

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LOUISIANA

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Bureau of Mines, U.S. Department of the Interior, and the Louisiana Geological Survey for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 1995, Louisiana climbed from 34th to 33d nationally in total nonfuel mineral production value,¹ according to the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The estimated value for 1995 was \$387 million, a more than 9% increase from that of 1994. This followed a 51% increase from 1993 to 1994 (based on final 1994 data). The State accounted for about 1% of the U.S. total nonfuel mineral production value.

Louisiana's leading nonfuel mineral is salt, accounting for about 41% of the State's nonfuel mineral value. When included as part of Louisiana's mineral production, sulfur is the State's second-leading nonfuel mineral commodity. All current sulfur production comes from a mine 27 kilometers (17 miles) off the Louisiana coast. Because of the mine's location, the State does not receive severance tax income or mineral production royalties; instead, they are collected by the Federal Government. Consequently, the State and the Louisiana Geological Survey (LGS) do not consider the sulfur production cited in table 1 as being part of Louisiana's nonfuel mineral production. This has been the case since 1991. The USGS attributes this offshore sulfur production to Louisiana because it is the State nearest to the sulfur mine and Freeport Sulphur Co., the company that operates the mine, is based in New Orleans. Compared with 1994, the mineral commodity values increased in 1995 for all commodities, including crushed

stone when the withheld crushed shell and miscellaneous stone are included with the crushed stone total.

Based on USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 1995, Louisiana remained the leading State in the Nation in salt and sulfur production. Significant quantities of construction and industrial sand and gravel and common clays were produced in the State.

According to the LGS,² more than 148 mineral producers were mining in the State during 1995. Nonfuel mineral production came from 51 of the State's 64 parishes (counties). In addition, several minerals were imported or shipped into the State and processed into higher value products or used as plant feedstock to develop higher value materials. While the State claimed no sulfur production, byproduct sulfur was recovered from many petroleum and natural gas refineries.

The rock salt industry, which is composed of three companies, remained unchanged in 1995. Akzo Nobel Salt Inc. operated an underground mine on Avery Island, Morton International Inc. mined salt from an underground operation on Weeks Island, and North American Salt Co. operated an underground mine on Cote Blanche Island near Baldwin in St. Mary Parish. Cargill Salt Inc. produced vacuum pan salt from the mechanical evaporation of brine in St. Martin Parish.

Salt brine was produced in Ascension, Assumption,

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN LOUISIANA^{1 2}

Mineral	1993		1994		1995 ^a	
	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)	Quantity	Value (thousands)
Clays thousand metric tons	375	\$3,320	371	\$3,280	384	\$3,400
Gemstones	NA	141	NA	155	NA	175
Salt thousand metric tons	12,400	115,000	13,500	140,000	13,400	158,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction do.	^a 11,900	^a 51,500	12,300	49,600	13,200	55,400
Industrial metric tons	465,000	9,360	454,000	9,320	454,000	9,320
Stone (crushed) thousand metric tons	W	W	³ 707	³ 7,710	³ 600	³ 6,300
Sulfur (Frasch) do.	740	W	W	W	W	W
Combined value of gypsum (crude), lime, stone [crushed limestone, shell and miscellaneous (1993), crushed shell and miscellaneous (1994-95)], and values indicated by symbol W						
	XX	54,600	XX	144,000	XX	155,000
Total	XX	² 234,000	XX	354,000	XX	387,000

^aEstimated. ^bPreliminary. ^cRevised. NA Not available. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; values included with "Combined value" data. XX Not applicable.

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

²Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Excludes certain stones; kind and value included with "Combined value" data.

Calcasieu, Iberville, and Lafourche Parishes. While rock salt was produced in Iberia and St. Mary Parishes, Iberia Parish contributed nearly 63% of the State's total salt production. According to State severance tax data, Louisiana salt producers reported the production of 6.4 million tons³ (7.1 million short tons) of rock salt and 10.2 million tons (11.2 million short tons) of brine, which may include brine as feedstock to make vacuum pan salt.

