

## GEMSTONES<sup>1</sup>

(Data in million dollars unless otherwise noted)

**Domestic Production and Use:** The combined value of U.S. natural and synthetic gemstone output decreased by about 3% in 2012 from that of 2011. The natural gemstone production value increased slightly from that of 2011, while synthetic gemstone production value decreased by nearly 5% during 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, North Carolina, Oregon, Utah, California, Tennessee, Montana, Colorado, Arkansas, and Idaho produced 87% of U.S. natural gemstones. 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. The apparent consumption in the table below is much lower than the actual consumption, owing to the exports, including reexports.

<b>Salient Statistics—United States:</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>	<b>2011</b>	<b>2012<sup>e</sup></b>
Production: <sup>2</sup>					
Natural <sup>3</sup>	11.5	9.3	10.0	11.0	11
Laboratory-created (synthetic)	51.4	27.2	30.8	31.9	30
Imports for consumption	20,900	13,600	19,600	23,500	22,000
Exports, including reexports <sup>4</sup>	15,300	10,500	14,100	18,200	18,000
Consumption, apparent	5,670	3,080	5,510	5,360	4,300
Price	Variable, depending on size, type, and quality				
Employment, mine, number <sup>e</sup>	1,200	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100
Net import reliance <sup>5</sup> 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 (2008–11 by value):** Israel, 44%; India, 25%; Belgium, 17%; South Africa, 5%; and other, 9%. Diamond imports accounted for 95% of the total value of gem imports.

<b>Tariff:</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Normal Trade Relations 12–31–12</b>
	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 2012, the U.S. market for gem-quality diamonds was estimated to be about \$22 billion, accounting for more than 35% of world demand. This was an increase of about 20% compared with that of 2011. The domestic market for natural, nondiamond gemstones was estimated to be about \$1 billion, which was a 20% increase from that of 2011. The United States is expected to continue dominating global gemstone consumption.

### **World Gem Diamond Mine Production<sup>6</sup> and Reserves:**

	Mine production		Reserves <sup>7</sup>
	2011	2012 <sup>e</sup>	
Angola	7,500	7,200	World reserves of diamond-bearing deposits are substantial. No reserve data are available for other gemstones.
Australia	86	70	
Botswana	22,900	24,000	
Brazil	25	25	
Canada	10,800	10,500	
Central African Republic	240	200	
China	100	100	
Congo (Kinshasa)	3,900	3,900	
Ghana	240	180	
Guinea	230	200	
Guyana	50	50	
Lesotho	450	450	
Namibia	1,130	1,400	
Russia	17,800	18,500	
Sierra Leone	280	300	
South Africa	2,800	2,800	
Tanzania	51	51	
Other countries	<u>1,350</u>	<u>1,350</u>	
World total (rounded)	69,900	71,000	

**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.

<sup>e</sup>Estimated.

<sup>1</sup>Excludes industrial diamond and garnet. See Diamond (Industrial) and Garnet (Industrial).

<sup>2</sup>Estimated minimum production.

<sup>3</sup>Includes production of freshwater shell.

<sup>4</sup>Reexports account for between 78% and 83% of the totals.

<sup>5</sup>Defined as imports – exports and reexports.

<sup>6</sup>Data in thousands of carats of gem diamond.

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