

## Statistics on mining and quarrying extraction activities

Years 2013, 2014 and 2015

Mining and quarrying survey results are disseminated by Istat today. The years 2013, 2014 and preliminary estimates on 2015 are investigated. Statistics deal with no energy-producing minerals extraction in physical units of weight, by mineral type and by extraction site at regional level. Considering a fragmentary context on mining and quarrying statistics in Italy and a growing need of information at national and international level on the issue, this survey was designed by Istat and ISPRA in 2014. Due to the importance of its contents, mining and quarrying extraction survey has been included in National Statistical Program. It started for the first time in 2015 with the aim to produce official statistics to strengthen a knowledge framework on mining and quarrying activities carried out at regional level and on environmental pressures linked to the exploitation of non-renewable natural resources.

In 2014, in Italy mining and quarrying extraction sites amounted to 5,353 (-6.8% compared to 2013). Mining sites were 143 and quarrying sites were 5,210. Municipalities with at least one *extraction site* were 2,105 (equal to 26.3% of all Italian municipalities). In 2014 the number of mining and quarrying *active extraction sites* was equal to 4,612 of which 2,737 were *extraction sites into production* in the reference year, namely sites from which quantities of minerals have actually been extracted in the year observed. Among *extraction sites into production*, there were 85 mining and 2,652 quarrying.

In 2014 total extraction of minerals from mining and quarrying amounted to almost 185,8 million tons, with an overall decrease of -4.8% over the previous year. In particular, quarrying minerals extraction was equal to 172.9 million tons and mining minerals extraction to 12.8 million of tons, respectively decreasing by -3.8% and -16.3% compared to 2013.

The survey collected data on about 100 types of minerals distinguished by mining and quarrying. For analysis needs, they have been grouped in ten aggregates according to lithological minerals classifications criteria. In 2014 all the aggregates observed showed a decrease of mining and quarrying minerals quantities extracted compared to year 2013.

As far as quarrying extraction are concerned, the aggregate "limestone, travertine, gypsum, sandstone" was the most representative aggregate with nearly 82 million tons (accounting for 47.3% of national quarrying minerals extraction), with a decrease of almost -3.9% over year 2013.

Regarding mining minerals extraction, the aggregate "cement marl" was the most representative with 6 million tons extracted (accounting for 46.3% of national mining minerals extractions), with a decrease of almost -22% over year 2013.

Nearly half of the total amount of minerals extracted from national quarrying came from the North of Italy, almost 82 million tons. Lombardia was the first region in the ranking Region regarding the amount of quarrying minerals extracted (32 million tons, +3.4% compared to 2013) followed by Puglia (18 million tons extracted).

