

TREN DLINES

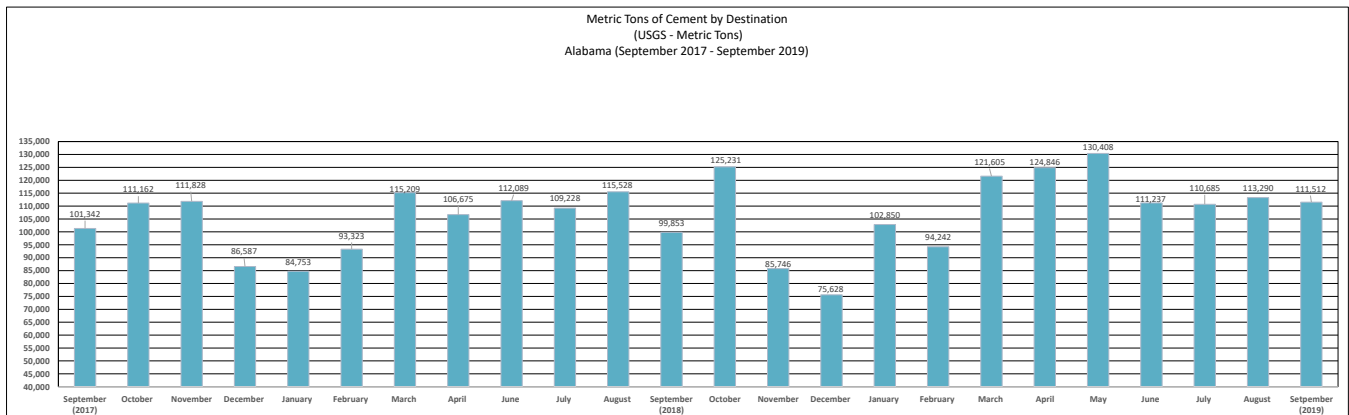
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According to data recently released by the USGS for September 2019, 111,512 tons of Portland cement was shipped to Alabama during the month. The tonnage represents a growth of 10.46% in comparison to September 2018. Over the last four months, the state has been in a yo-yo pattern of in respect to cement shipments. Over the last 5 years, the state has seen cement shipments average 95,116 tons during September. The 111,512 tons in 2019, exceeded the 5 year average by 15%. Looking back to September 2018, the cement shipments actually contracted by 1.6%.

Utilizing the cement shipments to estimate ready mix yardage for September 2019, 412,929 cubic yards of concrete was placed during the month. For the year, ready mix yardage is 7.6% ahead of 2018 totals.

Anecdotal evidence suggests the ready mix market is doing reasonably well in Alabama with most members reporting they are busy when it is not raining. However, growth continues to be non-linear across the state. Huntsville and Madison are lapping the rest of the state in regards to new construction on residential and commercial projects. Nearly every corner appears to have dirt being turned over for a future construction site. Not to mention the vast Toyota-Mazda and tier I supplier projects requiring huge amounts of concrete. Looking at more tangible economic growth evidence, data recently released by the University of Alabama shows 13,962 residential building permits were issued in Alabama for the year in 2019 versus 12,938 in 2018. This represents a 7.9% increase. Alabama also continues to have an historically low unemployment rate of 2.7% which bodes well for consumer confidence in the state.

If you have any questions about this report, please contact our office.



Cement Shipments to Alabama (USGS Data - metric tons)													
Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
2014	51,206	63,119	82,065	80,012	87,014	89,204	96,389	90,384	86,972	91,304	66,907	68,949	953,525
2015	70,732	56,229	74,139	75,984	96,125	98,975	99,284	88,455	89,504	89,889	72,472	73,941	985,729
2016	72,343	78,591	96,152	102,668	105,228	103,002	89,547	98,391	97,909	96,673	88,227	70,168	1,098,900
2017	74,711	80,645	100,482	99,508	95,639	90,025	93,295	99,579	101,342	111,162	111,828	86,587	1,144,802
2018	84,753	93,323	115,209	106,675	107,363	112,089	109,228	115,528	99,853	125,231	85,746	75,628	1,230,627
2019	102,850	94,242	121,605	124,846	130,408	111,237	110,685	113,290	111,512				1,020,675

Alabama Ready Mix Production (cubic yards)													
Year	January	February	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December	YTD
2014	189,616	234,002	304,240	296,628	322,587	330,706	357,344	335,080	322,431	338,491	248,043	255,614	3,534,782
2015	261,921	208,458	274,856	281,695	356,364	366,930	368,076	327,929	331,818	333,245	268,675	274,121	3,654,090
2016	267,886	291,360	356,464	380,621	390,112	381,859	331,978	364,767	362,978	358,397	327,085	260,134	4,073,640
2017	276,656	298,628	372,083	368,479	354,151	333,361	345,471	368,741	375,704	412,111	414,579	321,004	4,240,968
2018	313,840	345,575	426,619	395,017	397,564	415,066	404,471	427,801	369,755	463,732	317,518	280,052	4,557,011
2019	380,854	348,978	450,303	462,305	482,901	411,911	409,867	419,513	412,929				3,779,560

Percent change	17.60%	0.98%	5.26%	14.55%	17.67%	-0.77%	1.32%	-1.98%	10.46%				7.60%
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