2010 Minerals Yearbook

ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN

U.S. Department of the Interior
U.S. Geological Survey

July 2012

The Mineral Industries of the Islands of the Caribbean

Aruba, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, and Other Islands

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ARUBA

In 2010, Aruba, a constituent country of the Netherlands, was not a significant mineral producing country. The Aruba refinery (owned by Valero Energy Corp. of Texas), which had been a regional supplier of petroleum derivatives, was idled in 2009 but restarted operations in January 2011. The refinery had a throughput volume of about 235,000 barrels per year (bbl/yr) and accounted for about 9% of Valero Corp.'s total estimated throughput capacity. The operation was halted as demand for motor fuels had decreased during the global economic downturn of 2008–9 and profits diminished as the gross refining margin narrowed (Valero Energy Corp., 2011, p. 3).

The 2010 year-on-year real gross domestic product (GDP) of Aruba decreased by about 3.7% compared with a decrease of 10.5% in 2009 and 0.1% in 2008 after positive GDP growth rates for most years since at least 1991 that varied between 1.1% and 7.8%. The decrease in 2010 was attributable to slowed activity in the construction, manufacturing (including petroleum processing), and tourism sectors. In 2010, 56% of the total value of merchandise exported from Aruba was accounted for by petroleum sector goods (compared with 94% in 2009), and 18% of the total value of merchandise received by Aruba was accounted for by oil sector imports (compared with 9% in 2009) (Centrale Bank van Aruba, 2010, p. x, 10, 103).

In June 2010, the Government of Aruba implemented a new tax regime for Valero's Aruba refinery and terminal operations that requires the company to pay a 7% windfall profits tax but not a dividends withholding tax. All imports and exports are to be exempt from the turnover tax (a tax applied to a product at a specific stage of production) and throughput fees (a fee per volume of product moved through the terminal), but beginning in Ju1y 2012, the company was to begin paying a minimum annual tax of $10 million (Valero Energy Corp., 2011, p. 90).

References Cited

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JAMAICA

In 2010, Jamaica was estimated to be the world's sixth ranked producer of bauxite behind Australia, China, Brazil, India, and Guinea. United Company RUSAL (RUSAL) of Russia was the majority owner of two alumina refineries in St. Catherine—the Alumina Partners of Jamaica (ALPART) refinery (65%) and the West Indies Alumina Co. (Windalco) refinery (93%). Both plants had been idled in 2009 because of decreased international prices and demand combined with the high cost of supplying energy to the alumina refineries. In June 2010, operations recommenced at the Windalco plant, but the ALPART plant remained closed throughout the year. The combined capacity of the two Bayer process plants was about 2.9 million metric tons (Mt) (Bray, 2011; United Company RUSAL, 2011, p. 12, 18, 34).

Minerals in the National Economy

Compared with that of 2009, the value contribution of the mining and quarrying sector to the nominal GDP of Jamaica increased in 2010 by about 41% to $8.96 billion, which accounted for just 1% of the country's GDP. The increase was attributable to the recommencement of operations at the Windalco refinery. The mining and quarrying sector had accounted for between 3% and 4% of the GDP each year from 2002 through 2008 (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2011a).

Production

Data on mineral production are in table 1. The production volume of Jamaica's primary mineral commodities in 2010 changed little compared with that of 2009 because both of RUSAL's refineries remained closed for the first half of 2010.

Mineral Trade

In 2010, the combined value of exports of alumina, bauxite, and gypsum accounted for about 42% of the total value of domestic exports compared with 36% in 2009. The value of mineral fuel exports accounted for about 23% of the total export value. Of the total value of imports received by Jamaica in 2010, mineral fuels accounted for about 30% compared with 28% in 2009 (Statistical Institute of Jamaica, 2011a–c).

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TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

In 2010, the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago was a crude oil and natural gas producer, and its economy was dependent upon the hydrocarbon sector. The country's energy sector experienced moderate growth whereas nonenergy sector growth continued to decrease but at a slower rate than in 2009. The increased performance in the energy sector was primarily attributed to increased output of natural gas and petrochemicals. Crude oil production, however, decreased (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 2011a, p. 6).

