



2007 Minerals Yearbook

CUBA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CUBA

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Nickel was the most important mineral commodity to the Cuban economy, followed by cobalt, which was produced as a byproduct of the mining of nickel. Other minerals produced in the country included asphalt, bentonite, cement, chromite, clay, crushed stone, feldspar, gypsum, iron ore, lime, limestone, marble, salt, sand, steel, sulfuric acid, volcanic ash, and zeolite. Cuba also produced ammonia, natural gas, petroleum, petroleum products, and sulfur as a byproduct of the refining of petroleum. The Ministerio de la Industria Básica was the Government entity responsible for the mineral and petroleum sectors. Unión Geológico Minera S.A. was the company in charge of prospecting, exploration, and mining of all metallic and nonmetallic minerals with the exception of cobalt and nickel, which were overseen by Unión del Níquel S.A. Cubapetróleo S.A. was the company in charge of petroleum prospecting, exploration, marketing, and refining.

Production

Production of most mineral commodities, with the exception of chromite, cobalt, iron ore, marble, and salt, increased during

2007. Iron ore, salt, marble, chromite, and cobalt production decreased by 57.7%, 46.6%, 23.6%, 10.4%, and 3.5%, respectively, compared with 2006 output levels. Production of industrial minerals, such as silica sand, calcareous sand, crushed stone, lime, limestone, zeolite, volcanic ash, bentonite, and asphalt increased by 55.6%, 38%, 25.3%, 17.9%, 17.6%, 15.7%, 14.3%, 13%, and 12%, respectively. Natural gas production increased by 11.7%. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities. More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Cuba can be found in the 2004 and 2005 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area reports—International—Latin America and Canada, which is available on the World Wide Web at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country>.

TABLE 1
CUBA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES^{1, 2}

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ³	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Asphalt	44,800	47,400	43,300	49,900	55,900
Bentonite	438	444	191	355	401
Cement, hydraulic	1,345,500	1,401,300	1,566,900	1,704,700	1,805,300
Chromite	33,300	40,300	34,000	27,900	25,000 ^c
Cobalt, mine output, Co content: ⁴					
Oxide, oxide sinter, sulfide, ammoniacal liquor precipitate	3,982	4,055	4,247	4,629 ^r	4,465
Sulfide and ammoniacal liquor precipitate	3,465	3,580	3,768	4,150 ^r	3,977
Feldspar	7,200	10,500	8,000	5,500	5,600
Gold kilograms	547	--	--	--	--
Gypsum ^c thousand metric tons	100 ^r	85 ^r	73 ^r	73 ^r	80
Iron ore, gross weight	18,400	19,700	18,900	7,800	3,300
Kaolin clay	2,900	4,100	3,500	1,700	1,700
Lime thousand metric tons	64,700	53,600	34,000	36,300	42,800
Limestone thousand metric tons	4,400	3,100	3,900	1,700	2,000 ^c
Marble cubic meters	2,800	4,400	4,700	5,500	4,200
Natural gas, marketed thousand cubic meters	658,000	704,200	743,300	1,090,600 ^r	1,217,900
Nickel, Ni content: ⁴					
Mine output, oxide, oxide sinter, sulfide, ammoniacal liquor precipitate	74,018	71,944	73,753	73,371 ^r	73,934
Metallurgical products:					
Granular oxide, oxide sinter, powder	42,282	38,824	39,121	39,121 ^r	39,911
Sulfide	29,620	30,999	32,354	30,967 ^r	31,116
Ammoniacal liquor	2,116	2,121	2,278	3,283 ^r	2,907
Total	74,018	71,944	73,753	73,371 ^r	73,934
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	21,400	51,300	27,900	42,300	47,400
Petroleum:					
Crude ⁵ thousand 42-gallon barrels	23,732 ^r	20,979 ^r	18,928 ^r	18,702	18,734
Refinery products: ⁶					
Petroleum coke do.	99	72	96	78	76
Gasoline, motor do.	3,517	2,826	3,475	2,707	3,345
Kerosene do.	1,477	1,691	2,045	973	536
Liquefied petroleum gas do.	1,075 ^r	735 ^r	950	719	681
Lubricants do.	335	342	302	316 ^r	350
Naphtha do.	902	721	602	690	496
Total do.	7,405 ^r	6,387 ^r	7,470	5,483 ^r	5,484
Salt thousand metric tons	317 ^r	408 ^r	351 ^r	266 ^r	142
Sand, calcareous thousand cubic meters	1,629	1,643	1,651	1,977	2,730
Silica sand cubic meters	31,200 ^r	33,100 ^r	14,300 ^r	9,000	14,000
Stone, crushed thousand cubic meters	2,430	2,400	2,437	3,044	3,815
Steel	209,800	193,200	245,100	257,200	262,400
Sulfuric acid thousand metric tons	439	449	427	406	428
Volcanic ash	18,600	14,600	12,900	3,500	4,000 ^c
Zeolites	27,600	28,600	17,200	14,000	16,200

