



Mining and Natural Resources

Major Companies in Colorado

*American Gypsum
Anglo Gold
British Petroleum
Cimarex Energy Co.
Climax Molybdenum
Cotter Corp.
Credo Petroleum Corp.
Delta Petroleum Corp.
Encana
Forest Oil Co.
Hallador Petroleum LLP
Kestrel Energy, Inc.
MarkWest Hydrocarbon
Newmont Mining Corp.
Palina Oil & Gas Corp.
RAG American Coal Co.
St. Mary Land & Exploration
Suncor
Teton Petroleum
Tipperary Corp.
Titanium Metals
Tom Brown, Inc.
Transmontaigne, Inc.
Western Gas Resources*

Industry Associations

*Colorado Mining Association
Colorado Oil and Gas
Association
Denver Mining Club
Rocky Mountain Association
of Geologists
Rocky Mountain Coal Mine
Institute
Western Coal Council
Western Coal Transportation
Council*

Profile and Trends in Colorado

Colorado's economy has long been based in mineral extraction and petroleum industries. The state has abundant mineral resources with the mining industry contributing an estimated \$7.7 billion in direct and indirect economic benefits to the state. There are over 944 mining establishments in Colorado. Resources that are mined in Colorado include **coal, gold, lead, gypsum, limestone, silver, molybdenum, titanium, uranium, zinc, marble, and aggregates.**

The Colorado School of Mines is one of the top-ranked mining and engineering schools in the nation. The Gourman Report has ranked its "Mining Engineering" program the highest in the nation. It is also the only school in the world that offers doctoral programs in all five of the major earth science disciplines.

Coal

Colorado coal producers achieved record production levels in 2002, mining 35.2 million tons of coal valued at \$616 million. Colorado ranks 8th among all states in coal production. Coal is the fuel used to generate 85% of the electricity consumed in the state. Colorado coals are among the highest quality, and cleanest fuels found anywhere in the world. In fact, most coals are clean enough to burn without washing or further preparation.

Aggregates

A thriving aggregates industry (sand, gravel, crushed stone) exists in Colorado. Seventy-five percent of active mines in Colorado are sand, gravel, and aggregates. Colorado ranks among the top 10 states in the production of aggregates. In 2002, Colorado's aggregates industry produced sand, gravel, and stone valued at \$319,000,000.

Oil and Gas

Oil and natural gas wells are located in 42 of Colorado's 64 counties. The top three counties in oil production are Rio Blanco, Weld, and Cheyenne. La Plata, Weld and Garfield Counties lead the state in natural gas production. Colorado ranks 12th in crude oil production with volumes totaling 58,000 barrels per day, and ranks 13th in crude oil proved reserves. Natural gas production is showing a steady increase and is expected to rise with the development of Western Colorado Piceance Basin (Mesa and Rio Blanco counties).

This potential resource is estimated at 31 trillion cubic feet, representing the largest discovery in the Rocky Mountain region. Gross production value of oil and gas produced in Colorado is steadily increasing, from \$2.7 billion in 2002 to an estimated \$8.2 billion in 2005. This increase is a result of significant growth in both production volume and commodity price. Employment in this sector averaged 7,200 jobs in the state.