Minerals in the National Economy

According to the Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, the country's year-on-year real GDP was estimated to have increased by 0.1% compared with a decrease of 3.5% in 2009. The real value added in the energy sector's share of the GDP increased by 3.0% whereas that of the nonenergy sector decreased by 1.9%. As a percentage of the GDP, exports accounted for 50.3% of the country's balance of payments. The value contributed to the balance of payments from exports was about $7.7 billion, of which about $6.4 billion, or 84%, was from the export of energy products (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 2011a, p. 12).

Production

In 2010, production of crude oil decreased by about 18% compared with that of 2009. The decrease was attributable in part to maintenance shutdowns at BHP Billiton Ltd. of Australia's offshore petroleum production facilities during the last quarter of 2010. Refinery output decreased by about 13% because of flooding at a power station that supplied electricity to the Point á Pierre refinery (which was owned by Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd.). The flooding resulted in a shutdown of the refinery and a 19.7% decrease in refinery throughput from July to November compared with that of the same time period in 2009. Production of natural gas liquids increased by about 20% in 2010 compared with that of 2009. The increase was attributed, in part, to a 6.3% increase in production from July to November at Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd. of Port of Spain compared with the same period in 2009. Production of cement decreased by 10%, which was attributable to a decrease in construction sector activity during the year. (The construction sector's share of the GDP in 2010 decreased by an estimated 9%.) Domestic sales of cement were estimated to have decreased by about 23%. Data on mineral production are in table 1 (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 2011b, p. 13–14).

Mineral Trade

In 2010, exports of refinery products decreased by about 26% to 35 million barrels (Mbbl) compared with those of 2009, and exports of crude oil decreased by about 6% to 17 Mbbl. About 17 Mbbl of exported natural gas liquids was produced by Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd. About 6 Mt of methanol (which was about 1% greater than the volume that was produced), 5.3 Mt of ammonia, and 676,000 metric tons (t) of urea were exported in 2010. The volume of direct-reduced iron (DRI) exported during the first three quarters of 2010 was estimated to have doubled compared with that of the same period in 2009 (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 2011a, p. 17; Ministry of Energy and Energy Affairs, 2011, p. 16–17, 19–20).

Commodity Review

Metals

Iron and Steel.—Activity in the iron and steel sector of Trinidad and Tobago was strongly affected by the economic downturn of 2008 and 2009 but began to recover in 2010 as regional and global demand for iron and steel products increased. During the first three quarters of 2010, production of DRI increased by 74.8% compared with that of the same period in 2009, but for the entire year of 2010, production of DRI increased by 48% to about 1.7 Mt compared with that of 2009. Crude steel production increased by 37% in 2010 to about 572,000 t, and billet production decreased by about 13% to 361,000 t. The overall increased production of iron and steel contributed to the increased natural gas pipeline utilization rates (the measure of flow per design capacity of the pipeline) as the fuel was consumed at iron and steel plants (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 2011a, p. 17).

Mineral Fuels

Petroleum.—Production of crude oil continued to decrease in 2010 as operators tried to maintain production rates from the country's mature oilfields and BHP Billiton proceeded with infrastructure improvements in late 2010 and into 2011. Production from January through November decreased by 7.3% compared with the same period in 2009 and was less than 100,000 barrels per day for the first time in decades, which resulted in a decrease in exports for the same period (Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago, 2011c, p. 4, 16, 17).

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OTHER ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN

The Netherlands Antilles, which had been composed of Bonaire, Curacao, Saba, Sint Eustatius, and Sint Maarten, was dissolved on October 1, 2010. Curacao and Sint Maarten became autonomous territories of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. Bonaire, Saba, and Sint Eustatius were henceforth to be directly under the administration of the Kingdom of the Netherlands. The Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS) was composed of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, Grenada, Montserrat, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines. The economies of the other islands of the Caribbean did not depend upon domestic mineral production for purposes of trade or economic growth, and mineral production data were unavailable (U.S. Department of State, 2011).

