



2011 Minerals Yearbook

ALBANIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ALBANIA

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Albania's significant mineral deposits included chromite, copper, limestone, and petroleum. In 2011, Albania's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 2%. In 2010 (the most recent year for which data were available), industrial production made up about 10.5% of the GDP, and the mineral extraction industry accounted for about 12% of the value of industrial production and about 1% of the GDP (Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Albania, 2012; International Monetary Fund, 2012, p. 194).

Production

Data on mineral production in Albania in 2011 were mostly unavailable, and all production data for almost all mineral commodities in 2011 were estimated. Production of copper ore increased by 118%; ferrochromium, by 24%; and kaolin, by 23%. No information was available as to why production of these mineral commodities increased so significantly. Cement output was estimated to have increased by about 38% because 2011 was the first full year of operation for Antea Cement Sh.A.'s cement plant after it was inaugurated in September 2010. Crude oil production was estimated to have increased by 24% mainly because of increased production by Bankers Petroleum Ltd. In 2011, Bankers increased production by 33%, to 13,051 barrels per day (bbl/d) owing to its drilling and well reactivation program. On March 31, Bankers purchased the exclusive right to operate the Patos-Marinza oilfield from Albpetrol Sh.A. for \$34 million. More than 140 wells in the Patos-Marinza oilfield produced 400 bbl/d of crude oil. Lignite production reportedly decreased by 52%, but no information was available to explain the reason for the decrease (Antea Cement Sh.A., 2010; Bankers Petroleum Ltd., 2012a, p. 2, 20; 2012b).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

As of December 2009, 832 outstanding permits for prospecting, exploration, and mining were reported; 680 of these permits were for mining. Out of the 832 outstanding permits,

the largest number were for limestone (282 permits), chromite (262 permits), and iron-nickel and nickel-silicate (37 permits). In December, the Government of Albania announced that it would privatize 100% of Albpetrol through an international tender. A previous attempt to sell 76% of Albpetrol was unsuccessful. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities (National Agency of Natural Resources of Albania, 2010, p. 9; Koleka, 2011).

Outlook

Albania has the potential to increase its production of metals and mineral fuels as exploration projects continue and as foreign companies increase investments in Albania. Further investment will depend on economic and social stability as well as on the improvement of infrastructure.

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TABLE 1
ALBANIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2007	2008	2009 ^c	2010 ^c	2011 ^c	
METALS						
Chromite, gross weight (18% to 42% Cr ₂ O ₃)	199,771	207,104	288,759 ³	289,687 ³	290,000	
Copper:						
Ore, gross weight	98,000	105,000	114,286 ³	156,212 ³	160,000	
Cu content or ore (1.3% to 2.5%) ^e	1,900	2,000	2,300	3,100	3,200	
Iron and steel:						
Metal, ferroalloys, ferrochromium	--	11,916	7,556 ³	8,000	8,000	
Steel:						
Crude steel, secondary	263,271	380,000	440,000 ³	440,000	440,000	
Rolled steel	136,000	194,000	216,000 ³	216,000	220,000	
Iron-nickel and nickel-silicate ores ⁴	369,559	353,290	350,000	350,000	350,000	
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement, hydraulic	thousand metric tons	889	918 ^e	1,110	1,300	1,800
Clay, kaolin	do.	856	724	296 ³	968 ³	970
Gypsum		46,200	77,633	78,000	80,000	80,000
Limestone	cubic meters	1,716,122	3,837,529	3,800,000	3,800,000	3,800,000
Salt ^e		25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Silica sand	cubic meters	4,400	12,077	12,000	12,000	12,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Coal, lignite		4,000	1,500	7,840	3,500 ³	3,500
Gas, natural, gross production	thousand cubic meters	10,400	6,200	7,900	8,000	8,000
Petroleum:						
Crude, gross weight ^e	thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,580	4,000	4,200	5,000	6,200
Refinery products:						
Bitumen		69,000	92,000	92,000	92,000	92,000
Coke		59,000	47,000	47,000	47,000	47,000
Fuels ^e	thousand 42-gallon barrels	2,010	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400

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

¹Table includes data available through June 29, 2012.

²In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of industrial minerals and construction materials (common clay, dolomite, lime, olivinite, sand and gravel, and stone) were thought to have been produced, but output is not reported quantitatively, and available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output. Also, a small amount of bauxite may have been produced.

³Reported figure.

⁴Iron-nickel and nickel-silicate ore production were not reported separately. Estimates of metal content of ores were not made owing to the significant variations of the iron and nickel content of the ores, which depend not only on the type of ore, but also on the region in which it was mined. Iron-nickel ores were reported to contain from 37.22% to 44.72% Fe and from 0.97% to 1.07% Ni; nickel-silicate ores were reported to contain from 16.6% to 21.73% Fe and from 1.06% to 1.2% Ni.

TABLE 2
ALBANIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2011

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^e
Cement	Fushe Kruje Cement Factory, Sh.p.k. (Seament Holding)	Fushe Kruje, 35 kilometers north of Tirana	1,320
Do.	Elbasan Cement Factory (Seament Holding)	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana	775
Do.	Antea Cement Sh.A. (Titan Cement S.A.)	Kruje, 35 kilometers north of Tirana	1,500
Do.	Colacem Albania Sh.p.k. (Colacem S.p.A.)	Balldre, northwest Albania	NA ¹
Chromite	Albanian Chrome, Sh.p.k. (ACR) (DCM DECOmetal, 100%)	Mine in Bulquize, 40 kilometers northwest of Tirana	85
Do.	do.	Pogradeç (including Katjell and Pojske Mines)	NA
Do.	Numerous small producers	Mostly concentrated near Bulquize	NA
Ferrochromium	Albanian Chrome Sh.p.k. (ACR) (DCM DECOmetal, 100%)	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana	36
Lime	Kurum International Sh.p.k.	Elbasan	36
Natural gas	million cubic meters Albpetrol Sh.a. (Government owned)	Gasfields in southwestern Albania	NA
Do.	do. Stream Oil and Gas Ltd.	Delvina gas field in southern Albania	NA
Petroleum:			
Crude	42-gallon barrels per day do.	Ballsh-Hekal, Cakran-Mollaj, and Gorishtë-Kocul oilfields in southwest Albania	820 ²
Do.	do. Bankers Petroleum Ltd.	Oilfields at Kucova and Patos Marinza, east of Fier in south-central Albania	13,100 ²
Refined	do. Albanian Refining and Marketing Organization Sh.a. (ARMO)	Refineries at Ballsh and Fier	NA
Steel	Kurum International Sh.p.k.	Electric arc furnace plant at Elbasan	600

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

¹Construction of the Colacem Albania Sh.p.k. cement plant began in 2009, but it was not known if construction was completed or if production began at the plant.

²Annual capacity estimated based on 2011 production.