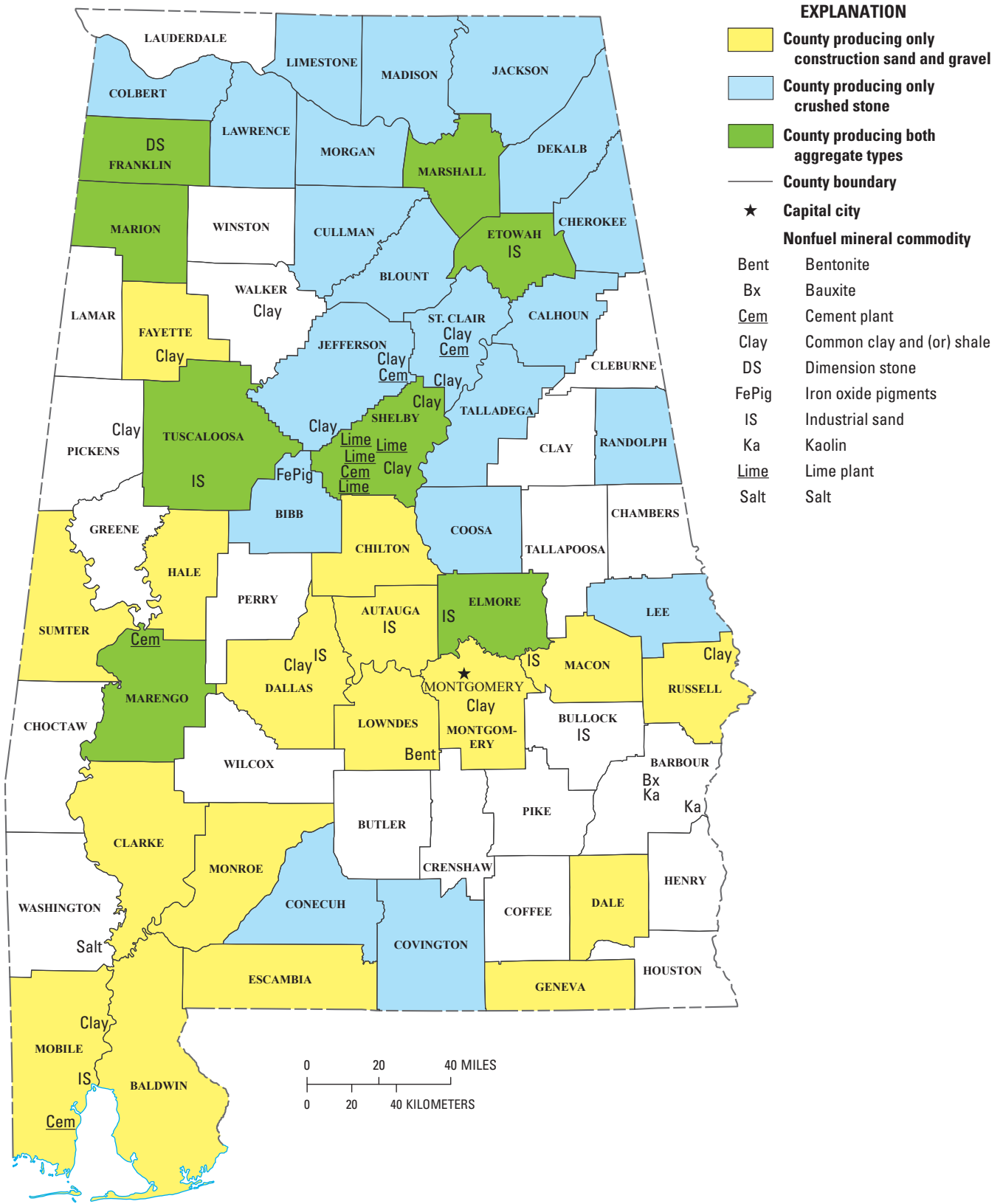




2014 Minerals Yearbook

ALABAMA [ADVANCE RELEASE]



Base from U.S. Geological Survey digital data
Albers Equal-Area Conic projection

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

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ALABAMA

By Madan M. Singh

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

In 2014, in the State of Alabama (fig. 1), the value of nonfuel mineral production¹ was \$1.24 billion. This was a 13% increase from the State's revised nonfuel mineral production value of \$1.10 billion in 2013 (table 1). Alabama accounted for approximately 1.6% of the total U.S. value in 2014, which ranked it 21st among the 50 States, based on total value. On a per capita basis, the value of nonfuel mineral production was \$256 in 2014 compared with the national average of \$252. Although the number of mines decreased by only one, the number of mine employees increased slightly in 2014 from 2013 (table 2).

In 2014, the leading minerals in the State (by value of production), in alphabetical order, were cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, industrial sand and gravel, and lime.

