



2011 Minerals Yearbook

LATVIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LATVIA

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In 2011, Latvia's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 4% compared with that of 2010. The world economic crisis affected Latvia greatly and, in 2009, its GDP decreased by 18.0% compared with that of the previous year, and in 2010, by 0.3%. Previous to 2008, Latvia's GDP had rates of growth of 10% to 15% per year (International Monetary Fund, 2011; U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2012).

Latvia produced mainly industrial minerals and was not a significant world producer of any mineral commodities, but it had the Baltic States' only steel mill, JSC Liepājas Metalurģs. The company invested \$96.66 million¹ in 2011 in the revamping of its steel melting processes (JSC Liepājas Metalurģs, 2012, p. 5).

¹Where necessary, values have been converted from the Latvian Lati (LVL) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at the average rate of LVL0.4995=US\$1.00 and from the euro area euro (€) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at the average rate of €0.718=US\$1.00 for 2011.

The sole cement producer in Latvia, SIA CEMEX, constructed a new kiln at its Broceni cement plant and increased the production capacity to 1.2 million metric tons per year. The project was completed in May 2009, and the plant was producing at capacity in 2012 (CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V., 2012).

References Cited

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- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2012, Latvia, *in* The world factbook: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. (Accessed May 22, 2012, at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/lg.html>.)

TABLE 1
LATVIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons)

Commodity	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011
Cement:					
Clinker	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Portland cement ^c	300,000	310,000	650,000	1,100,000	1,100,000
Crushed rock	937,030	507,591	500,000 ^e	500,000 ^e	500,000 ^e
Dolomite, crude (excluding calcined, crushed dolomite aggregate)	5,730,865	2,305,065	929,070	930,000 ^e	930,000 ^e
Gravel, pebbles, shingle and flint of a kind used for concrete aggregates, for road metalling, or for railway and other ballast	5,759,249	6,011,735	5,195,972	4,640,317	4,600,000 ^e
Gypsum ^c	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Limestone	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Peat	820,996	923,404	1,163,803	1,119,417	1,120,000 ^e
Sand and gravel	4,284,684	2,222,504	2,292,848	2,300,000 ^e	2,300,000 ^e
Sand, construction	3,601,000	2,153,000	1,314,535	1,320,000 ^e	1,320,000 ^e
Silica sand, industrial ^c	13,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Steel, crude ^c	696,000 ^f	635,000 ^f	692,000 ^f	655,000 ^f	515,000

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

¹Table includes data available through May 22, 2012.

TABLE 2
LATVIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2011

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facility	Annual capacity
Cement	SIA CEMEX (CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V.)	Plant in Broceni	1,200
Steel	JSC Liepājas Metalurģs	Plant in Liepāja	850