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2014 Minerals Yearbook

IDAHO [ADVANCE RELEASE]

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

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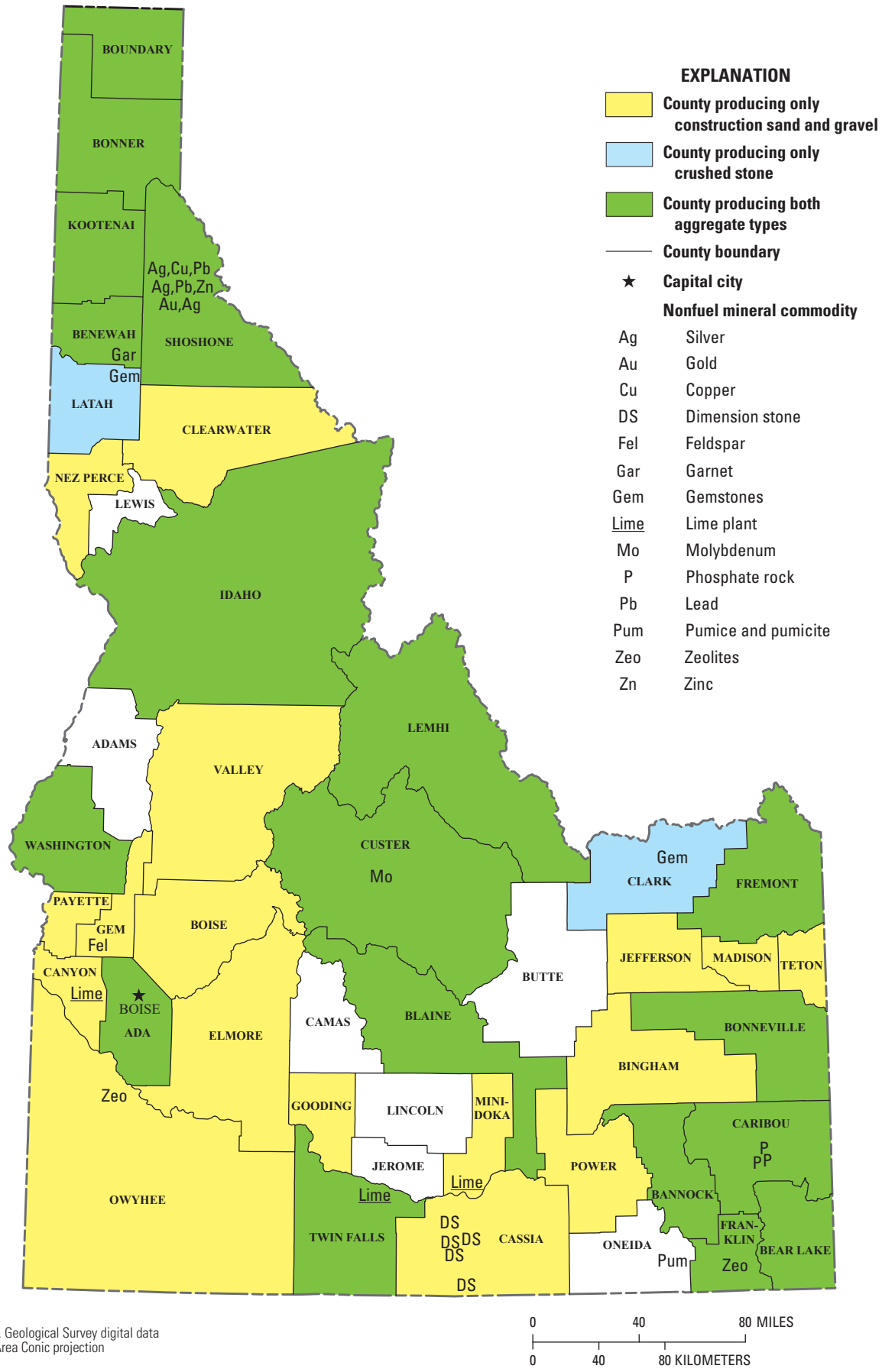

Base from U.S. Geological Survey digital data
Albers Equal-Area Conic projection

Figure 1. Map showing major nonfuel-mineral-producing areas in Idaho in 2014. Sources: Idaho Geological Survey and U.S. Geological Survey.

