

Nonfuel Mineral Production in Idaho — 1993

Estimated nonfuel production for Idaho in 1993, along with data from other years for comparison, is shown in Table 1 and Figure 1. Based on preliminary figures, the amount and value of gold and of sand and gravel increased; the production of phosphate and other minerals decreased. In 1992, for the first time in recent history, the value of sand and gravel used for building materials exceeded the value of the state's silver production. In 1993, this trend continued. Moreover, the value of sand and gravel is nearly that of gold. This increased value for sand and gravel in relation to gold is the result of two factors: the low international price

for precious metals and the construction boom currently underway in Idaho.

Starting last year, the Survey began reporting the value of the state's phosphate production reflected through finished products (merchant grade phosphoric acid or elemental phosphorous); the values for phosphate and other commodities are shown in Table 2 and Figure 2. Under this method, the 3.9 million tons of newly mined phosphate ore in 1993 would be converted into products worth \$411 million (\$105 a ton for acid and elemental phosphorous) compared to the raw ore worth \$59.75 million (\$25 a ton).

Table 1. Nonfuel Mineral Production¹ in Idaho, 1992-1993

Mineral	1992		1993 ^p	
	Quantity	Value (in thousands)	Quantity	Value (in thousands)
Gemstones	<i>na</i>	\$ 390	<i>na</i>	\$ 70
Gold ² (kilograms)	3,177	35,241	4,300	49,078
Phosphate rock (thousand metric tons)	5,208	84,000	3,880	59,750
Pumice (metric tons)	55,525	401	59,626	451
Sand and gravel:				
Construction (thousand short tons)	14,096	40,728	17,000	47,600
Industrial (thousand short tons)	802	9,214	<i>w</i>	<i>w</i>
Silver ² (metric tons)	254	32,131	246	33,218
Stone (crushed) (thousand short tons)	4,000 ^e	19,200 ^e	5,100	25,000
Combined value of antimony, cement, clays, garnet, copper, lead, molybdenum (1992), perlite, stone (dimension), vanadium, zinc, lime, and values indicated by symbol <i>w</i>	<i>xx</i>	84,756	<i>xx</i>	67,401
Total	<i>xx</i>	\$306,061	<i>xx</i>	\$282,568

Source: Data from U.S. Bureau of Mines.

¹= production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers). *p* = preliminary. *na* = not available. ²= recoverable content of ores, etc. *w* = withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included with "combined value" figure. *e* = estimated. *xx* = not applicable.

Table 2. Value of Nonfuel Mineral Production in Idaho, 1988-1993
(value in thousands of dollars)

Commodity	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993 _p
Gold	\$ 45,349	\$37,602	\$45,649	\$39,107	\$35,241	\$49,078
Molybdenum	30,000 _e	53,890	44,634	13,419	28,841	0
Pb+Zn+Cu	19,089	41,830	67,947	18,400	18,000	17,500
Silver	71,512	77,651	68,418	43,807	32,131	33,218
Phosphate	498,730	488,236	464,280	627,626	552,048	411,280
Other	73,655	77,533	83,011	97,518	112,194	126,653
Total	\$738,335	\$776,742	\$773,939	\$839,877	\$778,455	\$637,729

Based on figures provided by the U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) except for phosphate, which equals the USBM newly mined (not stockpiled) tonnage multiplied by a value of \$105 per ton. Annual totals include this new phosphate value and are therefore different from USBM totals. *Other* includes antimony, cement, clay, garnet, lime, stone (dimension and crushed), vanadium, feldspar, perlite, pumice, gemstones, and sand and gravel. *p* = preliminary. *e* = estimate.

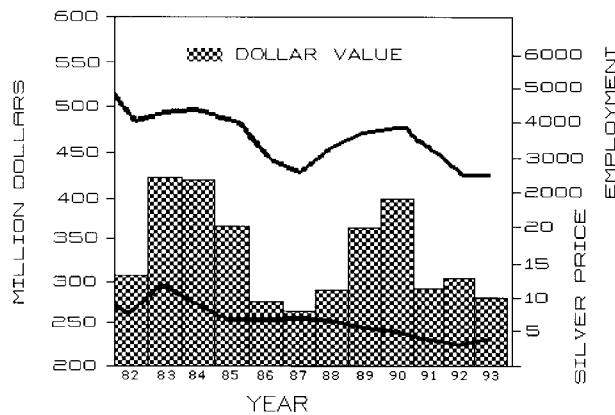


Figure 1. Nonfuel mineral production in Idaho, 1982-1993.

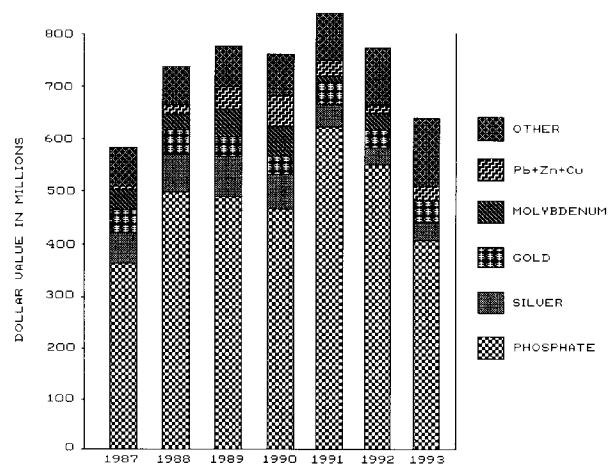


Figure 2. Nonfuel mineral production in Idaho by commodity, 1987-1993.