

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# LIBYA

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The hydrocarbon sector accounted for nearly 95% of Libya's revenues. Petroleum reserves (29.5 billion barrels) were the largest on the African Continent but remained under exploited. Libya was, however, the second largest crude oil producer in Africa, following Nigeria, and exported an average of 1.2 million barrels per day in 1997; Italy was the leading market, followed by Germany, Spain, and Greece. Petroleum product exports averaged 100,000 barrels per day in 1997. Proven natural gas reserves were 1.3 trillion cubic meters. Annual natural gas production averaged more than 6 billion cubic meters in recent years (Arab Petroleum Research Center, 1998). Nonfuel mineral output was confined to the production of steel from the heavily

subsidized Misurata Complex, now operating at about three-fourths of its design capacity of 1.2 million metric tons per year; the extraction of salt from the coastal plains near Benghazi and Tripoli; and the quarrying of gypsum, and limestone, near Al Khums. For more-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Libya, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

## Reference Cited

Arab Petroleum Research Center, 1998, Arab oil and gas directory: Paris, Arab Petroleum Research Center, 640 p.

TABLE 1  
LIBYA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 e/
Cement, hydraulic	2,300	2,700	3,210	3,550 r/	3,500
Gas, natural: e/					
Gross million cubic meters	12,410	12,510	12,460	12,640 r/	12,500
Dry do.	6,360	6,390	6,345	6,420 r/	6,300
Gypsum e/	160	180	180	180	180
Iron and steel:					
Metal:					
Direct-reduced iron	944	852	963	862	990 3/
Crude steel	920	874	909	863 r/	897 3/
Lime e/	260	260	260	260	275
Nitrogen:					
N content of ammonia	350	350	534 r/	545 r/	536 3/
N content of urea	269	347	409	399	383 3/
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	496,765	507,313	509,175 r/	511,000	516,475 3/
Refinery products:					
Gasoline do.	15,480	16,000	15,500	16,000 r/	16,200
Kerosene and jet fuel do.	13,578	13,800	13,700	14,200 r/	14,300
Distillate fuel oil do.	28,908	29,600	29,000	31,400 r/	31,500
Residual fuel oil do.	32,448	32,500	32,000	35,400 r/	35,500
Other do.	9,272	10,200	10,500	18,000 r/	18,000
Total do.	99,686	102,100	100,700	115,000 r/	115,500
Salt	15	30 r/	30 r/	30 r/	30
Sulfur, byproduct of petroleum and natural gas e/	13 r/	13 r/	13 r/	13 r/	13

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through August 15, 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of construction stone, brick, and tile was produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels. Natural gas liquids were also produced but were blended with crude petroleum and were reported as part of that total.

3/ Reported figure.