



# 2012 Minerals Yearbook

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**DENMARK, THE FAROE ISLANDS, AND GREENLAND**

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# THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES OF DENMARK, THE FAROE ISLANDS, AND GREENLAND

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## DENMARK

The mining, quarrying, and mineral processing sectors have not traditionally been significant contributors to Denmark's economy. Denmark's mineral resources are limited and composed mainly of industrial minerals and mineral fuels; therefore, the country's industrialized market economy depends on imported raw materials and foreign trade. Denmark is a member of the European Union (EU) and is located convenient to European trade routes through the Baltic Sea, the North Sea, and the Skagerrak Strait (U.S. Department of State, 2012).

Private ownership, exploration, development, and production of minerals are allowed under Danish law. The permitting procedures for mineral production are developed and administered at the county level. Regulations concerning the mineral industry are comparable with those of other EU countries (Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2012).

In 2012, the EU remained Denmark's most significant trading zone—EU countries accounted for 71% of Denmark's external trade. The United States was Denmark's second-ranked non-EU trading partner after Norway and accounted for about 0.5% of Denmark's external trade (Statistics Denmark, 2012, p. 2).

U.S. exports to Denmark in 2012 totaled \$2.2 billion, and U.S. imports from Denmark totaled \$6.7 billion. U.S. exports to Denmark included, in order of value, finished metal shapes (\$33.3 million), nonferrous metals (\$17.1 million), petroleum products (\$15.6 million), drilling and oilfield equipment (\$15.5 million), and iron and steel products (\$10.3 million) (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012a). U.S. imports from Denmark in 2012 included, in order of value, finished metal shapes (\$77.6 million), iron and steel products (\$51.6 million), other petroleum products (\$48.2 million), and bauxite and aluminum [\$2.3 million] (U.S. Census Bureau, 2012b).

## Production

Denmark lacked economically exploitable metallic mineral resources; however, it had reserves of nonmetallic materials, such as chalk, clays (including bentonite) and kaolin, lime, peat, salt, and stone (including dimension stone and limestone). Denmark was the world's only commercial producer of moler, which is a natural mixture of diatomite and smectite clay that is used in filtration systems and insulation bricks. Petroleum production was declining, as reserves were being depleted. In 2012, petroleum production decreased for the 5th year in a row, dropping to about 76 million barrels (Mbbbl) in 2012 from a level of about 105 Mbbbl in 2008. Data on mineral production are in table 1.

## Structure of the Mineral Industry

The Danish mineral industry was mostly privately owned. Table 2 is a list of the country's major mineral industry facilities, their capacities, and their locations.

## Commodity Review

### *Metals*

**Iron and Steel.**—NLMK DanSteel A/S, which was a subsidiary of NLMK International B.V. of the Netherlands, was the only steel plate producer in Denmark. DanSteel continued with construction of its new steel rolling mill, which was expected to be completed in 2013. The new mill would be able to produce plates up to 4 meters (m) in width. DanSteel's plates were used on bridges, offshore and onshore wind turbines, and ships. The investment cost was reported to be about 600 million Danish kroners (DKK) [\$105 million<sup>1</sup>] (NLMK DanSteel A/S, 2012).

### *Industrial Minerals*

**Cement.**—Aalborg Portland A/S (a subsidiary of Cementir Holdings S.p.A. of Italy) was the main producer of grey and white cement in Denmark. Aalborg operated seven kilns at its plant in Rordal, which had a combined capacity of 2.7 million metric tons (Mt) of gray cement and 850,000 metric tons (t) of white cement. The gray cement was sold mainly on the Danish market whereas the white cement was marketed on the international market. Aalborg also produced ready-mix concrete (Cementir Holdings S.p.A., 2012).

**Diatomite.**—Damolin A/S produced moler (diatomite) from its quarries at Fur and Mores Islands. Damolin had the capacity to process 230,000 cubic meters per year from five rotary kilns. In 2012, 80% of the production was exported. Diatomite is the key industrial mineral used in such products as absorbents for oil, cat litter, and granulated products. Diatomite is used in about 65% of the world's filtration systems (Damolin A/S, 2012).

