

Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology Map 142

Industrial Minerals and Rocks in Nevada

This map, a revision of an earlier Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology map (Papke, 1973), shows Nevada's active, historically productive, and undeveloped industrial mineral deposits. Table 1. gives more information. Construction aggregate deposits are not shown on the map; a map showing such deposits is in preparation. Gemstones are also omitted; for Nevada gemstone deposit locations, see Castor and LaPointe (2001).

Nevada currently has 40 operating industrial mineral mines. They are scattered around the state, but are mostly located near major highways. In Nevada, industrial mineral mining is relatively minor when compared with the value of metal mining, which has been dominated by gold production since the 1980s. In 2001, industrial mineral value was estimated at \$424 million, less than 15% of the value of all non-energy minerals (about \$3.2 billion). This has not always been the case. In the late 1970s and early 1980s, the value of Nevada's industrial mineral production was nearly equal to metal production (fig. 1), due to relatively low metal production combined with a boom in barite mining.

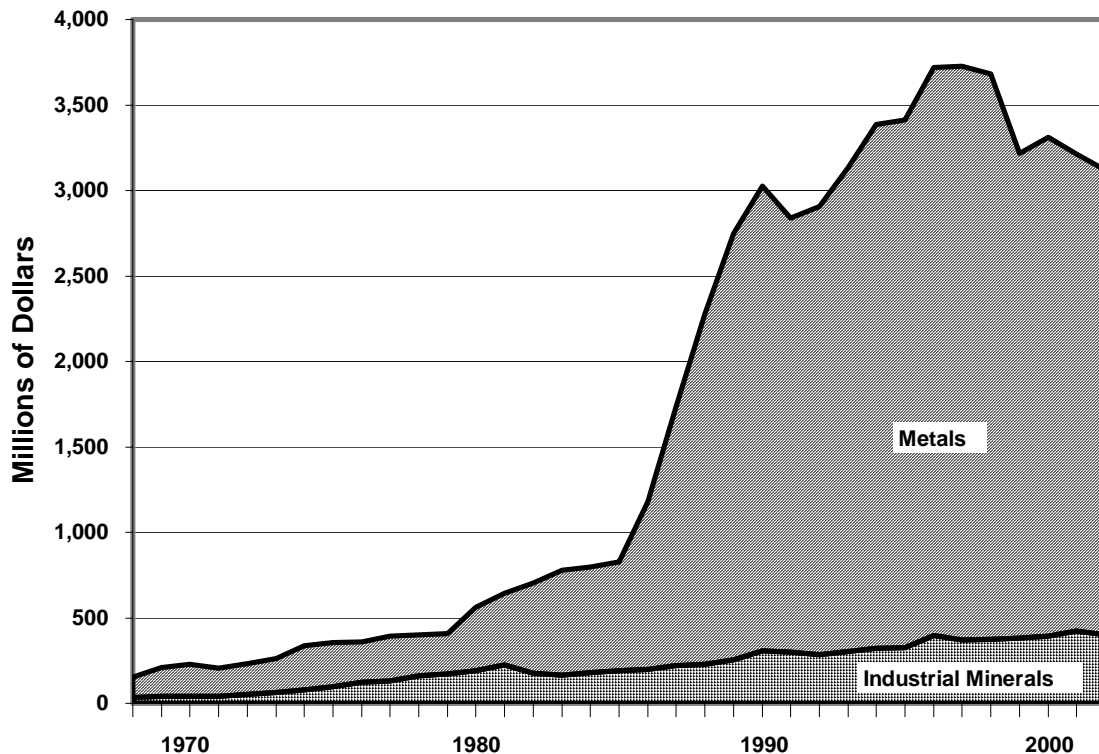


Figure 1. Value of metals and industrial minerals mined in Nevada between 1968 and 2002, based on data from the U.S. Bureau of Mines and the Nevada Bureau of Mines and Geology.

Nevada currently produces 17 industrial mineral commodities. In order of estimated value, the most important industrial minerals mined in Nevada are construction aggregate, lime, diatomite, cement, gypsum, barite, lithium, clay, magnesia, and silica, each valued at more than \$10 million annually. Commodities with values of less than \$10 million are dolomite, calcium carbonate, perlite, dimension stone, salt, and kalinite (potassium aluminum sulfate).

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