

The Economic Contribution of Construction Aggregates & Industrial Mineral Mining in Virginia

Construction aggregate and industrial mineral mining constitutes all non-metallic products unaffiliated with coal and natural gas that are mined from the earth. In 2023, Virginia Tech examined the industry's contribution to Virginia to increase policy-maker's and localities' understanding of the importance of this industry.

As the bedrock of Virginia's economy, this industry has **over 150 businesses** that have operated in communities across the Commonwealth for multiple decades, distributing most products within an average of 30 miles from where they are produced.



Why does supporting quarries mean your supporting local business and communities?

Quarries are local. Because transportation costs for aggregates are so high, most quarry products go to supporting local infrastructure development—landscaping, agriculture, roads, and buildings. Quarry businesses also look far into the future when developing their quarries, meaning they will be reliable local employers for 100+ years, providing mostly full-time, livable wage jobs.

Common applications of these materials include:

- Asphalt, Concrete and Base for Road and Construction and Maintenance
- Commercial, Government, Data Center, and Residential Buildings
- Rail, Airport & Mass Transit Infrastructure
- Shoreline Protection, Slope Stabilization and Erosion Control
- Construction of Renewable Energy Facilities
- Agriculture
- Landscaping, Sound Barriers, and Perimeter Security
- Industrial Uses - Glass, High Temp Refractory Products, Cement, Fireproofing, Toothpaste, Kitty Litter, & Water Treatment



\$1.94 billion



Contribution to VA's jobs

6,769 jobs



Contribution to VA's Gross Regional Product

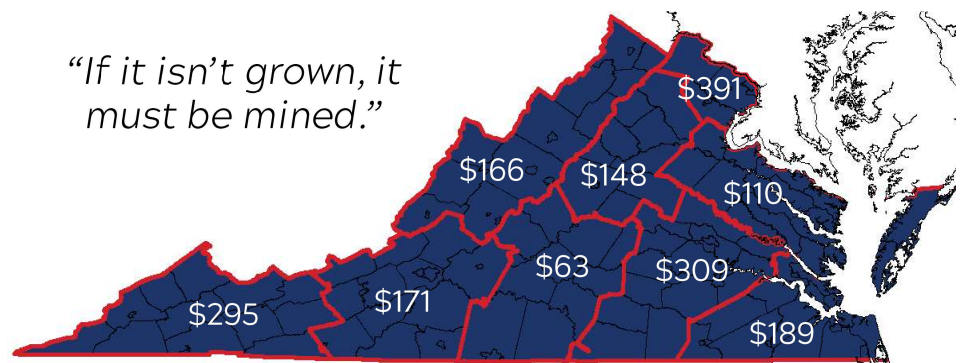
\$965 million



Contribution to state and local taxes

\$132 million

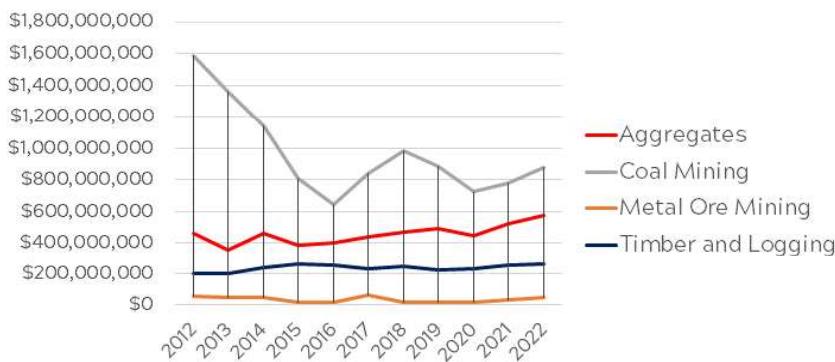
"If it isn't grown, it must be mined."



Millions of Dollars in Contributions to Regions across the Commonwealth



Gross Regional Product in construction aggregates and industrial minerals mining ranks well among similar industries selling raw materials. Industry GRP has grown 23% since 2012.



Each quarry produces multiple types of aggregate and mineral **unique to that site**. Limiting access to these reserves through zoning restrictions and unplanned development forever loses access to **essential raw materials** that could be responsibly mined.

Comparing Peer Industry GRP Growth (2012-2022)

The construction aggregates and industrial mineral mining industry works closely with the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and as such, often thinks of its impact in terms of contribution to different VDOT regions.

Industry Economic Contributions to Virginia's VDOT Regions				
VDOT Regions	Jobs	GDP	State Taxes	Local Taxes
Bristol	1,023	\$126.6M	\$12.1M	\$9.7M
Salem	612	\$74.0M	\$5.3M	\$4.9M
Lynchburg	231	\$29.3	\$2.3M	\$2.1M
Richmond	1,105	\$149.5M	\$9.2M	\$9.6M
Hampton Roads	709	\$78.0M	\$5.3M	\$6.8M
Fredericksburg	401	\$46.5M	\$3.9M	\$4.7M
Culpeper	474	\$62.7M	\$4.3M	\$4.6M
Staunton	571	\$72.8M	\$5.6M	\$6.2M
Northern Virginia	1,131	\$202.3M	\$8.6M	\$14.2M