



2008 Minerals Yearbook

CAMBODIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CAMBODIA

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In 2008, Cambodia produced mainly industrial minerals. These included sand and gravel and crushed stone for domestic consumption by the construction industry, and limestone for cement production.

The Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy (MIME), which implements Cambodia's mineral law and policy, is the Government entity that leads the effort in promoting and developing the industrial sector in the country. The Department of Geology and Mines and the Department of Energy, which are both under the MIME, coordinate the development of the mineral sector. The Council for the Development of Cambodia is the Government agency that grants exploration licenses and mining licenses to investors. The mining licenses are granted upon success in the exploration phase; a master mining project plan is required as a condition for acquiring such a license (Investincambodia.com, 2009).

During 2008, the Department of Mineral Resources of Cambodia (which is also under the MIME) reported an increase in mineral production. Production of sand used as construction material increased to nearly 6.6 million metric tons in 2008 from about 330,000 metric tons (t) in 2007. The cement sector reported production of more than 770,000 t in 2008 compared with approximately 87,000 t in 2007. The increase in cement production was mainly attributable to the commissioning and operations of Cambodia's first major cement plant, which was located in the coastal Province of Kampot. The plant was a \$93 million investment between Khaou Chuly Group (a construction firm in Cambodia) and Siam Cement Group of Thailand, through the joint-venture Kampot Cement Co.

Kampot Cement expected to double its cement production capacity in 2009 and again in 2010 (table 1; Reuters.com, 2008).

Chevron Overseas Petroleum (Cambodia) Ltd. announced in late 2008 that it was intending to bring Cambodia's first oilfield onstream and begin production in 2009. The oilfield, Block A, was discovered in 2005 and is located 200 kilometers offshore. The main shareholders in this project were Chevron (55%), Mitsui & Co., Ltd. of Japan (30%), and GS Caltex Corp. of the Republic of Korea (15%) (Petroleum Economist, 2008).

Outlook

The mineral industry of Cambodia is likely to continue to be dominated by the production of industrial minerals. Increases in the production of industrial minerals are likely to depend on the performance of the projects that started recently in the country. The mining sector in Cambodia is at an early stage of development.

References Cited

- Investincambodia.com, 2009, Minerals: Invest in Cambodia. (Accessed January 27, 2010, at <http://www.investincambodia.com/minerals.htm>.)
 Petroleum Economist, 2008, Cambodia: Petroleum Economist, v. 75, no. 12, December, p. 37.
 Reuters.com, 2008, Cambodia opens first big cement plant: Reuters, January 14. (Accessed May 5, 2009, at <http://www.reuters.com/article/idUSBK572520080114>.)

TABLE 1
CAMBODIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Cement	--	--	--	86,990	772,029
Gravel	--	22,500	45,625	36,250 ^r	37,500 ^e
Laterite, blocks	118,400	--	--	312,718 ^r	454,750
Salt	40,000	--	59,000 ^r	76,651 ^r	78,000 ^e
Sand, construction material	363,700	763,900	2,043,500	329,028 ^r	6,581,500
Stone:					
Crude construction material	501,600	1,079,400	676,832 ^r	1,433,086 ^r	2,039,336
Limestone	--	--	--	1,000,000 ^e	1,000,000 ^e

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through March 4, 2010.

²In addition to the commodities listed, clay, gemstones, gold, and iron ore are presumably produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

Source: Cambodia's Ministry of Industry, Mines and Energy, General Department of Mineral Resources; U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Questionnaires for Cambodia 2003-08.

TABLE 2
CAMBODIA: STRUCTURE OF MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2008

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^c
Cement		Kampot Cement Co. Ltd. (a joint-venture of Khaou Chuly Group of Cambodia and Siam Cement Group of Thailand)	Touk Meas District, Kampot Province	1,000
Gemstones	carat	Jirech International Cambodia Construction and Import-Export Co. Ltd.	Anlong Krapeu-Preak Bey, Samlot District, Batdambang Province	NA
Do.		Seoul Digem Cambodia Co. Ltd.	Loamphat District, Ratanah Kiri Province	NA
Do.		Sonuba Cahm Industries Co. Ltd.	Phnom Trop, Pailin City	NA
Do.		Ultra Marine Kiri (Cambodia) Ltd.	Pating Thom Village, Ting Chak Commune, Borkeo District, Ratanah Kiri Province	NA
Do.		do.	Sen Chauv, Samlot District, Batdambang Province	NA
Granite		TTY-RITHYMEXICO	Svay Chreas District, Kracheh Province	NA
Limestone		Kampot Cement Co. Ltd.	Tatung, Kampot Province	1,500
Do.		Thai Boon Roon Cement Co. Ltd.	Phnom Laang Laan Commune, Donghtung District, Kampot Province	NA
Do.		United International (Cambodia) Foreign Investment Group Co. Ltd.	East Touk Meas, Banteay Meas District, Kampot Province	NA

^cEstimated. Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.