**Salt.**—Akzo Nobel A/S's production of salt at Mariager was based on vacuum salt technology. The main materials are raw brine produced by solution mining in multi-effect evaporation plants located at Hvornum. The salt produced is suitable for the electrolytic production of chlorine, caustic lye, and sodium chlorate. Akzo Nobel was issued a new 30-year license to extract salt. This license extended the one that was due to expire in 2013 (Akzo Nobel A/S, 2012).

<sup>1</sup>Where necessary, values have been converted from Danish kroners (DKK) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at an average rate of DKK5.5 = US\$1.00.

## Mineral Fuels and Other Sources of Energy

Natural gas and petroleum were the most valuable mineral commodities produced domestically. Production from the country's 19 active fields, however, was in decline. The Danish Energy Agency (DEA) announced that it would launch a new exploration licensing round sometime in the near future. The previous licensing round was held in 2005 to 2006. Activity was continuing offshore Denmark, where some existing fields were being further developed, several discoveries were being evaluated, and a new field, the Hejre natural gas and petroleum field, was scheduled to start production in 2015 (McLoughlin, 2012).

The Government announced that it had joined the Danish Underground Consortium (DUC) by taking a 20% stake in the operation. The DUC operated 16 fields that had a daily combined production of 14 million cubic meters of natural gas and 180,000 barrels of oil. Maersk A.S. would continue as the operator of the DUC (Gustafsson, 2012).

The Government's revenue from natural gas and petroleum production in 2012 was valued at DKK25.2 billion (\$4.8 billion). This was a decrease of about 15% from 2011 when Government revenue totaled DKK30.3 billion (\$5.4 billion). This decrease in revenue was attributable mainly to the declining production from the Danish natural gas and petroleum field. Even with the declining production, Denmark was expected to remain a net exporter of petroleum through 2020 and of natural gas through 2025 (Danish Energy Agency, 2012).

Denmark had two refineries—one in Kalundborg and the other in Frederica—that had a total (combined) crude distillation capacity of 172,000 barrels per day (bbl/d). The Kalundborg refinery was owned by Statoil Refining Denmark A/S and was Denmark's leading refinery. Statoil Refining processed primarily Norwegian crude but could process condensates and other types of crude oil as well. The Frederica refinery processed mostly Danish North Sea crude oil that was supplied by pipeline from Danish offshore wells. The primary markets, besides Denmark, were northwestern Europe and Scandinavia (International Energy Agency, 2012, p. 7).

**Geothermal Energy.**—The Geological Survey of Denmark identified significant geothermal resources in porous sandstone layers beneath the surface in Denmark. These resources are related mainly to the Mesozoic succession of the Danish basin and the Fennoscandian Border Zone, which had been discovered as a result of the drilling of about 60 deep wells that had been drilled either for geothermal energy, hydrocarbons, or natural gas storage. Denmark's geothermal plant located at Thisted in northwestern Denmark produced heat from water that was heated to 44° Celsius (111° Fahrenheit) by geothermal processes and pumped from the Upper Triassic Gassum sandstone aquifer at about a 1-kilometer (km) depth. The wide distribution of such underground reservoirs could make it possible for many of the existing district heating networks to make use of the high-efficiency geothermal heat (Vangkilde-Pedersen, Ditlefsen, and Højberg, 2012, p. 39–40).

### Outlook

Further exploration of natural gas and petroleum reserves will likely continue in an effort to offset the country's declining

production and help continue Denmark's role as a net exporter of natural gas and petroleum. Denmark is expected to remain a net exporter of petroleum until yearend 2020 and of natural gas until yearend 2025. Continued research in new technology and the testing of new exploration methods are expected to play a major role in Denmark's future natural gas and petroleum production. The Government is also likely to continue to consider the introduction of a long-term target of becoming fully independent of fossil fuels by the year 2050. Such a policy would likely encourage greater energy efficiency and growth in renewable energy production.

