

THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF

ICELAND

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Owing to abundant hydroelectric and geothermal energy and the lack of domestic resources, the mineral industry of Iceland largely comprised metal production from imported materials. Nearly all production of aluminum and ferrosilicon was exported. Iceland has few proven mineral resources, although deposits of

diatomite were being developed. All production of industrial minerals, with the exception of diatomite, was used by local industries. (*See table 1.*) For more extensive coverage of the mineral industry of Iceland, see the 1996 Minerals Yearbook, International Review of Europe and Central Eurasia, Volume III.

TABLE 1
ICELAND: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1993	1994	1995	1996	1997 e/
Aluminum metal, primary 2/	94,480	99,294	100,101	103,800	104,000
Cement, hydraulic 3/	85,531	80,856	81,514	88,200 r/	88,000
Diatomite	19,000 e/	24,566	28,142	25,600 r/	26,000
Ferrosilicon	67,400	66,003	71,410	68,000	68,000
Nitrogen, N content of ammonia	8,700 e/	8,966	8,800 e/	9,000 e/	9,000
Pumice and related volcanic material: e/					
Pumice	45,000	23,000	30,000	25,000	25,000
Scoria	500	500	500	500	500
Salt e/	4,500	4,500	4,000	4,000	4,000
Sand:					
Basaltic					
cubic meters	--	300	1,300	1,200 e/	1,200
Calcareous, shell					
do.	81,300	81,451	83,651	82,000 e/	82,000
Sand and gravel e/					
thousand cubic meters	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600	3,600
Silica dust 4/	10,000 e/	13,871	14,346 r/	14,000 e/	14,000
Stone, crushed:					
Basaltic e/					
cubic meters	100,000	114,000	91,000	90,000	90,000
Rhyolite					
cubic meters	16,500	19,355	16,552	16,500 e/	16,500

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Table includes data available through March 1998.

2/ Ingot and rolling billet production.

3/ Sales.

4/ Byproduct of ferrosilicon.

TABLE 2
 ICELAND: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY FOR 1997
 (Thousand metric tons)

Commodity	Major operating companies and major equity owners	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity
Aluminum	ISAL (Alusuisse-Lonza Holding Ltd., 100%)	Straumsvik	100
Cement	Sementsverksmiðja Ríkisins (Government, 100%)	Akranes	115
Diatomite	Kisilidjan hf (Government, 98%)	Myvatnssveit	27
Fertilizer	Aburðarverksmiðja Ríkisins (Government, 100%)	Gufunes	60
Ferrosilicon	Íslenska járnblendifélagid hf (Government, 55% and Elkem A/S, 30%)	Plant at Grundartangi	72
Pumice	Eldber hf (Jardenfnaidnadur hf, 51%)	Mount Hekla	210
Do .	Pumice Products Ltd. (BM Valla Ltd., 100%)	do.	32
Salt	Icelandic Salt Co. (Akzo NV of Netherlands, 58%)	Plant at Svartsengi	5