

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# ALBANIA

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In 1997, Albania experienced political and social problems owing to a difficult process of transition to democratic institutions and a market economy system. These problems resulted in new elections in midyear. The economy was moribund for most of the year and the country's gross domestic product declined by 8% in 1997, which had a negative effect on many sectors of the minerals industry. The chief mineral commodities that traditionally had been produced in Albania were chromite, copper, ferrochromium, nickeliferous iron ore, and petroleum refinery products, which

until recently, constituted the dominant component of the country's foreign exchange earnings. In 1997, however, the output of chromite declined by about 33%, that of copper ore by about 87%, and that of petroleum, by about 26%. Additionally, the production of bitumen, coal, and natural gas declined by about 15%, 42%, and 22%, respectively. The production of nickeliferous iron ore ceased in 1993. (*See table 1.*) A more detailed presentation of Albania's mineral industry is given in the Mineral Yearbook chapter on Albania for 1996.

TABLE 1  
ALBANIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 2/ METALS	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 e/	
Bauxite e/	2,000	2,000	1,000	1,000	500	
Chromium:						
Chromite, gross weight e/	thousand tons	281	223	243	236	157 3/
Marketable ore	do.	82	107	129	113	84 3/
Concentrate	do.	33	11	31	30	22 3/
Ferrochromium	do.	35	33	43	31 r/	31 3/
Cobalt: e/						
Mine output, Co content 4/	-- r/	--	--	--	--	
Plant production, Co content 5/	1	--	--	--	--	
Copper:						
Ore:						
Gross weight	thousand tons	239	277	258	188 r/	25 3/
Concentrate		14,000	9,000	17,000	11,000 r/	1,000 3/
Cu content e/		3,200	2,000	3,800	2,500 r/	220
Metal, primary:						
Smelter		2,300	2,000	2,900 r/	2,902 r/	-- 3/
Refined e/		1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000	--
Iron and steel:						
Iron ore, nickeliferous:						
Gross weight	thousand tons	150	--	--	--	--
Fe content e/	do.	85	--	--	--	--
Metal: e/						
Pig iron		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Crude steel		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Rolled steel		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Nickel: e/						
Mine output, Ni content		75	75	--	--	--
Plant production, Ni content		50	50	--	--	--
Metal, Ni cathode		20	20	--	--	--
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic e/	thousand tons	200	200	200	200	200
Clay, kaolin e/		500	500	500	500	500
Dolomite e/		50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Fertilizer, manufactured: e/						
Phosphatic		10,000	10,000	10,000	5,000	5,000
Urea		4,000	4,000	4,000	3,000	3,000
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia e/		15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	10,000
Olivinite		300	300	300	300	300
Phosphate rock (12% - 15% P <sub>2</sub> O <sub>5</sub> ) e/		1,500	1,500	1,000	1,000	1,000
Pyrite, unroasted e/		7,000	7,000	5,000	-- r/	--
Salt e/		10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Sodium compounds n.e.s., soda ash, calcined e/		150	150	100	100	100
Sulfuric acid e/		1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Asphalt and bitumen, natural 6/	thousand tons	19	34	33	20	17 3/
Coal, lignite	do.	135	120	81	69 r/	40 3/
Gas, natural, gross production 7/	million cubic meters	82	52	28	23 r/	18 3/
Petroleum:						
Crude:						
Gross weight	thousand tons	586	535	521	488 r/	360 3/
Converted	thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,900	3,500	3,500	3,300	2,400
Refinery products e/	do.	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	500

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through March 1998.

2/ In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of industrial minerals and construction materials (common clay, quartz, titanomagnetite, stone, and sand and gravel) are produced, but output is not reported quantitatively, and available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Reported figure.

4/ Calculated from reported and estimated weight of nickeliferous ore; the amount of cobalt recovered, if any, is conjectural.

5/ Figures represent cobalt content of estimated production of commercially marketable cobalt salts produced within Albania from domestically mined nickeliferous iron ore.

6/ Includes asphalt and bitumen produced at petroleum refineries.

7/ Separate data on marketable production are not available, but gross and marketed output are regarded as being nearly equal.

TABLE 2  
ALBANIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1997

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Location of main facilities (all state-owned)	Annual capacity
Cement	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana; and Kruje, 20 kilometers northwest of Tirana Shkoder, 85 kilometers northwest of Tirana; and Vlore, southwest of Tirana	1,200
Chromite	Bater (including Bater I and II and Martanesh), 40 kilometers northwest of Tirana	450
Do.	Bulquize (including Bulquize south, Fush, Terrnove, and Todo Maco), 35 kilometers northwest of Tirana	450
Do.	Kalimash, 60 kilometers north of Tirana	250
Do.	Kam, 70 kilometers north of Tirana	100
Do.	Klos, 20 kilometers northeast of Tirana	50
Do.	Pogradec (including Katjiel, Memelisht, Pojske, Pishkash, and Prrenjas), 50 kilometers east of Tirana	100
Ferrochromium	Burrel, 35 kilometers northeast of Tirana	40
Do.	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana	36
Copper:		
Ore	Fushe-Arrez, 80 kilometers north of Tirana	350
Do.	Gjejan, 100 kilometers northeast of Tirana	150
Do.	Golaj (including Nikoliq and Pus), 120 kilometers northeast of Tirana	150
Do.	Kurbnesh-Perlat, 55 kilometers northeast of Tirana	100
Do.	Rehove, 110 kilometers southeast of Tirana	100
Do.	Reps (including Gurch, Lajo, Spac, and Thurr), 55 kilometers north of Tirana	350
Do.	Rreshen, 50 kilometers north of Tirana	50
Do.	Shkoder (including Palaj, Karma I and II), 85 kilometers northwest of Tirana	100
Smelter	Kukes, 110 kilometers northeast of Tirana	6
Do.	Lac, 35 kilometers northwest of Tirana	7
Do.	Rubik, 50 kilometers north of Tirana	4
Iron ore	Prrenjas (Bushtrica, Prrenjas, Skorska I and II), 70 kilometers southeast of Tirana	650
Do.	Guri i Kuq (including Cervenake, Grasishta, Guri i Kuq, Hudenisht and Guri Pergjrgjur), 25 kilometers east of Tirana	500
Steel	"Steel of the Party" Metallurgical Combine at Elbasan	150
Nickel, smelter	Elbasan	6
Coal, lignite	Maneze, Mezes, and Valias Mines in Tirana Durres area; Krabe Mine, 20 kilometers southeast of Tirana; Alarup and Cervnake Mines, in Pogradec area, 80 kilometers southeast of Tirana; Mborje-Drenove Mine in Korce area, 85 kilometers southwest of Tirana; and Memaliaj Mine in Tepelene area, 110 kilometers south of Tirana	2,500
Natural gas	million cubic feet Gasfields on southwest Albania between Ballsh and Fier	16,000
Petroleum:		
Crude	42-gallon barrels per day Oilfields at Marineze, Ballsh, Shqisht, Patos, Kucova, Gorrisht, and others	35,000
Refined	do. Refineries: Ballsh, Cerrik, Fier, and Stalin	33,000