In 2009 (the most recent year for which data were available), the percentage of real GDP that was accounted for by the mining and quarrying sectors of the OECS countries ranged from a minimum of 0.2% in St. Kitts and Nevis to a maximum of 2.7% in Antigua and Barbuda. During the period from 2000 through 2009, the percentage share in the GDP of the mining and quarrying sector in most countries varied little or not at all (usually only between about 0.1% and 0.2% in a given year) with the exception of Anguilla, Antigua and Barbuda, and Montserrat where the sector's share of the GDP began to increase in the early- to mid-2000s to between about 1% and 3%. Most of the sector's output in all countries was accounted for by quarry production for local use, such as for roads and construction materials. Significant increases in output in some countries may have been owing to increases in tourism industry construction projects (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, 2011).

According to the OECS, the value added in mining and quarrying decreased by 30.0% in Anguilla to $6.2 million and in Saint Kitts and Nevis to $1.4 million compared with that of 2009; by 29.0% in Grenada to $5.3 million; by 15.0% in Antigua and Barbuda to $46.1 million; by 11.1% in Saint Lucia to $6.1 million; by 8.4% in Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to $2.2 million; and by 8.3% in Dominica to $4.2 million. The value increased by 8.3% in Montserrat to $1.7 million. Data were not available for the British Virgin Islands. Large year-on-year percentage changes are not necessarily attributable to large increases or decreases in production because the total dollar values derived from mining and quarrying activity was relatively small (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States, 2011).

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TABLE 1

ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1, 2]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity[3]		2006	2007	2008	2009	2010[e]
ARUBA						
Petroleum, refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	62,000	67,400	56,700	35,767	--
Sulfur, byproduct of petroleum		50,000	97,657	81,269	65,000	--
BAHAMAS, THE						
Salt		1,151,547	882,300	1,024,400	1,000,000	1,000,000
Stone, argonite		1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100	1,100
BARBADOS						
Cement:						
Hydraulic		337,801	316,467	301,427	300,000	300,000
Clinker		290,000	290,000	290,000	290,000	290,000
Clay and shale		145,000	145,000	145,000	145,000	145,000
Limestone		1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000	1,900,000
Natural gas:						
Gross	million cubic meters	23	21	15	16	16
Marketed	do.	12	12	12	12	12
Petroleum, crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	343	293	290	300	300
Sand[e]		500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000	500,000
GUADELOUPE[e]						
Cement		230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Limestone		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Pumice		210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000	210,000
Salt		49,000	49,000	49,000	49,000	49,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 1—Continued

ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES[1, 2]

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity[3]		2006	2007	2008	2009[e]	2010[e]
JAMAICA						
Bauxite and alumina:						
Bauxite, dry equivalent, gross weight	thousand metric tons	14,851 [r]	14,588 [r]	14,697 [r]	7,817 [r]	8,540
Alumina	do.	4,100	3,941	3,996	1,774 [r]	1,591 [4]
Cement, hydraulic		762,912 [r]	773,570 [r]	742,529 [r]	742,208	740,000
Clay		11,687	663,844	101,198	NA	NA
Gypsum		364,432	227,697	238,274	230,000	230,000
Lime		303,795	276,800	312,669	300,000	300,000
Petroleum refinery products:						
Fuel oil	thousand 42-gallon barrels	165,163	179,868	175,000	175,000	175,000
Gasoline	do.	47,217	45,007	45,000	45,000	45,000
Jet fuel	do.	21,599	17,819	17,000	17,000	17,000
Diesel oil	do.	68,004	62,562	62,000	62,000	62,000
Pozzolan		149,279	114,482	124,304	124,000	124,000
Salt[e]		19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000	19,000
Sand and gravel		2,760	3,611	2,985	3,000	3,000
Shale, for cement		180,036	168,354	200,301	175,000	175,000
Silica sand		9,567	14,460	14,818	14,000	14,000
Stone:						
Limestone	thousand metric tons	2,801	2,950	2,527	2,200	2,200
Marble, cut and (or) polished[e]		120	120	120	NA	NA
Marl and fill	thousand metric tons	3,001	3,228	2,740 [r]	2,500	2,500
MARTINIQUE[e]						
Cement, hydraulic		221,000	221,000	221,000	221,000	221,000
Lime		5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Petroleum refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800	4,800
Pumice		130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000	130,000
Salt		200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000	200,000
SAINT KITTS AND NEVIS[e]						
Sand and gravel		223,000	223,000	223,000	223,000	223,000
Stone, crushed		131,000	131,000	131,000	131,000	131,000
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO						
Asphalt, natural[e]		16,200	16,200	16,200	16,200 [4]	16,200
Cement, hydraulic		883,000	901,000 [r, 4]	957,700 [r, 4]	870,000 [r, 4]	784,000
Iron and steel:						
Direct-reduced iron		2,071,500	2,063,800	1,601,000 [r]	1,182,000 [r]	1,752,000 [4]
Steel, crude		674,000	682,000	489,000	417,000 [r]	572,000
Semimanufactures, billets		673,000	694,600	489,600 [r]	417,000 [r]	361,000
Natural gas, gross:[5]	million cubic meters	40,082	41,766	40,000	42,903	44,565 [4]
Natural gas liquids	thousand 42-gallon barrels	11,251	12,500	12,500	14,400	17,222 [4]
Nitrogen, N content of anhydrous ammonia		5,110,500	5,129,300	5,100,000	4,945,900	5,553,242 [4]
Petroleum:						
Crude	thousand 42-gallon barrels	52,105	43,600	43,799	40,821	33,665 [4]
Refinery products	do.	57,585	56,100	50,800	53,300	46,167 [4]
Urea		688,300	709,637 [4]	700,000	700,000	708,760 [4]

