



# 2011 Minerals Yearbook

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## KOSOVO

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF KOSOVO

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On February 17, 2008, the Serbian Province of Kosovo declared its independence after having been under the administration of the United Nations' Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo since 1999. Kosovo had deposits of aggregates and construction minerals, bauxite, chromium, lead and zinc, lignite, magnesite, nickel, and silver. Almost all industry activities stopped in the late 1990s during fighting between ethnic Albanian guerilla groups and Serbian security forces, but production of most mineral commodities increased significantly in the past decade (Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, 2005).

## Minerals in the National Economy

The International Monetary Fund reported that, in 2011, Kosovo's real gross domestic product increased by 5% compared with that of 2010. Mineral commodities, including industrial minerals, and ferronickel, lead, and zinc, were an important source of export revenue for Kosovo's economy and were the leading export and import goods. Exports of base metals and articles of base metals continued to be the leading export category, in terms of value, and totaled about €190.1 million (\$136.9 million<sup>1</sup>), or about 60.8% of the total value of all exports. The value of base-metal exports increased by 2.6% compared with that of 2010. The value of exports of mineral products decreased by 0.5% to about €38.6 million (\$27.8 million) and made up 12.4% of total exports ("mineral products" included industrial minerals, mineral fuels, and metal ores, but not processed metals). Mineral products were the leading import category and were valued at about €538.1 million (\$387.4 million) and made up 21.7% of the total value of imports (Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, 2012, p. 14, 86–87; International Monetary Fund, 2012, p. 194).

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<sup>1</sup>Where necessary, values have been converted from euro area euros (€) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at the rate of €0.72=US\$1.00.

## Production

Production of clay increased by 45%; limestone, by 26%; and lead-zinc ore, by 21%. Ferronickel production was estimated to have increased by 125% owing to investments made in Ferronikeli by Cunico Resources NV. Ferronikeli also increased imports of higher grade nickel ores from Indonesia and the Philippines to help increase production. Sand and gravel output decreased by 33%; zinc content of concentrate, by 27%; silica sand, by 22%; nickel content of nickel ore, by 15%; and marl and lead content of concentrate, by 14% each (table 1; Casule and Bytyci, 2010).

## Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

## Outlook

Kosovo is expected to remain a modest producer of mineral commodities but is likely to continue to increase production as the economy develops and further repairs are made to infrastructure damaged in the conflict in the late 1990s. Further development of the Trepca Complex could make Kosovo a regionally significant producer of lead and zinc, but major investments would be necessary to accomplish this.

## References Cited

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- Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, 2012, Monthly statistics bulletin—December 2011: Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, no. 124, March, 110 p. (Accessed April 12, 2012, at [http://www.bqk-kos.org/repository/docs/2012/MSB no 124.pdf](http://www.bqk-kos.org/repository/docs/2012/MSB%20no%20124.pdf).)
- Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, 2005, Mineral deposits: Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals. (Accessed April 12, 2012, at <http://www.kosovo-mining.org/kosovoweb/en/mining/minerals.html>.)
- International Monetary Fund, 2012, World economic outlook: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, April, 229 p.

