#### THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

# **ESTONIA**

### By Richard M. Levine

Estonia's mineral industry consisted primarily of mining oil shale, peat, and industrial minerals, including clays, limestone, and sand and gravel; phosphate mining in Estonia had ceased because of environmental concerns. The RAS Silmet rare-earth metals plant processed a range of imported ores, but information has not been available on this plant's output. Estonia, similar to the other Baltic states, envisages its major role in the minerals sector as a transit country for minerals. Estonia's ports were major gateways for shipments into and out of the countries of the former Soviet Union. Estonia's geographic location places it between the rich natural resources of Russia and the markets of Western Europe and other regions

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Estonia, see the 1997 Minerals Yearbook, Volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

## TABLE 1 ESTONIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

#### (Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodi	ty	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
Amnonia, nitrogen content		114,000	138,000	137,000	153,000	175,000
Cement		402,000 e/	417,000	387,700	422,500	321,000
Clays:						
For brick	thousand cubic meters	40,000 e/	40,000 e/	19,800	66,500	96,600
For cement		30,000 e/	30,000 e/	27,200	25,500	33,000
Oil shale 2/		14,530,000 e/	13,310,000	14,735,000	14,383	12,463
Peat		1,274,000	952,200	1,100,000	1,002,000	300,000
Sand and gravel		1,000,000 e/	1,000,000 e/	1,000,000 e/	1,109,000	1,411,000
Silica sand, industrial	thousand cubic meters	25,000	25,000	11,100	22,500	23,000

e/ Estimated

1/ Table includes estimates and data based on information available through December 16, 1999.

# TABLE 2 ESTONIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1998

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

			Annual
Commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	capacity e/
Cement	Punane-Kunda plant	Punane-Kunda region	1,500
Limestone for cement	Punane-Kunda deposits	do.	NA
Oil shale	Eesti Polevkivi (includes seven mines, four	Ida-Virumaa country	25,000
	open pits, and five beneficiation plants)		
Peat	388 deposits under exploitation	Production in all regions of country, but major facilities	6,000
		in northern and southeastern part of country	
Phosphate rock	Maardu (operation suspended)	Maardu	
Rare earths	RAS Silmet plant	Sillamae region	NA
Sand for glass	Piuza deposit	Southeastern part of country	50
Sand and gravel cubic meters	Production at more than 700 deposits, largest enterprises:	Tallinn region	2,000,000
	Silikat association exploiting Tallinn deposit		
Do.	Akhtmeskiy industrial materials complex	Panyarve region	1,500,000
	exploiting Panyarve deposit		
Do.	Vyrukivi plant exploiting Abissaare, Koryusmyae,	Southeastern part of country	1,500,000
	Pyussa-palu deposits		
Do.	Tartu construction materials plant, explointing	Tartu region	800,000
	Vooremyagi and Kukemetsa deposits		

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.