



2009 Minerals Yearbook

LITHUANIA [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LITHUANIA

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Lithuania's main mineral commodity production enterprises were its nitrogen fertilizer enterprise Achema AB in Jonava and its petroleum refinery AB Orlen Lietuva near Mazeikai. The country also produced industrial mineral products, which included cement, clays, and sand and gravel, and mineral fuels, which included peat and crude petroleum. The country's Port of Klaipeda was a transshipment center for mineral products, and crude oil was transported from the Butinge oil terminal to the Orlen Lietuva refinery.

Lithuania had the Baltic States' only nuclear powerplant at Ignalina; the plant was of the Reactor Bolshoi Moschnosti Kanalnyi-2 (RBMK-2) model—the same Soviet-era nuclear reactor model that was involved in the accident at the Chernobyl plant in Ukraine. The Ignalina nuclear powerplant originally consisted of two reactor units, which Lithuania learned that it would be required to close when its application to join the European Union was accepted in 1999. The Government closed unit 1 in December 2004. On December 31, 2009, the Government closed unit 2, which eliminated the country's domestic nuclear power electricity generation capacity. The two reactors had been reliant on nuclear fuel from Russia. The second unit at Ignalina had been supplying more than 70% of Lithuania's electricity (World Nuclear News, 2010).

Lietuvos Energija AB, which was the country's state-owned owned electric utility, indicated that Lithuania was prepared for the plant's closure. According to Lietuvos Energija, the country's demand for electricity in 2010 was expected to be about 9.1 terawatt-hours, of which more than one-half would be generated by domestic electric powerplants and the remainder would be imported, primarily from Belarus, Estonia, Latvia, Russia, and Ukraine, with which it had signed contracts. Possibilities also were being pursued to import electricity from the Scandinavian countries (World Nuclear News, 2010).

Lithuania wanted to continue using nuclear power and had proposed constructing a new nuclear powerplant at Visaginas near Ignalina, with the participation of Estonia, Latvia, and Poland. The first reactor of the new two-reactor-unit plant could come online in 2018. Each reactor would have a capacity of up to 1,700 megawatts. The project partners in the construction of the new plant, along with Lietuvos Energija,

were Eesti Energia AS of Estonia, Latvenergo AS of Latvia, and Polska Grupa Energetyczna S.A. of Poland (World Nuclear News, 2010).

Production

In 2009, Lithuania's gross domestic product (GDP) decreased at an estimated rate of 14.9% compared with that of 2008 in the wake of the global economic downturn (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2011). In 2009, production of nonfuel mineral commodities decreased significantly, reflecting the sharp downturn in the GDP. Production of mineral fuels, however, experienced far less significant decreases and, in the case of peat, production increased. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Lithuania had privatized almost all formerly state-owned enterprises, and more than 79% of the economy's output was produced by the private sector. The private sector employed more than 65% of the country's workforce. In 2009, major companies still under state ownership that could be privatized were Lithuanian Railways and Lithuanian Post (U.S. Department of State, 2010). The Ignalina nuclear powerplant was a state-owned enterprise (Ignalina Nuclear Power Plant, 2008).

References Cited

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TABLE 1
LITHUANIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
Cement	832,076	1,065,367	1,105,365	1,075,581	583,100
Common clays and shales for construction use	289,465	385,275	384,850	624,470	246,398
Crushed granite	891,000	874,000	846,000	810,000	NA
Crushed stone used for concrete aggregates, for roadstone and for other construction use	4,752,041	5,247,978	6,401,662 ^r	6,896,987	2,426,773
Dolomite, crude (excluding calcined, crushed dolomite aggregate)	7,196	10,455	2,131	4,752	187
Granules, chippings, and powder of stones, excluding marble	4,316	10,390	21,885	15,538	6,222
Limestone	1,242,200	1,776,300	1,754,000	1,625,089	858,411
Peat:					
Horticultural use	536,000	471,000 ^r	307,000 ^r	521,000	542,500
Fuel use	68,000	50,000	15,000	15,000 ^e	15,000 ^e
Petroleum:					
Crude	216,634	180,894	154,449	127,658	115,000
Refinery products	8,518,500	7,709,800	5,263,500	8,814,800	8,012,300
Sand and gravel:					
Construction sand	3,689,217	4,342,743	5,085,839 ^r	5,055,172	2,388,786
Gravel, pebbles, shingle and flint	3,345,185	3,290,568	4,095,713 ^r	4,414,239	1,551,971
Silica sand, industrial	46,500	42,600	45,400	38,300	41,200
Sulfur	74,277	61,135	42,618	73,870	69,995
Sulfuric acid kilograms	713,200	730,253	747,494	686,629	314,000

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. NA Not available.

¹Table includes data available through January 17, 2011.