

# BELARUS

By Richard M. Levine

Mining in Belarus consisted primarily of extracting potash from the Starobinsk deposit, peat at deposits throughout the country, and some construction materials. Belarus also extracted some petroleum and natural gas. In 1999, Belarus was the world's third largest potash producer (Searls, 2000). It exported almost 85% of production, with exports in 1999 increasing by 3.8% in comparison with those of 1998 to more than 3 million metric tons (Interfax Statistical Report, 2000). The country's metallurgical enterprises included a steel minimill in Zhlobin and a steel pipe plant in Mahilyow (formerly Mogilev). The country also had a large diamond-cutting and synthetic diamond-production industry, a nitrogen production enterprise, a fertilizer production plant, and a large petroleum-refining sector with refineries at Mazyr and Navapolatsk with a combined capacity to process almost 25 million metric tons per year of crude oil (Oil & Gas Journal, 1999). Owing to its lack of domestic resources, Belarus imported most of its mineral raw materials, almost all of which came from Russia and other Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) countries.

In 1999, Belarus reported significant exports in categories that included potash, refined petroleum products, and steel products; the exports category "Chemicals, mineral fertilizers,

industrial rubber products" totaled \$110.3 million and was about 9% of total exports, the category "Fuel and energy resources" totaled \$570.3 million and was about 5% of total exports, and the category "ferrous metals and their manufactures" totaled \$468.4 million and was about 4% of total exports. The country also was a large importer of mineral products; its largest reported category of imports was "Fuel and energy resources," which totaled \$1,585.5 million and was almost 24% of total imports (Interfax Statistical Report, 2000).

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Belarus, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Europe and Central Eurasia.

## References Cited

- Interfax Statistical Report, 2000, Belorussian trade turnover shrinks 19% in 1999: Interfax Statistical Report, v. 9, issue 9, February 28-March 2, p. 20-21.
- Oil & Gas Journal, 1999, 1999 worldwide refining survey: Oil & Gas Journal, v. 97, no. 51, December 20, p. 58.
- Searls, J.P., 2000, Potash: U.S. Geological Survey Mineral Commodity Summaries 2000, p. 128-129.

TABLE 1  
BELARUS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Cement	1,235	1,467	1,876	2,035	2,000
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	670	680	590	685	750
Peat (fuel use)	3,145	2,793	2,768	2,035	2,000 e/
Petroleum:					
Crude	1,932	1,860	1,822	1,830	1,800
Refined	13,100	12,400	11,300 r/	11,400 r/ e/	11,500 e/
Potash, K <sub>2</sub> O content	3,200	2,700 e/	3,247	3,450 e/	3,600
Salt 2/ metric tons	219,854	231,673	298,432	356,430	350,000 e/
Steel:					
Crude	744	886	1,220	1,412	1,342
Pipe	12	19	31	35 e/	31
Rolled	586	800	1,100	1,300 e/	1,300
Natural gas million cubic meters	266	249	246	252	300
Sulfuric acid	437	549	698	700 e/	700 e/

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through October 21, 2000.

2/ Includes byproduct salt from potash production.

TABLE 2  
BELARUS: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1999

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating company	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Cement	Volkovysk plant	Wawkavysk (Volkovysk)	2,200, total
	Krichevskiy plant	Mahilyow region	both plants.
Diamonds	Kristall plant	Homyel (Gomel)	NA.
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	Grodno "Azot" Association	Hrodna (Grodno) region	1000.
Peat, fuel use	Production at 37 enterprises producing mainly briquettes	All regions of country	5,000. 1/
Petroleum, crude	Belarusneft Association	Southeastern part of country	2,000.
Petroleum, refined	Mazyr refinery	Mazyr (Mozyr)	16,000. 2/
	Do.	Navapolatsk (Novopolotsk)	8,450. 2/
Potash, K <sub>2</sub> O content	Belaruskaliy Association	Salihorsk (Soligorsk) area	5,000.
Steel, crude	Belarus electric steelworks	Zhlobin	1,400.
Steel, pipes	Mahilyow metallurgical works	Mahilyow	80.

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Total peat for fuel use production.

2/ Crude oil throughput.