Minerals Make Economic Growth

By creating high-paying jobs and providing the raw materials essential to manufacturing, minerals mining helps stimulate economic recovery.

Jobs and Wages

- A job in U.S. metals mining carries an average salary of approximately $85,500 a year—74 percent higher than the combined average of all private sector jobs\(^i\).
- More than 1.3 million U.S. jobs are supported through minerals mining — 433,000 Americans are directly employed and more than 872,000 are indirectly employed\(^ii\).
- For every job in metals mining, an estimated 2.9 additional jobs are generated, and for every nonmetals mining job, an additional 1.8 jobs are created\(^ii\).
- In July 2011, 9,000 Americans found jobs in mining—including minerals mining—despite 9.1 percent unemployment nationwide\(^iii\).

Economic Contributions and Taxes

- Minerals mining paid more than $27 billion in federal, state and local taxes in 2011\(^iv\).
- The mining of just eight minerals (zinc, lead, potash, silver, molybdenum, gold, copper and iron ore) is worth $6 billion\(^v\).
- The estimated value of mineral raw materials produced at U.S. mines in 2012 was $76 billion\(^vi\).
- In 2012, domestically produced and recycled minerals were used to process materials—such as aluminum, brick, copper, fertilizers and steel—worth $700 billion\(^vii\).
- Construction, manufacturing and other major U.S. industries used mineral materials to generate products that added more than $2.3 trillion to the economy in 2012—roughly 15 percent of GDP\(^vii\).

Sources

\(^i\) Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012
\(^ii\) NMA calculations based on MSHA mine employment data and the IMPLAN modeling system (2011 database)
\(^iv\) NMA calculations based on IMPLAN modeling system (2011 database)
\(^v\) U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Department of Defense
\(^vi\) U.S. Geological Survey, Mineral Commodity Summaries 2013