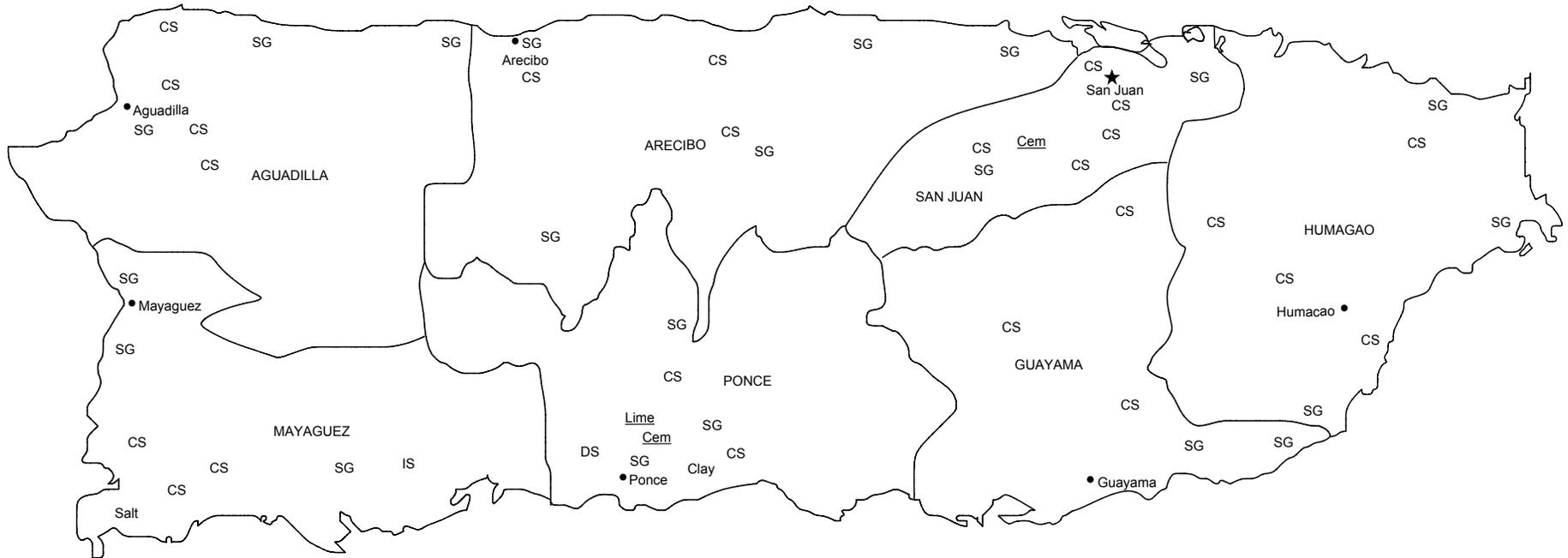


PUERTO RICO



LEGEND		MINERAL SYMBOLS (Major producing areas)	
—	District boundary	<u>Cem</u>	Cement plant
★	Capital	Clay	Common clay
•	City	CS	Crushed stone
		DS	Dimension stone
		IS	Industrial sand
		<u>Lime</u>	Lime plant
		Salt	Salt
		SG	Construction sand and gravel



Source: Department of Natural Resources, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico/U.S. Geological Survey (2002)

THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF PUERTO RICO

AND THE ADMINISTERED ISLANDS

This chapter has been prepared under a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. Geological Survey and the Puerto Rico Department of Natural Resources, Bureau of Geology, for collecting information on all nonfuel minerals.

In 2002, the estimated value¹ of nonfuel raw mineral production for Puerto Rico² was \$180 million, based upon preliminary U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) data. If ranked in comparison with the 50 States, Puerto Rico would rank 40th in total nonfuel mineral production value.³ Portland cement, by value, continued to be the Commonwealth's leading nonfuel mineral commodity, followed by crushed stone. Construction sand and gravel was produced in Puerto Rico, but production data are not available. The collection and compilation of production data for construction sand and gravel were discontinued in 1973 by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (the Federal Government Agency then responsible for collecting domestic raw nonfuel mineral production data) because of a low rate of response to surveys by the industry (Sikich and Alonso, 1993). For 2001, the value data for portland cement and the production and value data for marble dimension stone were withheld to protect company proprietary data.

Metals have not been mined in Puerto Rico since the Juncos iron mine closed in 1953; prospects for resuming metal mining in the near future do not appear to be likely. However, metal occurrences are common on the island, and the possibility of developing a metal deposit should not be completely discounted (Sikich and Alonso, 1993).

Of the U.S. Administered Islands, only American Samoa, the Virgin Islands, and Guam have of late reported nonfuel mineral production data, and these have been limited to crushed stone. Data for the Virgin Islands have been withheld to protect company proprietary data; crushed stone (traprock) was produced in American Samoa in 2002, but actual production data was not available at time of publication.

Reference Cited

Sikich, S.W., and Alonso, R.M., 1993, The mineral industries of Puerto Rico, Northern Marianas, Island Possessions, and Trust Territory: U.S. Bureau of Mines Minerals Yearbook 1992, v. II, p. 467-470.

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>.

²While a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was officially made between the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, MOUs were not established with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S. Caribbean and Pacific Island Possessions, or the U.S. Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands. Nevertheless, data on nonfuel mineral production were reported to the USGS for the island of Guam of the Pacific Island Possessions. These data appear in table 1.

³Values, 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.

TABLE 1
NONFUEL RAW MINERAL PRODUCTION IN THE COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO AND ISLANDS ADMINISTERED
BY THE UNITED STATES^{1,2}

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars unless otherwise specified)

Mineral	2000		2001		2002 ^p	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Puerto Rico:						
Cement, portland metric tons	1,660	W	1,550	W	1,540 ^e	W
Clays, common	141	458	132	351	W	W
Lime	16	2,750	11	2,250	11	704
Salt	45	1,500	45	1,500	45	1,500
Sand and gravel, industrial	W	W	32	1,200	32 ^e	1,200 ^e
Stone, crushed	10,800	51,000	8,000	38,000	8,000 ^e	38,000 ^e
Combined value of stone (dimension marble) and values indicated by symbol W	XX	143,000	XX	(3)	XX	138,000
Total	XX	199,000	XX	43,300	XX	180,000
Administered Islands:						
Guam, stone, crushed	121	856	477	1,900 ^e	477 ^e	1,900 ^e
Virgin Islands, stone, crushed limestone, and traprock	W	(3)	W	(3)	W	(3)
Total	XX	856	XX	1,900 ^e	XX	1,900 ^e

^eEstimated. ^pPreliminary. W Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "Combined values" data. XX Not applicable.

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

²Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

³Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data.