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Nevada Minerals Industry Fact Sheet – 2018

Mineral Production

- Nevada led the United States in the production of gold in 2018. Nevada's mines produced 5,581,160 ounces compared to 5,641,623 troy ounces in 2017. Nevada's silver production was 8,011,408 ounces in 2018 versus 8,477,388 ounces in 2017.
- Nevada's gold mines contributed 83% of the U.S. gold production in 2018 and ranked 5th in world gold production. Only China, Australia, Russia, and Canada produced more gold than the State of Nevada.
- In addition to gold and silver, Nevada produced barite, copper, diatomite, dolomite, gypsum, lapidary and gemstones, limestone, lithium compounds, magnesium compounds, molybdenite, perlite, salt, silica sand, specialty clays, and specialty aggregates in 2018.
- In 2018, over \$8.0 billion in mineral commodities were produced in Nevada excluding construction aggregates.

Employment

- In 2018, there were on average 14,787 Nevadans directly employed by the mineral industry at an average salary of \$97,600. It is estimated that another 14,606 jobs are involved in supplying goods and services to the industry.

Geothermal

- There are 26 geothermal electric generating plants that sold 3.6 million megawatt hours of electricity in 2018. That is enough power to supply 286,000 typical homes.

Oil and Gas

- In 2018, approximately 251,021 barrels of oil were produced from oil wells in Elko, Eureka, and Nye counties.

Mineral Exploration

- Mineral exploration spending increased slightly from \$351.2 million in 2017 to \$461 million in 2018, possibly due to a slight increase in gold prices. In 2018, gold averaged \$1,268.49 and averaged \$1,257.12 in 2017. Exploration spending for lithium and other energy metals showed a slight increase and accounted for \$24 million in spending.

Reclamation

- Approximately \$3.0 billion in reclamation bonds and other financial assurance were posted by operators, as of 2018, to ensure complete reclamation such that mined areas are returned to productive uses such as livestock grazing, wildlife habitat, or other natural resource uses.

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