



TRENDLINES

February 2024

Concrete Volumes Lag in November

Data recently released by the United States Geological Service shows 139,170 tons of cement were shipped to the state in November 2023. The tonnage is 10% lower than November 2022 and 17% lower than October 2023. Cement shipments have now contracted in seven of the first 11 months of 2023 and just over 2% lower with one month of data remaining for 2023.

Looking to ready mix volumes, we estimate 515,347 cubic yards of concrete were placed during the month.

A slowdown in residential construction continues to be a drain on concrete production in the state. Data released by UA's Center for Real Estate estimated new home starts were 8.2% lower in 2023 than 2022 (16,917 vs 15,531 home starts). However, the Wells Fargo Home Builder index shows home builder sentiment is on the rise and now sits at 50 for the southeast. Hopefully, the rising sentiment will translate into more new home starts in 2024. Like home builder sentiment, the AIA billing index on design contracts saw an uptick in January. The number rose from 48.1 in December to 50 in January. A number over 50 forecasts positive outlook for commercial construction in the future.

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	109,655	99,834	84,902	1,315,066
2020	91,390	83,094	107,518	118,957	118,844	119,240	112,816	106,486	108,226	121,502	114,280	109,035	1,311,388
2021	103,522	98,803	130,868	150,354	127,562	128,316	118,657	132,340	124,158	136,019	140,875	126,142	1,517,616
2022	119,913	128,223	151,537	138,815	137,027	150,399	131,515	142,629	153,072	165,452	154,624	127,442	1,561,972
2023	117,094	119,065	157,313	126,401	149,729	147,856	131,462	149,329	142,244	169,151	139,170		1,548,814

Blended Cement added to total starting Feb 2021 due to rapid increased use of PLC in 2021

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	406,052	369,685	314,392	4,869,689
2020	338,417	307,697	398,139	440,498	440,079	441,546	417,758	394,318	400,761	449,922	423,179	403,757	4,856,070
2021	383,342	365,868	484,604	556,761	472,362	475,154	439,387	490,055	459,757	503,678	521,660	467,104	5,619,732
2022	444,038	474,810	561,142	514,031	507,411	556,927	487,000	528,155	566,826	612,669	572,573	471,918	6,297,499
2023	433,599	440,898	582,530	468,063	554,446	547,511	486,804	552,965	526,730	626,366	515,347		5,735,258
Percent change	-2.30%	-7.20%	3.70%	-8.90%	8.50%	-2.70%	-0.04%	4.50%	-7.10%	2.20%	-10.00%		-1.55%

Metric Tons of Cement by Destination (USGS - Metric Tons) (Alabama Nov 2022 - Nov 2023)

