

Aggregates, Industrial Minerals, & Natural Stone

U.S. Aggregates Producers

Production of aggregates (crushed stone, sand and gravel) in the U.S. in 2014 totaled 2.17 billion metric ton at a value of approximately \$20.3 billion, contributing \$40 billion to the GDP of the United States. The aggregates industry workforce is made up of approximately 100,000 men and women. Every \$1 million in aggregate sales creates 19.5 jobs, and every dollar of industry output returns \$1.58 to the economy. Nearly two-thirds of the non-fuel minerals mined each year in the U.S. are aggregates. There are more than 10,000 construction aggregate operations nationwide, including in virtually every congressional district. Construction aggregates are used primarily in asphalt and concrete. Ninety-four percent of asphalt pavement is aggregate; 80 percent of concrete is aggregate, whether pavement ("horizontal construction") or buildings, dams, sewage treatment plants and the like ("vertical construction"). About 10 tons of aggregates per person are used annually in America. Every mile of interstate contains 38,000 tons of aggregates; about 400 tons of aggregates are used in construction of the average home. Crushed stone, sand and gravel products go into the manufacture of glass, paper, paint, pharmaceuticals, cosmetics, chewing gum, household cleansers and many other consumer goods, and are essential for the safety, security and high quality of life of all Americans.

Industrial Minerals

According to the United States Geological Survey (USGS), the total estimated value of US production of industrial minerals, or non-fuel minerals, in 2012 was \$41.6 billion, and the industry employed over 70,000 men and women. Industrial minerals are a vital part of our everyday lives. These minerals, such as limestone, silica, soda ash, talc, kaolin, and calcium carbonate, are used extensively in various manufacturing processes. In an average working day you likely will come into contact with at least 100 items that have been manufactured from industrial minerals. Glass, paint, ceramic tiles and plates, wood flooring, drinking water, wines/beers, salt, sugar, detergents and even cat litter are all manufactured using industrial minerals.

Natural Stone

Dimension stone is natural stone or rock that has been selected and fabricated to specific sizes or shapes. According to the USGS, approximately 2.25 million tons of dimension stone, valued at \$451 million, was sold or used by U.S. producers in 2014, and the industry employed approximately 4,700 people. Dimension stone was produced by 208 companies, operating 274 quarries, in 33 States. Dimension stone is used for numerous purposes including making countertops, tiles, stone monuments, building exteriors, roofing slate, street curbs, and flagstones.