

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

QATAR

By Philip M. Mobbs

Cement, oil, natural gas, petrochemicals, and steel production underpinned the Qatari economy. Existing and proposed projects that a North Field natural gas could underwrite Qatar's economic well being through the next century. Qatar General Petroleum Corp. (QGPC) proposed a fifth natural gas liquids (NGL) plant. QGPC had three NGL plants that processed natural gas to extract condensate and liquefied petroleum gases (butane and propane) for export and was constructing a fourth plant at Messaid. Ras Laffan Liquefied Natural Gas Co.'s (RasGas) 2.5-million-metric-ton-per-year (Mt/yr) natural gas liquefaction train, which began commercial production in May 1999, complemented Qatar Liquefied Gas Co.'s three liquefied natural gas (LNG) liquefaction trains. A second LNG train was under construction that would increase RasGas's annual LNG capacity to 5 million metric tons by 2000. During 1999,

RasGas contracted to build two additional 4.4-Mt/yr LNG trains.

Three proposed pipeline projects were to export natural gas from the North Field. Projected markets included Oman, Pakistan, and the United Arab Emirates. A number of fertilizer and petrochemical projects, which included ammonia, urea, and vinyl plants, were underway. In 1999, Qatar Fuel Additives Co. brought a \$650 million methyl tertiary butyl ether and methanol plant on line, and a 2-Mt/yr-capacity hot briquetted iron plant was under construction for Qatar Hot Briquetted Iron Co. in Messaid.

For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Qatar, see the 1998 Minerals Yearbook, volume III, Mineral Industries of Africa and the Middle East.

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

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity 3/	1995	1996	1997	1998	1999 e/
Cement, hydraulic	475,380	690,000	692,000 r/	700,000 e/	700,000
Gas, natural:					
Gross million cubic meters	18,800	18,950	24,210	27,000 e/	28,000
Dry do.	13,600	13,700	17,270 r/	19,540 r/	20,000
Iron and steel, metal:					
Direct-reduced iron thousand tons	622	632	570	706	670
Steel, crude do.	614	626	616	646	629
Semimanufactures:					
Billet do.	606	617	608	637	640
Bars do.	601	601	596	597	600
Natural gas liquids thousand 42-gallon barrels	18,500 e/	21,000 e/	22,000	22,000	22,000
Nitrogen:					
N content of ammonia	653,462	635,027	942,500	1,127,000 r/	1,130,000 4/
N content of urea	407,500	715,000	670,000	767,000 r/	757,000 4/
Petroleum:					
Crude thousand 42-gallon barrels	142,300	186,150	236,885	254,040	232,000
Refinery products:					
Gasoline do.	4,441	3,942	4,380 r/	4,000 e/	4,000
Kerosene do.	3,217	3,321	3,285 r/	3,350 e/	3,000
Distillate fuel oil do.	5,126	6,997	5,110 r/	7,000 e/	7,000
Residual fuel oil do.	6,064	6,860	6,205 r/	6,900 e/	7,000
Other do.	900	1,100	5,840 r/	5,000 r/ e/	5,000
Total do.	19,748	22,220	24,820 r/	26,300 r/ e/	26,000
Stone, limestone e/ thousand tons	900	900	900	900	900
Sulfur e/	50,000	45,000	73,000 r/	146,000	155,000

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through December 26, 2000.

2/ Estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown.

3/ In addition to commodities listed, clays, gypsum, and sand and gravel for construction purposes are produced, but available information is inadequate to make estimates of output.

4/ Reported figure.