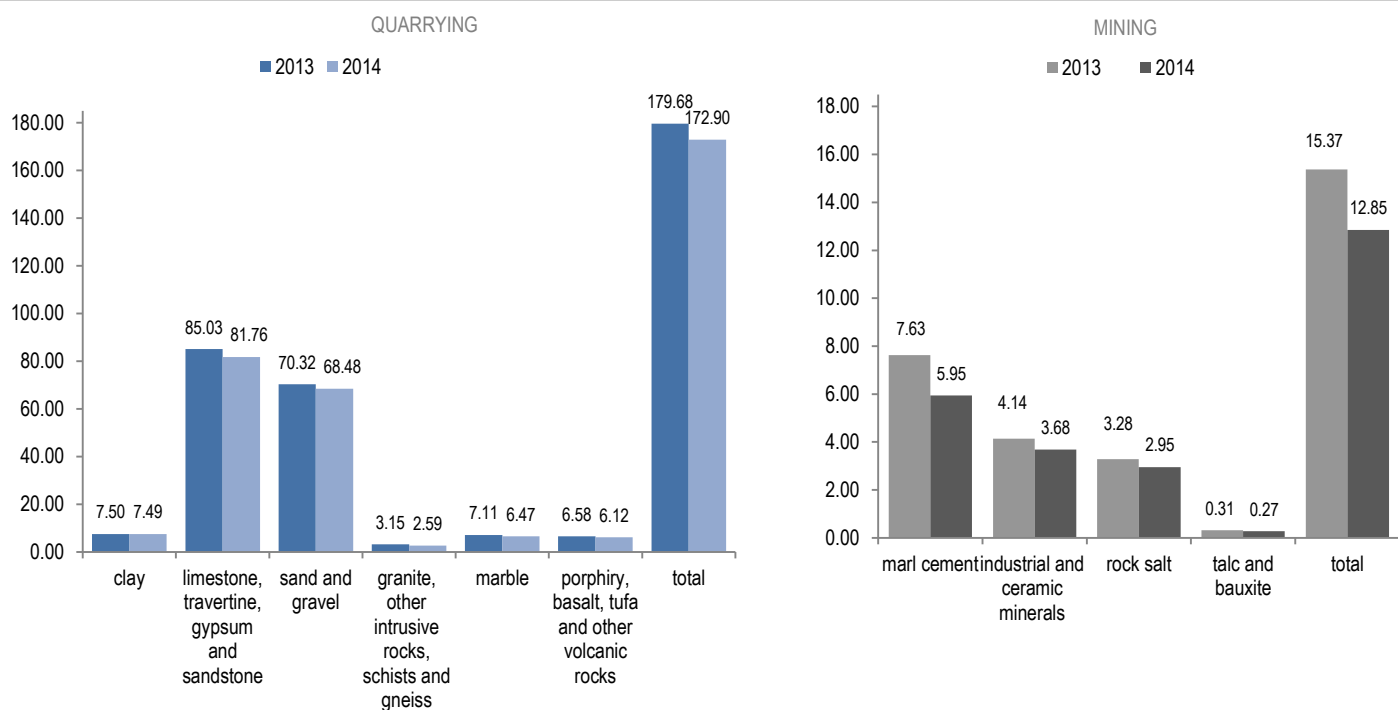
Regions characterized by high quantity of mining minerals extracted were Toscana (2.8 million tons), Lombardia (1.7 million tons) followed by Umbria and Sardegna (each one with 1.6 million tons).

Preliminary estimates at national level for the year 2015 showed a further decrease of overall mining and quarrying extractions by about -4.6% over the previous year. The decrease of minerals extractions, dropped to 177 million tons, was mainly due to the quarrying extractions decline that was almost equal to 7 million tons less than the previous year.

By using survey results, environmental pressures indicators were calculated for the year 2014 to highlight some aspects which tend to alter the state of environment as a result of specific human activities, such as minerals withdrawals from mining and quarrying. Methodologically, environmental pressure indicators are inserted into a conceptual framework named DPSIR (Driving forces, Pressures, State, Impact, Responses) defined to ensure scientific requirements, reproducibility and reliability. Developed by the EEA (European Environmental Agency), DPSIR conceptual model is one of the frameworks used internationally to describe the interactions between economy and natural environment and it is characterized by causal relationships.

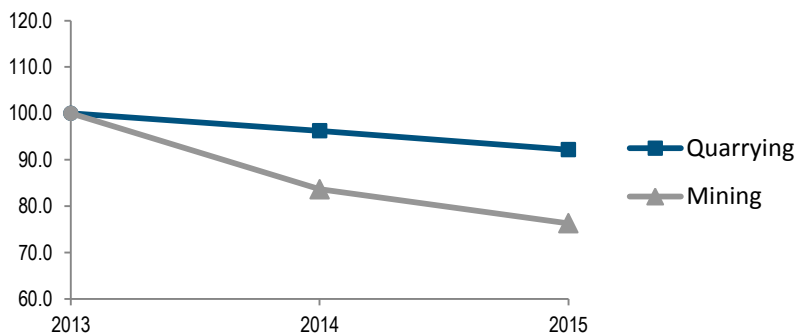
**FIGURE 1. MINING AND QUARRYING MINERALS EXTRACTION BY TYPE, ITALY**

Years 2013 and 2014, million tons



**FIGURE 2. MINING AND QUARRYING MINERALS EXTRACTION, ITALY.**

Years 2013, 2014 and 2015<sup>(a)</sup>, index base 2013=100



(a) Preliminary estimates.

**For more details please refer to the Italian version**

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