

# THE MINERAL INDUSTRY OF KYRGYZSTAN

By Richard M. Levine

Kyrgyzstan's mineral industry was involved in mining and processing mineral products, mining primarily antimony, coal, gold, mercury, molybdenum, tin, tungsten, and uranium. Its metallurgical industry led the former Soviet Union (FSU) in the production of two nonferrous metals, mercury and antimony, as well as rare-earth metals. Several major gold deposits were under development. Although Kyrgyzstan produced coal and some gas and oil, it was still significantly dependent on imported energy.

In 1992, the state concern Kyrgyzaltyn was founded. It comprised almost all mining enterprises, maintaining state control over a large portion of Kyrgyzstan's mining and metallurgical industry. However, in the intervening years, some of Kyrgyzaltyn's enterprises were privatized or scheduled for privatization. Kyrgyzaltyn engaged in the production of antimony, antimony oxide, gold, metallic mercury, molybdenum, rare earths, semiconductor-grade silicon, tin, tungsten, and uranium oxide (Dzhyakypov, 1996; Interfax Mining and Metals Report, 1997).

Kyrgyzstan's economy has benefited greatly from gold production, and Kyrgyzstan is now the third largest gold-producing country of the FSU (U.S. Geological Survey, unpub. data, 1999). Thus, the future of much of Kyrgyzstan's mineral development as well as the country's immediate economic prospects seem directly linked with the future of its gold industry.

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

## References Cited

- Dzhyakypov, Almazbek, 1996, The current state and development prospects of the mining industry of the Kyrgyz Republic: First International Conference on the Mining and Processing of Metals in the Former Soviet Union, 1st, Vienna, Austria, January 31-February 1, 1996, Documentation.
- Interfax Mining and Metals Report, 1997, Kyrgyzaltyn sees its future in gold: Interfax Mining and Metals Report, v. VI, issue 51-52, December 12-19, p. 8-9.

TABLE 1  
KYRGYZSTAN: PRODUCTION OF MINERAL COMMODITIES 1/

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	1994	1995	1996	1997	1998
<b>Antimony:</b>					
Mine output, Sb content e/	1,600	1,600	1,400	1,200 2/	500
Metal and compounds	9,588 r/	4,778 r/	6,002 r/	3,062 r/	1,298
Cement	426,100 r/	309,600 r/	546,000 r/	658,200 r/	709,400
Coal	848,000 r/	463,300 r/	409,000 r/	521,500 r/	445,700
Fluorspar concentrate	834	850	3,000 e/	4,176	3,200 e/
Gold e/ kilograms	2,050	1,500	1,500 2/	17,400 2/	22,000
<b>Mercury:</b>					
Mine output, Hg content e/	300	300	500	550	570
Metal	379	380	584	611	630 e/
Natural gas million cubic meters	39 r/	36	26	24	18
Petroleum, crude	88,200 r/	88,500	84,300	84,800 r/	78,300

e/ Estimated. r/ Revised.

1/ Based on information available through December 30, 1999.

2/ Reported figure.

TABLE 2  
KYRGYZSTAN: STRUCTURE OF THE MINERAL INDUSTRY IN 1998

(Metric tons unless otherwise specified)

Commodity	Major operating enterprises	Location of main facilities	Annual capacity e/
<b>Antimony:</b>			
Metal content of ore	Kadamzhay and Khaydarkan complexes	Kadamzhay and 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 the 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	Makmalzoloto	Makmal deposit	5.
	Kumtor Gold Company	Kumtor deposit	19.
	Solton-Sary Mine	Naryn region	NA.
<b>Mercury:</b>			
Metal content of ore	Khaydarkan mining and metallurgical complex	Khaydarkan deposit	700.
Metal	do.	Khaydarkan	1,000.
Petroleum and natural gas million cubic meters	Kyrgyzazmunayzat	Approximately 300 wells; major deposits include Changyr-Tashskoye, Izbaskentskoye, Mayli-Suyskoye, Chigirchikskoye, Karagachskoye Togap-Beshkentskoye, Susaskoye	150,000 (petroleum), 100 (natural gas).
Rare earths	Kyrgyz mining complex	Aktyuz deposit	NA.
Do.	Kyrgyz chemical and metallurgical plant	Orlovka	NA.
Uranium	Kara Balta Complex	Mines in Min Kush in central, Kadji-Say in eastern, and Tyuamuyin in southern Kyrgyzstan, processing plant in Chui region	NA.

e/ Estimated. NA Not available.