

2014 MINERAL COMMODITY SUMMARIES



The U.S. Geological Survey recently released its 2014 Mineral Commodity Summaries, an annual report that summarizes information about domestic minerals and their importance in the U.S. economy. Below are a few key highlights from this year's report:

The estimated value of mineral raw materials produced at mines in the U.S. in 2013 was \$74.3 billion. Mining is a significant job creator and an essential part of the U.S. economy. More than 2.1 million American jobs are generated both directly and indirectly from mining. Of those, more than 77,000 Minnesotans are employed from mining (direct and indirect). Minerals contributed more than \$2 trillion to the U.S. real gross domestic product (GDP) in 2013.

In 2013, 12 states each produced more than \$2 billion worth of nonfuel mineral commodities, including Minnesota. The top mining states in the U.S. produced 64 percent of the U.S. total output value of minerals. The states, in descending order of value, are: Nevada, Arizona, Minnesota, Florida, Texas, Alaska, Utah, California, Wyoming, Missouri, Michigan and Colorado.

The U.S. is 100 percent reliant on foreign imports for 19 raw and processed mineral commodities. The United States' import reliance has increased significantly since 1978, the year that the information was first reported. At the time, the United States was 100 percent import reliant on just seven minerals, but today is more than 50 percent import reliant for 25 mineral commodities.

The U.S. had only one active nickel mine in 2013. The U.S. is 48 percent reliant on foreign imports for nickel, based on consumption levels. Mining companies continue to pursue nickel mining projects because global long-term demand for stainless steel as well as superalloys, which are particularly important in the aerospace and power-generation sectors, is expected to grow in the coming years.

Sources:
2014 Mineral Commodity Summaries, U.S. Geological Survey
Minerals Make Life, National Mining Association
National Mining Association, *The Economic Contributions of U.S. Mining (2011)*, www.nma.org/pdf/economic_contributions.pdf
Bureau of Labor Statistics, <http://www.bls.gov/news.release/pdf/ecopro.pdf>

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<http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/mcs/2014/mcs2014.pdf>.