

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

KYRGYZSTAN

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In 1999, Kyrgyzstan's mineral industry was involved in mining primarily antimony, coal, fluorspar, gold, mercury, and rare earths and processing mineral products. Its metallurgical industry led the former Soviet Union in the production of antimony, mercury, and rare-earth metals and produced some molybdenum for nonmetallurgical uses. Although Kyrgyzstan produced coal and some gas and oil, it was still significantly dependent on imported energy. In the past, the country mined and processed uranium or but in recent years apparently was only processing imported uranium ore.

Kyrgyzstan's economy benefited greatly from gold production, and the country's immediate economic prospects were substantially linked with the future of its gold industry. The large Kumtor gold deposit that was being developed as a joint venture with Canada's Cameco Corp. was a major gold producer. Efforts were underway to develop other gold deposits, when feasible, with the participation of foreign investors.

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

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999
Antimony:					
Mine output, Sb content e/	1,600	1,400	1,200 3/	500	500
Metal and compounds	4,778	6,002	4,401 r/	1,298	1,320
Cement	309,600	546,000	658,200	709,400	386,300
Coal	463,300	409,000	521,500	432,400 r/	415,200
Fluorspar concentrate	850	3,000 e/	4,176	3,000 r/ e/	3,500 e/
Gold kilograms	1,500 e/	1,500	17,400	22,000 e/	20,000
Mercury:					
Mine output, Hg content e/	300	500	550	250 r/	300
Metal	380	584	611	240 r/ e/	340 e/
Natural gas million cubic meters	36	26	24	18	25
Petroleum, crude	88,500	84,300	84,800	78,300	76,900
Rare earths:					
Concentrate, gross weight	NA	NA	NA	8,590 e/	11,878
Compounds, REO 4/ equivalent	NA	NA	NA	691 e/	956
Metals, REO 4/ equivalent	NA	NA	NA	6,355	7,147

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

1/ Based on information available through October 17, 2000.

2/ Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits.

3/ Reported figure.

4/ Rare-earth oxides.

TABLE 2
KYRGYZSTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1999

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating enterprises	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
Antimony:			
Metal content of ore	Kadamzhay and Khaydarkan complexes	Kadamzhay, Khaydarkan regions,	2,400.
Metal	Kadamzhay metallurgical complex	Kadamzhay region	20,000.
Coal	7 underground mines, 5 open pits	Southwestern, central, and northeastern parts of country	2,200,000.
Cement	Kantskiy cement plant	Kant	1,500,000.
Fluorspar	Khaydarkan mining and metallurgical complex	Khaydarkan deposit	5,000 (fluorspar concentrate).
Gold:			
Metal content of ore	Makmalzoloto	Makmal deposit,	5.
Do.	Kumtor Gold Company	Kumtor deposit	20.
Do.	Solton-Sary mine	Naryn region	NA.
Refined	Kara Balta refinery	Chuy region	22.
Mercury:			
Metal content of ore	Khaydarkan mining and metallurgical complex	Khaydarkan deposit	700.
Metal	do.	Khaydarkan	1,000.
Molybdenum for nonmetallurgical uses	Molibden Joint Stock Company	Chuy region	NA.
Petroleum and natural gas million cubic meters	Kyrgyzzmunayzat	Approximately 300 wells: major deposits include Changyr-Tashskoye, Izbaskentskoye, Mayli-Suyskoye, Chigirchikskoye, Karagachskoye, Togap-Beshkentskoye, Susaskoye	150,000 (petroleum), 100 (natural gas).
Rare earths:			
Concentrates	Kyrgyz mining complex	Aktyuz deposit	14,000 (gross weight).
Compounds and metals	Kyrgyz chemical and metallurgical plant	Orlovka	8,000 (REO 1/ equivalent).
Uranium, processed	Kara Balta Complex	Chuy region	NA.

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.

1/ Rare-earth oxides.