2010 Minerals Yearbook

ALBANIA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

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The Mineral Industry of Albania

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Albania's important mineral deposits included chromite, copper, limestone, and petroleum. In 2010, Albania's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 3.5%. In 2009 (the most recent year for which data were available), industrial production made up about 9% of the GDP, and the mineral extraction industry accounted for about 9% of the value of industrial production and almost 1% of the GDP (Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Albania, 2010; International Monetary Fund, 2011, p. 185).

Production

Data on mineral production in Albania were mostly unavailable, and production data for all mineral commodities in 2010 were estimated with the exception of chromite, clay, copper ore, and lignite production. Clay production increased by 227% compared with that of 2009, and copper ore production increased by 37%. Cement production was estimated to have increased by 17% owing to the start of production at Antea Cement Sh.A.'s new cement plant. Lignite production decreased by 55% (table 1).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

As of December 2009, 832 outstanding permits for prospecting, exploration, and mining were reported; 680 of these permits were for mining. Out of the 832 outstanding permits, the largest number were for limestone (282 permits), chromite (262 permits), and iron-nickel and nickel-silicate (37 permits). In early 2010, Antea Cement began production at its new 1.5-million-metric-ton-per-year cement plant in the Kruje region north of Tirana. Antea Cement was majority owned by the Titan Cement S.A. of Greece. Colacem Albania Sh.p.k. opened a full-cycle cement plant in Balldre in 2010, but no information was available as to whether cement production began in 2010. Stream Oil and Gas Ltd. of Canada was added to the list of natural gas and petroleum producers in table 2. Stream began production in 2008. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities (National Agency of Natural Resources of Albania, 2010, p. 9; Stream Oil and Gas Ltd., 2010, p. 7; Colacem S.p.A., 2011; Titan Group, 2011, p. 25).

Outlook

Albania has the potential to increase its production of metals and mineral fuels as exploration projects continue and as foreign companies increase investments in Albania. Further investment will depend on economic and social stability as well as on the improvement of infrastructure.

References Cited

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TABLE 1
ALBANIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity[2]		2006	2007	2008	2009[e]	2010[e]
METALS						
Chromite, gross weight (18% to 42% Cr_2O_3)		212,581	199,771	207,104	288,759 [r, 3]	289,687 [3]
Copper:						
Ore, gross weight		35,071	98,000	105,000	114,286 [r, 3]	156,212 [3]
Cu content or ore (1.3% to 2.5%)[e]		670	1,900	2,000	2,300	3,100
Iron and steel:						
Metal, ferroalloys, ferrochromium		17,040	--	11,916	7,556 [3]	8,000
Steel:						
Crude steel, secondary		205,534	263,271	380,000	440,000 [3]	440,000
Rolled steel		114,000	136,000	194,000	216,000 [r, 3]	216,000
Iron-nickel and nickel-silicate ores[4]		79,000	369,559	353,290	350,000	350,000
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	525	889	918 [e, r]	1,110 [r]	1,300
Clay, kaolin	do.	562 [r]	856 [r]	724 [r]	296 [r, 3]	968 [3]
Gypsum		19,683	46,200	77,633	78,000	80,000
Limestone	cubic meters	1,339,440	1,716,122	3,837,529	3,800,000	3,800,000
Salt[e]		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Silica sands	cubic meters	3,200	4,400	12,077	12,000	12,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Coal, lignite		3,800	4,000	1,500	7,840 [r]	3,500 [3]
Gas, natural, gross production	thousand cubic meters	11,091	10,400 [r]	6,200 [r]	7,900 [r]	8,000
Petroleum:						
Crude, gross weight[e]	thousand 42-gallon barrels	2,080 [r]	3,580	4,000	4,200	5,000
Refinery products:						
Bitumen		83,000	69,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
Coke		64,000	59,000	47,000	47,000	47,000
Fuels[e]	thousand 42-gallon barrels	2,060	2,010	1,400	1,400	1,400

[e]Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. [r]Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

[1]Table includes data available through July 19, 2011.

[2]In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of industrial minerals and construction materials (common clay, dolomite, lime, olivinite, sand and gravel, and stone) were believed to have been produced, but output is not reported quantitatively, and available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. Also, a small amount of bauxite was believed to have been produced.

[3]Reported figure.

[4]Iron-nickel and nickel-silicate ore production were not reported separately. Estimates of metal content of ores were not made owing to the significant variations of the iron and nickel content of the ores, which depend not only on the type of ore, but also on the region in which it was mined. Iron-nickel ores were reported to contain from 37.22% to 44.72% Fe and from 0.97% to 1.07% Ni; nickel-silicate ores were reported to contain from 16.6% to 21.73% Fe and from 1.06% to 1.2% Ni.

TABLE 2
ALBANIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2010

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity[e]
Cement		Fushe Kruje Cement Factory, Sh.p.k. (Seament Holding)	Fushe Kruje, 35 kilometers north of Tirana	1,320
Do.		Elbasan Cement Factory (Seament Holding)	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana	775
Do.		Antea Cement Sh.A. (Titan Cement S.A.)	Kruje, 35 kilometers north of Tirana	1,500
Do.		Colacem Albania Sh.p.k. (Colacem S.p.A.)	Balldre, northwestern Albania	NA
Chromite		Albanian Chrome, Sh.p.k. (ACR) (DCM DECOmetal, 100%)	Mine in Bulquize, 40 kilometers northwest of Tirana	85
Do.		do.	Pogradec (including Katjiel and Pojske Mines)	NA
Do.		Numerous small producers	Mostly concentrated near Bulquize	NA
Ferrochromium		Albanian Chrome Sh.p.k. (ACR) (DCM DECOmetal, 100%)	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana	36
Lime		Kurum International Sh.p.k.	Elbasan	36
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Albpetrol sh.a. (Government owned)	Gasfields in southwestern Albania	NA
Do.	do.	Stream Oil and Gas Ltd.	Delvina gas field in southern Albania	50
Petroleum:				
Crude	42-gallon barrels per day	do.	Oilfields at Marineza, Ballsh, Sheqishte, Patos, Gorrisht, and others	NA
Do.	do.	Bankers Petroleum Ltd.	Oilfields at Kucova and Patos Marinza, east of Fier in south-central Albania	9,600
Do.	do.	Stream Oil and Gas Ltd.	Ballsh-Hekal, Cakran-Mollaj, and Gorischt-Kocul oilfields in southwestern Albania	345
Refined	do.	Albanian Refining and Marketing Organization Sh.a. (ARMO)	Refineries at Ballsh and Fier	NA
Steel		Kurum International Sh.p.k.	Electric arc furnace plant at Elbasan	600

[e]Estimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.