

GEORGIA

By Richard M. Levine

Georgia's diverse mineral industry produced ferrous and nonferrous metals, ferroalloys, industrial minerals and fuels. It had been a major producer of manganese from the Chiatura deposit during the Soviet period, but production subsequently had fallen precipitously. The manganese was used domestically for ferroalloy production at the Zestafoni ferroalloys plant. A small amount of iron ore also was mined. At the Madneuli complex, a copper-barite polymetallic deposit was exploited for barite, copper, and a range of byproduct minerals that included gold and silver. Lead and zinc were mined at the Kvaisi lead-zinc deposit, and arsenic was mined from the Lukhumi and the Tsansa deposits. The steel mill in Rustavi had the capacity to produce 1.4 million metric tons per year of crude steel, as well as the capacity to produce coke, pig iron, sinter, rolled products, and tubes and pipes (Metal Bulletin, 1997, p. 131).

Georgia produced a range of industrial minerals that included bentonite, diatomite, talc, and zeolites and also mined semiprecious stones. Decorative stones for use as building materials were mined at more than 100 deposits (Georgian Investment Center, 1998, Overview of the economic sectors of Georgia—Mining, accessed July 2, 1998, at URL <http://www.georgia.net.ge/gic/Sector/Mining.HTM>). Also, many clay deposits, as well as high-quality quartz sand and sand and gravel deposits, were developed for the production of bricks and ceramic products.

The country also produced some coal and crude oil and had an oil refinery at Batumi. Extraction of natural gas ceased in 1997. Georgia possesses limited domestic hydrocarbon resources and its importance for the world energy market is as an oil transit center between the energy-rich Caspian Sea countries and Western markets. It appears that Georgia will attempt to revive and expand production at its existing mineral-production enterprises and will vie to increase its role as a transport corridor for and refiner of oil from the Caspian Sea.

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

Reference Cited

Metal Bulletin, 1997, Georgia, *in* Iron and steel works of the world (12th ed.): [Surrey, England], Metal Bulletin Books Ltd., 726 p.

Major Source of Information

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TABLE 1
GEORGIA: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/ 2/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Bentonite	NA	13,000	20,000 r/ 3/	NA	NA
Cement	100,000	84,700	90,600	200,000 r/	300,000
Coal	40,000	6,100	4,200	14,700	10,000
Gold e/ kilograms	500	500	505 r/ 3/	800	1,600
Manganese ore	100,000 e/	70,395	35,112	50,000 r/ e/	50,000 e/
Natural gas thousand cubic meters	3,000	3,000	-- r/	-- r/	--
Petroleum, crude	40,000	127,000	143,000	119,200	100,000
Steel:					
Crude	84,000 e/	84,870	104,242	50,000 r/ e/	15,000 e/
Finished products	70,000	60,000	100,000	40,000	10,000
Zeolites	NA	7,300	6,000	NA	NA

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised. NA Not available. -- Zero.

1/ Table lists only those commodities for which reported multiyear production data exist and includes data available through October 30, 2000.

2/ The Georgian Ministry of Foreign Trade and Economic Relations reported in the 1998 U.S. Geological Survey Minerals Questionnaire, 1997 mineral production data for the following commodities, in metric tons: agate, 1,600; copper, mine output in gross weight and metal content, 411,200 and 4,100, respectively; copper, concentrate production, 19,900; diatomite, 3,000; and dolomite, 35,000. It also reported producing 2,700 kilograms of silver in 1997.

3/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2
GEORGIA: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1999

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating entities	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Arsenic, arsenic content of ore	Lukhumi deposit	Upper Racha region	2,000 total.
Do.	Tsana deposit	Lower Svanetiya region	
Arsenic, metal and compounds	Racha mining and chemical plant	Racha region	NA.
Do.	Tsana mining and chemical plant	Tsana	NA.
Barite	Chordskoye deposit	Onis Raioni (Onskiy Rayon) 1/	70,000.
Bentonite	Gumbrskoye and Askanskoye deposits	Gumbra, Askana regions	200,000.
Cement	Rustavi cement plant	Rustavi	1,500,000.
Coal	Tkibuli-Shaorskoye, Tkvarchelskoye, deposits	Tqibuli (Tkibuli), 1/ Tqvrarcheli (Tkvarcheli), 1/ Akhaltsikhe regions	300,000 total.
Copper, copper content of ore	Madneuli complex	Madneuli region	12,000.
Diatomite	Kisatibskoye deposit	Kisatibi region	150,000.
Ferroalloys	Zestafoni plant	Zestaponi (Zestafoni) 1/	100,000 (ferromanganese).
Do.	do.	do.	250,000 (silicomanganese).
Do.	do.	do.	250,000 (manganese sinter).
Gold	Kvartsit joint venture	Madneuli deposit	2.
Lead-zinc, metal content of ore	Kvaisi deposit	Kvaisi region	1,200 (lead).
Do.	do.	do.	3,000 (zinc).
Manganese, marketable ore	Chiatura complex	Chiatura region	200,000.
Petroleum:			
Crude	About 60 wells accounting for 98% of output	Mirzaani, Zemo Teleti (Teleti), 1/ Supsa regions	200,000.
Refined	Batumi refinery	Batumi	NA.
Steel, crude	Rustavi steel mill	Rustavi	1,400,000.

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Former names given in parentheses.