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### FAROE ISLANDS

The Faroe Islands, which is a self-governing overseas administrative division of Denmark, had no significant identified mineral resources, although a small amount of crushed stone was thought to be produced for domestic consumption. The Faroese economy depended mainly on fishing and salmon farming and was aided by an annual subsidy of about 6% of the gross domestic product from Denmark. The main involvement of the Faroe Islands in the international mineral industry was as

a market for imported materials, principally cement, fertilizer materials, and fuels.

Statoil ASA operated the Bruggdan II exploration well, which is located about 80 km from the Faroe Islands between the North Atlantic Ocean and the Norwegian Sea. In November, the Faroese authorities authorized the suspension of drilling activities until 2013 owing to the harsh winter weather. Statoil has been operating in the Faroe Islands since 2000. In 2012, Statoil owned and operated six licenses that composed significant Faroe Islands acreage (Rigzone.com, 2012).

## Outlook

In 2012, foreign petroleum companies continued to be engaged in geophysical exploration and exploration well drilling. Future discoveries in the Faroese area could make the eventual production of petroleum possible.

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## GREENLAND

On January 1, 2010, the Inatsisartut Act No. 7 of December 7, 2009, on mineral resources and related activities [Mineral Resource Act] came into force. The Mineral Resource Act replaced the Consolidation Act No. 368 of June 18, 1998, on mineral resources in Greenland. The Mineral Resource Act establishes the framework for future development and control of mineral resources. There was broad political agreement within the Inatsisartut (Parliament) to support the development of the mineral industry (Government of Greenland, 2012).

In 2012, a total of 23 new mineral licenses were granted. Twelve of these were exploration licenses. In addition to the exploration licenses, six prospecting licenses were granted. Hudson Resources Inc. of Canada renewed two exploration licenses at its Sarfartog rare-earth elements (REE) project and NunaMinerals A/S of Denmark renewed two exploration licenses for base metals and diamond. Also, Avanna Exploration Ltd. renewed one exploration license for diamond (Bureau of Minerals and Petroleum, 2013, p. 5–6.).

## Commodity Review

### Metals

**Gold.**—In 2012, Angel Mining (Gold) A/S, which was a wholly owned subsidiary of Angel Mining plc of the United Kingdom, had commissioned and was operating the Nalunaq gold plant. The company expected to produce at a rate of about 700 kilograms per year of gold. A processing plant had been built and was thought to be the first underground cyanide leaching plant. Angel planned to minimize transport and refining costs by shipping gold dore. Angel planned further exploration programs to confirm the length and depth of the Nalunaq

deposit. Nalunaq was classified as a narrow-vein mesothermal deposit (Angel Mining plc, 2012a).

**Iron and Steel.**—Red Rock Resources plc of the United Kingdom was continuing with exploration on the Melville Bugt iron ore project. A Joint Ore Reserves Committee (JORC) estimate listed estimated reserves of 67 Mt of iron ore grading 31.4% iron and 51.2% silica oxide. Twelve additional exploration targets had been identified and thought to have a potential tonnage of between 158 Mt and 470 Mt of iron ore grading between 27% and 47% iron. Red Rock's 1,570-square-kilometer (km<sup>2</sup>) license area is located in northwestern Greenland about 150 km south of Qaanaag (Red Rock Resources plc, 2012).

**Lead and Zinc.**—Angel Mining was continuing with its exploration and development program to reopen the Black Angel Mine. The mine operated between 1973 and 1990, during which time about 12 Mt of ore was extracted with average grades of 4% lead and 12% zinc. Angel Mining expected to begin commercial production by yearend 2013. Also, Angel Mining was planning to undertake extensive exploration of its 259-km<sup>2</sup> license area to define other lead-zinc deposits thought to be in the area (Angel Mining plc, 2012b).