[e]Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. [r]Revised. do. Ditto. NA Not available.

[1]Table includes data available through November 1, 2011.

[2]Netherlands Antilles was dissolved in 2010.

[3]In addition to the commodities listed, Trinidad and Tobago also produces limestone, secondary refined lead, and sulfur (byproduct of petroleum).

[4]Reported figure.

[5]Marketed natural gas is no longer reported.

TABLE 2
ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2010

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
ARUBA[1]			
Petroleum, refinery 42-gallon barrels per day	Valero Energy Corp.	Southern Aruba	235,000
BAHAMAS, THE			
Petroleum, refinery thousand 42-gallon barrels	Bahamas Oil Refining Company International Ltd. (BORCO) (First Reserve Corp., 80%)	Storage facilities, Freeport	20,000
BARBADOS			
Cement	Arawak Cement Company Ltd. (Trinidad Cement Ltd.)	Checker Hall, Saint Lucy	300,000
CURACAO[2]			
Petroleum, refinery 42-gallon barrels per day	Isla Oil Refinery (Petroleos de Venezuela S.A., 100%)	Willemstad	320,000
Do. do.	Refinería Dominicana de Petróleo S.A. (Government, 50%, and Shell International Petroleum Company Ltd., 50%)	Haina Port	34,000
JAMAICA			
Alumina	Alumina Partners of Jamaica (ALPART) (United Company RUSAL, 65%, and Hydro Aluminium Jamaica, 35%)	Refinery, Nain, St. Elizabeth	1,650,000
Do.	West Indies Alumina Co. (WINDALCO) (United Company RUSAL, 93%, and Government, 7%)	Ewarton Works refinery, Saint Catherine	650,000
Do.	do.	Kirkvine Works refinery, Manchester	600,000
Do.	Jamaica Aluminum Co. (Jamalco) (Alcoa World Alumina and Chemicals, 55%, and Government, 45%)	Refinery at Halse Hall, Clarendon, 70 kilometers west of Kingston	1,480,000
Bauxite	St. Ann Bauxite Company Ltd. (Noranda Aluminum Holding Corp., 49%, and Government., 51%)	Bauxite mine, Discovery Bay	4,500,000
Do.	Jamaica Aluminum Co. (Jamalco) (Alcoa World Alumina and Chemicals, 55%, and Government, 45%)	Bauxite mine, Manchester	3,700,000
Do.	West Indies Alumina Co. (WINDALCO) (United Company RUSAL, 93%, and Government, 7%)	Bauxite mine in Schwallenburgh, Ewarton	2,300,000
Do.	do.	Bauxite mine, Russell Place	2,000,000
Do.	Alumina Partners of Jamaica (ALPART) (United Company RUSAL, 65%, and Hydro Aluminium Jamaica, 35%)	Bauxite mine, Nain, St. Elizabeth	5,000,000
Petroleum, refinery 42-gallon barrels per day	Petrojam Ltd. (Government, 100%)	Kingston Port	36,000
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO			
Ammonia	Tringen I (Government, 51%, and Norsk Hydro ASA through Hydro Agri Trinidad Ltd., 49%)	Point Lisas Industrial Estate	500,000
Do.	Tringen II (Government, 51%, and Norsk Hydro ASA through Hydro Agri Trinidad Ltd., 49%)	do.	454,000
Do.	YARA Trinidad Ltd. (Government, 51%, and Norsk Hydro ASA through Hydro Agri Trinidad Ltd., 49%)	do.	227,000
Do.	PCS Nitrogen (Trinidad) Ltd. (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Inc., 100%), of which:	do.	1,758,000
	Plant 1		(454,000)
	Plant 2		(454,000)
	Plant 3		(250,000)
	Plant 4		(600,000)
Do.	Caribbean Nitrogen Company I (a consortium of Clico Energy Company Ltd., Ferrostaal AG, Duke Energy Corp., BOG Resources Inc., and Kellogg, Brown, and Root)	do.	660,000