Events, Trends, and Issues

Nonfuel mineral production in the State dropped below \$1 billion in 2010–11, but has been increasing since then. The nonfuel mineral production value in 2014 did not reach the levels of 2006–7, but was close to the prerecession level of 2008 (fig. 2).

Nonfuel minerals are mined in all 67 Alabama counties. In 2014, approximately 316 operations were involved in the mining and production of nonfuel mineral resources. Capital investments in mineral exploration and plant development exceeded \$28 million in 2014 and included companies involved in the production of calcium carbonate, cement, hydraulic fracturing (frac) sand, industrial sand, marble, and silicon ferroalloys (Geological Survey of Alabama, written commun., February 8, 2017).

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>.

According to the Alabama Department of Labor (2014, p. 2), for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, the production quantities of nonfuel minerals in the State were the following: bauxite, 133,000 metric tons (t); chert, 30,800 t; clay, 1.08 million metric tons (Mt); dolomite, 7.53 Mt; granite, 1.61 Mt; hematite, 1,880 t; limestone, 2.68 Mt; marble, 70,800 t; quartzite, 96,200 t; sand, 1.86 Mt; sandstone, 645,000 t; sand and clay, 3.23 Mt; sand and gravel, 7.23 Mt; and shale, 2.59 Mt.

All metal production in the State was the result of the processing of materials acquired from other domestic and foreign sources. Production of a natural mixture of bauxite (no longer used to produce primary aluminum) and bauxitic clay with very low iron oxide content has been reported to the U.S. Geological Survey since 1995 as kaolin; it is primarily used to make refractory products (Geological Survey of Alabama, written commun., February 8, 2017).

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.

In 2014, the production quantity of construction sand and gravel decreased by 5.5% and crushed stone increased by 1% from the previous year (table 1).

Reference Cited

Alabama Department of Labor, 2014, Annual report—Statistical supplement of the Department of Labor, Mining and Reclamation Division, Mine Safety and Inspection Section for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2014, Alabama Department of Labor, 39 p. (Accessed September 12, 2017, at https://labor.alabama.gov/inspections/mining/docs/2014_annual.pdf.)

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	2012		2013		2014	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays, common	1,210	9,070	1,190 ^r	8,630 ^r	1,260	9,140
Gemstones, natural ^c	NA	7	NA	7	NA	7
Lime	2,240	287,000	2,270	289,000	2,280	294,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	8,440 ^r	50,700 ^r	9,210 ^r	61,700 ^r	8,700	59,700
Industrial	401	13,200	334	14,900	1,180	42,400
Stone, crushed	36,900 ^r	347,000 ^r	36,400 ^r	359,000 ^r	36,800	390,000
Combined values of bauxite, cement, clays (bentonite and kaolin), iron oxide pigments (crude), salt, stone (dimension)	XX	327,000	XX	365,000	XX	446,000
Total	XX	1,030,000 ^r	XX	1,100,000 ^r	XX	1,240,000

^cEstimated. ^rRevised. NA Not available. 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 ALABAMA

Mining activity	2012	2013	2014	
State rank ¹	22	23	21	
Employment, number: ²				
Nonfuel mineral mines	1,164	1,186	1,201	
Mills and plants	1,623	1,596	1,616	
Number of nonfuel mineral mines ²	158	150	149	
Number of mills and plants ²	61	60	65	
Average annual wage, all mining ³	dollars per year	76,542	78,595	80,668
Average annual wage, all industries ³	do.	41,075	41,399	42,352
Per capita value ¹	dollars per person	215	227	256
National per capita value ¹	do.	241	236	252

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 ALABAMA

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

Commodity	Company	County
Bauxite	Bledsoe Mining Co Inc.	Barbour
Cement	Argos Cement LLC (Roberta plant)	Shelby
Do.	CEMEX, Inc. (Demopolis plant)	Marengo
Do.	LafargeHolcim Inc. (Theodore plant)	Mobile
Do.	Lehigh Cement Co. (Leeds plant)	Jefferson
Do.	National Cement Co. (Ragland plant)	Saint Clair
Clays:		
Bentonite	American Colloid Co.	Lowndes
Common clay and shale	Argos Cement LLC	Shelby
Do.	Boral Bricks Inc.	Jefferson
Do.	Burton Industries, Inc.	Walker
Do.	Bickerstaff Clay Products	Russell
Do.	Columbus Brick Co.	Pickens and Fayette
Do.	Henry Brick Co.	Dallas
Do.	Jenkins Brick Co.	Montgomery and Saint Clair
Do.	Lehigh Cement Co.	Jefferson
Do.	National Cement Co.	Saint Clair
Do.	Riverside Clay Co.	Shelby
Do.	Ragland Clay Products, LLC	Saint Clair
Kaolin	CARBO Ceramics, Inc.	Barbour
Do.	CE Minerals Inc	Barbour
Iron oxide pigment materials ¹	Alabama Pigments Co.	Various counties
Lime	Carmeuse Lime & Stone	Shelby
Do.	Olin Corp.	Do.
Do.	Lhoist North America, Inc.	Do.
Do.	Unimin Corp,	Do.
Salt, chloralkali products plant	Olin Corp.	Washington
Sand and gravel, industrial	Alabama Sand & Gravel Inc.	Autauga
Do.	Allstate Coosa, LLC	Etowah
Do.	Cosby-Carmichael, Inc.	Dallas
Do.	Elmore Sand & Gravel, Inc.	Elmore
Do.	Mobile Abrasives, Inc.	Mobile
Do.	Unimin Corp.	Tuscaloosa
Do.	U.S. Silica Co.	Macon
Stone, dimension	Alabama Stone Co.	Franklin