Aside from sulfur, construction sand and gravel continued to be the second major mineral commodity by value for the State and remained widespread, with 97 workable pits. Sand and gravel was produced in 41 parishes, with 5 parishes—St. Helena, Washington, St. Tammany, Jefferson, and Rapides—representing more than 51% of the State's total production. Sand and gravel sales generated severance taxes on 8.3 million tons (9.2 million short tons) of sand and 6.5 million tons (7.2 million short tons) of gravel from the State's producers.

Louisiana Industries Inc., a division of Dallas, TX-based Texas Industries, acquired Anderson-Dunham Inc.'s concrete pipe plant in Baton Rouge. In 1995, Louisiana Industries made 52,200 tons (58,000 short tons) of concrete pipe. The company added another 20,000 tons of production by acquiring the Anderson-Dunham plant.

During the year, six companies operated eight clay

mines in seven parishes. Clay production was used in the manufacture of concrete blocks, common and face bricks, tiles, ceramics, and highway surfacing.

Sandstone, anhydrite, and shell were three minor mineral commodities in production. Two conventional surface mines produced 13,500 tons (14,900 short tons) of sandstone in Sabine and Vernon parishes. Winn Rock Inc. produced about 179,000 tons (197,280 short tons) of anhydrite from a quarry in Winn Parish. Severance tax figures indicated that 428,170 tons (471,970 short tons) of shell was dredged during fiscal year 1994, which was 202,630 tons (223,360 short tons) less than fiscal year 1993.

¹The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending on the minerals or 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 1995 USGS mineral production data are estimates as of Dec. 1995. Construction sand and gravel and crushed stone estimates are updated periodically. To obtain the most current information, please contact the appropriate USGS mineral commodity specialist. Call MINES FaxBack at (703) 648-4999 from a fax machine with a touch-tone handset and request Document No. 1000 for a telephone listing of all mineral commodity specialists or call USGS information at (703) 648-4000 for the specialist's name and number.

²This report includes information provided by the LGS.

³All tons are metric tons unless otherwise specified.

TABLE 2
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE¹ SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 1994, BY USE²

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit Value
Coarse and fine aggregates ³	W	W	W
Unspecified: Estimated ⁴	707	\$7,710	\$10.90
Total	707	7,710	10.90

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹Includes sandstone; excludes miscellaneous stone and shell from State total to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

²Data are rounded to three significant digits.

³Includes graded roadbase or subbase and unpaved road surfacing.

⁴Includes coarse and fine aggregates and production reported without a breakdown by end use; includes estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 3
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND¹

Kind	1993				1994			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Sandstone	1	W	W	W	6	² 707	³ \$7,710	² \$10.90
Shell	1	W	W	W	1	W	W	W
Miscellaneous stone	1	W	W	W	1	W	W	W
Total	XX	W	W	W	XX	707	7,710	10.90

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data. XX Not applicable.

¹Data are rounded to three significant digits.

²Includes shell and miscellaneous stone.

TABLE 4
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1994, BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY¹

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Value per ton
Concrete aggregate (including concrete sand) ²	4,940	\$21,300	\$4.32
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	202	1,060	5.26
Road base and coverings ³	350	1,870	5.34
Fill	1,270	2,140	1.68
Unspecified: ⁴			
Actual	3,050	13,800	4.53
Estimated	2,480	9,330	3.76
Total or average	12,300	49,600	4.03

¹Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes plaster and gunite sands.

³Includes road and other stabilization (lime).

⁴Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.

TABLE 5
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 1994, BY USE AND DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2		District 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregate and concrete products ²	890	5,020	438	3,200	3,610	13,100
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials ³	130	461	240	1,200	1,450	3,410
Unspecified: ⁴						
Actual	40	98	1,050	5,950	1,960	7,780
Estimated	336	1,840	708	3,140	1,440	4,360
Total	1,400	7,410	2,440	13,500	8,460	28,700

¹Data are rounded to three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

²Includes plaster and gunite sands.

³Includes road and other stabilization (lime).

⁴Includes production reported without a breakdown by end use and estimates for nonrespondents.



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