



2005 Minerals Yearbook

CYPRUS

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF CYPRUS

By Philip M. Mobbs

The mineral industry of Cyprus¹ was dominated by the production of bentonite, cement, sand and gravel, and stone. Other mineral commodities produced included common clay, gypsum, ocher, perlite, and umber. In northern Cyprus, the mineral industry was dominated by the production of construction aggregates, stone, and umber.

In 2005, Cyprus' gross domestic product (GDP) based on purchasing power parity was estimated to be about \$17.5 billion and the GDP per capita based on purchasing power parity was more than \$21,200. The real GDP increased at an annual rate of 3.7% (International Monetary Fund, 2006§²).

Cyprus, which was located in the eastern Mediterranean Sea, had an area of 9,250 square kilometers (km²), of which 3,355 km² was administered by Turkish Cypriots (U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2006§).

Commodity Review

Metals

Copper.—In May, Hellenic Copper Mines Ltd. closed its copper mine and solvent extraction-electrowinning operations at Skouriotissa after unsuccessful attempts to sell the venture. The closure was attributed to accumulated debt, fiscal losses, and high overhead. Production had been suspended in late 2004 (Kambas, 2005§).

Eastern Mediterranean Minerals Ltd. of Cyprus, which was a joint venture of Eastern Mediterranean Resources Public Ltd.

¹Unless specifically stated, all data in this chapter are for the Republic of Cyprus in southern Cyprus because data related to areas of northern Cyprus administered by Turkish Cypriots are sparse or unavailable. The two areas have been separated since 1974.

²References that include a section mark (§) are found in the Internet References Cited section.

of Cyprus (95%) and Hellenic Mining Co. of Cyprus (5%), continued its exploration for copper in the Troodos Complex and drilled prospects at Klirou, North Alestos, and South Pano Koutrafas.

Outlook

In 2006, construction is expected to maintain the domestic demand for cement, gypsum, sand and gravel, and stone. International demand from the cat litter, construction, oilfield drilling fluids, and pigments industries is expected to maintain Cypriot exports of bentonite, gypsum, perlite, and umber.

Internet References Cited

International Monetary Fund, 2006 (April), Cyprus, World Economic Outlook Database, accessed April 19, 2006, via URL <http://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/weo/2006/01/data/index.htm>.

Kambas, Michele, 2005 (April 13), Ancient Cypriot copper mine for sale, accessed October 4, 2006, at URL <http://www.tiscali.co.uk/news/newswire.php/news/reuters/2005/04/13/world/ancientcypriotcoppermineforsale.html>.

U.S. Central Intelligence Agency, 2006, Cyprus, World Factbook 2006, accessed September 11, 2006, at URL <https://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/geos/cy.html>.

Major Sources of Information

Mines Service

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Statistical Service of Cyprus

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TABLE 1
CYPRUS: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES^{1,2,3}

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005 ^P
Cement, hydraulic	1,369	1,438	1,637	1,689	1,805
Clays:					
Bentonite metric tons	126,600	128,400	144,859	155,717	172,366
Other:					
For brick and tile manufacture	300	350	350 ^e	425	443
For cement manufacture	440	480	550	565	600
Total	740	830	900 ^e	990	1,043
Copper, refined ⁴ metric tons	5,176	3,695	2,552	1,240	--
Gypsum, crude ⁵ do.	250,000	295,000	300,000	255,000	210,000
Lime, hydrated do.	9,400	12,190	13,370	13,990	16,589
Petroleum refinery products: ⁶					
Liquefied petroleum gases thousand 42-gallon barrels	359	378	330	80	--
Gasoline do.	1,277	1,313	1,242	300	--
Kerosene and jet fuel do.	288	281	301	70	--
Distillate fuel oil do.	2,911	2,704	2,437	600	--
Residual fuel oil do.	3,156	2,914	2,411	600	--
Asphalt and bitumen do.	239	217	194	50	--
Other do.	19	17	--	--	--
Total do.	8,248	7,824	6,916	1,700	--
Sand and stone:					
Limestone, crushed (Havara)	1,500	2,000	1,000	1,200	1,000
Marble	2	2	2	1	2
Marl, for cement production	1,780	1,950	2,220	2,290	2,450
Sand and gravel ⁷	9,300	10,500	10,700	11,600	12,064
Building stone ⁸	55	80	103	105	51
Sulfur ^c metric tons	1,400	1,300	1,300	300	--
Umber do.	4,800	5,500	5,500	5,205	5,088

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits; may not add to totals shown. ^PPreliminary. --Zero.

¹Table includes data available through August 29, 2006.

²Small quantities of the mineral pigments ocher and terra verte are mined intermittently. Mineral production data from areas of northern Cyprus that are administered by Turkish Cypriots and production of fertilizers, perlite, and secondary metals from scrap are not included in this table because available information is inadequate to make estimates of output.

³Sources of data include company annual reports, the Mines Service of Cyprus, and the Statistical Service of Cyprus.

⁴Skouriotissa copper plant was closed in November 2004.

⁵About 4,000 metric tons per year of gypsum was calcined.

⁶Refinery closed in April 2004. Petroleum refinery products are rounded to the nearest thousand barrels; may not add to totals shown.

⁷Includes crushed aggregate.

⁸Includes crude, semifinished, and worked stone.