GEMSTONES1

(Data in million dollars unless otherwise noted)

<u>Domestic Production and Use</u>: The combined value of U.S. natural and synthetic gemstone output in 2015 increased slightly compared with that of 2014. Domestic gemstone production included agate, beryl, coral, garnet, jade, jasper, opal, pearl, quartz, sapphire, shell, topaz, tourmaline, turquoise, and many other gem materials. In decreasing order of production value, Arizona, California, Oregon, Utah, Montana, Tennessee, Colorado, Arkansas, Idaho, Maine, and North Carolina produced 90% of U.S. natural gemstones. Laboratory-created gemstones were manufactured by five firms in North Carolina, Florida, New York, South Carolina, and Arizona, in decreasing order of production value. Major gemstone uses were carvings, gem and mineral collections, and jewelry. The apparent consumption in the table below is much lower than the actual consumption because the value of exports includes the value of reexports.

Salient Statistics—United States:	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>	<u>2015^e</u>
Production: ²				· <u></u> -	<u> </u>
Natural ³	11.0	11.3	9.6	9.5	9.6
Laboratory-created (synthetic)	31.9	31.2	56.9	51.0	52.4
Imports for consumption	23,500	21,500	24,700	26,400	25,700
Exports, including reexports ⁴	18,200	16,900	19,400	21,300	19,000
Consumption, apparent	5,360	4,570	5,400	5,120	6,770
Price	Variable, depending on size, type, and quality				
Employment, mine, number ^e	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
Net import reliance⁵ as a percentage					
of apparent consumption	99	99	99	99	99

Recycling: Gemstones are often recycled by being resold as estate jewelry, reset, or recut, but this report does not account for those stones.

<u>Import Sources (2011–14 by value)</u>: Israel, 38%; India, 27%; Belgium, 19%; South Africa, 4%; and other, 12%. Diamond imports accounted for 93% of the total value of gem imports.

<u>Tariff</u> : Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12–31–15
Coral and similar materials, unworked	0508.00.0000	Free.
Imitation gemstones	3926.90.4000	2.8% ad val.
Pearls, imitation, not strung	7018.10.1000	4.0% ad val.
Pearls, natural, graded, temporarily strung	7101.10.3000	Free.
Pearls, natural, not elsewhere specified		
or included	7101.10.6000	Free.
Pearls, cultured	7101.21.0000	Free.
Diamond, unworked or sawn	7102.31.0000	Free.
Diamond, ½ carat or less	7102.39.0010	Free.
Diamond, cut, more than ½ carat	7102.39.0050	Free.
Jadeite, unworked	7103.10.2020	Free.
Other gemstones, unworked	7103.10.2080	Free.
Rubies, cut	7103.91.0010	Free.
Sapphires, cut	7103.91.0020	Free.
Emeralds, cut	7103.91.0030	Free.
Jadeite, cut but not set	7103.99.1020	Free.
Other gemstones, cut but not set	7103.99.1080	Free.
Jadeite, otherwise worked	7103.99.5020	10.5% ad val.
Other gemstones, otherwise worked	7103.99.5080	10.5 <u>%</u> ad val.
Synthetic gemstones, cut but not set	7104.90.1000	Free.
Synthetic gemstones, other	7104.90.5000	6.4% ad val.

<u>Depletion Allowance</u>: 14% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

GEMSTONES

Events, Trends, and Issues: In 2015, the U.S. market for gem-quality diamonds was estimated to be about \$23.8 billion compared with \$24.6 billion in 2014. This accounted for more than 35% of world demand. The domestic market for natural, nondiamond gemstones was estimated to be about \$1.89 billion compared with \$1.78 billion in 2014. The United States is expected to continue to dominate global gemstone consumption.

World Gem Diamond Mine Production and Reserves:

	Mine p 2014	roduction ⁶ 2015 ^e	Reserves ⁷
Angola	7,100	7,100	World reserves of diamond-bearing
Australia	186	190	deposits are substantial. No reserve
Botswana	17,300	17,300	data are available for other gemstones.
Brazil	57	60	•
Canada	12,000	12,000	
Congo (Brazzaville)	53	55	
Congo (Kinshasa)	3,130	3,150	
Ghana	242	240	
Guinea	131	130	
Guyana	100	100	
Lesotho	346	350	
Namibia	1,920	1,920	
Russia	21,500	21,500	
Sierra Leone	496	500	
South Africa	5,950	6,000	
Tanzania	190	200	
Zimbabwe	477	500	
Other countries	44	<u>45</u>	
World total (rounded)	71,200	71,300	

<u>World Resources</u>: Most diamond-bearing ore bodies have a diamond content that ranges from less than 1 carat per ton to about 6 carats per ton of ore. The major gem diamond reserves are in southern Africa, Australia, Canada, and Russia.

<u>Substitutes</u>: Plastics, glass, and other materials are substituted for natural gemstones. Synthetic gemstones (manufactured materials that have the same chemical and physical properties as gemstones) are common substitutes. Simulants (materials that appear to be gems, but differ in chemical and physical characteristics) also are frequently substituted for natural gemstones.

^eEstimated.

¹Excludes industrial diamond and garnet. See Diamond (Industrial) and Garnet (Industrial).

²Estimated minimum production.

³Includes production of freshwater shell.

⁴Reexports account for between 67% and 90% of the totals.

⁵Defined as imports – exports and reexports.

⁶Data in thousands of carats of gem diamond.

⁷See Appendix C for resource/reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.