

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

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In 1997, the mineral industry of Trinidad and Tobago was small in comparison with other countries. The most important minerals to the country were petroleum and natural gas. Trinidad and Tobago was the second leading exporter of ammonia, after Russia. The country also produced small amounts of asphalt, cements, direct-reduced iron, steel, byproduct sulfur, and construction materials for domestic consumption. (*See tables 1 and 2.*) Exploration for petroleum and

natural gas was increasing, and industries taking advantage of the inexpensive and abundant natural gas resources were expanding or establishing new capacities in the country. For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Trinidad and Tobago, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, International Review of Latin America and Canada.

TABLE 1
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997	
Asphalt, natural 2/	21,500	21,000	20,000 r/	18,100 r/	15,400	
Cement, hydraulic 2/	527,200	582,900	558,500	617,100	652,500	
Gas, natural 2/						
Gross	million cubic meters	7,077 r/	7,690	7,996	7,127 r/	7,473
Marketed	do.	5,230	5,943	6,119	7,049	7,378
Iron and steel:						
Direct-reduced iron 2/		714,500	946,600	1,039,900	954,500	1,133,800
Steel, crude		496,000 r/	631,000	738,000 r/	695,000	736,000
Semimanufactures (billets) 2/		492,100	630,200	676,100	575,400	668,000
Lead, refined (secondary) e/		1,700	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Natural gas liquids 2/	thousand 42-gallon barrels	3,257	3,485	3,747	4,460	4,111
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	thousand tons	1,462	1,649	1,696	1,801	1,772
Petroleum:						
Crude 2/	thousand 42-gallon barrels	45,480	48,009	48,111	47,171	45,174
Refinery products 2/	do.	37,269	36,227	34,391	41,067	33,539
Stone, limestone e/	thousand tons	1,580 3/	1,600	1,600	1,600	1,600
Sulfur, byproduct of petroleum e/ 4/		5,000	4,500	4,500	4,500	4,500

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through August 24, 1998.

2/ Source: Central Bank of Trinidad and Tobago Annual Economic Survey.

3/ Reported figure.

4/ Sulfur as a byproduct of natural gas may be produced, but information is inadequate for reliable output estimates.

TABLE 2
TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1997

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity holders	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Anhydrous ammonia	Trinidad Nitrogen Co. Ltd. (Norsk Hydro AS, 49%; Government, 51%): Tringen I Tringen II	Point Lisas, Caroni Co. do.	459. 602.
Do.	PCS Nitrogen Trinidad Limited (Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan (PSC))	do. (three plants)	1,174.
Do.	Federation Chemicals (Norsk Hydro A/S, 100%)	do.	299.
Asphalt	Lake Asphalt of Trinidad and Tobago (1978) Ltd. (Government, 100%)	Brighton, St. Patrick Co.	60.
Cement	Trinidad Cement Ltd. (Cemex of Mexico, 20%; Government, 80%)	Claxton Bay, Caroni Co.	540 cement. 600 clinker.
Iron and steel	Iron and Steel Co. of Trinidad and Tobago (Caribbean Ispat Ltd.)	Point Lisas, Caroni Co.	900 DRI. 700 steel. 600 wire rod.
Do.	Nucor Iron Carbide Inc. (Nucor, U.S., 80%; Samitri, Brazil, 20%)	do.	320 iron carbide.
Petroleum:			
Crude	Amoco Trinidad Oil Co. Ltd. (Amoco International Oil Co. Ltd., 100%)	Banyan, Cassia, Flambouyant, Immortelle, Poui, Samaan, and Teak	60,000. 1/
Do.	Petroleum Company of Trinidad and Tobago Ltd. (Petrotrin) (Government, 100%)	Various	30,000. 1/
Do.	Trinmar Ltd. (Texaco Trinidad Inc, 33 1/3%; Petrotrin, 66 2/3%)	Soldado fields, offshore in Gulf of Paria	40,000. 1/
Products	Petrotrin (Government, 100%)	Point Fortin, St. Patrick Co.	145,000. 1/ 2/
Do.	do.	Point-a-Pierre, Victoria Co.	160,000. 1/

1/ Barrels per day

2/ Closed in 1993.