

2012 Minerals Yearbook

LATVIA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LATVIA

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In 2012, Latvia's gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 5.6% compared with that of 2011. The services sector accounted for 69.6% of the GDP; the industrial sector, 25.2%; and the agricultural sector, 5.1%. Latvia's industrial growth rate in 2012 was 7.8%, and its main trade partners, in order of the volume of trade, were Lithuania, Russia, Germany, and Estonia (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2013).

Latvia produced mainly industrial minerals and was not a significant world producer of any mineral commodities; it had, however, the Baltic States' only steel mill, JSC Liepājas Metalurģs. According to the company, 98% of the steel mill's production was for export, and this material accounted for 10% of total Latvian exports. The company invested in the construction of an electric arc furnace, and the first new production started in August 2011. By December 2012, the new furnace reached the designed production level and had a production capacity of 850,000 metric tons (JSC Liepājas Metalurģs, 2013a, b).

SIA CEMEX was the sole producer of cement in Latvia. In the summer of 2010, SIA CEMEX finished construction of a new cement plant with a capacity of 1.6 million metric tons per year at Broceni. SIA CEMEX planned to export its production to Belarus, Estonia, Finland, Lithuania, and Russia (CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V., 2013).

References Cited

- CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V., 2013, Latvia: CEMEX S.A.B. de C.V. (Accessed July 19, 2013, at http://www.cemex.lv/eng/cx/cx_cl_hi.asp.)
- JSC Liepājas Metalurģs, 2013a, Company: JSC Liepājas Metalurģs. (Accessed July 19, 2013, at <http://lm.metalurģs.lv/?a=0&b=1>.)
- JSC Liepājas Metalurģs, 2013b, History: JSC Liepājas Metalurģs. (Accessed April 11, 2014, at <http://lm.metalurģs.lv/?a=0&b=1&c=6>.)
- U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2013, Latvia, *in* The world factbook: U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. (Accessed July 18, 2013, at <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/lg.html>.)

TABLE 1
LATVIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons)

Commodity ²	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012 ^c
Cement, portland ^c	310,000	650,000	1,100,000	1,100,000	1,200,000
Crushed rock	507,591	500,000 ^e	1,375,197 ^f	2,050,976 ^f	2,000,000
Dolomite, crude (excluding calcined, crushed dolomite aggregate)	2,305,065	929,070	930,000 ^e	930,000 ^e	930,000
Gravel, pebbles, shingle and flint of a kind used for concrete aggregates, for road metaling, or for railway and other ballast	6,011,735	5,195,972	4,736,785 ^f	5,386,702 ^f	5,390,000
Gypsum ^e	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000	230,000
Limestone	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Peat	923,404	1,163,803	1,119,417	1,378,681 ^f	1,378,000 ³
Sand and gravel	2,222,504	2,292,848	1,388,188 ^f	2,337,916 ^f	2,338,000 ³
Sand, construction	2,153,000	1,314,535	1,320,000 ^e	1,281,995 ^{f,4}	1,280,000
Silica sand, industrial ^e	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000	12,000
Steel, crude ^e	635,000	692,000	655,000	515,000	800,000

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

¹Table includes data available through July 19, 2013.

²In addition to the commodities listed, Latvia produced gypsum, silica, and industrial sand, but output was not reported, and information was not available to make reliable estimates of output.

³Reported figure.

⁴Production based on volume sold.

TABLE 2
LATVIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2012

(Thousand metric tons)

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	1,600
Steel	JSC Liepājas Metalurgs	Plant in Liepāja	850