

# 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<sup>i</sup>.
- 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<sup>ii</sup>.
- 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<sup>ii</sup>.
- In July 2011, **9,000** Americans found jobs in mining—including minerals mining—despite 9.1 percent unemployment nationwide<sup>iii</sup>.

## Economic Contributions and Taxes

- Minerals mining paid more than **\$27 billion** in federal, state and local taxes in 2011<sup>iv</sup>.
- The mining of just eight minerals (zinc, lead, potash, silver, molybdenum, gold, copper and iron ore) is worth **\$6 billion**<sup>v</sup>.
- The estimated value of mineral raw materials produced at U.S. mines in 2012 was **\$76 billion**<sup>vi</sup>.
- In 2012, domestically produced and recycled minerals were used to process materials—such as aluminum, brick, copper, fertilizers and steel—worth **\$700 billion**<sup>vi</sup>.
- 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<sup>vi</sup>.

### Sources

<sup>i</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, 2012

<sup>ii</sup> NMA calculations based on MSHA mine employment data and the IMPLAN modeling system (2011 database)

<sup>iii</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, *Employment Situation Summary – July 2011*

<sup>iv</sup> NMA calculations based on IMPLAN modeling system (2011 database)

<sup>v</sup> U.S. Geological Survey and U.S. Department of Defense

<sup>vi</sup> U.S. Geological Survey, *Mineral Commodity Summaries 2013*

