



2006 Minerals Yearbook

LEBANON

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF LEBANON

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Lebanon did not play a significant role in the world's production or consumption of minerals in 2006. Cement production and rock and sand quarrying were the mineral production and processing activities that were of the greatest significance to the Lebanese economy.

Production

Lebanon's cement production increased considerably from 2002 to 2006; domestic cement consumption totaled more than 3.3 million metric tons (Mt) in 2006 compared with 2.5 Mt in 2002. Exports to Iraq and Syria also increased. The increase in cement production led to higher output of limestone for use in cement (Cimenterie Nationale S.A.L., 2007).

Structure of the Mineral Industry

Lebanon's four cement plants and its phosphatic fertilizers, phosphoric acid, and sulfuric acid plants were privately owned. The country was also estimated to have between 300 and 400 rock and sand quarries, many of which were unlicensed (Bathish and Zeineddine, 2007).

Commodity Review

Industrial Minerals

Cement.—Ciment de Sibline S.A.L., Cimenterie Nationale S.A.L., Holcim (Liban) S.A.L., and Seament S.A.L. produced cement at a rate of 5 million metric tons per year (Mt/yr) in 2006; the combined capacity of their plants was about 6 Mt/yr. Holcim (Liban) produced about 2 Mt/yr of cement, and Cimenterie Nationale, about 1.7 Mt/yr. Cement demand declined in the fourth quarter of 2006 because of fighting in Lebanon between Israel and the Hezbollah organization; demand for the entire year, however, still increased. Post-combat reconstruction was expected to consume 700,000 metric tons to 1 Mt during the next 2 to 3 years. In August, Lebanon's cement producers agreed to a 1-year price ceiling of \$65 per metric ton to aid reconstruction efforts; the price differential between Lebanon and Syria led to the smuggling of cement to Syria (Bluhm, 2006; Cimenterie Nationale S.A.L., 2007).

Mineral Fuels

Natural Gas.—In March 2005, a natural gas pipeline that linked Lebanon with Syria was completed. Delivery of natural gas to Lebanon was planned to begin in early May 2005, but was delayed until 2007 because of political conflicts and insufficient Syrian production. The development of the Palmyra Middle Gas Energy Project in Syria was expected to provide enough natural gas to supply Lebanese markets. Lebanon was expected to import about 550 million cubic meters of natural gas from Syria initially; imports could increase eventually to nearly 2.2 billion cubic meters per year (Rasmussen, 2005; United Press International, 2006).

Petroleum.—Lebanon has no petroleum reserves, and the Zahrani and the Tripoli refineries were shut down in 1989 and 1992, respectively. In January and April 2006, the Government signed memorandums of understanding with Qatar Petroleum International (QPI) to develop a new petroleum refinery with a capacity of between 150,000 and 200,000 barrels per day. In October, QPI completed a feasibility study of the refinery, which was expected to be completed in 2011 at a cost of about \$1 billion (Middle East Economic Digest, 2006; Quinlan, 2006).

References Cited

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TABLE 1
LEBANON: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES¹

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity ²	2002	2003	2004	2005 ^c	2006 ^c
Cement, hydraulic thousand metric tons	2,852	3,500 ^e	4,500 ^{r, e}	4,500	5,000
Gypsum ^e	30,000 ^r	30,000 ^r	30,000 ^r	30,000 ^r	30,000
Lime ^e	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000	14,000
Limestone, for cement ^e thousand metric tons	3,700	4,600	5,900	5,900	6,500
Phosphate: ³					
Phosphatic fertilizers	30,000	53,000	85,000	85,000	85,000
Phosphoric acid	150,000	166,000	175,000	180,000	180,000
Salt ^e	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500	3,500
Steel, semimanufactured	40,000 ^e	--	--	--	--
Sulfuric acid:					
Gross weight	480,000	485,000	495,000	500,000	500,000
S content	157,000	159,000	162,000	164,000	164,000

^eEstimated; estimated data are rounded to no more than three significant digits. ^rRevised. -- Zero.

¹Table includes data available through June 29, 2007.

²In addition to the commodities listed, sand and gravel and other construction materials are also produced, but quantities are not reported, and available information is inadequate to make reliable estimates of output.

³P₂O₅ equivalent.

TABLE 2
LEBANON: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 2006

(Thousand metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating companies	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Aggregates	Holcim (Liban) S.A.L. (Holcim Ltd., 52%)	Beirut	NA
Cement	do.	Chekka	2,200
Do.	Cimenterie Nationale S.A.L.	do.	1,650
Do.	Ciment de Sibline S.A.L.	Sibline	1,200
Do.	Seament S.A.L.	Chekka	500
Gypsum	NA	Hosrayel	30
Lime	Seament S.A.L.	Chekka	NA
Petroleum, refined thousand 42-gallon barrels	Ministry of Industry and Petroleum ¹ (Government, 100%)	Tripoli	12,800
Do.	do. ²	Zahrani	6,400
Phosphate fertilizers	Lebanon Chemicals Company S.A.L.	Selaata	NA
Phosphoric acid	do.	do.	NA
Steel	Consolidated Steel Lebanon S.A.L. ³	Amchit	300
Sulfuric acid	Lebanon Chemicals Company S.A.L.	Selaata	NA

NA Not available.

¹Shut down in 1992.

²Shut down in 1989.

³Shut down in 2002.