The Mineral Industry of Idaho

By Madan M. Singh

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

In 2014, the value of nonfuel mineral production[1] in the State of Idaho was $912 million. This was a 7.7%% decrease from the State's revised nonfuel mineral production value of $988 million in 2013 (table 1). Nonfuel mineral production in the State surpassed $1 billion in value in 2008 and then again in 2010–11 but it has been below that figure since then (fig. 1). Idaho accounted for approximately 1.1% of the total U.S. nonfuel mineral production value in 2014, which ranked it 27th among the 50 States. On a per capita basis, the nonfuel mineral production value of Idaho was $558 in 2014 compared with the national average of $252. In 2014, the number of mines did not change but the mine employment decreased with respect to the prior year (table 2).

Two underground silver mines (Lucky Friday and Galena) operated at full capacity in the Coeur d'Alene District. Hess Pumice Products Inc. and Unimin Corp. (silica sand) were supplying product to meet demand (V.S. Gillerman, Associate Research Geologist/Economic Geologist, Idaho Geological Survey, written commun., 2017). Idaho had 18,427 active claims on Federal lands at the end of fiscal year 2014, which covered 168,702 hectares (416,959 acres) (Bureau of Land Management, 2015).

Events, Trends, and Issues

According to the Idaho Geological Survey (V.S. Gillerman, Associate Research Geologist/Economic Geologist, Idaho Geological Survey, written commun., 2017), the following were significant events in 2014:

- Hecla Mining Co. continued expansion of the Lucky Friday Mine and the Hecla No. 4 shaft was extended.
- New Jersey Mining Co. and Juniper Inc. installed a new portal, ramp, and crosscut at the Golden Chest Mine for a gold deposit.
- U.S. Silver & Gold Inc. merged with Scorpio Mining Corp. in December 2014 and operated under the name Scorpio Mining Corp. (Cision, 2014).
- The Thompson Creek Metals Co. Inc. placed its Thompson Creek molybdenum mine on care-and-maintenance status in December 2014.
- Midas Gold Corp. conducted engineering and baseline studies for its Stibnite gold project.
- Otis Gold Corp. completed an environmental assessment for 16 additional holes at the Kilgore property in Clark County.
- Atlanta Gold Inc. developed a new passive water treatment process to remove arsenic and iron from its workings discharge. It plans to patent and operate the technology through Hydroclean Resources LLC.

Aggregates by State and End Use

A companion dataset, "Aggregates by State and End Use," replaces the discrete aggregate tables that were included in the individual State chapters prior to 2014 and is available on the State Minerals Statistics and Information web page at https://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/state/. This dataset is updated annually.

Reference Cited

Bureau of Land Management, 2015, Public land statistics, 2014: Bureau of Land Management, v. 199, May, 269 p. (Accessed May 23, 2018, at https://www.blm.gov/sites/blm.gov/files/pls2014.pdf.)

Cision, 2014, U.S. Silver & Gold Inc. and Scorpio Mining Corporation announce closing of business combination: Cision news release, December 23. (Accessed June 18, 2018, at https://www.newswire.ca/news-releases/us-silver--gold-inc-and-scorpio-mining-corporation-announce-closing-of-business-combination-516828801.html.)

[1]The terms "nonfuel mineral production" and related "values" encompass variations in meaning, depending upon the 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 USGS mineral production data published in this chapter are those available as of June 2017. All USGS Mineral Industry Surveys and USGS Minerals Yearbook chapters—mineral commodity, State, and country—can be retrieved over the internet at http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals.

