



2012 Minerals Yearbook

ALBANIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF ALBANIA

By Mark Brininstool

Albania's mineral deposits included chromite, copper, limestone, and petroleum, but it was not a significant producer of mineral commodities on a global or regional scale. In 2012, Albania's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 1.3%. In 2011 (the most recent year for which data were available), industrial production made up about 11% of the GDP, and the mineral sector accounted for about 16% of the value of industrial production and about 2% of the GDP (Institute of Statistics of the Republic of Albania, 2013; International Monetary Fund, 2013, p. 153).

Production

Data on mineral production in Albania in 2012 were unavailable, and all production data for mineral commodities in 2012 were estimated. Copper production in 2011 more than doubled, most likely a result of a production capacity increase at the Munella Mine. The mine's owner, Ekin Maden Ticaret ve Sanayi A.S. (Ekin Maden) of Turkey, reported that capital investments at the Munella Mine increased the mine's production capacity to 300,000 metric tons per year (t/yr) of copper ore in the first quarter of 2011 from 120,000 t/yr in 2010. Cement output was estimated to have increased by about 11% because 2012 was the second full year of operation for Antea Cement Sh.A.'s cement plant after it was inaugurated in September 2010. Estimated cement production as a whole was still significantly lower than estimated cement production capacity. Crude oil production was estimated to have increased by 18% owing to increased production by Bankers Petroleum Ltd. and Stream Oil and Gas Ltd. In calendar year 2012, Bankers Petroleum produced 15,020 barrels per day (bbl/d) of crude petroleum, and in fiscal year 2012 (which ran from December 2011 through November 2012), Stream Oil and Gas produced an estimated 1,160 bbl/d of crude petroleum. The Government-owned firm Albpetrol Sh.a. may have had some unreported crude petroleum production, but it is believed that its active production facilities were operated by Bankers Petroleum or Stream Oil and Gas through production-sharing agreements (Antea Cement Sh.A., 2010; Stream Oil and Gas Ltd., 2012, p. 5; Bankers Petroleum Ltd., 2013, p. 3; Ekin Maden Ticaret ve Sanayi A.S., 2013).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

In table 2, the production capacity at Kurum International Sh.A.'s lime plant was increased to 72,000 t/yr from 36,000 t/yr. The increase was based on new information available on Kurum's Web site. It was not known if production increased along with the increase in capacity. Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities (Kurum International Sh.A., 2013).

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	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 ^e
METALS					
Chromite, gross weight (18% to 42% Cr ₂ O ₃)	225,373 ^r	283,558 ^r	328,322 ^r	330,938 ^r	330,000
Copper:					
Ore, gross weight	105,000	114,286	139,926 ^r	305,284 ^r	305,000
Cu content or ore (1.6% average) ^e	1,700 ^r	1,800 ^r	2,200 ^r	4,900 ^r	4,900
Iron and steel:					
Metal, ferroalloys, ferrochromium	11,916	7,556	23,233 ^r	28,694 ^r	29,000
Steel:					
Crude steel, secondary	380,000	440,000	390,000 ^{r,e}	463,620 ^r	500,000
Rolled steel	194,000	216,000	235,882 ^r	295,333 ^r	300,000
Nickel, ore:					
Iron-nickel and nickel-silicate ores	353,290	68,840 ^r	269,300 ^r	270,000 ^{r,e}	270,000
Ni content of ores ^e	4,000	1,000	3,000	3,000	3,000
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS					
Cement, hydraulic	918	1,110	1,300	1,800	2,000
thousand metric tons					
Clay, kaolin	649 ^r	796 ^r	795 ^r	974 ^r	1,000
do.					
Gypsum	87,261 ^r	71,276 ^r	77,400 ^r	80,000 ^e	80,000
Lime ^e	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Limestone	3,837,529	3,271,617 ^r	2,363,445 ^r	2,400,000 ^{r,e}	2,400,000
cubic meters					
Silica sand ^e	12,077 ³	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
do.					
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS					
Coal, lignite	1,500	2,000 ^r	2,500 ^r	1,200 ^r	1,200
Gas, natural, gross production ^e	6,200 ³	7,900 ³	8,000	8,000	8,000
thousand cubic meters					
Petroleum:					
Crude ^e	4,000	4,200	5,000	5,000 ^r	5,900
thousand 42-gallon barrels					
Refinery products:					
Bitumen	92,000	80,000 ^{r,e}	32,600 ^r	44,000 ^r	44,000
Coke ^e	47,000 ³	40,000 ^r	20,000 ^r	20,000 ^r	20,000
Fuels ^e	1,400	1,200 ^r	600 ^r	600 ^r	600
thousand 42-gallon barrels					

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

¹Table includes data available through June 27, 2013.

²In addition to the commodities listed, a variety of industrial minerals and construction materials (common clay, dolomite, lime, olivinite, salt, sand and gravel, and stone) are believed 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.

TABLE 2
ALBANIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2012

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity ^c
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, northwestern Albania	NA ¹
Chromite	Albanian Chrome, Sh.p.k. (ACR) (DCM DECOMetal, 100%)	Mine in Bulquize, 40 kilometers northwest of Tirana	85
Do.	do.	Pogradec (including Katjiel and Pojske Mines)	NA
Do.	Numerous small producers	Mostly concentrated near Bulquize	NA
Copper:			
Mine	Beralb Sh.a. (Ekin Maden Ticaret ve Sanayi A.S.)	Munella Mine, 25 kilometers from Fushe-Arrez	300
Do.	do.	Lakrosh Mine, 14 kilometers from Fushe-Arrez	150
Concentrate	do.	Fushe-Arrez Flotation Plant	50
Ferrochromium	Albanian Chrome Sh.p.k. (ACR) (DCM DECOMetal, 100%)	Elbasan, 32 kilometers southeast of Tirana	36
Lime	Kurum International Sh.A.	Elbasan	72
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Albpetrol Sh.a. (Government owned)	NA
Do.	do.	Stream Oil and Gas Ltd.	NA ²
Petroleum:			
Crude	42-gallon barrels per day	do.	Ballsh-Hekal, Cakran-Mollaj, and Gorischt-Kocul oilfields in southwestern Albania
Do.	do.	Bankers Petroleum Ltd.	Oilfields at Kucova and Patos Marinza, east of Fier in south-central Albania
Refined	do.	Albanian Refining and Marketing Organization Sh.a. (ARMO)	Refineries at Ballsh and Fier
Steel	Kurum International Sh.A.	Electric arc furnace plant at Elbasan	600

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

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

²Stream Oil and Gas Ltd. did not produce any natural gas in 2012.

³Annual capacity estimated based on 2011 production.