U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

MINERAL COMMODITY SUMMARIES 2014

USGS
science for a changing world

GEMSTONES[1]

(Data in million dollars unless otherwise noted)

Domestic Production and Use: The combined value of U.S. natural and synthetic gemstone output remained almost the same in 2013 as that of 2012. 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, North Carolina, Oregon, California, Utah, 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, North Carolina, South 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.

Salient Statistics—United States:	**2009**	**2010**	**2011**	**2012**	**2013[e]**
Production:[2]					
Natural[3]	9.3	10.0	11.0	11.3	11
Laboratory-created (synthetic)	27.2	30.8	31.9	31.2	31
Imports for consumption	13,600	19,600	23,500	21,000	24,700
Exports, including reexports[4]	10,500	14,100	18,200	16,900	19,800
Consumption, apparent	3,080	5,510	5,360	4,070	4,930
Price	Variable, depending on size, type, and quality				
Employment, mine, number[e]	1,000	1,100	1,100	1,100	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 (2009–12 by value): Israel, 41%; India, 24%; Belgium, 19%; South Africa, 5%; and other, 11%. Diamond imports accounted for 95% of the total value of gem imports.

Tariff: Item	**Number**	**Normal Trade Relations 12–31–13**
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.

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GEMSTONES

Events, Trends, and Issues: In 2013, the U.S. market for gem-quality diamonds was estimated to be about $23.2 billion, accounting for more than 35% of world demand. The domestic market for natural, nondiamond gemstones was estimated to be about $1.5 billion. The United States is expected to continue dominating global gemstone consumption.

World Gem Diamond Mine Production[6] and Reserves:

	Mine production		Reserves[7]
	2012	2013[e]	
Angola	7,500	7,900	World reserves of diamond-bearing deposits are substantial. No reserve data are available for other gemstones.
Australia	92	70	
Botswana	14,400	14,000	
Brazil	46	30	
Canada	10,500	10,800	
Central African Republic	293	200	
Congo (Brazzaville)	21,500	21,500	
Congo (Kinshasa)	10	10	
Guinea	213	200	
Guyana	44	52	
Lesotho	479	480	
Namibia	1,630	1,500	
Russia	20,700	20,700	
Sierra Leone	325	300	
South Africa	2,830	2,800	
Tanzania	108	170	
Zimbabwe	11,000	11,000	
Other countries	51	50	
World total (rounded)	91,700	91,800	

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.

[e]Estimated.
[1]Excludes industrial diamond and garnet. See Diamond (Industrial) and Garnet (Industrial).
[2]Estimated minimum production.
[3]Includes production of freshwater shell.
[4]Reexports account for between 78% and 83% of the totals.
[5]Defined as imports – exports and reexports.
[6]Data in thousands of carats of gem diamond.
[7]See Appendix C for resource/reserve definitions and information concerning data sources.