### Industrial Minerals

**Diamond.**—NunaMinerals identified a kimberlite float at its Qaamasoq license and established, through testing, that the chemistry of the mantle-derived material was favorable for the occurrence of diamond. High concentrations of float occurred in a number of sites, notably in the 250-by-550-m Ullu (Nest) area. Rocks were characterized as having visible garnet. NunaMinerals was planning to follow up on these results in 2012 (NunaMinerals A/S, 2012).

**Gemstones.**—True North Gems Inc.'s Fiskenaasset ruby-sapphire project, which is located on the coast of Greenland about 160 km south of Nuuk, consisted of eight claim blocks covering 823 km<sup>2</sup>. True North Gems was continuing with its exploration program and contracted with Greenland Mining Services to engineer, build, and fund the complete mine support infrastructure, including all mine-related buildings and open pit pre-stripping. True North Gems would retain responsibility for the design and funding of the ore processing circuit, for rough gem sorting and grading, and for gem marketing. The company stated that mining was expected to begin as early as 2014 (True North Gems Inc., 2012).

**Rare Earths.**—In 2012, Greenland Minerals and Energy Ltd. (GMEL) of Australia was continuing with its investigation of the Kvanefjeld deposit, which the company reported to be a significant REE deposit that also contains uranium and zinc. The Kvanefjeld deposit was second in size to the large Bayan Obo REE deposit in China. The main focus of GMEL's investigation was to develop an effective method of beneficiating the multielement ores. In September 2012 (the latest date for which data were available), the estimated indicated plus inferred resources of rare-earth oxides at a 150-parts-per-million U<sub>3</sub>O<sub>8</sub> cutoff grade was 6.55 Mt in the Kvanefjeld deposit, 2.67 Mt in the nearby Sørensen deposit, and 1.11 Mt in the Zone 3 deposit; the deposits also contain resources of uranium and zinc (Greenland Minerals and Energy Ltd., 2012).

## Mineral Fuels and Related Materials

**Natural Gas and Petroleum.**—In the Arctic region, which includes Greenland, natural gas and petroleum companies faced high costs, high risks, and lengthy lead times for development. The Arctic resource base is composed largely of natural gas and natural gas liquids, which are significantly more expensive to transport across long distances than petroleum.

**Uranium.**—The Government amended its standard terms for mineral exploration licenses and ceased a decades-old ban on uranium exploration to allow for the inclusion of radioactive elements as exploitable minerals. This represented a significant shift in Danish foreign policy, following 30 years of opposition to nuclear power. This amendment allowed GMEL to proceed with development of the Kvanefjeld REE deposit in 2012 and enabled it to conduct prefeasibility studies that demonstrated the potential for the development of a large-scale multielement mining operation at the Kvanefjeld deposit (Proactive Investors, 2011).

## Outlook

Greenland has abundant mineral and other natural resources. More areas for exploration are expected to open up if global warming trends continue, as new mineral deposits are likely to be discovered as a result of the retreating ice. Finding new sources of hydrocarbons will continue to be very important for Greenland as possible sources of revenue, and offshore exploration is expected to increase as interest increases in this area. The country's independent status and the Government's encouragement are expected to continue to accelerate the development of the mineral industry in Greenland.

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TABLE 1  
DENMARK AND GREENLAND: ESTIMATED PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES<sup>1,2</sup>

