

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LOUISIANA

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

In 2002, the estimated value¹ of nonfuel mineral production for Louisiana was \$294 million, based upon preliminary U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data. This was about a 5% decrease from that of 2001² and followed a 4.9% decrease from 2000 to 2001. The State ranked 36th (35th in 2001) among the 50 States in total nonfuel mineral production value, of which Louisiana accounted for about 1% of the U.S. total.

Louisiana's leading nonfuel mineral is salt, accounting for about 47% of the State's nonfuel mineral value in 2002, followed by construction sand and gravel, making up about 28% of the State's value, crushed stone (data withheld to protect company proprietary data), and industrial sand and gravel, which represented about 4% of the same value.

¹The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending upon 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 2002 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are preliminary estimates as of July 2003 and are expected to change. 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. Specialist contact information may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/contacts/comdir.html>; alternatively, specialists' names and telephone numbers may be obtained by calling USGS information at (703) 648-4000 or by calling the USGS Earth Science Information Center at 1-888-ASK-USGS (275-8747). All Mineral Industry Surveys—mineral commodity, State, and country—also may be retrieved over the Internet at URL <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals>.

²Values, percentage calculations, and rankings for 2001 may differ from the Minerals Yearbook, Area Reports: Domestic 2001, Volume II, owing to the revision of preliminary 2001 to final 2001 data. Data for 2002 are preliminary and are expected to change; related rankings may also change.

In 2001, a substantial drop in the production and value of sulfur and a smaller decrease in lime more than offset a substantial increase in crushed stone, and smaller yet significant increases in salt (up about \$15 million) and construction sand and gravel (up about \$8 million) resulted in the State's decrease in nonfuel mineral value for the year. All other changes were less than \$1 million and had little effect on the overall net result. Prior to 2001, sulfur production was included as part of Louisiana's mineral production and was for many years the State's second leading nonfuel mineral commodity. All recent sulfur production came from a mine that was 28 kilometers offshore, owned and operated by Freeport-McMoRan Sulphur Inc., based in New Orleans. Owing to the mine's location, the State of Louisiana received no severance tax income or mineral production royalties; these were collected by the Federal Government. Consequently, since 1991, the State and the Louisiana Geological Survey have not considered the sulfur production as cited in table 1 under "Combined values" as being part of Louisiana's nonfuel mineral production. The USGS attributed this offshore sulfur production to Louisiana because it was the State nearest to the sulfur mine. This mine closed in August 2000 and hence accounted for a significant portion of the State's drop in nonfuel mineral value in 2001.

Based upon USGS estimates of the quantities produced in the 50 States during 2002, Louisiana remained the leading State in the Nation in the production of salt. Additionally, the State was a significant producer of construction sand and gravel, industrial sand and gravel, and common clays (descending order of value).

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

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	2000		2001		2002 ^p	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Clays, common	636	1,530	663	1,670	673	1,740
Gemstones	NA	6	NA	6	NA	6
Salt	13,400	124,000	13,100	139,000	13,000	139,000
Sand and gravel:						
Construction	14,900	76,900	18,100	85,100	16,900	81,100
Industrial	648	12,300	637	11,900	634	11,800
Combined values of gypsum (crude), lime, stone [crushed limestone and sandstone (2000, 2002), crushed limestone, sandstone, and miscellaneous (2001)], sulfur [Frasch (2000)]	XX	110,000	XX	71,200	XX	60,700
Total	XX	325,000	XX	309,000	XX	294,000

^pPreliminary. NA Not available. 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.

TABLE 2
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED, BY KIND¹

Kind	2000				2001			
	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value	Number of quarries	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Limestone	(2)	W	W	\$7.73	(2)	W	W	\$10.89
Sandstone	(2)	W	W	11.24	(2)	W	W	11.14
Miscellaneous stone	(2)	--	--	--	(2)	W	W	10.96
Total or average	XX	W	W	9.65	XX	W	W	11.05

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

¹A significant amount of sold or used materials was shipped in from other States.

²Sales/distribution yards.

TABLE 3
LOUISIANA: CRUSHED STONE SOLD OR USED BY PRODUCERS IN 2001, BY USE^{1,2,3}

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Construction:			
Coarse aggregate (+1 1/2 inch), other coarse aggregates	W	W	\$16.07
Coarse aggregate, graded:			
Concrete aggregate, coarse	W	W	16.73
Railroad ballast	W	W	11.10
Other graded coarse aggregates	W	W	11.36
Fine aggregate (-3/8 inch), other fine aggregates	W	W	10.97
Coarse and fine aggregates:			
Graded road base or subbase	W	W	13.31
Crusher run or fill or waste	W	W	11.02
Other coarse and fine aggregates	W	W	10.97
Agricultural limestone	W	W	16.64
Chemical and metallurgical, chemical stone for alkali works	W	W	17.58
Unspecified: ⁴			
Reported	W	W	10.50
Estimated	300	\$3,100	9.51
Total or average	W	W	11.05

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.

¹Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits, except unit value.

²Most of the production included in this table was shipped into Louisiana from other States.

³To avoid disclosing company proprietary data, no district tables were produced for 2001.

⁴Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.

TABLE 4
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 2001, BY MAJOR USE CATEGORY¹

Use	Quantity (thousand metric tons)	Value (thousands)	Unit value
Concrete aggregates and concrete products ²	7,110	\$35,700	\$5.02
Asphalt concrete aggregates and other bituminous mixtures	303	1,050	3.48
Road base and coverings	122	1,540	12.58
Other miscellaneous uses ³	2,130	3,520	1.65
Unspecified: ⁴			
Reported	4,140	21,900	5.29
Estimated	4,300	21,000	5.01
Total or average	18,100	85,100	4.71

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

²Includes plaster and gunite sands.

³Includes fill and railroad ballast.

⁴Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.

TABLE 5
LOUISIANA: CONSTRUCTION SAND AND GRAVEL SOLD OR USED IN 2001, BY USE AND DISTRICT¹

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Use	District 1		District 2		District 3	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Concrete aggregates and concrete products ²	925	6,740	864	5,640	5,320	23,300
Asphaltic concrete aggregates and road base materials	W	W	W	W	25	109
Fill	244	578	1,830	2,720	43	68
Other miscellaneous uses ³	20	190	391	2,440	3	5
Unspecified: ⁴						
Reported	98	171	2,260	12,500	1,780	9,220
Estimated	130	660	680	3,400	3,500	17,000
Total	1,420	8,350	6,020	26,800	10,600	50,000

W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; included with "Other miscellaneous uses."

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

²Includes plaster and gunite sands.

³Includes railroad ballast.

⁴Reported and estimated production without a breakdown by end use.