⁶Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through April 1, 2009.

²Statistical data reported by the Cuban Government in Anuario Estadístico de Cuba unless otherwise specified.

³In addition to commodities listed, crude construction materials (sand and gravel, and so forth) may be also produced, but data on such production are not available, and information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

⁴The Government of Cuba reports figures of nickel-cobalt content of granular and powder oxide, oxide sinter, and sulfide production. The cobalt content of reported nickel-cobalt production was determined to be 1.16% of granular and powder oxide, 1.21% of oxide sinter, 7.56% of sulfide, and 33% of ammoniacal liquor. The remainder of reported figures would represent the nickel content.

⁵Production has been converted from metric tons (t) to barrels (bbl) by using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's factor of 6.449 bbl/t of crude petroleum.

⁶Production has been converted from metric tons (t) to barrels (bbl) by using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's factor of 5.51 bbl/t for petroleum coke; 8.53 bbl/t for gasoline; 7.73 bbl/t for kerosene; 11.63 bbl/t for liquefied petroleum gas; 7.00 bbl/t for lubricants; and 8.22 bbl/t for naphtha.

TABLE 2
CUBA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2007

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement		Cementos Cienfuegos S.A. (Government, 50%, and Las Pailas de Cemento S.A., 50%)	Cienfuegos	1,500.
Do.		Fábrica de Cemento 26 de julio	Nuevitas	600.
Do.		Fábrica de Cemento Mártires de Artemisa	Artemisa	600.
Do.		Cementos Curazao N.V.	Barrio Mujica, Mariel Province	1,110.
Do.		Fábrica de Cemento Siguaney	Sancti Spiritus	300.
Chromite		Grupo Empresarial Cubaníquel S.A. (Government, 100%)	Moa, Holguin Province	30.
Cobalt		Metals Enterprise S.A. (Government, 50%, and Sherritt International Corp., 50%)	do.	3.
Nickel		Empresa Niquelífera Ernesto Che Guevara	Punta Gorda plant, Holguin Province	31.5.
Do.		Moa Nickel S.A. (Government, 50%, and Sherritt International Corp., 50%)	Moa plant, Holguin Province	33.
Do.		Empresa Niquelífera Comandante René Ramos Latour (Government, 100%)	Nicaró, Holguin Province	12.4.
Petroleum:				
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Empresa de Perforación y Extracción de Petróleo del Centro (Government, 100%)	Northern coast between Havana and Cardenas	12.
Do.		Sherritt International Corp. (indirect working interests vary from 40% to 100% in 10 production-sharing contracts with the Government)	Near shore oilfields located at Yumuri, Varadero, Canasi, and Puerto Escondido	7,000.
Refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Hermanos Díaz	Santiago	37,048.
Do.	do.	Ñico López	Havana	44,457.
Do.		Sergio Soto	Cabaiguan	767.
Steel		Grupo Metalúrgico Acinox (Government, 100%): Antillana de Acero	Cotorro, Havana Province	600.
Do.		Empresa de Aceros Inoxidables	Las Tunas, Las Tunas Province	370.
Zeolite		Empresa Geominera Oriente	Holguin Province	58.

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.