TABLE 1
NONFUEL MINERAL PRODUCTION IN IDAHO[1, 2, 3]

(Thousand metric tons and thousand dollars)

Mineral	2012		2013		2014	
	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value	Quantity	Value
Gemstones, natural[e]	NA	370	NA	371	NA	399
Sand and gravel, construction	10,100 [r]	74,600 [r]	11,400 [r]	68,800 [r]	13,400	80,000
Stone:						
Crushed	4,590	30,900	3,820	24,000	4,380	28,200
Dimension	30	5,370	32	5,840	64	8,640
Combined values of cement, copper, feldspar, garnet (industrial), lead, lime, molybdenum concentrates, perlite (crude), phosphate rock, pumice and pumicite, silver, zeolites, zinc (2013–14)	XX	703,000 [r]	XX	889,000 [r]	XX	794,000
Total	XX	814,000 [r]	XX	988,000 [r]	XX	912,000

[e]Estimated. [r]Revised. NA Not available. XX Not applicable.
[1]Includes data available through June 2017.
[2]Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers).
[3]Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

TABLE 2
MINING ACTIVITY IN IDAHO

Mining activity		2012	2013	2014
State rank[1]		26	25	27
Employment, number:[2]				
Nonfuel mineral mines		1,895	1,825	1,790
Mills and plants		350	353	339
Number of nonfuel mineral mines[2]		211	211	211
Number of mills and plants[2]		21	20	20
Average annual wage, all mining[3]	dollars per year	68,262	71,423	70,876
Average annual wage, all industries[3]	do.	35,878	36,751	37,948
Per capita value[1]	dollars per person	510	612	558
National per capita value[1]	do.	241	236	252

do. Ditto.
[1]Based on unadjusted State total value.
[2]Source: U.S. Mine Safety and Health Administration.
[3]Source: National Mining Association.

TABLE 3
STRUCTURE OF THE NONFUEL MINERAL INDUSTRY IN IDAHO

(Nonfuel-mineral-producing companies, not including aggregate producers)

Commodity	Company	County
Feldspar	Unimin Corp.	Gem
Garnet, industrial	Opta Minerals Co.	Benewah
Gemstones:[1]		
Gem garnet	US Forest Service Emerald Creek Operation	Latah
Opal	Spencer Opal Mines	Clark
Various	Various	Various
Gold and silver	New Jersey Mining Co. (Golden Chest Mine)	Shoshone
Lime	Amalgamated Sugar Co.	Canyon, Mindoka, Twin Falls
Molybdenum	Thompson Creek Metals Co. Inc.[2]	Custer
Phosphate rock, marketable	Agrium, Inc.	Caribou
Do.	P4 Production LLC (Monsanto)	Do.
Do.	J.R. Simplot Co.	Do.
Pumice and pumicite	Hess Pumice Products Inc.	Oneida
Silver, copper, lead	Americas Silver Corp. (Galena Mine)	Shoshone
Silver, lead, zinc	Hecla Mining Co. (Lucky Friday Mine)	Do.
Stone, dimension	Northern Stone Supply Co.	Cassia
Do.	Oakley Valley Stone Inc.	Do.
Do.	Sawtooth Stone LLC	Do.
Do.	Scrivanich Natural Stone	Do.
Do.	Star Stone Quarries Inc.	Do.
Zeolites	Bear River Zeolite Co. Inc. (U.S. Antimony Corp.)	Franklin
Do.	Teague Mineral Products Co.	Owyhee

Do., do. Ditto.

[1]Most natural gemstone producers in the United States are small businesses that are widely dispersed and operate independently.

[2]Idle during the year and placed on care-and-maintenance status in December 2014.

