



2005 Minerals Yearbook

NEW ZEALAND

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF NEW ZEALAND

By Staff

New Zealand's economic minerals included metallic and industrial minerals and mineral fuels. Output of gold and silver dominated the metal mining sector. Coal mining and the production of a wide variety of industrial minerals, which ranged from bentonite to zeolite, were also important to New Zealand's economy. In 2005, a total of \$2.5 billion worth of metals, industrial minerals, and mineral fuels was mined and quarried. Owing to high commodity prices, coal production reached a decade-high level. The expenditure on exploration and development in the petroleum sector increased by 60% to \$738.4 million in 2005 and was expected to continue to increase during the next several years (Ministry of Economic Development, 2006).

The Crown Minerals Act 1991 sets the broad legislative policy for prospecting, exploration, and mining of Crown-owned (meaning Government-owned on behalf of all New Zealanders) minerals in New Zealand. In 2004, the Crown Minerals Business Plan outlined two strategic priorities of the Ministry of Economic Development—to improve the security of the energy supply and to promote regional economic development.

The Ministry completed the review of the minerals and fuel programs and planned to adjust regulations in a timely manner to address the needs of the rapidly changing mineral industry. The Government planned to develop an information system that would provide geotechnical information collected by Crown Minerals (Ministry of Economic Development, 2006).

Reference Cited

Ministry of Economic Development, 2006, Annual report 2005/2006: Wellington, New Zealand, Ministry of Economic Development, 28 p.

Major Source of Information

Ministry of Economic Development, Crown Minerals
33 Bowen St., Commerce Building
P.O. Box 1473
Wellington, New Zealand
Internet: <http://www.crownminerals.govt.nz>

TABLE 1
NEW ZEALAND: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2001 ^e	2002	2003	2004	2005
METALS					
Aluminum metal, smelter:					
Primary	322,300 ²	333,900	334,400	342,000 ^r	351,449
Secondary ^c	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500	21,500
Total ^e	343,800	355,400	355,900	363,500 ^r	372,949
Gold, mine output, Au content	9,885 ²	9,770	9,300	10,151	10,583
	kilograms				
Iron and steel:					
Iron sand, titaniferous magnetite, gross weight	1,636 ²	1,740	1,947	2,329	2,207
	thousand metric tons				
Pig iron ^c	600	600	600	650	590
	do.				
Steel, crude ^c	770 ²	750	800	850	813
	do.				
Lead, refinery output, secondary ^c	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000	10,000
Silver, mine output, Ag content	27,120 ²	28,720	29,920	30,084	43,003
	kilograms				
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic	1,080 ^r	1,000 ^r	1,080 ^r	1,100 ^r	1,050 ^e
	thousand metric tons				
Clays:					
Bentonite	10,000	7,800	10,940	10,050	7,590
Kaolin, pottery	15,000	17,200	14,770	15,500 ^r	15,750
For brick and tile	70,000	47,500	56,550	57,350	41,170
Diatomaceous earth	15	20	320	240	20
Lime ^e	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000	20,000
Marble ^e	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	116,900 ²	109,200	110,000 ^e	110,000 ^e	110,000 ^e
Perlite ³	2,200	7,050	5,000	5,600	7,310
Pumice	68,000	203,700	173,400	280,950	245,080
Salt ^e	70,000 ²	70,000	70,000	70,000	100,000
Sand and gravel:					
Silica sand, glass sand	47,500	60,150	48,400	60,080	65,350
Other industrial sand	660,000	575,700	2,207,190	1,753,140	1,574,050
For roads and ballast	18,000	18,522	18,500	21,720 ^r	24,712
	thousand metric tons				
For building aggregate	7,500	8,026	9,267	11,362	10,921
	do.				
Stone:					
Dolomite	47,500	24,720	21,920	12,000	--
Limestone and marl:					
For agriculture	2,000	2,472	2,557	1,913	2,594
	thousand metric tons				
For cement	1,600	1,697	1,652	1,839	1,741
	do.				
For other industrial uses	500	865	731	561	891
	do.				
Serpentine	51,500	61,300	68,960	60,880	62,320
Dimension	29,000	30,200	37,300	26,110	29,270
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal, all grades	3,911 ²	4,459	5,180	5,154	5,267
	thousand metric tons				
Liquefied petroleum gas	2,131 ^{r,2}	2,101 ^r	1,701 ^r	1,710 ^r	1,946
	thousand 42-gallon barrels				
Natural gas:					
Gross production	6,885 ^{r,2}	6,431 ^r	4,892 ^r	4,500 ^r	4,223
	million cubic meters				
Marketed production	6,251 ^{r,2}	6,431 ^r	4,492 ^r	4,114 ^r	3,911
	do.				
Petroleum:					
Crude	12,510 ^{r,2}	11,257 ^r	8,712 ^r	7,625 ^r	7,032
	thousand 42-gallon barrels				
Refinery products ^e	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000	34,000
	do.				

^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 January 15, 2007.

²Reported figure.

³Includes zeolite.