

An overview of Albania's Cement Industry

Albania produces annually about 200,000 tons of cement but its needs for construction sector are 700,000 - 800,000 tons. About 500,000 tons are imported mainly from Italy and Greece. This is a decrease from 2001, in 2001 Albania consumed 1 million tons of cement approximately 80 percent of which was imported. It is projected that cement consumption will exceed 2 million tons annually by 2010.

There are about 30 concrete plants with a capacity of daily production of 3,000 tons.

Specialists in the field say that the quality of imported products is uncontrolled and often worst than domestic ones, but Albania productive capacities are very scarce.

Ital-Col produces construction materials. It has stated that in the first six months of 2005 will double the exports. With overall 100 workers, it exports mainly to Greece, Macedonia and Montenegro about EUR 50,000/month. It operates with about 90 per cent domestic raw materials. Ann's Koll, an Italian-Albanian joint venture that produces cement and plaster, produces 20,000 tons monthly and exports 400-500 tons monthly to Kosovo.

In November 2004 the EBRD and the International Finance Corporation agreed to lend a combined \$60 million to Seament Albania, also known as the Fushe Kruja Cement Factory, (A Lebanese group purchased Seament through privatization in 2000). The loan will finance the construction of a new production line with an annual capacity of 1.3 million tons. The factory employs 300 people. It's predicted that the investment will increase domestic cement production and therefore decrease the need to import cement.

From January –April 2004, the export of building materials increased 55 percent year to year, on the back of higher domestic cement production which also attributed to the decrease of imports in this category.

Manufacturing production in the state sector for cement is as follows:

1997: 100,000 tons
1998: 84,000 tons
1999: 106,000 tons
2000: 180,000 tons
2001: 300,000 tons

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