

CYPRUS

By Philip M. Mobbs

The mineral industry of Cyprus was dominated by cement, copper, and a range of nonmetallic minerals. About 250 quarries were in operation producing such materials as clay, limestone, gypsum, sand and gravel, and stone for local use and bentonite, gypsum, ocher, and umber for export. In 1999, cement exports were valued at about \$14 million, and copper exports were valued at about \$8 million.¹ Total exports were valued at \$373 million, and fuel and shipstores valued at \$630 million were provided to domestic and foreign vessels. Fuel imports were about \$319 million of the nation's total imports of \$3.6 billion. Cyprus' gross domestic product was estimated to be \$9 billion in 1999 for this island nation of about 760,000 people.

The Labor Ministry reduced the national particulate emissions limits to 300 milligrams per cubic meter (mg/m³) of air as a step toward meeting the European Union particulate emissions standard of 50 mg/m of air. The Health Ministry initiated an investigation of the effects of particulate emissions on residents living near the Marios & Andreas Foundry in the Ergates industrial area, which is 25 kilometers southwest of Nicosia, and the Nemitsas Foundry at Limassol.

¹Where necessary, values have been converted from Cypriot pounds (C£) to U.S. dollars at the rate of C£0.542=US\$1.00. Unless specifically stated, all data in this chapter are for the southern Greek-administered area because data related to the Turkish Cypriot area are sparse or unavailable.

In December, Mytilineos Holdings S.A. of Greece acquired 30.46% equity interest in Hellenic Copper Mines Ltd. Mytilineos agreed to fund the proposed capacity expansion to 12,000 metric tons per year of 99.999% copper cathode at the Skouriotissa copper mine and solvent extraction and electrowinning (Mytilineos Holdings S.A., December 9, 1999, New agreement for Mytilineos Holding S.A., accessed September 29, 2000, at URL <http://www.capitallink.com/companies/greece/myt/pressold/dec0999.htm>). Eastern Mediterranean Minerals (Cyprus) Ltd., which was a joint venture of Hellenic Mining Co. Ltd. of Cyprus (50%) and the Oxiana Resources NL of Australia subsidiary Oxiana Europe Ltd. of the Channel Islands (50%) continued exploration for copper and gold within the Troodos ophiolite complex.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Cyprus, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

Major Source of Information

Ministry of Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Environment
Mines Service
Nicosia, Cyprus
Telephone: (357) (2) 309-283

TABLE 1
CYPRUS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997 e/	1998	1999 e/
Cement, hydraulic	1,021	1,000	910	1,200 e/	1,200
Clays:					
Bentonite metric tons	71,773	70,927	101,000	140,000	140,000
Other:					
For brick and tile manufacture	407	400 e/	350	380 e/	400
For cement manufacture e/	350	350	340	370	370
Total	757	750	690	750 e/	770
Copper, refined 3/ metric tons	--	1,499	4,435 4/	4,936 r/	5,004 4/
Gypsum, crude 5/ do.	133,208	150,468	222,000	270,000	270,000
Lime, hydrated do.	5,530	6,000 e/	6,000	5,500	5,500
Petroleum refinery products thousand 42-gallon barrels	6,775	6,775 e/	8,000 r/	8,000 r/	8,000
Stone, sand, gravel:					
Limestone, crushed (Havara)	3,200	3,000 e/	3,000	3,000 e/	3,000
Marble e/	25	25	20 4/	8	5
Marl, for cement production	2,000	1,600 e/	1,500	1,900	1,900
Sand and gravel e/ 6/	6,000	6,000	6,500	7,600	7,000
Building stone	974	800	690	100	100
Umber metric tons	5,415	4,604	6,000	5,000 e/	5,000

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. -- Zero.

1/ Table includes data available through September 29, 2000.

2/ Mineral production data from the northern Turkish-occupied section of the country are not included in this table because available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output levels.

3/ Hellenic Mining Co. Ltd. ceased copper cementation operations from the Skouriotissa Mine tailings in 1993. Activity resumed in July 1996 when a solvent extraction-electrowinning plant designed to produce 8,000 metric tons per year was commissioned.

4/ Reported figure.

5/ About 4,000 metric tons per year of gypsum was calcined.

6/ Includes crushed aggregate.