



2011 Minerals Yearbook

SLOVENIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF SLOVENIA

By Harold R. Newman

Slovenia was a modest producer of mineral commodities in 2011, and its output was not significant on either a world or regional scale. Although some industrial minerals and fossil fuels were produced, the country was a net importer of many of these mineral commodities.

In 2011, Slovenia's nominal gross domestic product (GDP) based on purchasing power parity was \$59.3 billion, which was an increase of 0.6% compared with that of 2010. The unemployment rate was 8.7%. The GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity was \$28,800. Mining and quarrying accounted for only 0.4% of the GDP and the manufacture of basic metals accounted for 0.5% of the GDP (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency 2013).

The Geological Survey of Slovenia (GeoZS) [Geološki zavod Slovenije] is a research institute established by the Government. The main objective of the GeoZS is to gather and disseminate geologic knowledge about the country. The GeoZS has the following six research departments: Geochemistry and Environmental Geology; Geological Maps; Groundwater; Mineral Resources; Paleontology and Stratigraphy; and Sedimentology, Mineralogy and Petrology. The main activities of the GeoZS are to maintain a national geologic database, predict and mitigate geologic hazards, support protection of the environment, advise various Governmental agencies, and prepare geologic maps (Geological Survey of Slovenia, 2013).

The two primary laws that govern energy and natural resources in Slovenia are the Mining Act of 2010 and the Energy Act of 2008. The Mining Act regulates the exploration, exploitation, and management of mineral resources. Mineral resources are defined by the Government as nonrenewable natural resources that are owned by the Government and are directly or indirectly economic to exploit. Energy is regulated by the Energy Act and applies to legal entities and persons that perform a variety of activities in the energy field (International Law Office, 2008).

Production

In 2011, production of mineral commodities appeared to show some recovery from the effects of the world financial crisis. International demand for Slovenia's minerals recovered as the negative effects of the financial crisis decreased. Production of petroleum, salt, and steel semimanufactures increased whereas production of natural gas decreased (table 1).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

The major mineral industry facilities that were operating in Slovenia in 2011 and their respective locations and capacities are listed in table 2. There were no significant changes in ownership in 2011.

Commodity Review

Metals

Aluminum.—Talum Aluminium Ltd was formed on January 1, 2011, from two former units of Talum d.d. Kidricevo, (DE and DE Anode Analysis) after the parent company was reorganized. In 2011, Talum Aluminum produced primary aluminum along with alloys and castings. The company produced all major types of aluminum alloys using alloying elements of copper, magnesium, manganese, and silicon (Talum Aluminium Ltd., 2011).

Industrial Minerals

Cement.—The Salonit Anhovo d.o.o. cement works was the leading cement producer in Slovenia. The company also produced lime; products made from concrete, such as pipe and stone; and ready-mixed concrete. Salonit had invested €75 million (\$102 million)¹ in the modernization of the whole production plant. The purpose of the modernization project was to increase capacities, reduce the cost of energy consumption per unit, and lay the basis for increased use of alternative fuels in the future (Wietersdorfer Gruppe, 2011).

Outlook

Production of minerals and mineral products will likely continue to be modest. As a result, Slovenia is expected to remain dependent on mineral imports, notably mineral fuels. The production of most mineral commodities, mainly aluminum and crude steel, will depend mainly on demand from external trade partners.

References Cited

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¹Where necessary, values have been converted from euro area euros (€) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at a rate of €0.74=US\$1.00.

TABLE 1
SLOVENIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011 ^c
METALS					
Aluminum:					
Primary	111,016	83,328	35,148	40,177	41,000
Secondary ^c	20,000	20,000	10,000	17,000	16,000
Iron and steel, metal:					
Crude steel from electric furnaces	638,000	642,000	430,000	606,000	600,000
Semimanufactures	715,539	692,320	462,700	656,943 ^r	706,133 ³
Lead, refined, secondary ^c	15,000	15,000	14,000	14,000	12,000
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement ^c	thousand metric tons	1,300	1,300	1,000	1,000
Clays: ^c					
Bentonite	130	130	130	135	168 ³
Ceramic clay, crude	78 ^r	32 ^r	9 ^r	12 ^r	10 ³
Salt, all sources	3,209 ^r	535 ^r	2,924 ^r	59 ^r	4,291 ³
Sand and gravel	thousand metric tons	21,548	19,171	15,720	16,000 ^e
Silica sands (quartz and quartzite) ⁴	350,000 ^e	353,983	326,636	510,550	500,000
Stone, excluding quartz and quartzite, crude:					
Aggregate	22,829	19,489	16,611	14,495	11,527 ³
Chert	17	22	17	16	19 ³
Crushed	thousand metric tons	9,374	9,765	10,144	12,442 ^r
Dimension ^c	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000	15,000
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal:					
Brown coal	thousand metric tons	483	489	511	419
Lignite	do.	4,079	4,032	3,918	4,011
Total	do.	4,562	4,521	4,429	4,430
Natural gas	thousand cubic meters	3,418	2,610	2,575	6,675
Petroleum, crude ^{5,6}	42-gallon barrels	2,060	1,170	994	1,561 ^r

^cEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. do. Ditto.

¹Table includes data available through January 14, 2013.

²In addition to the commodities listed, common clay and lime also were produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported figure.

⁴In previous years, this commodity category was listed as "Quartz, quartzite, glass sand."

⁵Slovenia has not produced refined petroleum fuel products since 2001; refined petroleum fuel products data reported in the Minerals Yearbook for Slovenia since 2007 were for biodiesel.

⁶Data for crude production were converted to barrels from metric tons and were reported as follows: 2007—278; 2008—158; 2009—134; 2010—1,561 (revised); and 2011—1,762.

TABLE 2
SLOVENIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2011

(Thousand metric tons)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Aluminum, primary and secondary	Talum Aluminium Ltd. (Elektro Slovenija d.o.o., 80%)	Smelter at Kidricevo	120 ^e
Cement	Salonit Anhovo d.o.o. (Wietersdorfer Gruppe, 100%)	Plant at Anhovo	1,100 ^e
Do.	Lafarge Cement d.d. (Lafarge S.A., 56%, and European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, 44%)	Plant at Trbovlje	600
Coal:			
Brown	Rudnik Trbovlje-Hrastnik d.o.o. (RTH)	Mine Rudnik Trbovlje Hrastnik near Trbovlje	NA
Lignite	Premogovnik Velenje, d.d.	Mine at Velenje	NA
Lead, metal, secondary	MPI-Reciklaza Metalurgija, plastika in inženiring d.o.o.	Refinery at Zerjav	35
Salt	SOLINE Pridelava soli d.o.o.	Salt pans at Secovlje and Strunjan	2
Steel, crude	Acroni, d.o.o. [Slovenska Industrija Jekla d.d. (SIJ), 100%]	Plant at Jesenica	400
Do.	Metal Ravne d.o.o. [Slovenska Industrija Jekla d.d. (SIJ), 100%]	Plant at Ravne	130 ^e
Do.	Štore Steel d.o.o. (Unior d.d., 54%)	Plant at Store	185 ^e

^eEstimated. Do. Ditto. NA Not available.