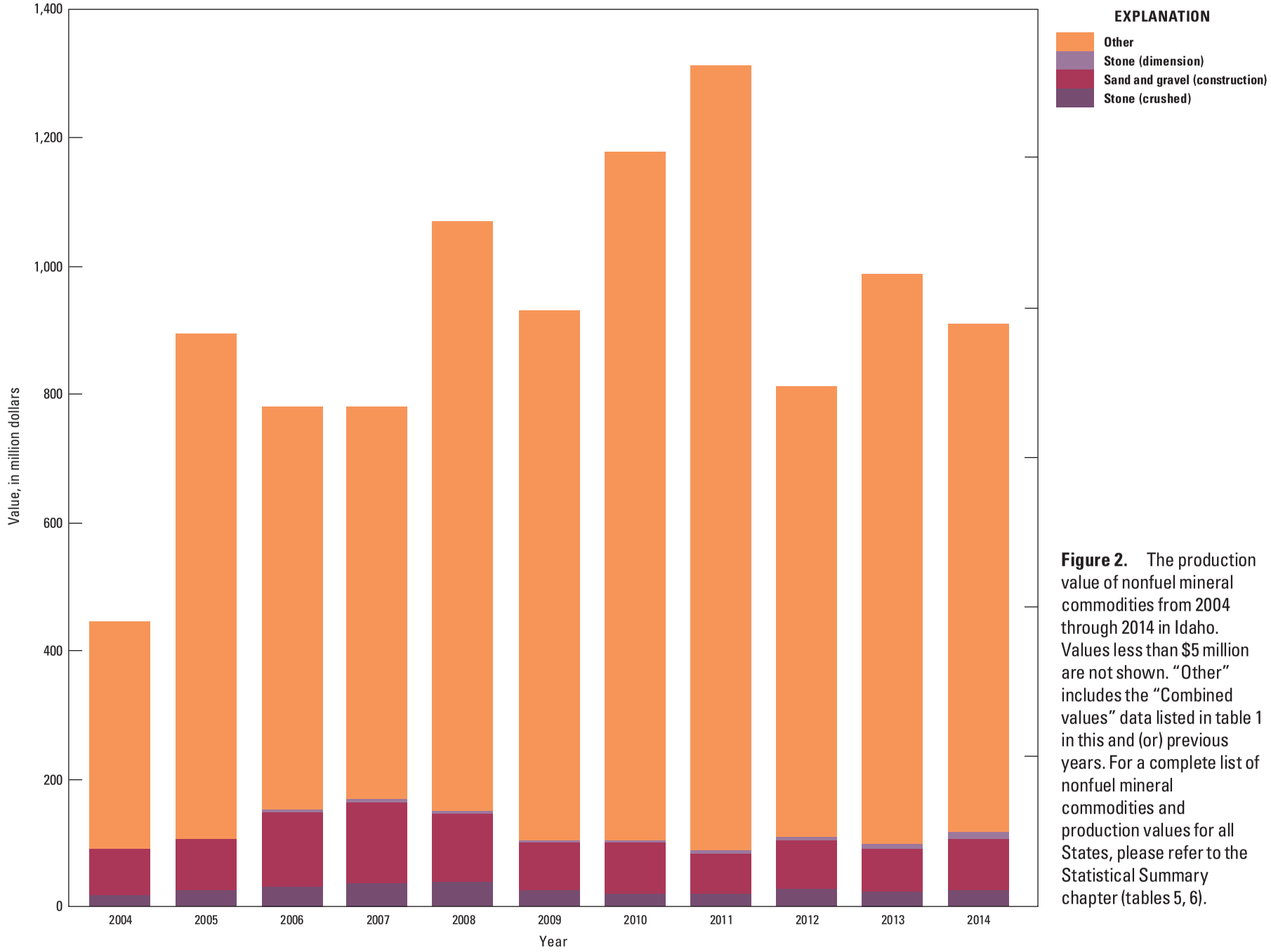

Figure 2. The production value of nonfuel mineral commodities from 2004 through 2014 in Idaho. Values less than $5 million are not shown. "Other" includes the "Combined values" data listed in table 1 in this and (or) previous years. For a complete list of nonfuel mineral commodities and production values for all States, please refer to the Statistical Summary chapter (tables 5, 6).