TABLE 1  
KOSOVO: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity <sup>2</sup>	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	
<b>METALS</b>						
<b>Ferroalloys, ferronickel:<sup>c</sup></b>						
Gross weight	3,500	24,300	27,700	30,400	68,300	
Ni content of ferronickel	800	5,600	6,360	7,000	15,700	
<b>Lead and zinc:</b>						
Ore, gross weight	69,953	139,670	158,137	185,842	224,580	
Lead content of ore	3,040	6,080	6,740	7,660	6,800	
Zinc content of ore	2,460	4,900	5,590	6,450	6,240	
<b>Concentrate:</b>						
<b>Lead concentrate:</b>						
Gross weight	--	--	4,285	8,232	7,962	
Pb content	--	--	3,000	5,700	4,900	
<b>Zinc concentrate:</b>						
Gross weight	--	--	5,332	8,678	7,638	
Zn content	--	--	2,500	4,100	3,000	
<b>Metal:</b>						
Pb, refined	--	--	4,250	4,300 <sup>e</sup>	4,300 <sup>e</sup>	
Zn, refined	--	--	5,487	5,500 <sup>e</sup>	5,500 <sup>e</sup>	
<b>Nickel:</b>						
Ore, wet	145,882	292,362	918,709	779,506	683,855	
Ni content of ore	1,820	3,660	10,500	9,080	7,700	
<b>INDUSTRIAL MINERALS</b>						
Cement <sup>c</sup>	thousand metric tons	470	590	600	600	
Clay, bentonite <sup>3</sup>		16,200	20,800	49,000	22,900 <sup>r</sup>	33,200
Limestone	cubic meters	NA	1,917,196	2,164,589	2,606,047	3,274,158
Marl	do.	260,707	322,007	291,829	302,630	259,616
Pumice and related materials, volcanic tuff	do.	NA	45,005	58,788	60,000 <sup>e</sup>	60,000 <sup>e</sup>
Sand and gravel, excluding glass sand	do.	41,621	44,498	13,586	49,266 <sup>r</sup>	32,819
Silica sand (glass sand)	do.	NA	27,325	20,181	25,178 <sup>r</sup>	19,711
<b>MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS</b>						
Lignite	thousand metric tons	6,715	7,842	7,871	7,958	8,212

<sup>e</sup>Estimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. <sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Table includes data available through May 3, 2012.

<sup>2</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, other aggregates and construction materials were thought to have been produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>3</sup>Estimate based on reported production in cubic meters: 2007—27,614; 2008—35,382; 2009—83,294; 2010—38,925; and 2011—56,481.

TABLE 2  
KOSOVO: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2011

(Thousand metric tons)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Bauxite	Bauxite Mine Volljak (Government owned)	Grebnik Mine, about 50 kilometers east of Pristina and 17 kilometers north of Orahovac	NA
Cement	Sharr Beteiligungs GmbH (Titan Group)	Hani Elezit, on border with Macedonia	600
Coal, lignite	Kosovo Energy Corp. J.S.C. (Government owned)	Bardh and Mirash Mines, just west of Pristina	NA
Kaolin	Kaolini LLC	Karacevo, Gjilan municipality	NA
Lead and zinc:			
Ore	Trepca Complex (Government owned)	Artana Mine at Novo Brdo	NA
Do.	do.	Stan Terg Mine	NA
Do.	do.	Belo Brdo Mine, northern Kosovo	NA
Do.	do.	Hajvalia Mine, 8 kilometers southeast of Pristina	NA
Do.	do.	Crnac Mine, northern Kosovo	NA
Concentrate	do.	Concentrator at Tuneli i Pare near Mitrovica	NA
Do.	do.	Concentrator at Leposavic in northern Kosovo	NA
Do.	do.	Concentrator at Kizhnica, about 8 kilometers southeast of Pristina	NA
Metal:			
Lead	do.	Lead smelter at Zvecan	NA
Zinc	do.	Zinc smelter at Mitrovica	NA
Magnesite	XIM Strezoc Magnesite Mine LLC ("Iminggrup mgo" Sh.p.k.)	Mine and processing plant in Strezovce, Kamenica municipality	NA
Do.	Mine and Industry of Magnesite Goleshi LLC ("Iminggrup mgo" Sh.p.k.)	Magure, Lipljan municipality	NA
Nickel:			
Ore	Ferronikeli (Cunico Resources NV)	Mines at Chikatovo (Dushkaja and Suke Mines) and Glavitca	NA
Metal <sup>1</sup>	do.	Ferronickel plant at Gillogovac, about 20 kilometers west of Pristina	12

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

<sup>1</sup>Nickel in ferronickel.