



2006 Minerals Yearbook

CUBA

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CUBA

By Omayra Bermúdez-Lugo

Nickel was the most important mineral commodity to the Cuban economy followed by cobalt, which was produced as a byproduct of nickel mining. Other minerals produced in the country included cement, clays, crushed stone, feldspar, salt, and silica sand. Cuba also produced ammonia, gold, natural gas, petroleum, petroleum products, and sulfur as a byproduct of the refining of petroleum.

The Ministerio de la Industria Básica was the Government entity responsible for the mineral and petroleum sectors. Government-owned Unión Geológico Minera S.A. was the company in charge of prospecting, exploration, and mining of all metallic and nonmetallic minerals with the exception of nickel and cobalt, which were overseen by Unión del Níquel S.A. Government-owned Cubapetróleo S.A was the company in charge of petroleum prospecting, exploration, production, refining, and marketing.

Production

Data on mineral production are provided in table 1.

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Table 2 is a list of major mineral industry facilities.

More-extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Cuba can be found in the 2005 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Area reports—International—Latin America and Canada, which is available on the World Wide Web at <http://minerals.usgs.gov/minerals/pubs/country>.

TABLE 1
CUBA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ^{2,3}	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Asphalt ⁴	50,700	44,800	47,400	43,300	49,900
Cement, hydraulic	1,326,900 ⁵	1,345,500 ⁵	1,401,300 ⁴	1,566,900 ⁴	1,704,700 ⁴
Chromite ⁴	20,400	33,300	40,300	34,000	27,900
Cobalt, mine output, Co content: ^{4,6}					
Oxide, oxide sinter, sulfide, ammoniacal liquor precipitate	3,858	3,982 ^{7,8}	4,055 ^{7,8}	4,247 ^{7,8}	4,300 ^e
Sulfide and ammoniacal liquor precipitate	3,384	3,465 ^{7,8}	3,580 ^{7,8}	3,768 ^{7,8}	4,000 ^e
Feldspar ⁴	4,700	7,200	10,500	8,000	5,500
Gold ^c kilograms	1,000	547 ⁸	-- ^r	-- ^r	-- ⁴
Gypsum ^c thousand metric tons	130	130	130	-- ⁴	-- ⁴
Iron ore, gross weight ⁴	19,400	18,400	19,700	18,900	7,800
Kaolin clay ⁴	2,400	2,900	4,100	3,500	1,700
Lime ⁴	69,600	64,700	53,600	34,000	36,300
Natural gas, marketed thousand cubic meters	584,700 ⁵	658,000 ⁵	704,200 ⁴	743,300 ⁴	1,085,100 ⁴
Nickel, Ni content:					
Mine output, oxide, oxide sinter, sulfide, ammoniacal liquor precipitate	71,342	74,018 ^{7,8}	71,944 ^{7,8}	73,753 ^{7,8}	75,000 ^e
Metallurgical products: ⁶					
Granular oxide, oxide sinter, powder	38,738	42,282 ^{7,8}	38,824 ^{7,8}	39,121 ^{7,8}	39,700 ^e
Sulfide ⁷	30,858	29,620 ⁸	30,999 ⁸	32,354 ⁸	32,300 ^e
Ammoniacal liquor	1,746	2,116 ^{7,8}	2,121 ^{7,8}	2,278 ^{7,8}	3,000 ^e
Total	71,342	74,018 ^{7,8}	71,944 ^{7,8}	73,753 ^{7,8}	75,000 ^e
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia ⁴	15,100	21,400	51,300	27,900	42,300
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	22,787 ^{5,9}	23,274 ^r	20,538 ^{5,9}	18,563 ^r	18,702 ^{5,9}
Refinery products: ^{4,10}					
Petroleum coke do.	79	99	72	96 ^r	78
Gasoline, motor do.	2,719	3,517	2,826	3,475 ^r	2,707
Kerosene do.	857	1,477	1,691	2,045 ^r	973
Liquefied petroleum gas do.	762	1,066	729	950 ^r	719
Lubricants do.	281	335	342	302 ^r	315
Naphtha do.	507	902	721	602 ^r	690
Total do.	5,206 ^r	7,396 ^r	6,380 ^r	7,470 ^r	5,482
Salt ⁴	176,100	175,700	205,600	172,600	179,800
Sand, calcareous ⁴ thousand cubic meters	1,691	1,629	1,643	1,651	1,977
Silica sand do.	21 ⁵	31 ⁵	33 ⁵	14 ⁴	9 ⁴
Stone, crushed ⁴ do.	2,485	2,430	2,400	2,437	3,044
Steel ⁴	264,100	209,800	193,200	245,100	257,200
Sulfuric acid ⁴	436,800	438,700	448,700	426,700	405,700
Zeolites ⁴	19,200	27,600	28,600	17,200	14,000

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through November 9, 2007.