Do. Ditto.

¹Not all iron oxide pigment materials sites are shown on the map.

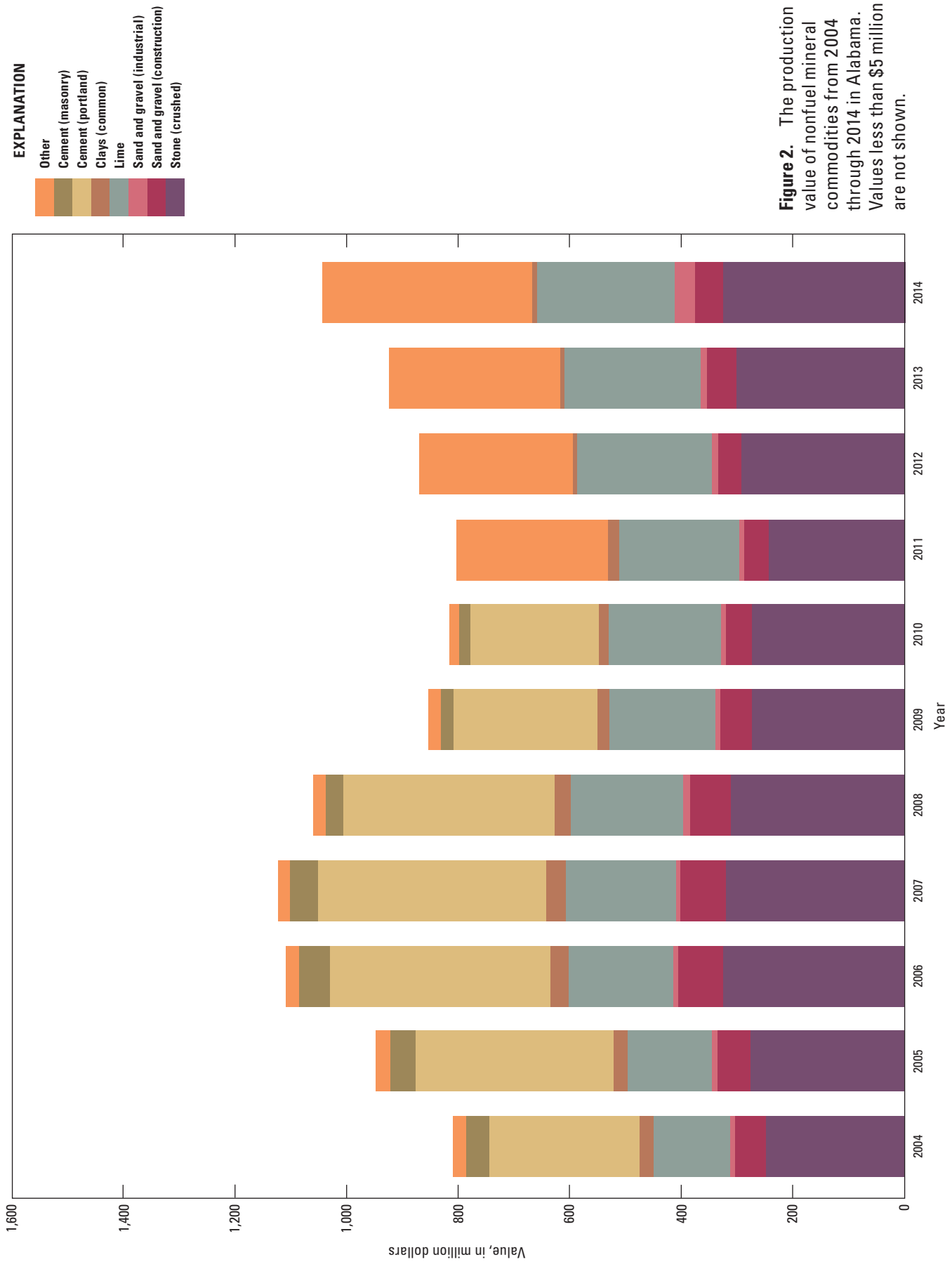


Figure 2. The production value of nonfuel mineral commodities from 2004 through 2014 in Alabama. Values less than \$5 million are not shown.