

GEMSTONES¹

(Data in million dollars unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The combined value of U.S. natural and synthetic gemstone output increased by 7% in 2010 from that of 2009. The natural gemstone production value increased slightly from that of 2009, while synthetic gemstone production value increased 9% over the same period. 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, Arizona, Oregon, Utah, California, Idaho, Colorado, Arkansas, Montana, North Carolina, Maine, and Tennessee produced 84% of U.S. natural gemstones. The increase in total synthetic gemstone production value resulted from an increase in Moissanite production value. Laboratory-created gemstones were manufactured by five firms in Florida, New York, Massachusetts, North Carolina, and Arizona, in decreasing order of production. Major gemstone uses were carvings, gem and mineral collections, and jewelry.

Salient Statistics—United States:	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010^e
Production: ²					
Natural ³	11.3	11.9	11.5	8.4	8.5
Laboratory-created (synthetic)	52.1	73.5	51.4	27.2	30.0
Imports for consumption	18,300	20,100	20,900	13,300	19,000
Exports, including reexports ⁴	9,930	12,300	15,300	10,500	15,000
Consumption, apparent	8,430	7,880	5,670	2,820	4,400
Price	Variable, depending on size, type, and quality				
Employment, mine, number ^e	1,200	1,200	1,200	1,000	1,100
Net import reliance ⁵ 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.

Import Sources (2006–09 by value): Israel, 48%; India, 20%; Belgium, 16%; South Africa, 5%; and other, 11%. Diamond imports accounted for 95% of the total value of gem imports.

Tariff:	Item	Number	Normal Trade Relations 12-31-10
	Pearls, imitation, not strung	7018.10.1000	4.0% ad val.
	Imitation precious stones	7018.10.2000	Free.
	Pearls, natural	7101.10.0000	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.
	Precious stones, unworked	7103.10.2000	Free.
	Precious stones, simply sawn	7103.10.4000	10.5% ad val.
	Rubies, cut	7103.91.0010	Free.
	Sapphires, cut	7103.91.0020	Free.
	Emeralds, cut	7103.91.0030	Free.
	Other precious stones, cut but not set	7103.99.1000	Free.
	Other precious stones	7103.99.5000	10.5% ad val.
	Synthetic, cut but not set	7104.90.1000	Free.

Depletion Allowance: 14% (Domestic and foreign).

Government Stockpile: None.

GEMSTONES

Events, Trends, and Issues: In 2010, the U.S. market for gem-quality diamonds was estimated to be about \$18 billion, accounting for more than 35% of world demand. This was an increase of about 42% compared with that of 2009. The domestic market for natural, nondiamond gemstones was estimated to be about \$946 million, which was an increase of 21% from that of 2009. These increases in the U.S. gemstone markets are a reflection of improvements in the economy since the global recession, and its impact on luxury spending. The United States is expected to continue dominating global gemstone consumption.

World Gem Diamond Mine Production⁶ and Reserves:

	Mine production		Reserves ⁷
	2009	2010 ^e	
Angola	8,100	8,100	World reserves of diamond-bearing deposits are substantial. No reserves data are available for other gemstones.
Australia	60	60	
Botswana	24,000	24,000	
Brazil	182	180	
Canada	10,900	11,000	
Central African Republic	300	300	
China	100	100	
Congo (Kinshasa)	3,600	3,600	
Côte d'Ivoire	210	210	
Ghana	500	500	
Guinea	2,400	2,400	
Guyana	179	180	
Lesotho	450	450	
Namibia	2,300	2,300	
Russia	17,800	18,000	
Sierra Leone	200	200	
South Africa	2,400	2,400	
Tanzania	150	150	
Other countries ⁸	270	270	
World total (rounded)	74,100	74,000	

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

Substitutes: 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 about 78% of the totals.

⁵Defined as imports – exports and reexports + adjustments for Government and industry stock changes.

⁶Data in thousands of carats of gem diamond.

⁷See [Appendix C for resource/reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.](#)

⁸In addition to countries listed, Cameroon, Congo (Brazzaville), Gabon, India, Indonesia, Liberia, Togo, Venezuela, and Zimbabwe are known to produce gem diamonds.