²In addition to commodities listed, crude construction materials (sand and gravel, and so forth) may also be produced, but data on such production are not available, and information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³Cuba also produced marble and stone, but data on such production are not available, and information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

⁴Source: Anuario Estadístico de Cuba.

⁵Source: Sitio del Gobierno de la República de Cuba, which is available online at <http://www.cubagob.cu>.

⁶The Government of Cuba reports figures of nickel-cobalt content of granular and powder oxide, oxide sinter, and sulfide production. The cobalt content of reported nickel-cobalt production was determined to be 1.16% of granular and powder oxide, 1.21% of oxide sinter, 7.56% of sulfide, and 33% of ammoniacal liquor. The remainder of reported figures would represent the nickel content.

⁷Sources: International Nickel Study Group (INSG), and Sherritt International Corp. Sitio del Gobierno de la República de Cuba, which is available online at <http://www.cubagob.cu>.

⁸Reported figure.

⁹Production has been converted from metric tons to barrels by using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's factor of 6.449 barrels per metric ton (bbl/t) of crude petroleum.

¹⁰Production has been converted from metric tons to barrels by using the U.S. Energy Information Administration's factor of 5.51 bbl/t for petroleum coke; 8.53 bbl/t for gasoline; 7.73 bbl/t for kerosene; 11.63 bbl/t for liquefied petroleum gas; 7.00 bbl/t for lubricants; and 8.22 bbl/t for naphtha.

TABLE 2
CUBA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2006

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity		Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Cement		Cementos Cienfuegos S.A. (Government, 50%, and Las Pailas de Cemento S.A., 50%)	Cienfuegos, Cuba	1,500.
Do.		Fábrica de Cemento 26 de julio	Nuevitas, Cuba	600.
Do.		Fábrica de Cemento Mártires de Artemisa	Artemisa, Cuba	600.
Do.		Cementos Curazao N.V.	Barrio Mujica, Mariel Province	1,110.
Do.		Fábrica de Cemento Siguaney	Sancti Spiritus	300.
Chromite		Grupo Empresarial Cubaníquel S.A. (Government, 100%)	Moa, Holguin Province	30.
Cobalt		Metals Enterprise S.A. (Government, 50%, and Sherritt International Corp., 50%)	do.	3.
Copper		Mina Grande El Cobre (Government, 100%)	Santiago de Cuba Province	Closed in 2001.
Do.		Matahambre Mine (Government, 100%)	Pinar del Rio Province	Closed in 1997.
Gold	kilograms	Castellanos Gold Mine	Santa Lucia, Pinar del Rio Province	550.
Do.	do.	Government-owned gold mine	Isla de la Juventud	Closed.
Nickel		Empresa Niquelífera Ernesto Che Guevara	Punta Gorda plant, Holguin Province	31.5.
Do.		Moa Nickel S.A. (Government, 50%, and Sherritt International Corp., 50%)	Moa plant, Holguin Province	33.
Do.		Empresa Niquelífera Comandante René Ramos Latour (Government, 100%)	Nicaro, Holguin Province	12.4.
Petroleum:				
Crude:	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Empresa de Perforación y Extracción de Petróleo del Centro (Government, 100%)	Northern coast between Havana and Cardenas	12.
Do.		Sherritt International Corp. (indirect working interests that vary from 40% to 100% in 10 production-sharing contracts with the Government)	Near shore oilfields located at Yumuri, Varadero, Canasi, and Puerto Escondido	7,000.
Refinery products	thousand 42-gallon barrels	Cienfuegos (not operating)	Cienfuegos	27,740.
Do.		Hermanos Díaz	Santiago	37,048.
Do.		Ñico López	Havana	44,457.
Do.		Sergio Soto	Cabaiguan	767.
Sand		Algaba quarry	Sancti Spiritus	50.
Do.		Malabe quarry	NA	32.
Do.		Cajobabo	Imias	NA.
Steel		Grupo Metalúrgico Acinox (Government, 100%) Of which:		
		Antillana de Acero	Cotorro, Havana Province	600.
Do.		Empresa de Aceros Inoxidables	Las Tunas, Las Tunas Province	370.
Do.		4 other steel plants	NA	NA.
Zeolite		Empresa Geominera Oriente	Holguin Province	58.

NA Not available.