

Mineral Industry Surveys

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U.S. PRODUCTION OF SELECTED MINERAL COMMODITIES IN THE FOURTH QUARTER 2024

Previously, U.S. mine and plant production data for 16 selected mineral commodities were provided on a monthly (or quarterly) basis by the U.S. Geological Survey to the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System (FRS), for use in preparing its index of industrial production and the related capacity indexes and capacity utilization rates. These measures cover manufacturing, mining, and electric and gas utilities, and they are among the key economic indicators monitored by the FRS for guidance in determining national monetary policy.

Construction Materials

The combined production of construction-related materials (cement, construction sand and gravel, crushed stone, and gypsum) in the fourth quarter of 2024 decreased by 13% compared with that in the third quarter of 2024 (fig. 1, tables 1, 2). The combined production of construction-related materials during 2024 decreased by 6% compared with production in 2023. Production of construction sand and gravel, cement, crushed stone, and gypsum in 2024 decreased by 7%, 6%, 5%, and 1%, respectively, compared with production in 2023 (fig. 1, table 1).

Base Metals

Production of most base metals increased in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with that in the third quarter of 2024. Lead production increased by 6%, copper increased by 2%, iron ore increased by 1%, and secondary aluminum production increased by 1%. Zinc production decreased by 3% (fig. 2, table 1). Comparing full-year 2024 with full-year 2023, production increased for lead (8%) and iron ore (1%). Production decreased for copper (5%), secondary aluminum (3%), and zinc (1%) in 2024 compared with that in 2023 (fig. 2, tables 1, 2).

Precious Metals

During the fourth quarter of 2024, gold production increased by 5%, production of silver was unchanged, palladium

production decreased by 22%, and platinum production decreased by 21% compared with production in the third quarter of 2024 (fig. 3, table 1). In 2024, silver production increased by 4% and gold decreased by 7% compared with that in 2023. Palladium production increased by 3% and platinum production increased by 2% in 2024 compared with that in 2023 (tables 1, 2).

Other Mineral Materials

Molybdenum production increased by 20% in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with that in the third quarter, but was unchanged in 2024 compared with that in 2023. Phosphate rock production decreased by 9% in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with that in the third quarter and decreased by 2% in 2024 compared with that in 2023. Soda ash production decreased by 2% in the fourth quarter of 2024 compared with that in the third quarter but increased by 7% in 2024 compared with that in 2023 (tables 1, 2).

A worksheet has been added to the Excel table files that includes a button to remove text and numerical footnotes from data cells. This will allow users to only have numbers in data cells. Please see the worksheet titled [RemoveTextButton](#) for instructions in how to use the tool. Note: you must download the excel file in order to use the tool.

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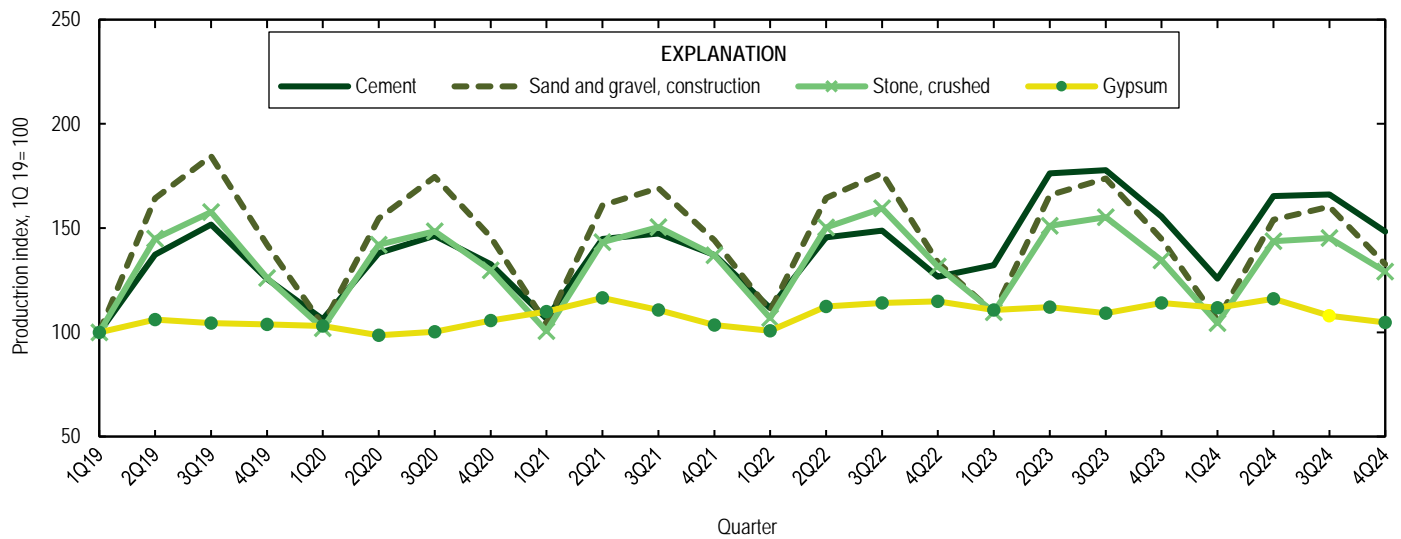


Figure 1. U.S. production of selected construction-related mineral commodities from the first quarter of 2019 through the fourth quarter of 2024, indexed to the first quarter of 2019.

