

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF THE PHILIPPINES

By Travis Q. Lyday and Staff

The Republic of the Philippines, which is a developing democratic republic, is located just north of the equator about 1,100 kilometers (km) east of the coast of the mainland of Southeast Asia. The country is an archipelago that comprises 7,000 islands, of which fewer than 900 are inhabited by the country's 85 million people; the major islands are Luzon in the north, Visayas in the middle, and Mindanao in the south. In 2004, according to the International Monetary Fund (2005¹), the gross domestic product (GDP) of the Philippines based on purchasing power parity was estimated to be about \$383 billion, and the GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity was \$4,561.

The archipelago is within the Pacific "Rim of Fire," which is so-called because of the intense volcanic activity at the margins of the tectonic plates, and is well-known for epithermal gold, porphyry copper-gold, and volcanic-hosted massive sulfide deposits. In the recent past, the Philippines had been a significant producer of chromite, copper, gold, and nickel. In 2004, other important mineral commodities produced included coal, silver, and sulfur.

More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of the Philippines can be found in the 2002 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area reports—International—Asia and the Pacific.

Internet Reference Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2005 (September), Philippines, World Economic Outlook Database, accessed February 15, 2006, via URL <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2005/02/data/index.htm>.

¹A reference that includes a section mark (§) is found in the Internet Reference Cited section.

TABLE 1
PHILIPPINES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2000	2001 ^e	2002 ^e	2003 ^e	2004 ^e
METALS					
Chromium, chromite, gross weight	861	1,932 ³	2,000	2,600	2,500
Copper:					
Mine output, Cu content	129,768	20,322 ³	18,364 ³	20,414 ³	15,984 ³
Metal:					
Smelter	160,000	216,634 ³	137,800 ³	111,600 ³	108,000 ³
Refined	150,000	164,530 ³	144,315 ³	171,152 ³	174,628 ³
Gold, mine output, Au content	36,540	33,840 ³	35,850 ³	37,844 ^{r,3}	35,464 ³
Iron and steel, steel, crude ^e	530	530 ³	530	550	550
Lead, metal, secondary refined ^e	16,218 ³	24,000	24,000	24,000	25,000
Nickel, mine output, Ni content	17,388	23,100 ³	24,148 ³	19,537 ^{r,3}	16,973 ³
Silver, mine output, Ag content	23,534	33,600	8,800	9,533 ^{r,3}	9,315 ³
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic	11,959	8,653 ³	9,000	8,500	8,500
Clays:					
Bentonite	2,800	5,128 ³	5,500	5,500	5,500
Red	-- ^e	4,983 ³	5,000	5,000	5,000
White	1,598	5,111 ³	5,000	5,000	5,000
Other ^e	771 ³	800	800	800	800
Feldspar	3,440	33,122 ³	30,000	30,000	30,000
Lime ^e	9,000 ³	9,000	9,000	9,000	9,000
Perlite ^e	5,650 ³	6,000	6,000	6,000	6,000
Phosphate rock	434,000	450,000	400,000	400,000	400,000
Pyrite and pyrrhotite, including cuprous, gross weight ^f	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1--Continued
PHILIPPINES: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2000	2001 ^e	2002 ^e	2003 ^e	2004 ^e
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS--Continued					
Salt, marine	589,528	600,000	600,000	429,160 ³	430,000
Sand and gravel:					
Silica sand	170 ^r	170 ^r	170 ^r	170 ^r	170
Other ^{e,4}	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Stone: ^e					
Dolomite	823,302 ³	802,189 ³	800,000	750,000	750,000
Limestone ⁵	22,244 ³	23,000	20,000	16,432 ³	16,000
Marble, dimension, unfinished	14,804 ³	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Volcanic cinder	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000	2,000
Tuff	1,662 ³	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,500
Quartz	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000	50,000
Crushed, broken, other ⁶	2,684 ³	2,500	2,500	2,500	2,500
Sulfur, all forms ^e	134,000 ³	170,000	180,000	180,000	180,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal, all grades	1,218	1,230 ³	1,665 ³	2,029 ³	2,000
Petroleum:					
Crude	400 ^e	475 ³	2,020 ³	2,000	2,000
Refinery products: ^e					
Liquefied petroleum gas	5,500	6,000	25,200	25,200	25,200
Gasoline	18,500	19,000	79,800	79,800	80,800
Jet fuel	6,500	7,000	29,400	29,400	30,400
Kerosene	4,500	5,000	21,000	21,000	20,000
Distillate fuel oil	40,000	40,000	168,000	168,000	170,000
Residual fuel oil	47,000	47,000	215,000	215,000	215,000
Refinery fuel and losses	5,000	5,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Other	10,000	10,000	225,000	225,000	225,000
Total	137,000	139,000	993,000 ^r	993,000	996,000

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

¹Table includes data available through December 2005.

²In addition to the commodities listed, the Philippines produced platinum-group metals as byproducts of other metal production, but output was not reported quantitatively and no basis is available to make reliable estimates.

³Reported.

⁴Included "pebbles" and "soil" not further described.

⁵Excluded limestone for road construction.

⁶Included materials described as rock, crushed or broken; stones, cobbles, and boulders; rock aggregates; and broken adobe.