



2010 Minerals Yearbook

KOSOVO [ADVANCE RELEASE]

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF KOSOVO

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On February 17, 2008, the Serbian Province of Kosovo declared its independence after having been under the administration of the United Nations' Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo since 1999. Kosovo had deposits of aggregates and construction minerals, bauxite, chromium, lead and zinc, lignite, magnesite, nickel, and silver. Almost all industry activities stopped in the late 1990s during fighting between ethnic Albanian guerilla groups and Serbian security forces, and in 2010, the mineral industry was still recovering, and production was limited (Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, 2005).

Minerals in the National Economy

In 2010, the International Monetary Fund reported that Kosovo's real gross domestic product increased by 4% compared with that of 2009. Mineral commodities were an important source of export revenues for Kosovo's economy, but these revenues were still relatively small compared with the country's 2010 trade deficit of about \$1.4 billion. As in 2009, exports of base metals and articles of base metals were the leading export category in terms of value and were valued at about \$141 million,¹ or about 63% of the total value of all exports. The value of base-metal exports increased by about 110% compared with the value in 2009 owing to increased production of metals and higher prices for metals on the international market compared with prices in 2009. The value of exports of mineral products² increased by about 55% to about \$30 million and made up about 13% of total exports. Mineral products were the leading import category and were valued at

¹Where necessary, values have been converted from European Union euros (EUR) to U.S. dollars (US\$) at the rate of EUR0.76=US\$1.00.

²"Mineral products" included industrial minerals, minerals fuels, and metal ores, but not processed metals.

about \$319 million and made up about 20% of the total value of imports (Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, 2011, p. 10, 16, 79-80; International Monetary Fund, 2011, p. 185).

Production

Production of lead concentrate increased by 92%; zinc concentrate, by 63%; limestone, by 20%; and lead and zinc ore, by 18%. Ferronickel production was estimated to have increased by 10%. Clay production decreased by 59%; sand and gravel, by 30%; nickel ore, by 15%; and silica sand, by 14% (table 1).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

Outlook

Kosovo is expected to remain a modest producer of mineral commodities but is likely to continue to increase production as the economy develops and further repairs are made to infrastructure damaged in the conflict in the late 1990s. Further development of the Trepca Complex could make Kosovo a regionally significant producer of lead and zinc, but major investments would be necessary to accomplish this goal.

References Cited

- Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, 2011, Monthly statistics bulletin—December 2010: Central Bank of the Republic of Kosovo, no. 112, March, 104 p. (Accessed June 9, 2011, at http://www.bqk-kos.org/repository/docs/2011/MSB_112.pdf.)
- Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals, 2005, Mineral deposits: Independent Commission for Mines and Minerals. (Accessed June 9, 2011, at <http://www.kosovo-mining.org/kosovoweb/en/mining/minerals.html>.)
- International Monetary Fund, 2011, World economic outlook: Washington, DC, International Monetary Fund, April, 221 p.

TABLE 1
KOSOVO: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	
METALS						
Ferroalloys, ferronickel: ^c						
Gross weight	--	3,500 ^r	24,300 ^r	27,700 ^r	30,400	
Ni content of ferronickel	--	800	5,600 ^r	6,360 ^r	7,000	
Lead-zinc:						
Ore, gross weight	63,517	69,953	139,670	158,137 ^r	185,842	
Lead content of ore	2,760	3,040	6,080	6,740 ^r	7,660	
Zinc content of ore	2,230	2,460	4,900	5,590 ^r	6,450	
Concentrate, gross weight:						
Lead concentrate	--	--	--	4,285	8,232	
Zinc concentrate	--	--	--	5,332	8,678	
Metal:						
Pb, refined	--	--	--	4,250	4,300 ^e	
Zn, refined	--	--	--	5,487	5,500 ^e	
Nickel:						
Ore, wet	--	145,882	292,362	918,709 ^r	779,506	
Ni content of ore (1.25%)	--	1,820	3,660	10,500 ^r	9,080	
INDUSTRIAL MINERALS						
Cement ^c	thousand metric tons	450	470	590	600	600
Clay, bentonite ³		--	16,200	20,800	49,000 ^r	20,250
Limestone	cubic meters	NA	NA	1,917,196	2,164,589 ^r	2,606,047
Marl	do.	254,386	260,707	322,007	291,829 ^r	302,630
Pumice and related materials, volcanic tuff	do.	NA	NA	45,005	58,788	60,000 ^e
Sand and gravel, excluding glass sand	do.	34,268	41,621	44,498	13,586 ^r	9,577
Silica sand (glass sand)	do.	NA	NA	27,325	20,181 ^r	17,333
MINERAL FUELS AND RELATED MATERIALS						
Lignite	thousand metric tons	6,532	6,715	7,842 ^r	7,871 ^r	7,958

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. do. Ditto. NA Not available. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through July 25, 2011.

²In addition to commodities listed, other aggregates and construction materials were believed to have been produced, but available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Estimate based on reported production in cubic meters: 2007—27,614; 2008—35,382; 2009—83,294 (revised); and 2010—34,425.

TABLE 2
KOSOVO: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2010

(Thousand metric tons)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Bauxite	Bauxite Mine Volljak (Government owned)	Grebnik Mine, about 50 kilometers east of Pristina and 17 kilometers north of Orahovac	NA
Cement	Sharr Beteiligungs GmbH (Titan Group)	Hani Elezit, on border with Macedonia	600
Coal, lignite	Kosovo Energy Corp. J.S.C. (Government owned)	Bardh and Mirash Mines, just west of Pristina	NA
Kaolin	Kaolini LLC	Karacevo, Gjilan municipality	NA
Lead and zinc:			
Ore	Trepca Complex (Government owned)	Artana Mine at Novo Brdo	NA
Do.	do.	Stan Terg Mine	NA
Do.	do.	Belo Brdo Mine, northern Kosovo	NA
Do.	do.	Hajvalia Mine, 8 kilometers southeast of Pristina	NA
Do.	do.	Crnac Mine, northern Kosovo	NA
Concentrate	do.	Concentrator at Tuneli i Pare near Mitrovica	NA
Do.	do.	Concentrator at Leposavic in northern Kosovo	NA
Do.	do.	Concentrator at Kizhnica, about 8 kilometers southeast of Pristina	NA
Metal:			
Lead	do.	Lead smelter at Zvecan	NA
Zinc	do.	Zinc smelter at Mitrovica	NA
Magnesite	XIM Strezoc Magnesite Mine LLC ("Iminggrup mgo" Sh.p.k.)	Mine and processing plant in Strezovce, Kamenica municipality	NA
Do.	Mine and Industry of Magnesite Goleshi LLC ("Iminggrup mgo" Sh.p.k.)	Magure, Lipljan municipality	NA
Nickel:			
Ore	Ferronikeli (Cunico Resources NV)	Mines at Chikatovo (Dushkaja and Suke Mines) and Glavitca	NA
Metal ¹	do.	Ferronickel plant at Gillogovac, about 20 kilometers west of Pristina	12

Do., do. Ditto. NA Not available.

¹Nickel in ferronickel.