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity <sup>3</sup>	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012
DENMARK					
Aluminum metal, secondary	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Cement, hydraulic	16,092 <sup>4</sup>	15,780 <sup>4</sup>	16,000	16,000	16,000
Chalk, calcium carbonate	2,000	2,735 <sup>4</sup>	2,700	2,600	2,600
Clays: <sup>4</sup>					
Bentonite	22,458	24,040 <sup>r</sup>	23,832 <sup>r</sup>	38,300	36,000
Other	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000	5,000
Moler, extracted	252	202	225	225	225
Gas:					
Manufactured	1,500	1,500	1,500	1,800	1,600
Natural	9,564 <sup>4</sup>	9,600	8,438 <sup>4</sup>	9,000	9,000
Natural gas plant liquids	50,000	47,000	45,000	45,000	42,000
Petroleum:					
Crude <sup>4</sup>	104,573	97,455	90,338	80,665	75,701
Refinery products:					
Liquefied petroleum gas	1,314 <sup>4</sup>	1,606 <sup>4</sup>	1,752 <sup>r,4</sup>	1,700	1,600
Gasoline	16,352 <sup>4</sup>	17,666 <sup>4</sup>	15,330 <sup>r,4</sup>	16,000	16,000
Naphtha	50	50	52 <sup>r,4</sup>	50	50
Jet fuel	3,942 <sup>4</sup>	3,212 <sup>4</sup>	3,416 <sup>r,4</sup>	3,500	3,600
Distillate fuel oil	23,068 <sup>4</sup>	24,674 <sup>4</sup>	22,703 <sup>r,4</sup>	23,000	24,000
Refinery gas	1,800	1,800	2,409 <sup>r,4</sup>	2,200	2,000
Residual fuel oil	8,870 <sup>4</sup>	8,139 <sup>4</sup>	7,665 <sup>r,4</sup>	8,000	8,200
Total	55,400	57,100 <sup>r</sup>	53,327 <sup>r</sup>	56,000	56,000
Salt, all forms	496,593 <sup>4</sup>	511,063 <sup>4</sup>	601,046 <sup>4</sup>	600,000	600,000
Sand and gravel	59,937 <sup>4</sup>	46,932 <sup>4</sup>	46,932 <sup>4</sup>	50,000	50,000
Stone, crushed	384 <sup>4</sup>	312	640 <sup>4</sup>	542 <sup>r,4</sup>	500
Sulfur, recovered	3,467 <sup>4</sup>	3,200	3,246 <sup>r,4</sup>	3,045 <sup>r,4</sup>	3,400
GREENLAND					
Gold	1,518 <sup>4</sup>	1,600	1,600	1,800	2,800
Silver	--	--	--	--	242

<sup>r</sup>Revised. do. Ditto. -- Zero.

<sup>1</sup>Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

<sup>2</sup>Table includes data available through July 31, 2013.

<sup>3</sup>In addition to the commodities listed, kaolin and peat were thought to be produced, but available information was inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

<sup>4</sup>Reported figure.

TABLE 2  
DENMARK AND GREENLAND: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRIES IN 2012

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Country and commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
DENMARK				
Cement:				
Gray		Aalborg Portland A/S (Cementir Holding S.p.A.)	Plant at Rordal	2,700
White		do.	do.	850
Chalk (calcium carbonate)		A/S Faxe Kalkbrud	Quarries at Stevns and Sigerslev	250
Diatomite (moler)	thousand cubic meters	Damolin A/S	Quarries on Mors and Fur Islands	230
Lime		A/S Faxe Kalkbrud (Aalborg Portland Holding A/S)	Plant at Stubberup, near Fakse, on Zealand Island	200
Natural gas	million cubic meters	Maersk Olie og Gas A/S	Roar and Tyra gasfields, Danish North Sea	2,550
Petroleum:				
Crude	barrels per day	Dansk Underground Consortium	16 fields in the Danish North Sea	NA
Do.	do.	Maersk A.S.	4 fields in the Danish North Sea	NA
Do.	do.	DONG Energy AS	3 fields in the Danish North Sea	NA
Do.	do.	Hess Corp.	1 field in the Danish North Sea	NA
Refined		Statoil A/S	Kalundborg	102,000
Do.	do.	A/S Dansk Shell	Fredericia	70,000
Salt		Akzo Nobel A/S	Mine (brine) at Hvornum, plant at Mariager	1,000
Steel, semimanufactures		NLMK DanSteel A/S (NLMK International B.V., 100%)	Plant at Frederiksvaerk (under modification—closed until 2013)	250
GREENLAND				
Gold	kilograms	Angel Mining plc	Nalunaq Mine at Nanortalik	6,000
Silver	do.	do.	do.	2,400

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.