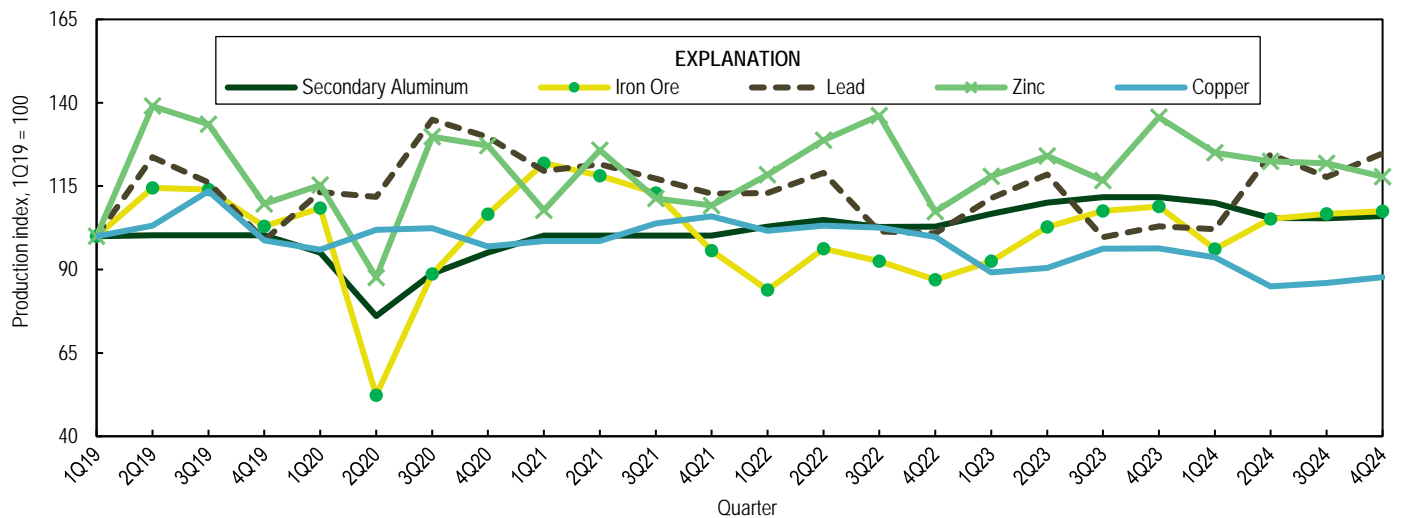


Figure 2. U.S. production of selected base metals from the first quarter of 2019 through the fourth quarter of 2024, indexed to the first quarter of 2019.

