

Nonfuel mineral production in New Mexico [1979]

U.S. Bureau of Mines

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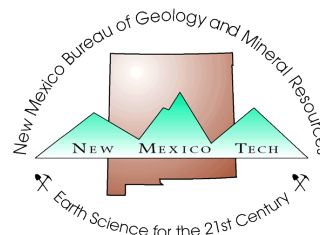
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Nonfuel mineral production in New Mexico

—U. S. Bureau of Mines, Denver, CO
prepared February 19, 1980

The estimated value of New Mexico's produced nonfuel minerals, exclusive of uranium, was \$690 million in 1979. This figure is about 45 percent higher than the value assigned to the same minerals in 1978. With addition of uranium value, the 1979 total is expected to rise above \$1 billion. Copper and potash, the leading mineral products, provided about 82 percent of the mineral value. Substantial increases in price of both commodities in 1979 supported a surge in the production of copper and the value of produced copper and potash to about \$339 million and \$227 million respectively. Molybdenum, sand and gravel, cement, and perlite had individual values in the range of \$10-50 million. Values of gypsum, gold, lime, pumice, crushed stone, and salt were in the range of \$1-10 million. The remaining minerals each had value of less than \$250,000.

Among the minerals that were valued at more than \$1 million in 1979, copper, potash, molybdenum, gold, lime, and pumice increased in both amount mined and value above levels attained in 1978. Sand and gravel and perlite increased in value but had reduced output. Both value and output of cement, crushed stone, and gypsum decreased. Among the minerals that were valued at less than \$1 million in 1979, value and quantity of vanadium, dimension stone, and carbon dioxide increased in respect to those in 1978. Values of mica, high-purity helium, peat, and fire clay increased, but the amount produced was either stable, not available, or reduced. Both value and quantity of zinc, clays, and lead decreased. Statistics for other commodities were not available.

The state had more than 225 operations for

NONFUEL MINERAL PRODUCTION IN NEW MEXICO, prepared by U.S. Bureau of Mines, February, 1980

Mineral ¹	1978		1979 preliminary		
	Quantity	Value (thousands \$)	Quantity	Value (thousands \$)	
Clays ²	thousand short tons . . .	65	108	53	93
Copper ³	short tons	140,906	187,405	184,306	339,240
Gem stones		NA	180	NA	180
Gold ³	troy ounces	9,879	1,912	14,150	4,245
Gypsum	thousand short tons . . .	263	2,649	247	1,739
Manganiferous ore (5-35 percent Mn)	short tons	36,443	W	W	W
Mica (scrap)	thousand short tons . . .	16	W	16	W
Peat	do	2	60	2	67
Perlite	do	576	12,510	572	14,072
Potash	do	2,142	183,554	2,231	226,900
Pumice	do	631	2,706	691	3,042
Salt	do	320	1,617	W	W
Sand and gravel	do	8,239	17,850	8,000	18,000
Stone:					
Crushed	do	2,438	6,156	2,241	6,055
Dimension	do	18	115	20	152
Uranium (recoverable content of U ₃ O ₈)	thousand pounds	15,628	328,182	NA	NA
Combined value of carbon dioxide, cement (masonry and portland), fire clay, helium (high-purity) iron ore; lead, lime, molybdenum, silver, tin (1978), vanadium, zinc, and values of items indicated by symbol W		XX	59,671	XX	76,374
Total		XX	804,675	XX	690,159

NA—Not available

W —Withheld to avoid disclosing company proprietary data; value included in "Combined value" figure.

XX—Not applicable.

¹Production as measured by mine shipments, sales, or marketable production (including consumption by producers)

²Excludes fire clay; value included in "Combined value" figure

³Recoverable content of ores

mining, milling, preparing, and smelting nonfuel minerals. They were distributed in the following manner: metal production—about 16; uranium mining—more than 40; recovery and preparation of sand and gravel, stone, clays, cement, lime, and gypsum—about 135. About 25 to 30 activities were related to production of potash, salt, perlite, and pumice. Mineral-related manufacturing in New Mex-

ico included the preparation of potash chemicals, manufacture of structural materials and items from clay, gypsum, stone, sand and gravel, lime, and cement, and preparation of abrasives, fillers, and insulation materials. Primary metals were smelted, recycled, drawn into wire and tubing, and cast in iron, aluminum, brass, bronze, and copper foundries.

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