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## DGGS report shows Alaska's mineral industry healthy in 2018

**(Fairbanks, AK)** — Alaska's \$2.9 billion mineral industry saw exploration and development spending jump nearly 16 percent and 12 percent, respectively, while production values dropped by nearly 8 percent in 2018, according to the Division of Geological and Geophysical Surveys' (DGGS) *Alaska Mineral Industry 2018*.

The 96-page document is the 38<sup>th</sup> such annual report, which represents a consistent and factual snapshot of mineral industry activity in Alaska, as well as the authoritative historical record of mining in the state, said DGGS Director Steve Masterman.

"While DGGS produces a lot of highly technical publications that are useful to industry professionals, our Annual Minerals Reports offer the general public a broad perspective on the status of the mineral industry as a whole, which is one of the foundations of our economy," he said.

The report's composite calculation of spending on exploration and development, plus the value of the minerals produced, placed the total value of the state's mineral industry at \$2.9 billion in 2018, a 7.7 percent decrease from 2017.

Exploration and development spending continued to rebound from the lows of a few years ago, riding a nearly 12 percent increase to \$334.1 million. Lower production, volatile metal prices and a strong U.S. dollar helped depress the total value of production by almost 11 percent, to \$3.24 billion.

The state and municipalities received an estimated \$144.7 million from mineral-industry-specific fees, rents, sales, royalties, and taxes, a 20 percent increase over 2017. Mining claims and prospecting sites covered 3.8 million acres, up nearly 28 percent.

The report is at [www.dggs.alaska.gov](http://www.dggs.alaska.gov), and hard copies are available at DGGS offices or Public Information Centers in Anchorage and Fairbanks. Email orders are accepted [dggspubs@alaska.gov](mailto:dggspubs@alaska.gov) or by phone at 907-451-5020.

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