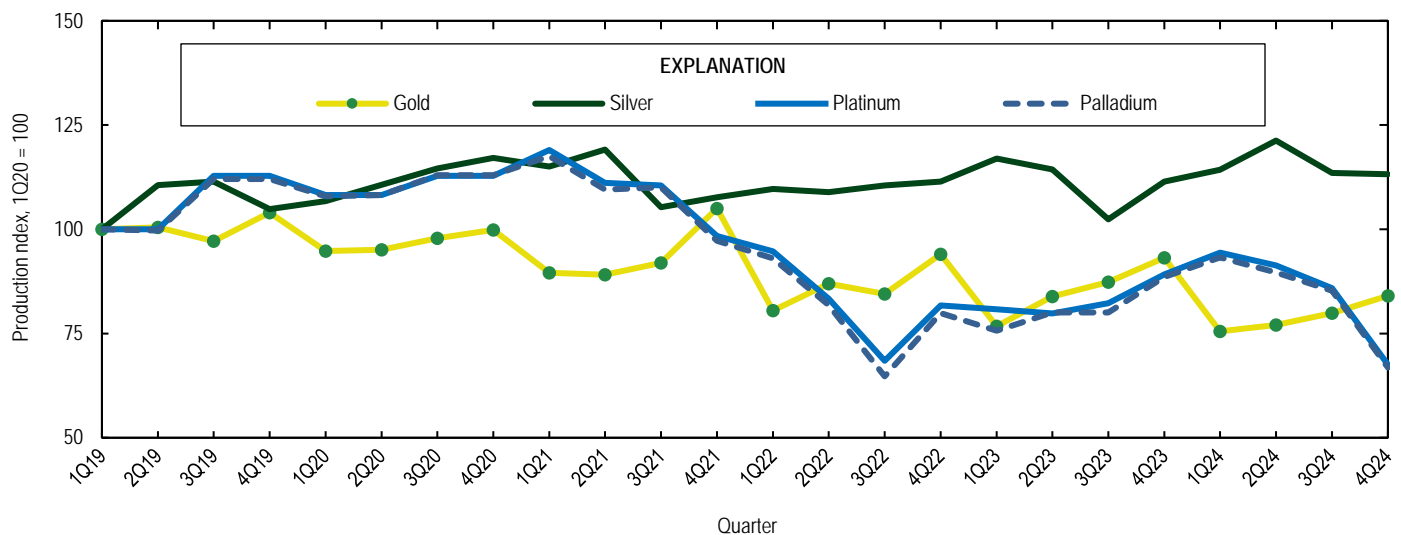


Figure 3. U.S. mine production of precious metals from the first quarter of 2019 through the fourth quarter of 2024, indexed to the first quarter of 2019.

Table 1. Production trends for selected mineral commodities

[Based on data available through December 4, 2024. Estimated data are marked with a superscript "e."]

Mineral commodity	Percent change	Percent change
	4th quarter 2024 vs. 3d quarter 2024	YTD 2024 vs. YTD 2023
Aluminum (secondary)	1	-3
Cement ^e	-11	-6
Copper	2	-5
Gold	5	-7
Gypsum	-3	-1
Iron ore	1	1
Lead	6	8
Molybdenum	20	(¹)
Palladium	-22	3
Phosphate rock ^e	-9	-2
Platinum	-21	2
Sand and gravel, construction	-17	-7
Silver	(¹)	4
Soda ash	-2	7
Stone, crushed	-11	-5
Zinc	-3	-1

¹Less than 0.5 percent.

Table 2. U.S. production of selected mineral commodities, by quarter

[Based on data available through December 4, 2024. Data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. Estimated and revised data are marked with a superscript "e" and "r", respectively.]

Commodity	2023				2024				1st quarter– 4th quarter	
	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	1st quarter	2d quarter	3d quarter	4th quarter	2023	2024
Aluminum [thousand metric tons] ^{e, 1}	223	230	233	233	230	220	220	222	920	892
Cement [million metric tons] ^{e, 2}	22.4 ^r	29.9 ^r	30.2 ^r	26.4 ^r	21.3 ^r	28.1 ^r	28.2 ^r	25.2	109 ^r	103
Copper [thousand metric tons] ³	270	274	292	292	284 ^r	257 ^r	260 ^r	265	1,130	1,070
Gold [metric tons] ³	38.3	41.8	43.6	46.5	37.7 ^r	38.5 ^r	39.9 ^r	41.9	170 ^r	158
Gypsum [million metric tons] ⁴	4.7	4.7	4.6	4.8	4.7	4.9	4.6	4.4	18.9	18.6
Iron ore [million metric tons] ⁵	10.0	11.2	11.7	11.8	10.4	11.4	11.6	11.7	44.7	45.1
Lead [thousand metric tons] ³	67.7	72.0	60.6	62.6	62.0 ^r	75.7 ^r	71.5	75.8	263	285
Molybdenum [thousand metric tons] ³	8.1	8.4	8.4	9.0	8.6 ^r	7.9	7.9	9.5	34.0	34.0
Palladium [metric tons] ³	2.4	2.5	2.5	2.8	2.9	2.8	2.7 ^r	2.1	10.3	10.6
Phosphate rock, marketable [million metric tons] ^{e, 6}	4.5	5.0	5.3	4.8	4.7	4.9	5.0 ^r	4.6	19.6	19.3
Platinum [metric tons] ³	0.7	0.7	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.8	0.8	0.6	3.0	3.1
Sand and gravel, construction [million metric tons] ⁷	178	270	283	236	172	251 ^r	261 ^r	216	967	900
Silver [metric tons] ³	268	262	234	255	261 ^r	278 ^r	260 ^r	259	1,020	1,060
Soda ash [million metric tons] ⁵	2.6	2.8	2.7	2.8	3.0	2.8	3.0	2.9	10.9	11.7
Stone, crushed [million metric tons] ⁷	310	427	438	380	295	406	410	365	1,550	1,480
Zinc [thousand metric tons] ³	179	188	177	206	190	186	185 ^r	179	750	739

¹Aluminum alloys produced at secondary smelters in the United States, less primary aluminum consumed, primary silicon consumed, and other alloying ingredients consumed.

²Shipments of domestically produced portland and blended cement, including cement made from imported clinker, as a proxy for actual domestic cement production.

³Recoverable mine production.

⁴Calcined production.

⁵Mine production.

⁶Marketable mine production. First to fourth quarter 2023 total may not add to quarterly data owing to annual adjustments that are not broken out by quarter.

⁷Sold or used; quarterly survey based on sample survey.