See footnotes at end of table.

TABLE 2—Continued
ISLANDS OF THE CARIBBEAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2010

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO—Continued				
Ammonia—Continued		Caribbean Nitrogen Company II (a consortium of Clico Energy Company Ltd., Ferrostaal AG, Duke Energy Corp., BOG Resources Inc., and Kellogg, Brown, and Root)	Point Lisas Industrial Estate	660,000
Do.		Point Lisas Nitrogen Ltd. (formerly Farmland Misschem) (Mississippi Chemicals, 50%, and KOCH Minerals Services LLC, 50%)	do.	600,000
Iron and steel		Mittal Steel Point Lisas Ltd. (formerly Caribbean Ispat Ltd.) (Mittal Steel Group), of which:	Point Lisas, Couvas	2,200,000
		Direct-reduced iron pellets		(900,000)
		Billets		(700,000)
		Wire rods		(600,000)
Liquefied natural gas		Atlantic LNG Company of Trinidad and Tobago Train 1 (BP Trinidad and Tobago LLC, 34%; British Gas Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., 26%; Repsol YPF, S.A., 20%; Tractobel Trinidad LNG Corp, 10%; National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, 10%)	Point Fortin	NA
Do.		Trains 2 and 3 (BP Trinidad and Tobago LLC, 42.5%; British Gas Trinidad Ltd., 32.5%; Repsol YPF, S.A., 25%)	do.	NA
Do.		Train 4 (BP Trinidad and Tobago LLC, 37.7%; British Gas Trinidad and Tobago Ltd., 28.89%; Repsol YPF, S.A., 22.22%; National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, 11.11%)	do.	NA
Methanol		Trinidad and Tobago Methanol Company I (CIL Financial, Ferrostaal AG, Helm AG, GE Capital Group)	do.	500,000
Do.		Trinidad and Tobago Methanol Company II (Trinidad and Tobago Methanol Co., 100%)	do.	500,000
Do.		Caribbean Methanol Company Ltd. (two plants) (Clico Energy Company Ltd., a subsidiary of a local insurance conglomerate, Ferrostaal AG, and Methanex Corp.)	do.	1,050,000
Do.		Atlas plant (Methanex Corp., 100%)	do.	NA
Do.		New Methanol Holdings M5 Plant	do.	NA
Natural gas liquids	42-gallon barrels per day	Phoenix Park Gas Processors Ltd. (National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago, 51%)	Port of Spain	33,500
Petroleum:				
Refinery	do.	Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. (Petrotin) (Government, 100%)	Pointe-a-Pierre	175,000
Crude	do.	BHP Billiton Ltd.	Angosture oilfield	4,745,000
Urea		PCS Nitrogen Trinidad Ltd. (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan, Inc., 100%)	do.	530,000

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

[1]A semiautonomous part of the Netherlands.

[2]When the Netherlands Antilles dissolved on October 10, 2010, Curacao became a semiautonomous part of the Netherlands.